Putting university students on the lead through FPL partnership

AMIN COLOMINAS
Contributing Writer
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The University and Florida Power and Light Company have teamed up in order to offer students a new internship opportunity.

The partnership led to the opening of an FPL customer care center at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. Students will field calls and learn to resolve customer inquiries in a courteous and professional manner—all while starting a future with one of Florida's largest employers.

This initiative began in 2010 by FPL to recruit more of the University's students and alumni, which currently make up more than 670 of the company's employees.

FPL hopes not only to attract local "Worlds Ahead" thinkers, but to provide instant career opportunities for the FIU community.

"Our theme for today's event is 'Fostering talent, building careers,' and that's exactly what this partnership is about," said Rosenberg. "The possibility of working for a company like Florida Power and Light is huge. While studying mechanical engineering, I can get to know FPL management which can help me in obtaining a more important position, like an engineer, in the future."

Andrew Bowyer
Freshman
Mechanical Engineering

We look forward to growing it and to recruiting exceptional people to provide our customers with the award-winning service they deserve," President Mark B. Rosenberg also commented.

"We also are committed to joining forces with key institutions for our mutual benefit and the benefit of our University students with a required grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Applicants must also pass a pre-employment drug test.

Those eligible then undergo paid vocational training at FPL's Miami-based customer care center before joining the company's customer service team. Students will not only gain experience valuable in any business, but will also get to know FPL management and learn about possible future careers.

Students are paid $12 per hour during training and receive competitive wages after joining the customer service team. The program is a two-way street; with all of the benefits offered, students are expected to work 20-32 hours per week, including one weekend day at FPL's Miami-based customer care center, while meeting all attendance and performance standards demanded by FPL.

The program boasts an 88% retention rate, with 22 interns developing their positions into permanent careers with FPL in 2012. FIU and FPL's partnership continues to benefit students today.

"The possibility of working for a company like Florida Power and Light is huge. While studying mechanical engineering, I can get to know FPL management which can help me in obtaining a more important position, like an engineer, in the future. And if I decide to work somewhere else, my resume still shows that I'm qualified to work with any other big company like FPL."

Andrew Bowyer, freshman mechanical engineering major, sees the program as a foot in the door for his future.

"At Florida International University, we are committed to providing each of our students with a Worlds Ahead education that will give them the tools they need to compete in the 21st century global marketplace."

The program is open only to University students with a required grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Applicants must also pass a pre-employment drug test.

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Students react to news of three Muslim students shot

Adrian Suarez Avila
News Director
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Amidst news of a shooting that left three Muslim students dead in front of their apartment near the University of North Carolina, Yusor Mohammad Abu-Salha, who was planning to enroll in UNC for the fall semester, and Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha, a student attending North Carolina State University in Raleigh, all 23, and 19 years of age, respectively.

Students and University staff members shared their sentiments.

"I think it's extremely sad and unfortunate, and it's a reflection of a lot of fear that's out there that's really based. I think, on ignorance," said Ana Piedrahita, a senior English major.

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Hicks, the shooter, seems to have also resorted to social media a while before committing the crime. According to CNN, it is alleged that he was responsible for writing at one point, "When it comes to insults, your religion started this, not me. If you kept your religion in your mouth shut, so would I."

At the moment, however, the news network has been unable to check for the accuracy of the alleged post. Chris Blu, the Chapel Hill police chief, commented in light of the event, according to the Washington Post.

"Our investigators are exploring what could have motivated Mr. Hicks to commit such a senseless and tragic act," Blu said. "We understand the concerns about the possibility that this was hate-motivated and we will exhaust every lead to determine if that is the case. Our thoughts are with the families and friends of these young people who lost their lives so needlessly."

Hicks is currently being held without bond, and his hearing for probable cause is scheduled to commence on March 4.

In addition to providing their thoughts on the incident, students also offered potential ways of dealing with incidents of this kind to ensure that similar ones are not repeated. Christine Bicaba, a freshman mechanical engineering major, admits that he is considering the shooting to have been a hate crime and in order to deal with it, colleges and universities and other institutions should take steps to promote diversity and educating the public on issues of this kind.

Others agree.

