University students protest FIUPD militarization

Natalie Alatriste
Staff Writer
natalie.alatriste@fiusm.com

The University’s Police Department has been expanding its military equipment.

Police militarization, the act of small police departments acquiring dangerous and unnecessary weaponry from the military, has expanded in the past two decades nationwide.

In various cities, local police departments have gained weapons such as M16s, large rifles used in war; armored cars, better known as MRAPs—Mine-Resistant Ambush Protection—grenade launchers and tanks.

In the last couple of years, the FIU Police Department received grenade launchers and tanks. In the last couple of years, the FIU Police Department received grenade launchers and tanks.

The 1033 program issued by the Department allows departments to receive these kinds of military hardware.

According to CNN, the program has transferred $4.3 billion in military equipment to local police forces since 1996, all in response to the war on drugs. After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the government made additional equipment available to local and state departments.

The program was originally implemented for economic reasons. According to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1990 and 1991, it is more costly for the government to warehouse this type of machinery while it’s not being used. So, instead, the government makes it available to police departments at low costs.

When an interview was requested, the FIUPD never responded.

“Here’s something about an atmosphere of violence now that connects the wars with these racialized events in Ferguson and in New York City, and it ties in with the observation that Radley makes—[but] these fears are misguided,” he said. “It’s this fear of this highly salient, disturbing event that is propelling this heavy arming of the police, and people in schools wanting to arm up, too, in case of school shootings.”

Noah Weisbord, a professor at the University’s School of Law, also commented.

“There’s something about an atmosphere of violence now that connects the wars with these racialized events in Ferguson and in New York City, and it ties in with the observation that Radley makes—but these fears are misguided,” he said. “It’s this fear of this highly salient, disturbing event that is propelling this heavy arming of the police, and people in schools wanting to arm up, too, in case of school shootings.”

Two University law students, Kaplin Oche and Bobby Joe Bracy, Jr., are petitioning FIUPD from obtaining these weapons. They feel police militarization on campus will constrict students’ freedom of speech and assembly.

“We’re asking why they need it,” Oche said. “We’re only ever going to see these weapons when there’s [an] organized effort by students on campus and the police want to stop it.”

Oche and Bracy are members of the Florida Student Union, an organization that aims to build student power.

Last semester, the Florida Student Union drafted a statement in opposition to the militarization of the police and delivered a letter to FIUPD stating their formal disagreement.

Currently, the Union is seeking other organizations to support the cause. It also plans to deliver another letter on March 3 with this support. A petition campaign is currently being conducted for interested individuals to sign.

A panel event on Feb. 24 is also scheduled to expand public knowledge.

If nothing comes of this, the students plan to rally sometime in April.

“We’re involved in this campaign seeking the demilitarization of our campus police because if we don’t, then the next generation of students will never know a campus that isn’t militarized,” Oche said. “To them, it will be normal.”

Bracy, a third-year law student, agrees with this and believes that it’s important to raise awareness.

“It’s a lot of people are aware of police militarization...but the awareness we’re really trying to bring attention to is awareness of student power,” Bracy said. “Students need to own awareness of the power to stop this.”
Turkey says it’s reached accord with US on training Syrian rebels, but not on who enemy is

The United States and Turkey will soon sign an accord to train and equip at least 2,000 Syrian fighters this year, but the two NATO allies have been unable to agree on what enemy the Syrians will be preparing to fight, Turkish officials said Tuesday.

Tanju Bilgic, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said the memorandum of understanding will permit the training of moderate rebels to

Islamic State’s beheadings of Egyptians could draw of understanding will permit the

spokesman, said the memorandum

to fight, Turkish officials said have been unable to agree on what

descented into post-revolution has largely stayed on the sidelines as

Egypt, seeking retribution for the

struggle among an array of militias.

the chaotic but so far inconclusive

inroads in several parts of the country,

Kept at bay by fighting in the

camps and weapons caches belonging

neighboring Libya. The warplanes

of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation

getting more encounters," said Robbin

Palm Beach County forms the southern end

of the early arrival of a leatherback, one

of the earliest on record. According to Allen Varela,

Rodichkin said. The conference is open to the public.

It will be held at the GC Ballrooms from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 17 and 18. For a more detailed schedule, visit the Honors College website at honors.fiu.edu/research.

