Panthers leave nest, but stay near home

ALYSSA ELSO  
Staff Writer

College is a time for students to learn, create lasting memories, but most importantly learn to be independent. It’s a time to go about getting one.

When it comes to attending college, students either opt to leave their hometown or stay close to home for the comfort and ease that living at home often offers.

At the University, the latter seems to be the norm. According to a statistic recorded by College Board, 97 percent of students are classified as in-state students and the other three percent are out of state students.

Jordan Vichot, a senior business major, grew up in Miami and chose to attend FIU after being accepted into the Honors College.

“The commute is often not ideal, it’s 40 miles round trip, but staying in Miami is worth it,” said Vichot.

Vichot has also made a point of getting involved in campus life and is highly engaged with Toastmasters, a nonprofit organization that helps members develop communication skills and public speaking skills. ALPFA, an organization to enhance opportunities for Latino business leaders and Hispanic Investment Fund, a hands-on finance organization.

“Getting involved has opened up many opportunities – in participating in Toastmasters I have received recognition and awards for public speaking,” Vichot said.

When it comes to setting boundaries between their family and school life, Vichot states that he does not believe he has ever created a “I go home every night and my parents know of the

University takes internships to the next level

NICOLE AGUIAR  
Staff Writer

It is a piece of advice given countless of times: get an internship to increase your chances of landing a job after graduation. Many students are aware of the pressure there is to obtain an internship, but don’t know how to go about getting one.

In response to this, the University’s Office of Engagement, with funding by the Student Government Association, created a website which launched a brand new internship portal for students in May.

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, 95 percent of employers are looking for experience in college graduates. Out of the students who actually land the internship, 60 percent will receive at least one job offer by the end of the internship.

“For students who felt it was very hard to find internships, we put enough information on the portal for students to cover the internship process in a more structured way,” said Vice President of Engagement Irma Becerra-Fernandez. “Funded by students for students, it is a door to all opportunities – in participating in Toastmasters I

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EU praises Iran nuke talks; more talks in three weeks

High-stakes nuclear talks between Iran and six world powers adjourned on an upbeat note Wednesday, with the parties agreeing to meet again in Geneva in three weeks. The European Union’s top diplomat called the talks “very important,” and Iran’s foreign minister spoke of a possible “new phase” after a decade of deadlock over the Iranians wanting a nuclear bomb. Few details emerged from the two days of talks, but White House spokesman Jay Carney said Iran’s proposals contained a “level of seriousness and substance that we have not seen before.”

Russia: Court decides not to imprison navalny

A Russian court decided Wednesday not to send opposition leader Alexei Navalny to prison, a move that could have sparked major protests and made a martyr out of the charismatic 37-year-old. The Kremlin, however, lived in dread of Navalny becoming a real politician, for he proved his influence when he snagged almost a third of the votes in Moscow’s recent mayoral election. The court, therefore, suspended Navalny’s five-year prison sentence but upheld his conviction for theft, which prevents him from running in future elections.

49 believed dead in plane crash in Laos

A Lao Airlines flight crashed Wednesday in the southeastern Asian nation, apparently killing all 49 people aboard, including passengers from 11 countries, the Lao government said. The Ministry of Public Works and Transport, which operates the airline as a state enterprise, from 11 countries, the Lao government said. The Ministry of Public Works and Transport, which operates the airline as a state enterprise, from 11 countries, the Lao government said.

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For more world news, check out FIUSM.com.

Ribbon cutting ceremony for The Hub

Students have taken advantage of the Green Library’s Hub since its start of the semester, a new study area that features PC and Mac computers, high-powered multimedia editing rooms, wide-screen monitors to facilitate group project work and on-demand research and technology support in one convenient location.

“IT’s really inviting and it gives me a cool space where I can study or chill.”

Alejandra Lugo, Graduate student
Ryder Business School

“We recognize that technology has truly revolutionized the discovery and research of scholarly community processes. What you see before you is what allows our students to go from the discovery stage all the way to the representation of the product of their work,” said Anne Prestamo, dean of libraries, at the Hub’s ribbon cutting on Oct. 16.

