Student organization to raise awareness on Muslim shooting

ADRIAN SUAREZ AVILA
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In light of the slaying of three Muslim students near the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus, FIU’s Student Government Association gains new member Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha, a junior studying economics and business administration major, took the liberty to read her speech. She mentioned that with the media’s commonly negative portrayal of the religion, when people hear of recent killings of Deah Barakat, Yusor Mohammad Abu-Salha, and Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha, they may not come to consider the possibility that the victims were innocent, and instead develop the notion that they were looking for trouble, considering that they may be involved with radical activities, the types of the media covers as taking place abroad or throughout the country even.

As Adnan stated it, Muslims are a minority in the United States, one with a history spanning back to the early origins.

These examples show what an SGA senator should be, which is someone who’s constantly advocating for students, that knows it’s not about [themselves] but the students' welfare and betterment.

Student Government Association gains new member

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The Student Government Council at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus has added a new member to its Senate. Rodriguez, an economics major and a veteran of the United States Marine Corps., said that he hoped to bring the professionalism gained as a result of his experience as a Marine to a position in the SGC.

Informing those in attendance that he had taken the liberty to read through the Student Government Association constitution and attended the last four Senate meetings, Rodriguez felt that he was ready to hit the ground running, as he put it.

He admitted that he had met with SGC-MMC President Alexis Calatayud and another member of the MSA, that said that the tabling events are also geared toward informing students on Islamophobia and the negative perception that people develop on Muslims.

Rodriguez, an economics major and business administration major, took the opportunity to highlight his potential contributions to the position. He said that he felt that the skills needed for his long-term career goals, adding that he feels he can have a more direct impact on the student body as a senator.

He believes that already having knowledge of the workings of SGA will give him the opportunity to get straight to work if appointed as a new senator. Once the candidates left the room the discussion commenced.

Adrian Ulloa, curious about Ulloa’s work ethic, asked SGC-MMC Vice President Tiffany Roman-Biffa to comment on Ulloa’s status in the Cabinet.

According to Roman-Biffa, Ulloa was very committed to his role in the Cabinet. She added that she believed he was interested in assuming a position as a senator during this term in order to prepare for the upcoming elections.

Nico Pasquariello, honors college senator, admitted that he was torn between both candidates. Ulloa being a personal friend and Rodriguez a Marine, a fact that resonated with him.

For several senators, the looming issue was the vacancy that would be left in the Cabinet if Ulloa were to be elected as a senator. Williamson said that in the interests of there only being a few months left in the semester, he believed it best to leave Ulloa in his position in the Cabinet and gain a new member, as opposed to elect Ulloa and leave a vacancy in the Cabinet.

Williamson believed that Ulloa could have the same impact on the student body by remaining in the Cabinet. At the end, the Senate welcomed Rodriguez as its new Arts and Sciences senator, with 14 senators having voted for him. The remaining three senators abstained from voting.
NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

In Ukraine, deadly shelling continues hours before cease-fire begins

Lethal shelling continued to rock towns in war-torn eastern Ukraine last Saturday, in the hours before a Sunday cease-fire began.

Seven Ukrainian troops were killed and 23 wounded in attacks by pro-Russian separatists, according to Ukrainian National Defense and Security Council spokesman Andriy Lysenko. Twelve separatist fighters died and 40 were wounded, one of their military commanders said. In marathon negotiations in Minsk, the capital of Belarus, leaders of Germany, France, Russia and Ukraine worked out an agreement Thursday that would halt fighting at 12:01 a.m. Sunday in eastern Ukraine. But in the hours leading up to the cease-fire, at least two towns were ravaged by shelling.

Mexico denounces police killing of unarmed migrant worker in Washington state

President Enrique Pena Nieto lashed out Friday at what he called the "disproportionate use of lethal force" by police officers in Washington state that led to the death of an unarmed Mexican migrant.

Pena Nieto joined lawmakers in condemning the death of 35-year-old orchard worker who was slain by police officers in the death of an unarmed Mexican migrant.

According to the Haaretz Daily Newspaper, the authorities in Chapel Hill have not yet been able to find evidence definitively pointing that 46-year-old Craig Stephen Hicks committed a crime based on hate towards Muslims.

While the victims’ family stresses the idea that Hicks acted out of hate, for now the FBI is working on a “parallel preliminary inquiry” to conclude whether or not any laws regarding hate crimes were violated.