Female sea turtle lays eggs in South Florida

A female leatherback turtle weighing hundreds of pounds crawled onto Singer Island last week, becoming the first known sea turtle to lay eggs in South Florida this year. The early arrival of a leatherback, one of the rarer turtle species, could foreshadow the resurgence for reptiles that were once turned into steaks and soup. Sea turtle nesting counts have soared in recent years, despite the ocean.

hazards the sea creatures face on the open

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of other undergraduate students at this research conference," Rodichkin said.

The conference is free and open to the public.

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into steaks and soup. Sea turtle nesting counts have soared in recent years, despite the
I recall one scene that emerged in the BDSM community when it involves BDSM. The best way to gain consent is by communicating on the BDSM lifestyle and link for sex education or serve as a manual on how to “spice up” your love life. A quick search online, I want to beg him to stop. But I don’t. I don’t want the well being of his lover. If the contract handed to her without education from him on the matter wasn’t a red flag indicating that Christian is not a sane partner, then the instances where he buys her phone, the boy she works for or intimidates her into emotional submission to have more control, should not be a replacement for sex education or serve as a manual on how to “spice up” your love life.
International water crisis brought to light in lecture

KRISTAL PUGH
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

Dr. Andrew Hudson, head of the United Nations Development Programme’s Water & Ocean Governance Programme, travelled around the world calculating water sanitation and supply.

His latest research reveals a devastating truth—our international system is facing a water crisis.

On Tuesday Feb. 18, FIU hosted Hudson as a guest speaker in Green Library Room 220, sponsored by Global Water for Sustainability Program and the FIU School of Environment, Arts and Society. Hudson devised a lecture to share with students about the current state of water supply and sanitation.

He began by providing statistics about the many countries in crisis of not being able to provide the basic human right—water.

Through the statistics, he highlighted many key points and offered a general outlook of these communities living with poor water supply and sanitation.

He explained how this basic need is something many people overlook and neglect. The death rate and infectious diseases such as diarrhea, dysentery and typhoid fever, have continued to increase due to lack of proper water intake and sanitation.

Some major at-risk countries include Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and Guatemala. These countries in particular are suffering from poverty and inequality.

Hudson explains that these countries need more women involved in pushing the story, claiming that women in these countries seem to have a better understanding of the importance of water and sanitation.

"To push water and improve water sanitation up the political agenda, we need to make the case to governments, decision makers, financial planners and planning agencies," Hudson said. "We have to achieve universal equitable access of clean water for all countries."

International water crisis brought to light in lecture

MARLISA PONCE
Staff Writer
marlisa.ponce@fiusm.com

Coca-Cola’s “Comparte el Movimiento” is having a dancing competition that gives 14-19 year olds the chance to win up to $3,000 for a school of their choice.

Coca-Cola hopes to inspire South Florida youth to get active, both physically and in their communities.

We spoke to Nick Garcia, who was in the top 20 of “So You Think You Can Dance” season 11, about the competition and him being a judge for it.

“When they told me about “Comparte el Movimiento,” it was more of a movement and cause, and a way to look at dance in a different way rather than judging dancers just solely on dance,” said Garcia.

“And even though that’s what I’m doing with this, there’s more coming out of it after the dance is done. Since dance is something I’ve been good at since I was seven years old, he understands the dedication and hard work that comes with competing. He always can relate to the dancers and the struggle.”

What can you bring to the table that’s different from everyone else?

Nick Garcia
Comparte el Movimiento

Top left photo: Radu Jianu and dance partner Erika Latham dance Tango on the Beach.

Bottom left photo: Radu Jianu used to be a shy dancer until he learned Tango. He said he liked rules in Tango and feels the rules make self expression easier.

Second to bottom left photo: Radu Jianu and dance partner Erika Latham consider themselves Tango enthusiasts.

Top right photo: Radu Jianu, an assistant professor in the computer science department, dances with partner Erika Latham at the Puerto Rico Tango Marathon.

Bottom right photo: After giving tango lessons at Brown University, tango enthusiast, Radu Jianu and his partner, Erika Latham, decided to offer free lessons at FIU.

Local dancer to judge charity competition
Increasing tuition rates, paying triple per hour over 138 credits, the $2.50 one-way ride to and from the Biscayne Bay Campus and the inability to redeem coupons on campus offered by off-campus food establishments all point to one fact: Florida International University loves our money. An interview with Radu Jianu, an assistant professor in the computer sciences department, added something else to this growing list: tango lessons.