“I like being away from home so far, even though I have gotten homesick at times when my language barrier has made it hard for me to understand my classes,” said Jang.

Alejandro Ortiz, a freshman hospitality major, also lives on campus, however his home is only a 15-minute drive away.

“I just wanted to get out of my house, and I like that I can just walk to classes,” said Ortiz.

Living on campus gives him time to be alone, but also provides him the luxury of driving home at least once a week.

“Being able to separate myself from my family when I am at school has really been beneficial to my studies, but I still enjoy the time I get to spend with my mom who is so close by,” he said. “It also gives me the freedom to join clubs like the Gay/Straight Alliance and take classes at the gym.”

Whether it be living at home or living on campus, students must stay connected to their families while dedicating time to college getting and full-time exposure to campus life.

“Simplicity focuses on academic internships by each course of study. Employers themselves post internship opportunities for students. For students who don’t know where to go to find internships in their field, this site is updated every semester with opportunities in the community. “Having had the chance to intern in a hospital gave me the experience I needed to really understand what nursing is all about, so I think its great that FIU is trying to help other students get that same experience,” said nursing junior Bianca Del Valle.

“Succeed” is the portal becomes most interactive because students are sharing their personal stories of their experiences for others to read as a form of insight.

Currently, students can read about Ernesto Alfonso, public affairs alumni, who is interning at a lobbying firm in Washington D.C. or Neha Upadhyay, graduate student, who interned for the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The stories of others who have had successful internships serve as source of inspiration and insights.

The portal includes a link to the University internship Tumblr, FIU internships, where students are blogging about their internship experiences and staying connected as one network.

Students can even share their internships through Twitter by hash tagging “FIU internships.”

The link to the FIU internship Tumblr was added in hopes to inspire students to go out and expose themselves to their field of study because “inexperienced students hearing from other students gets students excited,” said Internship Coordinator Kaelena Salguero.
Imagine watching your favorite sports game. Whenever team you’re going for is victorious, but for some reason, the losing team gets a trophy, too. Slapped on this trophy is a metal plaque that says “Participation Award.”

In an Op-Ed piece for the New York Times, Ashley Merryman deems the practice and claims that “losing is good for you.” I would say that I agree.

Let’s face it. Losing tells us something that winning generally doesn’t: you did something wrong. Whether it was missing that goal or failing to score a touchdown, something in this competition caused you to not do as well as you should have.

Many see this as a negative thing, and while there is some sound to it, there is also a tremendous positive. Losing teaches us that we need to improve our skills. It’s no wonder that a common inspiration phrase to the losers of competitions is “we’ll get them next time.”

It was Thomas Edison who once said “I didn’t fail. I just found two thousand ways how not to make a light bulb; I only needed to find one way to make it work.”

When you lose, you don’t simply fail. You just find a way to not win. Ergo, the key to winning the fabled “next time” is refining oneself and looking inward.

We see why we didn’t get the trophy this time around and understand what we can do to improve our skills. Such a focus on refining oneself, and oneself’s skills, is all part of personal growth. You can’t get better at something without knowing where you must improve.

To give people an award for losing discourages this practice and thus discourages an incentive to do better.

If we tell children from early on that they’ll always get an award regardless of their performance, how will we expect them to compete in the job market in the future?

How do we expect them to compete for seats in a university where thousands apply, and only a distorted amount get accepted?

How should we expect them to do well on tests if getting an “F” means nothing?

Of course, we must understand that getting an accolade or winning is not the point of what is they did wrong will find us, we will abhor the victor like we hate getting a burn. Such a practice is destructive to oneself.

Winning should be seen as the reward for hard work, not the reward for greed and selfishness.

Now, I’m not a child psychologist.

Perhaps participation awards are important to the psyche of a small child.

I know I received them in baseball games and karate competitions back when I was young, and I don’t even think about them or care about them now. We should look to a different approach—one that rewards those who deserve it, and helps us realize that losing is actually good for us and helps us become better at what we do.