"Just because one person believes one thing doesn't mean that's wrong, that doesn't mean that they should be persecuted because of it," said Gemma Landincia, a senior English major.

Landincia believes that Hicks should be punished accordingly for the crime he committed, adding that awareness should be spread in regards to the reality of hate crimes and the idea that with different religions come different ways of thinking.

Farris Badak, brother of Deah, has taken to Facebook to provide information on the status of his brother's death.

The page, titled, "Our Nation's Tragedy," reads, "This page is intended to facilitate communication and will hopefully carry on their legacy of service, great character and joy for life."
**BOBBY JO BRACY**

**Contributing Writer**

**Opinion@fiusm.com**

Rep. Frank Artiles doesn’t spend much time thinking about stuff. What Artiles thinks about, though, is what you’re doing in the bathroom.

Last week, ignorance collided when the unstoppable Rep. Artiles introduced the immoveable HB-338, a bill that would effectively give police the authority to arrest anyone they suspect is not using the bathroom.

Artiles wants them to use it. It’s impossible to imagine what legal standard police would use to detain or arrest people using public bathrooms, because it’s not clear what Artiles thinks about gender—or if he thinks about it at all. When asked by a reporter from Buzzfeed about LGBTs thinking on transgenders women, Artiles said “I have not spent much time thinking about that.”

The proposed law makes it a misdemeanor crime, punishable by up to one year in prison or $1,000 in fines, to use a single-sex public accommodation that Artiles doesn’t want you to use—the gender of the facility you enter must match the gender on your birth certificate. Simple, right?

Not so fast—while the bill does not explicitly target transgender people, the reliance on birth certificates to “prove” one’s gender strips us of our individual freedom, only to surrender it to the person that did your paperwork for you when you were born.

Furthermore, each state has their own laws for amending birth certificates. Den Spade, associate professor at Seattle University School of Law, notes that “the type of medical intervention [required for birth certificate amendement]... differs significantly from policy to policy.” Some states, like Tennessee, do not allow birth certificates to be amended at all. At any rate, it’s difficult to believe that the doctor who delivered you would care better than you know yourself. Now Rep. Artiles wants his gender police to keep things orderly.

But the harm of HB-338 is not just limited to transgender people or gender-nonconforming people—it goes much farther than that. Do you have a younger sister who is screaming for help in the bathroom? You’re a criminal if you try to intervene for her.

Are you a mother who wants to accompany her son to the men’s bathroom? Get a lawyer.

Are you a woman who feels safer going to the bathroom with your male friends rather than going alone? Tough.

Rep. Artiles argues that his main concern is public safety and privacy, yet I question how much a person actually thinks about women’s safety or privacy when they uncritically take such a narrow and discriminatory approach to violence prevention. Violence, like gender, is fluid and dynamic. Women assault men. Men rape men. This approach to making our bathroom spaces safer and more accessible.

In order to keep our public accommodations safe and accessible for everyone, we must oppose Rep. Frank Artiles’ bill. Maintaining public safety and individual privacy requires us to resist the formation of “gender police” invading our bathroom stalls.

**BOBBY JO BRACY**

A student of the College of Law and a FIU alumni.

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**STEPHANIE PEDRAHITA**

**Opinion Director**

**Opinion@fiusm.com**

It’s that wonderful time of the year when pro-life activists will try to convince students that anyone who considers abortion as an option for women is on the same level as Nazis. I find myself as making this up but after an interaction I had with one of the volunteers, I feel that it is my right to express the disrespectful and illogical methods these people were using to advocate their beliefs and how it’s backpedaling any progress we’ve made in changing harmful societal perceptions of activists.

When walking on campus I saw a sign that said “Warning! Pictures of genocide up ahead!” I felt relieved at first because of two reasons: first, I assumed that it was a project raising awareness of actual human rights violations happening because of ISIS, Boko Haram, or Ferguson. It made me feel proud that there were students still bringing social issues to our attention in an effort to make us more informed individuals about the world around us. Second, the warning also gave students an opportunity to avoid any graphic images which is something I could initially resist.

Once I began walking through, I noticed it was a gallery of bloody fetuses and a comparison to the Holocaust. As a reporter, philanthropist, and overall compassionate human being, it was the beginning point of seeing how misleading this presentation was without having spoken to anyone yet.

