**A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University**
Greek organizations partner to educate on domestic abuse

ABUSE, PAGE 8

“...they come from doing wonderful things and here they are able to develop their creativity and their personality, to reflect all they have done. Some simply come to a first experience in the field,” Vigon said.

Like Vigon, who is from Spain, many of the program’s professors also come from different Spanish-speaking countries, making the program exceptionally diverse.

Claudia Gonzalez-Soto, a Colombian student in the program, has been interested in studying journalism for years. However, at the time of her undergraduate years in Barranquilla, Colombia, there were no well-known journalism programs.

She came to FIU with two masters degrees in Mental Health Counseling and Clinical Psychology. Now, she wants to put her expertise in the field of journalism.

“Even though I studied psychology, I want to use it in mass communications. What motivated me the most is that everything is taught in Spanish,” Gonzalez-Soto said.

“I think that journalism is a lovely career where we can do a lot of good to society,” Gonzalez-Soto said, “because we have to inform people about the reality of what is happening. That’s why I think this career is very important.”

According to Diament, the future of journalism is uncertain with changes in technology, for example.

However, the program is willing to prepare the students for that.

“Our challenge is to prepare professionals who are going to work in that future and train them and give them the ability to adapt to this unknown future – no matter what the changes in the media landscape may be,” Diament said.

Masters program celebrates 20 years

MASTERS, PAGE 8

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NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

With Islamic State threatening, Turkey abandons historic tomb in Syria

After months of siege by Islamic State extremists, Turkey early Sunday sent an armored column into Syria to evacuate troops that had been guarding the tomb of Suleyman Shah, the grandfather of the founder of the Ottoman Empire.

The government announced that nearly 600 soldiers were deployed to the site on the Euphrates river late Saturday. The troops removed Suleyman Shah’s sarcophagus, and then destroyed the mausoleum. Turkey said it would house Suleyman Shah’s remains in the Ashna region, close to the Turkish border, after a new mausoleum is built.

The operation ended what in effect was a long-running hostage crisis, which began when Islamic State forces captured the area surrounding the enclave about a year ago.

Army to send headquarters group to Kandahar in first sign of revision to Afghan withdrawal plan

In the first official sign that the Pentagon plans to keep a U.S. military presence in southern Afghanistan after this year, the Army is sending the 7th Infantry Division headquarters from Joint Base Lewis-McChord on a year-long deployment to Kandahar Province this spring.

The deployment follows Defense Secretary Ashton Carter’s weekend visit to Kandahar, where he acknowledged in a meeting with soldiers that the Obama administration was reconsidering the pace of its planned withdrawal of the 10,000 U.S. troops who remain in Afghanistan.

The deployment is small, fewer than 100 soldiers.

The division’s deployment has been an open secret at the base for months. The Pentagon in December announced that it was adding staff to the headquarters to help it reach a deployable strength.

Clinton to women: It can still feel like 1955 out there

Hillary Clinton, the first female candidate to seriously vie for the presidency, told thousands of Silicon Valley professionals Tuesday that, despite strides in the United States for women, “it can still feel like 1955. That not just a problem for women, it’s a problem for everyone.”

Clinton peppered her 35-minute speech here with personal anecdotes as she pushed women to work together to elevate more females to leadership positions, secure benefits in their workplace and change society to be more welcoming to females.

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Terrorism does not originate from religion

JENNIFER BLANCO
Contribution writer

President Barack Obama directed the nation and millions around the world this week at the summit on Countering Violent Extremism. It was truly a poignant and educational moment. Political instability has forced rebels to status or religion, political instability has forced rebels to

"As a fan, it feels as though I annoyed the artist with my very presence. I feel the need to apologize once my time is up, as if my appreciation for their music came off as offending. Granted, there will be those understanding bands that genuinely enjoy the time spent with their fans, but they are few. This is not to say that VIP packages should not be an option. There has to be some kind of a system to them or the process would fail. The packages can’t be free or there would be no show. On the opposite side, the prices should not be raised or no one would be able to afford them besides a select few. However, the meet and greets should be revised.