RAUL HERRERA
Staff Writer

The art of losing and its positive consequences

The changes and reinventions of traditional journalism have prompted many to prematurely announce the death of journalism.

To be more precise, journalism is nothing; it is shedding off archaic definitions, restrictions and notions of elitism. Journalism is burgeoning into a libertarian vehicle of social and political critique.

The digital revolution of the last two decades has improved upon the model of journalism. Citizen journalism, which has flourished through websites like Twitter and Wordpress, has granted everyone the duty of “watchdog.”

Through a surfeit of cell-site phone photo or an anonymous document submission to Wikileaks, the actions of government officials are more transparent. Every citizen is equipped with the means to expose and reveal situations that go unreported, or under-reported, by mainstream media. Through Wikileaks, American citizens were able to learn of illegal actions occurring in Guantanamo Bay by United States soldiers—information essential, yet inaccessible through mainstream news outlets.

Journalism is imperative to a democratic society. Journalism allows citizens to be aware of domestic and world affairs, to make better informed voting and personal decisions, and to provide a forum for protest and debate.

For instance, about a month ago The Beacon published several articles chronicling the clandestine events that occurred in the Phi Kappa Alpha fraternity. This article empowered students about furtive activities occurring on the FIU campus, and therefore enabled students to be more informed members of the FIU society.

There are several virtues of digital media that need to be exalted. For instance, independent online news sources, blogs, online forums and communities do not have to kowtow to advertisers’ interest (at least not to the extent of traditional media). Independent news sources are not satellites of conglomerate companies or members of media monopolies, like News Corp or Time Warner.

When the majority of information is controlled by a minority of the population a lack of diversity emerges, and the egalitarian principles of democracy are undermined.

Democracy is based on the “rule of the people,” not corporations. And the Internet is the most democratic medium at the moment. The Net is decentralized, no one person or group can control the Net. The Net allows all opinions to be expressed, even the unpopular and marginalized ones, which in a democracy are protected.

avoid a “tyrannical majority.” The Net is not exclusive or selective in its users, it is not a tool exclusively reserved for the elite and powerful.

Digital news can report events faster than traditional media (although sometimes at a cost to fact checking). Digital news can be more digestible sometimes at a cost to fact checking). Digital news can be more digestible than traditional media (although sometimes at a cost to fact checking).

Regarding the utility of the Net, Sascha Meinrath, director of the New America Foundation’s Open Technology Initiative said, “Social media have become the pamphlets of the 21st century, a way that people who are frustrated with the status quo can organize themselves and coordinate protests, and in the case of Egypt, revolutions.”

Journalism is not dead. It has evolved and adapted into a digital plane where it can be shared equally, where the disenfranchised are given a voice, and where social change can begin.

MADARI PENDAS
Staff Writer

Journalism: ‘The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated’
Brett Eldredge sings to Miami country fans

STEFAN USECHE
Staff Writer

The cowboy boots slamming against the wood floor of Round Up Country Western Club in Davie, Fla., to the beat of a two-step melody kept the country music lovers occupied as they awaited the up-and-coming country singer Brett Eldredge’s performance.

Camouflage hats and phones ready to snap a picture filled the horizon towards the stage of the nightclub and received WKIS Country radio station host Darlene Evans.

Evans kicked off the performance by introducing the opening act of The Railers, a country band signed by Warner Music Nashville and who prepped the audience with their upbeat contemporary country songs. With one of the members playing the violin and the other jamming with songs like “I Don’t Love You,” “Put Your Lovin’ in These Hands” and “The Irish Song.”

Not long after that, Brett ran into the stage and wasted no time in starting the show with his song “Mean to me.”

With a Luke Bryan meets John Mayer appearance and music style, Brett introduced the songs of his new album “Bring You Back,” which has his first number one hit single “Don’t Ya,” and has taken him to make appearances on “Late Night with Jimmy Fallon,” “Live with Kelly and Michael” and “Today.”