I want to introduce the idea of logical fallacies (faulty reasoning) and how it was incorporated into how this gallery was set up. Appealing to emotion, rather than logic, was the foundation into how this gallery was set up. Appealing to emotion, rather than logic, was the foundation of this, you paint any opposing opinions in an exaggerated manner which falls underneath the strawman fallacy.

According to the Legal Information Institute, murder is defined as unlawfully taking another human beings life with malicious forethought than in the general population. Pro-life activists, however, believe that killing a fetus is like killing a person. Pro-life activists believe that everyone has the same definition for abortion to the Holocaust. As a reporter, I want to introduce the idea of logical fallacies (faulty reasoning) and how it was incorporated into how this gallery was set up. Appealing to emotion, rather than logic, was the foundation into how this gallery was set up. Appealing to emotion, rather than logic, was the foundation of this, you paint any opposing opinions in an exaggerated manner which falls underneath the strawman fallacy.

For example, using the words “unborn babies” and displaying graphic images (that may not be real) to describe what to others might define as a fetus is already guilty tripping someone for initially having a different of interpretation of language. The word “baby” also has no scientific value to it, and using this term can make it as an emotional trigger. It’s a cheap way to make the listener feel bad for just having another perception. How you say things is just as important as what you are saying, especially if your goal is to persuade.

If you had to post a disclaimer stating that you’re not calling pregnant women nazi’s but you are saying medical technicians are the same as death camp doctors, you must’ve expected negative reactions to this being the opposite of the outcome you want. Do you know how insensitive it is to use the suffering of an entire group of people in the past to make a point in your biased argument?

You’re implying that abortion doctors have the same intention as death camp operators, a vile generalization to anyone who chooses to be in the medical field, since you’re basically calling them murderers (something I’ll cover in my next point). In addition, filming without the consent of others as a “security measure” (further proves that whatever message you have is getting severely misinterpreted and is detrimental to the work you are doing to begin with. What’s the point of making it harder for yourself to convince people after you’ve insulted them?

When you work under the assumption that everyone has the same definition for terminology being used in the conversation, you’re portraying whoever is willing to listen to you as automatically “incorrect” or “immoral” if their definition doesn’t align with yours. Because of this, you paint any opposing opinions in an exaggerated manner which falls underneath the strawman fallacy.

The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its sections. The Beacon encourages respectful conversation and debate on its pages as well as on social media. The Beacon reserves the right to remove or edit any comments deemed inappropriate, in its sole discretion.
The Beacon – Friday, February 13, 2015

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

FIU Baseball opens tonight, Feb. 13 against the University of Tennessee

UNIV. OF TENNESSEE
Feb. 13 - 7 p.m.
Feb. 14 - 6 p.m.
Feb. 15 - 1 p.m.
Home

STETSON UNIV.
Feb. 18 - 6 p.m.
Away

COASTAL CAROLINA
Feb. 20 - 12 p.m.

GEOGRAPHY TECH Tournamant
Feb. 27 - 7 p.m.
Feb. 28 - 2 p.m.
March 1 - 1 p.m.
Home

MOMI MARLINS
March 2 - 1:05 p.m.
Jupiter, Fla.
Away

MICHIGAN
March 13 - 7 p.m.
March 14 - 3 p.m.
March 15 - 1 p.m.
C-USA Matchup
Away

SETON HALL
March 10 - 12 p.m.
Port Charlotte, Fla.
Away

ST. JOSEPH'S
March 10 - 4 p.m.
Port Charlotte, Fla.
Away

UNIV. OF SOuth FLORIDA
March 18 - 6:30 p.m.
Away

UNIV. OF OHIO
March 19 - 1 p.m.
Away

UNIV. OF GEORGIA
March 20 - 6 p.m.
C-USA Matchup
Home

UNIV. OF SOUTH CAROLINA
March 21 - 7 p.m.
March 22 - 6 p.m.
March 23 - 12:30 p.m.
C-USA Matchup
Away

BETHUNE-COOKMAN
March 24 - 6 p.m.
Away

BETHUNE-COOKMAN
March 31 - 6 p.m.
Home

2015 Baseball Schedule

This weekend, FIU will be facing The University of Tennessee in what will be a series of three baseball games to start this most glorious time of the year; baseball season.