It is reported that although North Carolina does not enforce any statutes concerning hate crimes, it does enforce those involving ethnic intimidation, which include hanging nooses, or setting fire to sites of religious worship.

Beijing now drinking from vast water project environmentalists decry

Drinking water is flowing to Beijing from China’s controversial south-north water project—enough to fill 20,000 Olympic-size swimming pools in the first six weeks, the city reported Friday.

But concerns continue to swirl about the project’s environmental and human costs even as Beijing taps into a new water source nearly 800 miles away.

The central route of the south-north water project is China’s largest public works undertaking since the Three Gorges Dam, and it’s similarly contentious.

It consists of a 400-foot-wide canal, aqueducts and other water works that stretch 798 miles to Beijing, starting at the Danjiangkou Reservoir in Henan province.

Campus events to share awareness for recent shootings

MUSLIMS, PAGE 1

of the nation with the Transatlantic slave trade.

Like most minority groups, according to Adnan, Muslims have a history of being oppressed.

He referenced the George Zimmerman case, calling attention to the fact that the case involved the death of Trayvon Martin, a minority.

For Adnan, the MSA tries its best to promote the beliefs of the Islamic community and tries to coexist with Christians and members of other religious faiths in the nation.

Some students shared their views.

Joshua William Seidler, a junior majoring in Japanese area studies, believes that raising awareness is one way of helping prevent these incidents from happening.

“There are stereotypes, the way that people are viewed is not really accurate,” he said. “Not everyone is like every single person of the same race or the same religion.”

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Obama administration claims
that the internet will be free

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Obama’s administration has been fundamentally about change and for the most part has had a positive outcome. The cycle of White Anglo- Saxon Protestants that dominated our government has finally been broken—leaving plenty of room for improvement. This time, however, change includes limitations concerning net neutrality.

After months of advocating for utility regulation of the internet, President Obama got his way. According to the White House website, Obama plans to put forth net neutrality; creating an open and free internet. The word “free” is advertised as if its going to be donated to the public– a tactic to attract supporters, but what it’s really going to cost us is our freedom in.

The FCC plans to introduce the presidential directive, beginning on Feb. 26. The public is yet to find out details about this new directive, everyone will have the same access and speed. How they are going to achieve this “net neutrality” is not clear to me.

Previously, the internet did not fall under the 1934 telephone utility regulations. With Obama’s new directive, the internet will be considered a utility; therefore, it will be regulated as one. I like the internet as it is - a free flowing stream of ideas, products and global communication. It doesn’t need to be censored or monitored by the government. When the government did have control of the internet, it was only for official use. It wasn’t until the internet was in the hands of the private sector that it was available to common people. The internet is in netregrade and back in the hands of the government, despite the remarkable advancements the Internet made while privatized: from dial-up internet to Wi-Fi and mobile hotspots.

The industry flourished through investments made by the private sector and continues to progress. With these new policies at bay, who knows what will happen to the internet. Many of us who enjoy making podcasts, blogs or other websites might end up restricted and with less opportunities than before.

For instance, Verizon and many other phone companies provide popular apps like instagram, whatsapp and twitter for free; under the new directive this will be banned because it ‘favors’ those websites over others. This is only going to diminish connectivity and penalize companies, that try to bring its consumers free applications. At the end, it will mainly impede the regular consumer and not the big corporations it is targeting.

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The only difference between disruptive animals and disruptive human beings is that humans are able to argue their innocence.

For many cities, the controversy surrounding pit bulls has lead to an outage of debates and legislation. Being able to legally own a pit bull on city law, as the issue is not statewide. The problem comes from the high number of human fatalities caused by aggressive pit bulls.

Those against owning pit bulls argue that the breed is aggressive to the point where no amount of training can subdue them. Opponents argue that it is not the fault of the owner but the genetics in the breed. According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), “While a dog’s genetics may predispose it to behave in certain ways, genetics do not exist in a vacuum. Rather, behavior develops through a complex interaction between environment and genetics.”

The development of animals is very similar to the development of humans.

Variables such as setting, socialization and conditions can contribute to personality development, not just genetics. Dogs, like humans, should be evaluated as individuals rather than as a collective breed.

Independently of these factors, the major influence is their human owners. Pit bulls were originally bred as fighting dogs, able to take down animals of larger size and stature. This trait makes them appealing to people who use the dogs for violent purposes. Because many pit bulls are involved in dogfights, they are often conditioned to react aggressively towards other dogs. However, they are trained to react positively toward humans.