These packages give fans just enough time to have their memorabilia signed and picture taken before being shoved out of the way to make room for the next group to be shuffled through.

For example, instead of standing in line just to have a piece of paper signed, bands could spend that time interacting with the fans. I have experienced this kind of meet and greet once and it was, by far, the best. The group was more relaxed—as relaxed as you can be around celebrities—and it was more informal. Everyone took their own selfies with the band and was able to have an actual conversation with them.

Another option could be to schedule meet and greets at different times throughout the day; devoted fans will show up undoubtedly. Singer Rou Reynolds of the band Enter Shikari wrote, “If someone believes it is morally justifiable to charge you to meet them, you have to ask yourself the question, ‘Do they deserve to be met?’ In fact, do they deserve to meet you?’

Just saying’

Send us your letters

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at Miller C173 or WUFT U34. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

Recent Reviews by The Review

Spring Break

Send us your letters
“Rumors” spreads to University

NADINE RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer
nadine.rodriguez@fiusm.com

Premiering at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center’s Mainstage Theatre Feb. 27 and running through March 8 is Neil Simon’s “Rumors,” a twisted farce both in its comedy and its plot.

To provide a glimpse into the play, two lead actors, Danny Leonard and Natalie Brenes, both senior theater performance majors, shared their thoughts.

“The play is really fun, really funny and very active. It’s a great production,” Brenes said. “I think the audience will really, really enjoy it. It’s for the masses, it’s a mix of slapstick and witty humor. It appeals to everyone.”

“I think the audience is going to have a great time, it’s a lot of farce comedy,” Leonard said. “Opening doors, closing doors, one person is coming in, one person is going out … it will keep the audience guessing and laughing.”

“Rumors” has been produced by dozens of theaters, including Broadway, since its premiere at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego, Calif. Since every venue brings something new to a show, the students at FIU decided to tackle the play, as well.

“Everything except the costumes is student designed,” said Leonard. “The lights, the set and the sound. There hasn’t been a play like this before in the last five years, the modern setting of it makes it more accessible and relatable.”

“It’s a show that keeps you on the edge of your seat. As soon as you think something resolved itself, something happens. You’re never going to fall asleep,” said Brenes.

According to Leonard there are 12 characters in the play, but the audience becomes the 13th.

“Their reaction, when they laugh, will help the play move along. We want the audience to enjoy the show, so its going to be a new show every night since we have new audience members,” Leonard said.

Director Matthew Glass also spoke about his upcoming production.

“Directing a farce is very difficult: it’s all about the timing.” Glass said. “You have to be exact and a structure that is rigid and can’t bend, yet gives the actors enough room to play. It’s all about the door slamming at the right time to cue the next bit that’s going to happen.”

Despite the difficulties, Glass assured that the play is funny.

“Neil Simon has a bad rep, but turn on CNN and take a look around at what’s happening in the world. I think audiences will welcome two hours of just laughter. They don’t have to do anything but enjoy and laugh … I want the audience to dance out of the theater, happy,” Glass said.

Tickets for "Rumors" are $10 for students, $12 for seniors and staff and $15 for general admission.

“We need the audience,” Glass said. “We want an audience and we’re ready. It’s something I don’t often say when directing a play.”

Student success in swimwear line KOKOAKINIS

CATERINA BALZANO
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

Isabella Soto is a digital media studies major at Florida International University, who has always been into owning a small business. At the age of 19, after various occasions of trying to start one, she saw the opportunity to launch her own swimwear line, and she didn’t think twice before doing so.

“A couple years ago, I used to buy old jeans at thrift stores and I’d cut them into shorts and sell them on Etsy,” Soto said. “Then I started my own fashion blog, but it’s expensive to maintain so I didn’t do it as often.”

It wasn’t until Soto launched KOKOAKINIS in December 2014, that she grasped on to the success of a fast-growing company.

“When you start off your business, you never think it’s going to do so well. I get e-mails from people in Hawaii or Sweden with questions about my swimwear. It’s kind of surreal,” Soto said.

She says a major part of her growth since it was launched, less than three months ago, has to do with her marketing and photography choices. Soto created the concept behind KOKOAKINIS, as a line that any girl of any size and body type could identify with and want to wear. The models she uses for her swimwear are girls of all shapes and body types.