FIU is coming into the season projected to finish second behind only Rice University in Conference USA. Their opponent for this weekend’s matchup is ranked by most reputable polls as No. 25 in the nation, giving the Panther’s a ranked opponent to debut their season against.

I’ve got FIU taking two out of the three games this series, to hit the ground running in the 2015 regular season. Friday night will be a matchup of sophomore pitcher Cody Crouse with 2.23 career ERA, and Tennessee senior pitcher Bret Marks, who has a 6.43 ERA to his credit, and won’t have the easiest time against the bat of senior Josh Anderson, and the bat of career .313 hitter junior Edwin Rios, and senior Brian Portelli, whose plate discipline earned him a .350 average last year at the dish.

Saturday features the FIU freshman Garrett Cave on the mound against UT junior Drake Owenby. The second game of the three-game slot looks to be a close one, with experience favoring the Volunteers in the end with a close finish, perhaps 2-1 Tennessee.

The rubber match of the series has the Panther sophomore right hander Chris Mourelle starting against Volunteer sophomore, also a right hander, Kyle Serrano. Mourelle’s poise and previous dominance will be a recurring theme going into this season, as I suspect he and the rest of his Panther teammates will take the series and look to start a 2015 campaign that is as good, if not better as their 2014 season.

- lous.agudelo@fiusm.com

Background Photo courtesy of Boys Varsity/The Beacon

2015 Baseball Schedule

- Marshall Univ.
  March 27 - 6 p.m.
  March 28 - 4 p.m.
  March 29 - 1 p.m.
  C-USA Matchup
  Away

- Bethune-Cookman
  Univ.
  March 31 - 6 p.m.
  Home

- UF
  March 18 - 6:30 p.m.
  Away
THE BALL GAME
against the University of Tennessee

Season opening for a hyped up program

ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE
Asst. Sports Director
alejandro.aguirre@fiusm.com

It’s finally here baseball fans! Take the tarp off, make the lines and buy cracker Jack because the Panthers take the field Friday, Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. against the University of Tennessee at FIU baseball stadium for a three game series.

Things are looking very bright for the team, even without playing a single game yet. They say it is risky to make assumptions too early but when the FIU baseball team was predicted to finish second in Conference USA standings by two different publications, people are expected to have high hopes. DIBaseball.com and Perfect Game USA were the ones who predicted FIU to finish in second place in C-USA only behind perennial favorite Rice.

The University of Tennessee Volunteers are ranked 25th in the nation and are headlined by 2015 Preseason All-American Junior outfielder Christin Stewart. Last year, Stewart hit .330 with 39 RBI as a sophomore and led the SEC with six triples.

He started each of Tennessee’s 54 games and became just the 11th player in Tennessee history to win the team “Triple Crown”, leading the squad in batting average, home runs and RBI. Stewart went on to lead the Collegiate National Team in multiple offensive categories last summer, including batting (.383), hits (31) and doubles (12).

Leading the charge for last year’s team was catcher Aramis Garcia and pitcher Mike Franco. Unfortunately for the Panthers they are long gone in the MLB draft. This new and revamped roster for the Panthers has new faces rising up to lead this team.

To replace the offensive punch provided by Aramis last year, is senior third baseman Josh Anderson. Anderson is one of the better defensive third basemen FIU has had in a while. The three-year starter is a career .290 hitter and has been consistent with 7 HR and 42 RBI in 2013 and 5 HR and 43 RBI last season. Anderson hit .300, had 66 hits and 18 of those hits were for extra bases last season.

As Anderson anchors the infield for the Panthers, the outfield has a new face that will be chasing fly balls this season.

Last year’s second baseman, Edwin Rios, will be playing outfield now due to how much depth there is in the second base spot and the team needing his bat for the season. Rios hit .296 with 2 home runs and 38 RBI last season for the Panthers. Rios tied for the team lead with 14 doubles last season with Aramis Garcia. Every great baseball team succeeds with great pitching.

With last year’s ace Mike Franco gone, there is a big gap to fill.