Although they are less frequent, other breeds have instances of aggressiveness. Chihuahuas, for example, are notorious for imprinting on their owner and reacting defensively toward strangers.

There are also pit bulls that consider themselves lap dogs. Because there is so much coercion over the aggressiveness of pit bulls, an actual solution should be implemented. Laws that ban the pit bull breed do not solve the problem; they just let others deal with it. Society should not give up on pit bulls because they carry a negative status. We should work toward reversing their stigma.

Today, people are far more forgiving toward issues. Rag-filled celebrities can sell out areas and cheating politicians can generate legislation. There is no reason pit bulls should not receive the same pardon. If society gave up on one troubled individual, the world would be far less populated.

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As students, we’ve learned not to get too attached to sculptures that decorate the grounds on FIU. Initially after Marty’s Cube was lifted from its spot near the Deuxieme Maison last May, now it seems that FIU faculty and students must learn to be scared of them as well.

The green baracade surrounding the sculpture or named “Argosy” by the artist Alexander Liberman, on the traffic circle on the 16th Street entrance of the University has left growing concerns for safety issues and conditions for the pedestrians and drivers around it.

The barricade, along with the tarp on the fence, is tall enough that it restricts drivers from being able to spot or notice cars coming from the other side, which is worrying given it’s a roundabout.

This makes it all the harder to navigate around it and all the scarier for pedestrians who are trying to cross the street.

The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum’s curator of exhibitions, Debbye Kirschtein-Taylor, said she was informed by the conservators handling the maintenance for “Argosy” that the renovations should end before the start of the spring semester.

The renovations started less than a month ago, but students still complain about the speed of cars even though the signs on the tarp warn drivers to slow down.

As if there wasn’t enough going on around the 16th Street entrance, there’s a giant electronic marquee that direct those entering the school and informing them about upcoming events, workshops or guest speakers FIU has planned.

The screen is large, distracting and requires concentration on one’s part to read.

Drivers already have media-screen issues. According to a federal study 660,000 drivers nationwide use their cell phones or other electronic devices at any given daylight hour.

The renovation of the red statue is now a running joke among the student population on how our University is under more construction than our own highways.

There is an unusual understanding that sometimes our venture onto campus includes walking under hard-hat zones or next to people working and that the remodeling or construction will help students in the long run.

However art piece has become a handful even with the warning signs posted on the tarp, whose purpose is to protect drivers and the conservators working inside of the fenced area, who are working on renovating the sculpture.

One of the renovations includes its repainting, which requires a specific type of paint resilient enough to be used on ships and bridges.

This process serves to protect vehicles from the paint and it also protects the paint on the sculpture from the debris on the road.

But for those driving around on it serves as an annoyance.

If the tarp itself were even just a little more transparent or a lighter color, it would allow drivers to see the cars and pedestrians, instead it leaves them blind to incoming traffic.

“Argosy” will soon look shiny and new but until then, we advise students to drive slow and be aware of their surroundings.

The renovations are a part of a new sculpture, hard-hat area and traffic detour.

With all the construction and renovations being done, it’s clear that FIU is “building a better tomorrow,” but what about today?...
Top: The Chinese new year has the traditional lion dance in which two performers operate festive costume to liven up the crowd and celebrate the year of the sheep. Bottom Left: Chinese gala shows multi-cultural performances. The women in pictures performed the Chinese umbrella dance, just one of the many different performances featured. Bottom Right: Asian Studies and Modern Languages department organized chinese new year gala in the College of Business Complex on Feb. 12th. These women in picture performed the lantern dance.

Students saw a nearly full house at the College of Business Complex for the Chinese New Year Gala, an event put up by the Asian Studies and Modern Languages departments, that included lantern dancing, fan dancing and the lion dance, among other surprises.

I enjoyed all that was put in front of me (I was also in the second row), but the lion dance caught my attention the most.

Featuring three lions being controlled by six people, it was a visual treat with their intricate design, facial expressions and movement.

At one point the performers, accompanied by thunderous live music, started going all around the room, which no one expected.

The quieter moments involved swords and the Er Hu, a two-stringed instrument similar to a violin (though an actual violin was used for one of the performances with the Er Hu).

I liked these performances for their movements and beauty, the sorts of things that find something wonderful in soft and simple-looking movements.