Songs like John Mayer’s “Wonderland,” Brooks and Dunn’s “Red Dirt Road” and the Police’s “ Roxanne” kept the audience pumped and jamming.

Brett sang the long-awaited song, “Don’t Ya” as his closing act where he went into the crowd autographing CD covers, posters and cowboy boots.

The crowd surrounded him as they sang along to the catchy song, eventually giving him room to make it back to the stage and conclude the performance.

STEPHAN USECHE
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Action film seeks human connection

LIFE!

IN HIS WORDS

In 2009, the Maersk Alabama, a cargo ship, was taken hostage by Somalian pirates.

A soon to be kidnapped captain, by the name of Richard Phillips was abducted and held hostage by fisherman gone rogue in this captivating action thriller that fishes for a bit of humanity.

Gone are the pirates of myth and Disney movies, these once fisherman don’t exactly share the same charm as Johnny Depp.

They are threatening, sweaty and yellow teeth desperate hijackers – all portraying strong personalities – who have one goal: money.

“Captain Phillips” proves that action films need new heroes, someone who has a sense of humanity.

Tom Hanks plays the everyday common American man who faces challenging odds against those who are as desperate to survive as he is.

Hanks uses a somewhat over-bearing Boston accent that detracts from his otherwise convincing portrayal. Twists and turns are abundant throughout the film; however I was able to predict every one of them and at times I was concerned that not too much thought went into the script.

To my ignorance, I remember that true stories are meant to be honest, not unpredictable.

Minor complaints aside, the film is highly successful in its suspense attempt but by no means is it without its faults.

The supporting actors left me in disbelief more than once. Since Hanks is the only star of the show, the other actors are easily drowned out by Hanks’ performance and some viewers may feel distracted by director Paul Greengrass’ shaky visual style which can take some adjusting although it is probably perfect for the nervous, strained context.

Nonetheless, Greengrass cleverly combines action and heartfelt storytelling. He also manages to waste no time staging the transition for Hanks’ character from normal conversations about the dangers of the world with his wife played by Catherine Keener to storming the rough waters at 18 knots (approximately 21 mph), which successfully helps deliver the intensity once the heist begins.

What I liked most about the movie was the humanity the film serves.

Unlike the James Bond series where greed and blood lust need no explanation, this movie would not be complete without the antagonist’s shared desire for survival.

Newcomer Barkhad Abdi plays opposite Hanks with surprising accuracy.

His desperation magnetically repels Hanks heroism, never letting the tension break.

Allowing Captain Phillips to take you away at sea and embark on this terrifying journey alongside Richard Phillips is what this film is all about.

Something is left to be desired when it pertains to pacing and flow but is easily forgiven considering why we all go to the cinema in the first place…to watch the story unfold.

Captain Phillips is rated PG-13 for sustained intense sequences of menace, some violence with bloody images, and for substance use.

-THE BEACON
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Senior Panther selected as C-USA player to watch
Senior forward Tymell Murphy joins list of 16 players selected to Conference USA watch list

PATRICK CHALVIRE
Staff Writer

The votes are in and senior forward Tymell Murphy was selected as the Conference USA Preseason Player to watch. The league’s basketball coaches selected the players and the senior forward was one of the 16 picks.

When first reported, Murphy was unaware he was selected to the preseason list. Not having a cell phone at the time, he was made aware of the feat courtesy of several friends and fans.

“I was surprised,” Murphy said. “With being a new conference for us, I’m happy but pretty surprised they gave me the nod. I’m happy coaches have heard about my ability on the court. I’m just excited about the season getting here.”

Last season, Murphy was named First-Team NABC (National Association of Basketball Coaches) All-Region selection, as well as a First-Team Sun Belt Conference selection.

He led the conference and ranked No. 18 nationally in field goal percentage. At first being a player to watch was new for Murphy, but having spoken to several different people, he’s ready for what’s ahead.