The pitching staff as a collective unit has the depth to gain or even surpass the amount of wins Franco won last season. Last year’s C-USA Freshman of the Year Chris Moulrelle is one of the pitchers that could get the nod to be the opening day starter. From his performance last year he deserves it. Moulrelle led all C-USA freshmen and tied for third among all league pitchers in victories with nine and had the eighth best earned run average that was 1.95. Moulrelle allowed just 11 walks in 78.1 innings pitched, while striking out 37 batters.

The baseball season is a long and tiring one for many players that demand a lot from them. With the expectations of being a top team in C-USA, there is some pressure on this Panthers squad but this roster has the depth and talent to spin a lot of wins.

Without a single pitch even being thrown, the Panthers have the chance to prove many people wrong by outplaying Rice and taking control of C-USA. This can come true and it all starts on Friday, Feb. 13, versus Tennessee.

Although this series is a non-conference one, it is crucial because Tennessee is a ranked team.

Winning this series can set the right tone for an exciting season and to show the rest of the conference that the Panthers mean business.

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Photograph Credit: Alejandro Aguirre

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Sports

THE BALL GAME
against the University of Tennessee

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<td>C-USA Matchup</td>
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Names in Bold and Italic signify either a tournament, exhibition or neutral site games.

Conference USA games noted.
Underground rap music at Dilla Day Weekend

Dillard Day Weekend got an early start on Thursday evening when producer and rapper Otis Jackson a.k.a Madlib, spun a DJ set at the Bardot nightclub in Miami. Madlib “the bad kid” got on the decks past 1 a.m. He was welcomed by an enthusiastic crowd. His set consisted of funk and disco tracks spliced in with alternative hip-hop hits like “One Beer” by MF Doom.

After three opening acts, past 1 a.m., “Ma Dukes” came on stage to thank the crowd for coming out that evening and introduced Slum Village before they took the stage. The group Stewart the stage and met with a roar of applause. The duo performed tracks like “Players,” “1,2” “Tell Me” and “2 U 4 U.”

Pacing throughout the stage, the group maintained a steady interaction with the crowd. At one point grabbing an attendee’s cell phone that she was using to record the concert with an filming themselves while performing.

Like Madlib two nights prior Slum Village threw in “Raise It Up” and were met with a wave of hands being thrown in the air and end their set on the track to make way for the evenings headline act.

Peter “Pete Rock” Phillips got on the decks and spun into “They Reminisce Over You (T.R.O.Y.)”, one of the tracks his name is most tied to. He too spun hip-hop, funk, reggae and disco tracks that were intertwined with J Dilla tracks.

Dilladay Weekend

Friday, February 13, 2015
fiusm.com

Contact Us
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Entertainment Director
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Barry is such a good “friend.” In the undress and dress Caitlin in less than come into play sometime soon. Hashtags ready, because I do believe relationship, you got it.

Caitlin Snow decide to take the couple from an exploding vehicle. His powers enough to be able to save them.

The mission of getting faster each season.

As for Arrow, I think it’s safe to say Arrow was able to save a couple from an exploding vehicle.

In the episode, he and Caitlin Snow decide to take the night off and go to a karaoke bar where Caitlin gets hilariously drunk and makes Barry sing karaoke with her. He refuses and tells her she’s an lawyer.

Each new character leads us to our next characters, and this populated the city of Austin, Texas. Created this plotless look at the people who created “Dazed and Confused,” the “Before” trilogy, and most recently, “Boyhood,” he created this plotless look at the people who populate the city of Austin, Texas.

Starting with a man coming off a bus and ending with a group of friends playing with cameras, “Slacker” goes from one character to the other, tracking a myriad of people over the span of a single day. Each person remains memorable for one thing more can these shows do next? I don’t know how much more exciting my body and mind can bear!

“DC on TV” with Chris Santiago will review the ongoing series Flash and Arrow.
The film that fueled independent cinema

with weird things in his home, the hippie chick who graces the film’s cover and marketing material, the guy who goes to his local market in nothing but a robe, the guy who has multiple televisions and others. Combine these images with their conversations, goals and possible aspirations, and you’re bound to come across a character or two that’ll really stick with you, no reason that on any regular Saturday night, or this coming holiday, that someone couldn’t make a nice picnic dinner and set up a table with a table cloth, place mats, and maybe a candle or two and have a nice time. Even set up Marvin Gaye radio on a small speaker to help the mood. Then you could dance in the rest of the atrium.