An audience member performed a song by the UK group, Transition, sung in Mandarin, one of the only performances of the night done by someone from the audience.

Some of the performances (like the lion dance) were memorable and unique, like when a duo beat-boxed: one sang, the other dropped beats. I found this performance original and creative, one of my favorites of the night.

I also liked the instrumental performances, most of them consisting of a single person playing the instrument with music accompaniment. It was a nice and simple type of performance, one which showed up multiple times throughout the night.

I had no idea what I was in for when coming to the Gala, but I was glad I had gone after witnessing all of the multi-cultural performances. It was a good showcase for performers but also a great celebration of the new year (of the sheep).

The parties involved did a great job making it all come together.
Big L’s death; a look back sixteen years later

COLUMNIST

On February 15, 1999, Lamont Coleman was shot nine times and later died in a drive-by shooting in his native town Harlem, New York.

Better known by his stage name Big L, his death was a major blow in a decade of major blows in hip-hop.

In the span of five years - 1996-2000 - the genre lost young MC’s at the pinnacle of their lyrical prowess such as Big L, Biggie Smalls and Big Punisher also known as Big Pun. I would be negligent not to mention Tupac Shakur among the notable deaths of the period, but one would also be remiss to consider him a lyricist on the level of the aforementioned rappers.

Those five years recorded some of the worst deaths of transcendental talent.

Like Big Pun “Capital Punishment”, Big L only completed one album, “Lifestylez ov da Poor & Dangerous,” before his untimely death. That album is to this day hailed as a masterpiece, and rightfully so.

It is one of those few albums you wish you can completely erase from your memory, just so you can experience listening to it for the first time all over again.

And it’s a process you would like to repeat again.

What stands out in “Lifestyles” is Big L’s mastery at telling stories and painting vivid pictures, usually of how ruthlessly he was running the streets.

Aside from his one studio album, his supreme talent is seen on his appearances on the “Stretch and Bobbito Show.” The internal rhyme schemes he wove together, all the while telling a cogent story, is amazing to savor.

On his 1995 appearance on the show, he displays this quality for minutes on end. A line that sticks out is “I’m known for yokin’ Japs and beating ’em with smokin’ gats, leaving token blacks with broken bats and open caps.”

Lamont Coleman grew up in Harlem. At age 24, Coleman died from multiple gunshot wounds just a few blocks from where he grew up.

Two stanzas, five words that rhyme consecutively, next to five words that rhyme consecutively.

I have never heard another rapper approach that level of skill.

Another special quality of Big L’s that I don’t bear people compliment often enough was his humor. His humor was only for those who had the stomach for it. There are many comedians out there that have put out specials that aren’t as funny as a Big L track.

Like much about this genre, there is a good amount of hypocrisy to criticize.

In the “Lifestyles” album the track “Street Struck,” a call to the youth to avoid taking the wrong path in life, is included when every other track is about Big L glorifying exactly that.

While it is fun to speculate how the genre would be different with Big L, the sad truth remains that his life was cut short well before its time and the audience were robbed of an immense talent. Whether or not he would’ve remained a spectacular lyricist, we the audience were robbed of seeing his career progress and more tragically, Coleman was robbed of his life.

While the sadness of that fact is permanent on this side of the grave, we can still at least celebrate his life and career.

Alabama legalizes gay marriage

Alabama has become the state No. 37 where gay marriage is legal. This was a difficult battle, often pitting federal and state mandates against one another. The legalization came as a surprise because of the state’s conservative and pugnacious nature. One-third of the residents identify as evangelical Christians and seven out of ten oppose same-sex marriage. In 2006, they passed a gay marriage ban with 81 percent of the vote.

Chief Justice of Alabama’s state supreme court, Roy S. Moore, had been violating federal orders and telling probate judges to not issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. In 2003, Moore had been removed from office for refusing to remove a statue of the Ten Commandments from the state judicial building.

Alabama has always been a vocal advocate for state sovereignty. In 1962, then governor George Wallace stood in front of the University of Alabama auditorium in order to stop integration, despite a Supreme Court mandate.

During his inaugural address, Wallace said “In the name of the greatest people that have ever trod this earth, I draw the line in the dust and toss the gauntlet before the feet of tyranny, and I say segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever.”

This bellicose attitude echoes the current struggle for marriage equality. Moore had ordered judges to uphold the state’s current ban of gay marriage. His office said it remained in effect despite the Supreme Court’s rulings. However some judges have already begun issuing marriage licenses regardless of their governor’s stance.