She emphasized the fact that her customers should identify with the organic beauty of her models. Soto accomplishes this by doing minimal editing to her images and focusing on the bikinis’ style complementing the model’s body.

“The first collection was all over the place. I didn’t have a theme. I was just picking what I really liked and thought would look good,” Soto said.

Soto began her business with the help and lead of her mother, Paula Lopez, who describes her as her backbone in the process.

Lopez came up with the name “KOKOAKINIS,” from what Soto said sounded “catchy” and they decided to keep it.

Her mother, a Colombian native who has been living in the United States for 15 years, studied fashion at the Miami International University of Art & Design. At a young age, Soto would watch her mother work on fashion pieces for school projects. She recalls going to one of her mother’s fashion shows when Lopez was still enrolled in the fashion school.

“My mother is living vicariously through me (with KOKOAKINIS),” Soto said. “She has always wanted to own a business of her own.”

After graduating, Lopez began designing a sportswear line. She hired a seamstress in Barranquilla, Colombia to make the clothes for the business. The sportswear line was discontinued after a short time.

Soto, being curious about owning a business, thought that bikinis were a good way to go, especially in Miami.

“People are always going to want to buy bikinis,” Soto said.

She then asked her mother for the seamstress’ contact in Barranquilla and in November 2014, she began sketching the designs for the swimsuits that would make up KOKOAKINIS’ first collection.

With her mother’s guidance, she learned where to buy fabrics, how to select colors, prints and designs.

“It’s been a learning process along the way,” Soto said. “But when I wake up every morning the only thing I want to focus on is my swimwear line.”

The second collection, “Spring 115,” will launch in early March of this year. It will include three different sections divided by color themes: one with only black pieces, another with earthy, more subtle tones and the third will have versitile brighter tones keeping KOKOAKINIS true to Miami’s liveliness and beaches.

Isabella Soto has models show off her swimwear line, she uses girls with all shapes and body types because she wants her customers to identify with organic beauty.

JOIN OUR STAFF!

The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff.

If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don’t be shy.

Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124 or apply at fiusm.com.

Photo Courtesy of Isabella Soto

Photo Courtesy of Isabella Soto

Photo Courtesy of Isabella Soto

Photo Courtesy of Isabella Soto
Rolling Loud festival features local artists Johnny Billionz and Chief Oyabun

“It appears EDM has held onto the Miami spotlight long enough. We have become all too familiar with EDM, and now it’s time for hip-hop to seize the moment and dazzle everyone with its brilliance in the Rolling Loud festival.

Ultra was only the gateway for music enthusiasts that crave for a grander, over the top music celebration.

To understand the level of greatness the Rolling Loud Festival aspires to be, think of it as Ultra’s hip-hop fraternal twin, especially with the announcement of a performance lineup including Schoolboy Q, Juicy J, ASAP Ferg and Travis Scott. These are household names that have been dismantling the rap game, bar by bar, for years.

Johnny Billionz, he said that he feels that he doesn’t have the same name notoriety as Schoolboy Q and that he has to be working harder than him, which will be hard to do but he plans to really stand out and make people remember him.

Each artist has high expectations for Rolling Loud and aims to outperform the other, which brings even more excitement for this hip-hop extravaganza.

Don’t miss out on Chief Oyabun who has prepared a peculiar surprise for the audience. He is expecting to create a “dope experience” and told his fans to expect him to be “Malcolm X going ape on stage.”

And don’t dare forget about Johnny Billionz who also prepared a memorable gift for the crowd by performing a brand new track called “No More,” which he teased about dropping this Friday.

Each artist plans to deliver a must-see performance that will catch Miami by surprise. Those who care about hip-hop and music culture will applaud Dope Entertainment and their efforts to book great local talents like Johnny Billionz and Chief Oyabun.

Too Bold to Gamble is a column by Joshua Kawainqui Kasanova Nichols, a finance and informational technology major. He follows local performances around South Florida and is a DJ at WRGP known as Y2K. His show, Las Vegas Sinners, is known to play alternative hip-hop. Make sure to tune in to his show every Monday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Joshua Nichols@fiusm.com

P.O.T.U.S.