The film that fueled independent cinema

MUSICAL MINDS

Valentine’s date spots on campus

Coming up tomorrow is one of the most lovely holidays in the year; Valentine’s Day. It is when couples express their feelings in a very outward way with cheap chocolates, roses, and teddy bears. A quick note: I will personally be celebrating ‘Singles Awareness Day’ during the same time. However, for most college students on a budget, going to a fancy place for dinner and then somewhere else is not possible. I have figured out my top three possible date spots - and date ideas - on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

No. 1
In the Ernest R. Graham Center by a couple of the restaurants in an atrium. Yes, the big windowed area with Subway and Sushi Maki. Now yes, since we as FIU are basically a commuter school, neither of these options would be open for dinner on the weekend. There is no reason to why increasing numbers of us prefer no significant other. Who wants to commit so much time and who’s company you really enjoy (oh so hard to do), develop affection for them, and then be told “No, thank you.” We all want to be cared about by someone for whom you have both lust and affection and vice-versa.

No. 2
In the Kissing Bridge, which is a great entryway to getting around a good deal of them are gazebos, picnic tables, or a combination. Especially by the heart lake and the Kissing Bridge, which is a great entryway to getting a kiss, by the way - or so I have heard - is nice. Call me old fashioned if you wish, but I think anything personally made is better than store bought.

No. 3
- If you understand that the film is simply a day in the life of Austin folk, then you’ll be well prepared for the random way the film navigates from one character to another with no resolution. The film’s lack of plot could be seen as problematic, and the way the film navigates from one character to another with no resolution can also be either boring or frustrating for some. If you understand that the film is simply a day in the life of Austin folk, then you’ll be well prepared for the random way the film goes about portraying everything. Engagement in the film might be difficult as well, but at least for me, the very nature of the film kept me hooked. The very fact that it’s an experimental film should clue the viewer that it isn’t conventional. And that alone would make “Slacker” worth recommending, but the fact that it puts us in a place and time so well and is enjoyable through-out makes it that much more of an excellent motion picture.
President Rosenberg to hold town hall forum at Biscayne

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
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These last years, students at the Biscayne Bay Campus have witnessed several newly added facilities and programs, as well as ongoing renovations on campus.

To address student concerns, the BBC Student Government Council will host its 9th Annual Town Hall Meeting Monday, Feb. 16, an open forum with University President Mark B. Rosenberg.

According to Larissa Adames, SGC-BBC Campus Life Coordinator, the town hall is a way for students, faculty and staff to discuss with the president about campus issues.

“The president usually gives an update on whatever is going with the University, specific to BBC, and after that, there’s an open forum [Questions and Answers],” Adames said.

According to Elina Sibony, SGC-BBC Chief of Staff, the meeting will provide updates on major accomplishments. This includes last year’s opening of Panther Square and Panther Plaza, as well as new Starbucks and Subway dining facility and the Academic Skills and Knowledge Center at the Glenn Hubert Library.

“This is the most important opportunity that anyone has to make their voice heard,” Sibony said, a junior marketing and finance double major.

“So if you have something that is on your mind, something that’s bothering you, this is the best way for you to get it heard,” Sibony said.

Sibony also said a new road to enter campus will be discussed at the meeting. The proposed road would help drivers avoid heavy traffic on Northeast 151 Street caused by the David Lawrence Junior K-8 Center and Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High.

This is a major project that the BBC Student Government Council has been working on for a while now and is not complete at any time soon. However, it is something that the council is determined to bring about.

“That project will take at least several years, so it’s not going to be something that we’re going to see too soon, but we do want to get our foot in the door for that,” Sibony said.

Sibony said a project such as this one, requires a lot of work and a louder voice from the BBC students; thus, attending the meeting is something to take into account for the betterment of the campus community.

However, what is currently being heavily focused on is the outside construction and remodeling of the Glenn Hubert Library.