After giving tango lessons at Brown University, tango enthusiast, Radu Jianu and his partner, Erika Latham, consider themselves Tango enthusiasts. This is them dancing at the Puerto Rico Tango Marathon in 2014. Radu Jianu used to be a shy dancer until he learned Tango. He said he liked rules in Tango and competing. He always can relate to the pressure that piles up during competition with his time on “So You Think You Can Dance.”

“What can you bring to the table that’s different from everyone else?” said Jianu.

Jianu spoke passionately about why Argentinian tango was close to him. “I liked dancing, but I was always too shy. I need rules and tango has a lot. I think rules make tango easy for college-educated scholars to follow,” said Jianu. In Providence, he had the pleasure of watching his inexperienced class grow from shy to active investors in the tango community. He feels confident that FIU students would be able to do the same.

“I have a different mentality from the people in GC. I think it should be about the students and honestly want nothing to do with GC anymore,” said Jianu.

To make his class happen on his own terms, Jianu created a website: fiuntango.com. He would love students to experience at least one lesson and see how their body can move. “Even if I have to hold a class outside on campus with my own radio, I’ll make it happen,” said Jianu.

To get involved or for more inquiries: contact Radu Jianu at rdjianu@cis.fiu.edu. Tango lessons are free.
HIT THE ROAD

Panthers go on first road trip to play in Coastal Carolina Tournament

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

After taking two of three from No. 25 Tennessee this past weekend, the FIU baseball team hits the road this weekend to compete in the Coastal Carolina Tournament in Conway, South Carolina. There, the Panthers will play four teams: Georgia Tech, Coastal Carolina, Albany, and North Carolina State. These games will be non-conference games but will be a true test to see how the team can handle playing on the road and away from their home field.

FIU is going into this tournament having the latest ranking of No. 23 in the nation and they will start off the tournament playing a double header first against Georgia Tech and then Albany. The Georgia Tech Yellowjackets are 3-1 to start the season. The reason for this hot start is their offense has been consistent each game. The Yellow Jackets are scoring about eight runs per game. The FIU pitching rotation is coming off a home series where they did not give up a lot of runs to Tennessee which is another good offensive team. The pitching rotation is looking to do the same to Georgia Tech and silence their bats.

Coastal Carolina, the hosts of the tournament, is playing on the exact opposite note compared to Georgia Tech. They are coming off a painful loss to Canisius. The Panthers go on first road trip to play in Coastal Carolina Tournament. They have not played yet so this tournament will be their first taste of the season. This team is having trouble scoring runs and limiting other teams from scoring runs which is why that play style has led to an average 2-2 start. FIU needs to start the game on an aggressive note and put runs up on the scoreboard early in the game. This puts pressure on Coastal Carolina to answer back which is very difficult especially when the team is struggling to score.

The next day of the tournament, Saturday, the Panthers will take on the University of Alabama. They have not played yet so this tournament will be their first taste of the season. This team is headlined by junior infielder Matt Hinchy and senior catcher Craig Lepre. They were appointed to be the co-captains of the team by Head Coach Jon Mueller. Hinchy was named to the America East All Rookie Team helping the Great Danes to an appearance in the American East Conference Tournament.

Last year in his sophomore year he was plagued by injuries limiting him to 14 games but he’s looking to have a bounce back season to follow up his great freshman year. Lepre, entering his senior year, has been the everyday starting catcher since his freshman year. He was one of the main offensive weapons on the team having a .273 batting average with 28 RBIs, 10 runs and he also hit seven doubles last season.

The final day of the tournament, the Panthers will finish their road trip against North Carolina State. The Wolfpack is 3-1 to start the season. The reason for this hot start is their offense which is another good offensive team. The pitching rotation is coming off a Hampton Inn tournament. FIU has a tough task ahead of them as none of these teams have a losing record as they all started the season off on a winning note just like the Panthers. Playing back to back games can be difficult especially when not on their home turf.

Now being ranked No. 23 the Panthers have something to prove to these other teams, that there is no mistake why they are ranked and it starts Friday, Feb. 20 at the Coastal Carolina Tournament.

Wednesday’s game versus the Stetson University Hatters was not completed at the time of production.

Junior Corrine Jenkins, along with senior Shelby Graves, always put up a fight in the circle.

Senior third baseman Josh Anderson tags out a runner from University of Tennessee trying to steal third base.