As many athletes and non-athletes do, Murphy looks up to a certain special mutual, someone who knows what he goes through. Many young athletes look up to mainly professional stars, but Murphy also looks up to fellow Panther and last years leading scorer in the nation, Jerica Coley.

Coley ready for senior season in C-USA
Senior point guard Jerica Coley accepts two preseason awards, but stays focused

STEVEN ROWELL
Contributing Writer

As senior forward Tymell Murphy enters his final season at FIU, his role on the team is just as good as it was opening day, as senior point guard Jerica Coley puts her name on the line.

“Tymell Murphy is ready for what’s ahead,” Coley said. “I’m blessed that I’m that player to watch out for.”

Murphy looks up to a certain individual, he’s ready for what’s ahead.

“IT’s shocking especially since I haven’t even played a game there [in C-USA], but it’s just a preseason thing so I guess it’s kind of what they expect, and we will see what happens,” Coley said.

Coley sees herself having an advantage playing against new opponents for the first time in C-USA.

“I think it will be a big advantage, because the teams we played before for a couple of years already knew what to expect, now in playing new teams we come out we can be more free with what we are doing,” Coley said.

Adding those two awards to the numerous honors and recognition the senior has already achieved, Coley still refuses to let it affect her performance on the court.

“I thank my teammates, coaches and my parents for helping me grounded, and I never really think about it all too much,” Coley said.

Coley doesn’t feel any pressure about it and whether it happens or not; just as long as everybody plays their best basketball and they do what they do best.

“Anyone could see the numbers Coley puts up on the other side, but she also has made her mark on the defensive side leading the team in blocks as a point guard, and also in steals.”

“I like defense a lot actually,” Coley said, “and to be a good offensive player for me it helps knowing good defensive techniques and just having a really good defensive mind.”

Leading the team in every category is certainly not a goal for Coley this season; the senior wants to be more efficient this season.

“I just want to get better at shooting percentage, court awareness, and leading the team, basically just want to be better overall,” Coley said.

With all the preseason hype being in mind, Coley the senior just wants to take the court already.

“I think every day I want the season to hurry up and get here, I think we are all ready to play,” Coley said.

Volleyball mid-season review

OSCAR BALDIZON
Staff Writer

Some would argue that the volleyball team is going thru a mid-season funk of sorts. But one would never guess that if you caught a team practice or spoke to anyone on the team. Morale on the team is just as good as it was opening day, if not better, and the squad seems to be a more cohesive unit than when they started this season.

While the team has dropped five of their last six matches, they have survived a gauntlet of a non-conference schedule and faced the toughest Conference USA competition can throw at them.

In those five losses, they have faced four top-six teams in the conference, including powerhouse Tulsa who also dismissed the University of Miami in three sets. An opening conference schedule like that would test and challenge the best of the best, let alone a team that dealt with so much change this off season.

“no one likes to lose, but we still come out here every day and work our hardest and hold our heads high. We know were an awesome team, and we have more to grow before we head to Conferences,” Senior outside hitter Jessica Mendosa said.

It’s obvious this team is still coming into its own and trying to figure out how they are going to be best positioned to succeed at the end of the year. The team’s remaining schedule includes much of the team’s in the lower half of the Conference which should give FIU a chance to regroup and be primed to challenge Tulane, the third ranked team in the conference.

“After facing the toughest competition I think we’re really moving along. We’re finding our identity and that’s definitely a blocking team, one of the best in the Conference. Our offense is improving and we have finally found a system that the players really love and accentuate their positives. We don’t have one of those big bangers that were going to feed the ball to a bunch; we have a bunch of machine guns instead of a big buzzard,” Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett said.

After falling to FOCU last night, the Panthers are looking to rebound this Friday versus Florida Atlantic University. Much has been made of this matchup coming into the season with the Satoric sister’s lining up against each other for the first time in collegiate volleyball.

This team will have to continue to look inwards and figure out how they are going to achieve the goals they set for themselves at the start of the season.