Sibony said she hopes that there will be a large student turnout so that their concerns are addressed.

“We want as many students, as many members of the community, as many members of faculty and staff with any concerns or with any wishes, opinions, grievances— anything at all,” Sibony said.

“The bigger, the better, honestly.”

The meeting will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms. Registration is open at http://www. eventbrite.com/e/8agbc-town-hall-meeting-tickets-15034343125.

Alum chases his dreams, does what he loves

"My parents always told me they didn't want me to major in anything that was artistic," Carlos Diaz said. "They wanted me to major in medicine or law."

Strangely, Diaz was the son of actors that had been in television for over 20 years. He had grown up in movie sets and theaters, and knew his way around cameras and filmmaking equipment.

Nonetheless, Diaz took his parents' advice and looked for alternative career choices during his last high school years. At first he set his mind to engineering.

“I wanted to be an Imagineer,” Diaz said. “I loved math, but math didn’t love me back.”

He then decided to go for computer animation. Diaz visited Pixar Studios, but again realized that it was not what he wanted to do.

“It’s a lot of work that you have to sit through for six months straight and I’m too hyperactive for that,” Diaz said.

It was not until his senior year that his career track began to unfold.

A student in the year under him had a theatre play for a project and needed one last character. When she approached Diaz, he gladly accepted to help her out given that he wasn’t bothered to play a character whose job was to make fun of himself.

“My dad was a comedian,” Diaz said. “I didn’t mind doing it.”

As he stood on the set, Diaz began to tell her how to set up the lighting and the equipment; he was naturally good at it. At that point that he realized he wanted to study communications.

He approached his parents to inform them of the decision he’d made. “My mom said ‘That’s great,’ but that I’d have to get the new grades in the whole class or I will disown you.”

Attending the University from 2005 through 2009 for a TV Production degree, he made good on his mother’s request to earn good grades by maintaining a 3.8 GPA throughout his time at FIU. After graduating, he picked up a job in a Miami-based casting company where he worked as an assistant director.

Diaz has also played soccer since he was eight. He played as semi-professional when he was 12 and reached the under-15 national team in his native Mexico. He would later use his soccer experience to teach the junior varsity soccer team at Gulliver Preparatory School in Miami.

Even though Diaz was skilled at both his job and his studies, he didn’t think of earning a career through them. “I always thought of soccer as soccer and communication as scriptwriting,” Diaz said.

But the opportunity to bring in a scriptwriting job was discovered when someone came over and told him he could do both. That was my dream job,” Diaz said.

Diaz decided to apply to Univision and follow that dream job. After a look at his passion for soccer and experience in it, he was given a position as an associate producer and was increased. He began to pitch stories that would be run during the game coverage.

“Diaz was able to place the list to cover the South Africa World Cup in 2010. However, due to a change of employees in upper management, he was crossed off the list and, soon afterwards, took up a job in Telemundo.

That is where the bulk of his career has taken place: covering the 2012 London Olympics, finals for Mexican soccer, the World Cup qualifiers, NASCAR and the first coverage in Spanish for the Super Bowl XLIX among other assignments.

In 2014, Diaz and his team won an Emmy for the production of the Mexico versus Costa Rica qualifier for the World Cup. They were nominated in four categories, one of them being the best broadcast of a live event in sports.

Diaz was able to bring in the actual Emmy, which he emphasized, weighed at least a couple pounds, to an Introduction to Television class on Tuesday, Feb. 3 for Panther Alumni Week.

While Diaz looks forward to covering the 2016 Olympics, he also looks forward to trying to be on camera instead of just behind it. Nonetheless, he has enjoyed his experience at Telemundo.

“I’ve gotten to do a little bit of everything and I’ve been able to move up in terms of responsibilities as time has progressed. But I can’t stress enough that the best part is that I’ve been able to be with a great group of people and I can say that a lot of them are my friends,” Diaz said.

This is the most important opportunity that anyone has to make their voice heard.”

Sibony said she hopes that there will be a large student turnout so that their concerns are addressed.

“We want as many students, as many members of the community, as many members of faculty and staff with any concerns or with any wishes, opinions, grievances— anything at all,” Sibony said.

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