Panthers head west for Madeira Beach Invitational

ALANNAH ALFONSO
Staff Writer
sports@fiusm.com

The FIU softball team will travel to Madeira Beach this weekend to partake in the Eastern Michigan University Spring Invitational. They will take on the Villanova Wildcats, Wichita State Shockers, Columbia Lions, Texas State Bobcats, and North Dakota.

The Villanova Wildcats will be opening up their season with FIU today. Last year they went 18-34 overall and 5-16 in the Big East conference. Their star shortstop Ali Lowe graduated last spring but the majority of their starting lineup from last year will come back this season. Junior catcher Kate Poppe who had 13 wins last season with a 2.05 earned run average, 219 innings pitched and 284 strikeouts will be back as well. Wichita State is entering this tournament 6-3 to start off their season. They take command on the field but do have a young roster that gives them a few weak points defensively. The one thing the Panthers should look out for is junior Cacy Williams. The Shockers played in the Getterman Classic early this February where she set a record hitting five doubles. The previous record was four, held by four different players.

Columbia will also open up their season at this tournament and play the FIU softball team on Saturday. The Lions finished at .500 last year (22-22) and went 9-11 in the Ivy League. Texas State is coming in even at 5-5. They finished last season 26-30. Aziel Ortiz is one of the Bobcats most dominant players. She took control at the Hampton Inn tournament in Texas where she finished going 11-for-17 with three home runs, one triple, five doubles, seven runs batted in, and a slugging percentage of 1.588. Despite having one player do it all, you need a team to win and that is where FIU could take charge over the Bobcats. The FIU softball team has chemistry on the field that helps them overcome opponents.

North Dakota University is coming into this tournament 4-6. The Bobcats will play them on Sunday to close out the tournament.

There is no doubt that the depth in FIU’s pitching staff could handle all of these teams. Junior Corrine Jenkins, along with senior Shelby Graves, always put up a fight in the circle. The bullpen for the softball team also dominates with freshman Rachel Dwyer and sophomore Brianna Bartuccio. The combined ERA is 3.59. Offensively the Panthers have combined for a .393 slugging percentage, .349 on base percentage, and 38 runs batted in which is very productive thus far in the season.
All-star games: Do something or just go away

Zip. Zilch. Nada. That is how much the big three sports all-star games mean overall. None of these games mean anything for standings or respect or anything. I don’t believe that the MLB All-Star Game, the NBA All-Star Game or the NFL Pro Bowl in 2017 - still holds the key to home field advantage in the post-season. I have some simple suggestions for each, but overall, main change that needs to happen is that they need to count in one way or another.

NBA

The most recent game, which sparked my interest in this topic again was the NBA All-Star Weekend. This includes multiple skill challenges, a celebrity game, the upcoming stars game and the NBA All-Star Game - divided Eastern Conference versus Western Conference - to wrap it up. The game had a final score of 163-158 with the West winning. That is the best and worst part at the same time. Yes, there was a bunch of offense but that also means that there was no defense. I am one of the people who, when I watch a basketball game want to see some defense. Maybe some defense could be brought back into that game.

I think unless the game begins to mean something, then it should not be played anymore. There is no reason, during the middle of the season, to have players have an extra chance to hurt themselves. Make it at the end of the season, but prior to the Finals to determine home court advantage. This would spark my interest much more than currently. If you want the players to have a break mid-season, have the season take a 7 to 10 day break in the middle.

NFL

The Pro Bowl, held each year the week prior to the Super Bowl until just recently, was between the NFC and the AFC. It is the biggest joke among the three all-star games. Yes, it is fun to see some of the best players in the league team up together but with the new format, it does not mean a single thing to win or lose. It is a draft by former star players, who choose to each ‘team’ Primetime’ Sanders, Jerry Rice, Michael Irvin and Cris Carter. This means that not only are the conference players mixed among each other, but teammates are switched around and playing against each other.

That is an awful idea in general. What happens, if say, Jared Allen, a defensive lineman from the Chicago Bears, sacks his own franchise’s quarterback Jay Cutler and breaks his throwing arm or makes him tear his rotator cuff. Those types of injuries could change Cutler forever from having arguably the best arm in the league. I have three simple suggestions for the Pro Bowl to not only make it watchable, but to give it a reason to still exist.

The first is that the teams need to be switched back to a match up of the conferences. As simple as that, it would give each team a chance to show that their part of the league is better.