University students react to the President’s Town Hall at FIU

Sanford Barber II
Class of 2015
Criminal Justice Major

“it’s great for the school to get exposure, but I thought he could have interacted with the students more.”

Edany Santiago
Class of 2019
Psychology major in a pre-med track

“Honestly it caused a lot of traffic. I was late for my class and I missed my PES session [a test for biology majors].”

Dante Baldassari
Class of 2015
International Relations

“It’s very cool to have a president in the same area that I am in. That’s the first time that happens. Unfortunately I wasn’t able to go see him, to listen to him whatever he had to say, so honestly I feel disappointed because of it.”

Mike Neresa
Class of 2019
Communications Major

“I think it’s cool stuff. I just want to know when he’s legalizing marijuana.”

Justin Riakes
Class of 2019
Accounting

“I think it’s really good that he came. What he’s speaking about has a lot to do with hispanic people and the legalization reforms, so this is a good place for him to come and speak because it matters to a lot of people here.”

Raphael Harris
Class of 2018
College of Medicine

“I think immigration reform is a serious topic and by being addressed it shows Obama is doing what he’s suppose to be doing as a president.”

SULU SPEAKS

Actor George Takei, famous for his role as Hikaru Sulu on Star Trek, talks about life experiences that made his fame a platform for social justice activism on Tuesday, Feb 24.

Actor George Takei/The Beacon

Actor George Takei, famous for his role as Hikaru Sulu on Star Trek, talks about life experiences that made his fame a platform for social justice activism on Tuesday, Feb 24.
FOOTBALL

Tim Harris Jr. officially named running backs coach

JACOB SPIWAK
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After the report last week by The Miami Herald that FIU added Booker T. Washington as the new running backs coach Tim Harris Jr. as the new running backs coach, the university officially announced the hire on Tuesday, Feb. 24.

While a lot of buzz has been surrounding this coaching acquisition since the story came out last week, nothing was official until FIU’s announcement.

The resume at the high school level surrounds this hire with optimism, Washington High School was ranked No. 4 in the nation in USA Today’s high school football poll at the end of his tenure.

In just one season as head coach, Harris brought the Tornadoes to a perfect 14-0 record and a third consecutive state championship win. This remarkable season led to Harris being named the Class 4A Coach of the Year, among many other awards and nominations.

In the five seasons prior, Harris was the offensive coordinator at Booker T. Washington, leading the nationally acclaimed football team to a lot of offensive success.

Head coach Ron Turner was clearly very excited about the hire, displayed by his comments in the official press release.

“[Tim] is a tireless worker,” Turner said. “He has done an outstanding job at a highly successful high school program. He comes from a strong coaching background with his father, Tim Harris, Sr. He has a tremendous knack for communicating with his players on and off the field. He’s a disciplinarian who holds his kids accountable for everything they do.”

Harris also seemed extremely happy to be working with FIU and eager to start the job.

“I’m really excited and thankful for the opportunity Coach Turner has given me and my family,” Harris, Jr. said. “FIU is a great destination. This is a program that kids want to be a part of and the direction Coach Turner and his staff have FIU football going in is something special.”

This coaching change is not only a big move for FIU and the Panther backfield, but it is also a strong in-state recruiting move.

With the acquisition of new running back coach Tim Harris Jr., he looks to take running back Alex Gardner - No. 1 - under his wing and prepare him to have an incredible sophomore campaign.

BASEBALL

Panthers ready to take on Manhattan for home series

ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE
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After coming from a 2-3 road trip this past weekend, the Panthers will come back home and battle it out against non-conference opponent Manhattan College. FIU will play against them this weekend in a four game series starting on Friday night.

Going into this game the Panthers have an even record of 4-4 and look to capitalize on a struggling Manhattan team. Even though these games are non-conference games, it still gives FIU a chance to get their record over the .500 mark and have a winning record when they actually enter conference play.

This season for Manhattan has not started the way they expected as they have dropped their first four games in a row. In those four games they have been outscored by 30 runs.