Alexander Otu, a senior English major, said, “it shows real progress is being made in the most ass-backwards region of America.”
A freshman pitcher made her debut at home this weekend, recording the first three strikeouts of her career.

Rachel Dwyer closed the final two innings of the Panthers’ loss to Purdue University on Sunday by striking out three Boilermakers.

The Panthers opened the season with a 3-3 split at the FIU Invitational.

Senior Shelby Graves, with a 1-3 record, got her first win of the season against the University of Memphis on Friday in the first game of the tournament and dominated, going 2-for-3 and driving in the game-winning RBI single in the bottom of the sixth.

Freshman Ashley Belans also hit her first-career grand slam in the bottom of the fourth inning against the Long Island University, Brooklyn Blackbirds on Sunday.

FIU split two with the Memphis Tigers 3-5, then ran into trouble and lost two games against Purdue 6-4 which went 5-0 in this tournament, but came back with two wins against LIU 1-9.

Junior catcher Aleima Lopez drove her first home run of the season against the Tigers.

Junior Dominique Grossman made some impact plays in the outfield with a hurdling catch over the fence in right field to rob Tigers’ Brooke Lee of a home run. FIU took the win 3-2 over Memphis.

Junior Corinne Jenkins, with a 5-3 record, got the loss against Purdue later that day pitching five innings. The fifth inning was tough for the Panthers as the Boilermakers scored seven unanswered runs.

The Panthers fell to the Boilermakers 8-1. Jenkins took on Memphis on Saturday with a complete game loss. Despite the loss, she pitched a solid five-hit game with five strike-outs.

FIU then took on the Blackbirds with Graves on the mound but was relieved after one inning by sophomore Brianna Bartuccio, who got her first win of the season and held the Blackbirds to just one run.

Two LIU errors in the second brought in runs for the Panthers. Senior Krystal Garcia reached on a throwing error by LIU’s third baseman Angie Vasquez.

Graves took a hit for the Panthers to get two on base while Lopez grounded out to move both runners over.

Sophomore Stephanie Texeira ended the game with an RBI single that run ruled LIU 12-4 in the fifth.

The FIU softball team closed out the final day of the FIU Invitational and split a pair of games against Purdue and LIU.

Graves got the loss, going six innings and later giving the ball to Dwyer in the seventh.

Lopez was feared by the Boilermakers baserunners as she threw out her second runner attempting to steal this season.

The Panthers struggled to get any offensive momentum during the game and Purdue scored one final run in the top of the seventh to get the win 8-0.

FIU later conquered the LIU Blackbirds 2-1. Jenkins added another complete game win with three strikeouts and held LIU to three hits all game.

FIU takes the show on the road next week where they will participate in the Eastern Michigan University Madeira Beach Spring Invitational.

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Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124 or apply at fiusm.com.
Baseball opens strong, gets ranked No. 23 in process

The best time of the year started up again over the weekend, as the FIU baseball team finally opened their season with a 3-game series against the University of Tennessee Volunteers.

FIU took two of three games against the Vols, and for the most part I was impressed with what I saw. UT came into the weekend ranked No. 25 in the country, but the Panthers were still able to take the series. This was enough for FIU to inch their way closer to being nationally ranked, being one of the “other teams considered” in this week’s rankings.

The most impressive aspect of FIU’s game this past weekend was their pitching. Aside from Saturday’s game (in which the Panthers were blown out 9-2), FIU’s pitchers kept UT from getting any rallies going and ultimately led the Panthers to two wins.

Leading the charge was junior Danny Dopico, who is playing his first year at FIU after previously attending Sienna College and Broward College.

In Friday night’s home opener, Dopico prevented UT from scoring after striking out 6-of-7 batters he faced (including four in one inning). Dopico was awarded with the win in this game.

On Sunday, Dopico was brought in to close out the game, and he did just that. Dopico threw two shutout innings and earned his first career Save to clinch the series over the Volunteers.

The 2014 Conference USA Freshman of the Year Chris Mourelle also shined in his first start of the season, holding UT to one hit and zero runs in five innings. If the Panthers can get that sort of production from their Sunday starter moving forward, I don’t envision them losing too many series this season.

Other pitchers such as Friday starter Cody Crouse and relief pitcher Brandon Diaz also looked very impressive in their season debuts.