The second would be to make it count, not for “home-field” advantage in the Super Bowl but the right to be the home team and have all the benefits I think about the NFL is that they move the big game around yearly. Even though this changes yearly, I think the only true, out-right home team should be if the host city of the super bowl is in the game, otherwise, let the Pro Bowl decide who gets to wear the home jerseys.

Also, the third thing is just a preference thing, but move it back to Hawaii. Having it in Hawaii is one of the best parts of the game and without it you are not only losing a fan base - which incoming rookie Marcus Mariota from the University of Oregon may help get some back - but you are losing out on some great opportunities both financially and expansion team wise. If they were to get to have a large enough, Hawaii based fan base, an expansion team could work there.

The other option that could help is if the inter-conference play throughout the season, and player movement throughout the conferences was eliminated but being the realist that I am, I know that that is not going to happen.

MLB

Woohoo, the MLB All-Star Game is coming to Miami in a couple of years. Oh wait, I forgot that I don’t really care about baseball and that the MLB All-Star Game is just an even longer baseball game. Baseball is a slow game in general and one would think that putting the best players, both on offense and defense, in one game might speed it up a bit. However, in my past experience that is not the case.

It is shorter than the longest game, which went for almost 24 hours, but it is pretty long compared to games like football and basketball.

As I mentioned before, I am not completely sure if this game was home field advantage for the winner out of the American or National leagues. If it still does then that is one less thing to change. If it no longer does, they need to change it back.

Also, I truly think that ending the ability for players to switch back-and-forth from the AL to the NL and vice versa would make it more interesting but I know that return more than likely won’t happen in my lifetime. There are too many games in the MLB season for the leagues to not play amongst themselves. I would also move it just like my proposed NBA move, to directly before the finals of the World Series. If you want the players to have a break mid-season, just have the season take a 7-10 day break in the middle.

Rhys’ Piece is a weekly column on both FIU and National sports news that goes on. The views shown by Rhys’ Piece are not necessarily the views of The Beacon, its Editorial Board or FIU Student Media. Check back every Friday for the latest edition of Rhys’ Piece and email rhys.williams@fiu.edu if you have a topic you would like to suggest.

Rugby team looks past adversity, aims to improve team points per game. However, in management have also been an obstacle for the team. A vital part of a team’s success is a good relationship between coaches and players - to be trust, understanding chemistry. This was not the case for the men’s rugby team. A fall out between head coach Barrington McNutt and another player which meant they had yet to grow accustomed to certain skills to play safer and smarter. This was setback was evident, as they lost 27-24 to the University of South Florida on Saturday, Jan. 14, a team they had defeated 57-12 in October.

“We have a lot of fit guys, which means our tackles are great,” said McNutt. “But they’re new to the game, so they don’t know when to stop a tackle or how to do it correctly. So we have to work on their mauls and learning to play smarter.”

The team will travel to Fort Lauderdale to participate in Ruggerfest at Mills Pond Park, a two-day tournament with 30 teams, for a game against Florida State University. FSU has been proven to be a tough contender in the conference and Florida Cup.
The festival brings opportunities for Chaplin students

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
BBC Managing Editor

camila.fernandez@fiu.edu

With a dash of spice and a spoonful of sugar, a heap of volunteers from across the country are expected to be present at this year’s 14th Annual Food Network & Cooking Channel South Beach Wine & Food Festival, a national wine and spirits showcase event.

Hosted by the University and Southern Wine & Spirits of Florida, the event has helped raise over $20 million for the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management.

The funding supports the School’s recently added Wine Spectator Restaurant Management Laboratory, as well as their Southern Wine & Spirits Beverage Management Center at FIU.

The event is held from Thursday, Feb. 19 to Sunday, Feb. 22, during which more than 75 events will be hosted by more than 150 celebrated chefs and 250 global wineries and spirits producers.

“The festival is a tremendous convergence of what we do in the festival combining the guest chefs coming from out of town and [associate support of the Chaplin school], said Lead Culinary Instructor Michael Moran, who is also known for his efforts with the festival.

According to Moran, SOBEWFF is a great way for Chaplin students to network with leaders in the industry and apply what they learn through internship.

“It gives us an opportunity to take what we do here in the classroom and kind of get together with the industry,” Moran said. “When they come back from the festival after it’s over, they’re so excited that it’s almost hard to keep them in the building.”

He also said it helps students clarify and narrow down their trajectory of where they want to go when they graduate.