In total they have given up 39 runs and have answered those runs by only scoring nine runs of their own.

This shows that the pitching staff for the Jaspers has been struggling as of late and have not been able to keep the games low scoring which is obviously why Manhattan has a 0-4 start. With the pitchers giving up that many runs it puts much more pressure on the hitters to score more runs and that is a recipe for disaster that no baseball team wants to experience.

This series is set up to be in FIU’s favor to take the series since they have been playing good baseball as of late and are entering this series versus the Jaspers on a two game winning streak.

Expect the Panthers to be headlined by their pitching staff to silence Manhattan’s struggling bats. The pitching rotation is going to be heavily depended on since they will be playing four games in three days which includes a doubleheader on Saturday so its all hands on deck for the Panthers. Games like this against struggling teams like Manhattan need to be automatic wins for FIU and they need to take advantage of the opportunities they get to win ball games now and for the rest of the season.

UPCOMING BASEBALL GAMES:

**Manhattan College**
Feb. 27 - 7 p.m.
Feb. 28 - 2 p.m.
March 1 - 1 p.m.
Home

**Miami Marlins**
March 2 - 1:05 p.m.
Jupiter, Fla.
Away

**Univ. of Connecticut**
March 6 - 7 p.m.
March 7 - 6 p.m.
March 8 - 1 p.m.
Home

**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 Southern Mississippi**
March 13 - 7 p.m.
March 14 - 3 p.m.
March 15 - 1 p.m.
C-USA Opener - Away
We are not the University of Miami. We are not the University of Florida or Florida State University.

We are Florida International University.

However, you wouldn’t know that if you just took a look at our student body.

Walking around the Modesto A. Maidique campus a clear majority of the gear worn, besides greek letters, is from different universities.

There is no spirit, or general good feeling, for the university that most of these students will graduate from.

I have personally heard the arguments that UM was the “dream school” or that UM was the “dream” you will do anything to achieve it.

No, and like those, neither was your dream of being a student at UM, at least for whatever portion of your schooling you are in now while taking classes at the University.

My only two reasons I would accept for those statements are if you got your bachelor’s or other such degree there and are here at the University for a graduate program or if your parents/parent or significant other goes or went there.

Those are the only reasons I personally accept.

If you want to leave the University to go to some other university go ahead and do it. Quit making excuses because if it truly is your “dream” you will do anything to achieve it.

You are not a Hurricane or a Gator or a Seminole. You do not go to a university in one of the “Power Six” athletic conferences. However, you do go to a NCAA Division I school in Miami with some pretty good athletic teams.

Our University’s swimming and diving team just won the 2014-2015 Conference USA title. Our baseball and softball teams are slated to finish at or near the top of C-USA play this year.

We also have a slew of other sports gaining momentum to be great at the University.

However, how would you feel if you were at your job, working your hardest, and someone came up to you showing support for another company that does your same job but at a higher level? It would suck.

That is exactly how some athletes at the University feel about seeing students wearing gear from other universities at their games, meets and tournaments.

I, who participated in tailgates for football games, not only saw hundreds of students not even go into the game, but also saw persons, that I personally know to be students at the University, wearing gear from both UM and FSU on multiple occasions.

Why is this ok?

Oh wait. It’s not.

University hate needs to stop: have a little pride for your school!
A CULTURAL AFFAIR

Top Right: Tibetan monks visit the BBC campus to celebrate the Chinese new year as part of the Art of the Arts kick off on Monday, Feb. 23. Top Left: Monks of the Drepung Loseling Monastery (top left) work on a Mandala Sand Painting in Panther Square. Bottom Left: The monks use a variety of sand at St. Anthony's University. The painting was worked on throughout the week as part of the Art of the Arts week.

REC Center Adventure X hosts Kayak Day on the Bay

DESTINEY BURT
Staff Writer
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To encounter the Biscayne Bay Campus in a different light, the BBC Recreation Center will host Kayak Day on the Bay, a spot kayaking excursion through Biscayne Bay and the Mangrove Trails of Oleta State Park.