Looking at the other aspects of FIU’s game, they certainly weren’t as impressive as the pitchers. Offensively, some players definitely shone. Shortstop Julius Gaines, First Baseman Mitchell Robinson, and Third Baseman Josh Anderson were among those that looked really good at the plate over the weekend.

As a team, however, the Panthers hit for a pedestrian .216 batting average, with just a .324 on-base percentage. In the three games against UT, FIU was only able to score nine runs. Credit some of that to the UT pitchers, who are all SEC talents that play on a ranked team.

Regardless, the Panthers will need to be better with the bats moving forward.

The FIU defense was by far the worst part of the weekend series, as they committed 11 errors. 7 of these errors came in Saturday’s loss, and were the driving force in breaking the game open in UT’s favor. Hopefully it was just due to being rusty and the issue will work itself out, but if it continues FIU could definitely get into some trouble as the season moves on.

FIU impressed not only myself, but also the nation with their series victory over the Volunteers. With a strong showing this week in the Coastal Carolina Tournament, the Panthers will more than likely find themselves ranked higher in the Top 25, then what they currently sit at, which is No. 23 in the Baseball America Poll.

However, parts of their game definitely need improvement if they want to be a serious contender this season.

SGA APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

Visit SGA.FIU.EDU or SGABBC.FIU.EDU

ONLINE APPLICATION & QUALIFICATION FORM

DUE FEB. 23RD AT 5PM
The shooting of unarmed 18-year-old Michael Brown, captured headlines last year, along with several other cases of black men dying at the hands of police officers, sparked a national debate about race, policing and a hastening #blacklivesmatter.

Black Lives Matter is a political campaign aimed at raising awareness of the oppression of the black community. The movement began as a reaction to the acquittal of George Zimmerman, the Sanford, Florida man who shot unarmed teen Trayvon Martin in 2012.

The BBC Student Government Association plans on continuing the dialogues of race and policing by bringing an award-winning journalist to tell personal stories at the Wertheim College Union Ballrooms.

Soledad O’Brien, journalist, news anchor, producer, documentary and TV personality, is coming to the BBC to examine these issues and the story of why so many Americans talk about the uncomfortable issue of race, about opening the floor to new perspectives, and about policing has affected their lives.

“Black in America is about making Black Americans talking about the oppression of the black community. The movement began as a reaction to the acquittal of George Zimmerman, the Sanford, Florida man who shot unarmed teen Trayvon Martin in 2012. The BBC Student Government Association plans on continuing the dialogues of race and policing by bringing an award-winning journalist to tell personal stories at the Wertheim College Union Ballrooms.”

O’Brien will be coming to the WUC Ballrooms on Febr. 25 at 6:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

BBC hopes to grow student population

Camila Fernandez
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With the lack of a greater student population growth at the Biscayne Bay Campus, student and faculty are faced with a disadvantage.

“Address student and faculty concerns, the BBC Student Government, hosted their 9th Annual Town Hall Meeting with University President Mark B. Rosenberg.

During the town hall, it was discussed that the absence of a larger student population has become a major issue for campus growth. It is hoped that once there is student housing at BBC, there will be more students on campus.

According to Rosenberg, BBC had been delays in terms of new housing construction. Over 200 students who once resided in the previous Bay Vista Housing had to leave by May 1 of last year, leaving BBC without any housing available for students.

Construction of the new privatized housing was expected to be completed by Fall 2015. However, it is now expected to be completed by August 2016 if and only if they get approval on Thursday, Feb. 19 from the Florida Board of Governors.

“We [had] some delays, but we’re pretty sure that we’re going to get approval to build our new residence hall overlooking Biscayne Bay...” Rosenberg said.

Many successful campus operations were also highlighted during the meeting as well as the national recognition of science, technology, engineering and mathematics involvement at the MAST @ FIU Academy.

Despite the lack of students, the campus has become more student centered, said Jazmin Felix, Assistant News Director.

“Over time you will see significant impact opportunities, research opportunity. [It is] the most unbelievable partnership. I promise you it’s going to happen,” Rosenberg said.

Gustavo Falavera, manager of the Earth Journalism Network and founder of InfoAmazonia based in Brazil, speaks at Media Party Miami on Friday, Feb. 13. Media Party Miami showcased digital innovation within Latin American and Hispanic media in the United States and took place at the Koons Center on the Biscayne Bay campus.