For this year’s festival, Moran worked closely with award-winning FIU graduate Eddie Zeng to help coordinate operations for Thursday’s Italian Al Fresco Feast on the Beach event hosted by Debi Mazar and Gabriele Corcos from Cooking Channel.

Zeng, who will now participate in his third year at the festival, was declared last year’s winner of the Second Annual-FIU & Badia Spice Competition for his seafood spice creation “Biscayne Bay.”

He was awarded a $5,000 scholarship for his blended spice which includes thyme, kosher salt, celery seed, fennel seed, cumin, paprika, black pepper and smoked paprika. The spice will be sold with a five percent of all global sales going right back to the Chaplin School’s funding.

“I believe it’s the balance of the spices that makes the difference and the quantities that you put together, and blending the spice. So it’s kind of like chemistry,” said Zeng. “(SOBEWFF) helps me put my foot in the door into large scale events, being able to communicate with the participating chefs,” Zeng said.

As an undergraduate electrical engineering major, Zeng involved the University’s Student Programming Council. This helped him realize his passion for hosting events. At age 15, he worked at a small Chinese restaurant and was bored to death.

“I got kind of like, in a way, sucked into it without knowing it,” Zeng said. “I was like, ‘I want to do this’.”

Moran believes that Zeng has been a leader in coming up with new ideas for the School.

“We’re really on a very progressive track of constantly trying to do new things and he’s at the forefront of helping us with experiments and coming up with new flavor profiles,” Moran said. “He’s absolutely fantastic and just one of many great students that we have here at FIU.”

FLU graduate Eddie Zeng (right) shares laughs with senior hospitality and management majors Tracy Flores (left) and Barbara Renom (center) at the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management. Zeng was awarded for his creation of a spice at last year’s Second Annual-FIU and Badia Spice Competition.

Carla Triviño
Contributing Writer

Students are preparing to participate in this year’s 14th Annual Food Network South Beach Wine & Food Festival and the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management is making sure they’re ready to take on responsibility for an event.

The festival has hosted close to 80 events expanding all the way to Fort Lauderdale Beach. It has also raised more than $20 million for the Chaplin School, attracting chefs and companies from all parts.

Through the University’s SOBEWFF Ambassador Program, students can participate in the festival from working with guest services and logistics, to culinary and event production.

According to Gypsy Velez, Assistant Manager for the Ambassador Program, students can network and learn from these culinary professionals.

“I’ve heard of students getting seven job offers after one week at the festival,” said Velez.

Velez said that they try to pair students with the job they want because, “not everyone wants to cook,” she said. These jobs can range from customer service, hospitality management to culinary assistant.

The star-studded festival has grown significantly since it started in 1997 as Florida Extravaganza. For five years, local restaurants and chefs worked with Chaplin students to showcase national and international wines at the Biscayne Bay Campus. It wasn’t until 2002 that the University partnered with Southern Wine & Spirits of America, Inc. to create what it is today.

Tylar Segal, a senior hospitality and management major, sees the festival as a stress free job fair.

“We get to network with all the top people in the industry,” Segal said.

Segal, who will now participate in her third year at SOBEWFF, is a logistics local and helps set up and create a venue within a week. Then she and her team manage a group of about 46 volunteers and help liaison between students and the event.

“I have friends who got jobs from volunteering at SOBE,” Segal said, “and now they’re working with network stars.”

According to Velez, students like Segal who volunteer more than one year, are eligible for scholarship awards between $2,500 to $5,000. She also said the Food and Wine Festival raised $2.1 million last year for the School and uses a portion of that money towards scholarships. The award amounts can differ depending on the volunteer position given at the festival.

Zoe Galanis, a sophomore hospitality and management major, has been working for the festival since September as Human Resources Coordinator. She recruits and interviews students and makes sure all volunteers have a job for the festival.

“I would love to be a special event director,” said Galanis. She said that the festival has taught her about the small but important details that help run an event, like sponsors and creating rosters.

This year the festival will also showcase the new Badia Spice winner, “Biscayne Bay” created by FIU graduate, Eddie Zeng.

This is just one of many festival competition stories from the Chaplin School, and is why students are so eager to expose themselves to opportunities with big industries.

“This year I volunteered for the event, I knew this is what I wanted to do, said Segal.

Segal said she wants to continue working for the festival and be recognized for her work. She said the festival experience is different from learning inside a classroom.

“You actually see it get done, and even though I have a small role in it, I want to make a big impact.”