The first spring Kayak Day on the Bay will be held this Saturday, Feb. 28 as part of the center’s Adventure X watersport program, and according to Jonathan Torrey, BBC Recreation Administrator, no experience is required to participate.

“If you’re thinking of kayaking, you would think Saturday, daytime afternoon, the sun is shining, the waters nice, go out with some friends. You know, your typical kayaking experience,” said Torrey.

According to the BBC REC Center website, there will be expert staff present throughout the trip to lead and demonstrate students the basics of kayaking. The event is offered once a month with two separate trips. The first at 10:00 a.m. and the second at 12:00 p.m., each an hour and thirty minutes long.

Torrey said that the trips can last for almost two hours, depending on the skill set of the group. “We don’t leave anyone behind and no one jumps ahead,” Torrey said. “We move together as one unit for safety.”

In a previous FIU Student Media interview, Torrey said that the center started out with a single kayak that was used for summer camps. Over time, the number of kayaks grew to allow more students and the community to participate in activities on the water.

“What was kind of our initiative in the beginning of the whole program was to find a way where, not only student can enjoy going out on the bay, but the community also,” Torrey said.

In addition to Kayak on the Bay, the center’s Adventure X program hosts Kayak After Dark, as well as Panther Paddle, Night Paddle and private excursions on the bay.

Kayak After Dark is held at 7:00 p.m. once a month, “an evening of excursion kayaking under the Biscayne Bay stars,” states the center’s website.

Torrey said more people participate in the daytime kayaking event because they feel more comfortable. “[During] daytime, because it doesn’t have the nighttime element, we get more people. The scenery is different,” said Torrey.

“People feel like they have to do the daytime one first in order to feel comfortable for the nighttime kayaking.”

Kayak After Dark also comes with nervousness because people hear splash and splashes in the water, said Torrey. “Unlike Kayak on the Bay, its nighttime version has only one trip. It is recommended that students try kayaking during the day first.”

“I like being by the bay and I think it makes the campus more interesting,” said Ustel Cordoba, a sophomore biology major. “I’ve never done it, and I’m sure none of my friends have done it. So I think it would be a great time,” he said.

To sign up, participants must reserve online at active.com. For each trip, students pay a fee of $5.00 while non-FIU students pay $10.00.

Torrey said he definitely encourages students that have never gone before to come out and get the experience.

“Come out and enjoy it. If it’s your first time, come get the feel of it so that if you decide to come back again, you will be very familiar,” Torrey said. “It’s not a dead summer trip — just come out and enjoy it.”

Masters program celebrates 20 years, brings diversity

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
BBC Managing Editor
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A CULTURAL AFFAIR

At the heart of South Florida, the city of Miami continues to be a major hub for Latin American journalists.

According to Argentinian journalist, Mario Diament, many are ill-equipped to take on the media landscape. This year, the School of Journalism and Mass Communications celebrates 20 years of helping to prepare Spanish-language masters in the country,” Diament said.

His findings intrigued the University who then asked him to develop a master’s program in journalism. He accepted the challenge and in 1995, launched the program, the first of its kind at the time.

“The [media] had two kinds of [spanish-speaking] journalistic: those who knew the profession, but didn’t know Spanish (well), and those who knew the language, but were not very professional,” Diament said.

“I thought that Miami, and FIU in particular, were extraordinary places to start such a program that would be the first Spanish-language masters in the country,” Diament said.

Hundreds of students have graduated from the program. According to Diament, many students come as experienced journalists from different countries like Puerto Rico, Mexico, Argentina and Nicaragua, to study at the University. Others, to improve their Spanish in the field.

Despite the different usage of words and accents, the program allows students to express themselves freely in their knowledge of the language.

“It’s an enormously enriching experience. We let everyone express themselves in the way they’ve learned their language,” said Diament. “As long as they express themselves correctly and speak right in a grammatically correct language.”

According to Mercedes Vigon, associate professor at the SJMC, there are students who come with much experience, but want to integrate themselves into the U.S. and put their knowledge into service.

“Instead of starting from zero, they are able to learn about the country’s system. They come with distinct ideas and bring a lot, each with their own rich diversity,” Vigon said.

SEE MASTERS, PAGE 2