“Sometimes you can get a little complacent mid-way thru the season, and while I don’t think that’s the case with us, we have fallen into a bit of routine and forgotten that sense of urgency. We have really sped up our style of play and it’s very exciting, it’s like we are playing a different game and we are having a lot of fun!” Kim Smith said.

Every now and then a coach comes along and really changes the culture of a team and truly instills the best of what that coach can offer. That has definitely been the case this year with FIU. Rita Buck Crockett has come in and really changed a lot of people’s mindset toward the volleyball team as a team to look out for very soon.

“One thing I never have to complain about is the work ethic of this team. They work harder than anyone and it’s going to payoff soon. It’s a process to create a top 25 program, which is what we’re doing here, and this is part of the process. You can’t coach every team the same and that’s why we’re taking our time to really figure out what’s best for this team,” Buck Crockett said.
There’s never been a better time to take control of your future.

My father was in the military, but I didn’t know if the armed forces were right for me. I attended college, but it wasn’t until I discovered the Coast Guard’s College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative (CSPI) when all of the pieces came together. They paid for the rest of my tuition and books, gave me an amazing salary, and guaranteed me a job after school as an officer. I couldn’t imagine my life anywhere else and I would recommend the program to any other Hispanic student in a heartbeat. The day I joined CSPI was the day I took charge of my future.

Visit GoCoastGuard.com/CSPI to learn more.
Primer Impacto co-anchor grants SJMC scholarship

ALYS LOPEZ Staff Writer

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication recently hosted a ceremony to acknowledge the induc-
tion of a new education initia-
tive funded by Pamela Silva Conde, a graduate and co-an-
chor of Univision’s Primer Impacto, a Spanish-language news program on Univision. On Oct. 16, Conde made her return to campus to speak about the Pamela Silva Conde Scholarship that she created. Conde, who graduated with a bachelor in journalism, was recognized as alumi-
na of the year by the school and remains an active figure within SJMC.

“It’s almost going to be 14 years since my freshman year. I was probably one of the few freshmen that had declared my major. I always knew what I wanted to do, even before the first day of class,” said Conde.

Her driven nature and charisma made her stand out among the rest of the students. Allan Richards, SJMC asso-
ciate dean and one of the many professors who attended the event in support, recalled fondly of Conde, who was a student in his writing strategy class.

“People always asked me about her. She was a smart student and a very good writer,” said Richards.

According to Conde, creating the scholarship was important to her because of her own experiences as a college student. “I’ve been thinking about wanting to do this for about four years now, so we made an initial five-year commitment. We tailored it to the needs of those I thought would impact the most: first generation college graduates,” said Conde.

Conde was no stranger to the economic hardships that come along with being a college student. After immi-
grating to the United States at age 10 from Peru, Conde and her mother dealt with the stresses of balancing academic and financial responsibilities. She said this initiative gives that extra force for students who need to purchase books or pay for that extra class.

“In life there are always obstacles, and to get a superior education is also an obstacle, but money should never be one of those obstacles. Pamela is helping make those students who have a dream a little easier to achieve them,” said Maria Elena Salinas, news anchor for Noticias 23.

For the SJMC, the Pamela Silva Conde Scholarship brings more recognition to the continued growth of the school.

“Thanks to Pamela [and] thanks to her gener-
osity, we are going to help young people who do not have the means to get the college education they so richly deserve and importantly need,” said University Presi-
derent vọng

Along with the approval of the first Hispanic research scholarship, the SJMC has made significant achievements this year. “Our students are singu-
larly impressive. Any way we can get more financial resources to bring in equally determined and forward-
thinking students will do that,” said Rosenberg.

“The most amazing thing about this scholarship is the fact that she wants to support those students who need the support. This is really important for us because a lot of students are struggling to go to school and juggling one or two jobs,” said Reul Reis, dean of the SJMC.

Plans for the future of the scholarship include increasing the amount of money given and the number of outstanding students who will receive the award. According to Conde, this will be a good way to continue to give back and help those students whose situa-
tions mirror her own.

“By giving back, Pamela is a shining example of what this means to do well and to do good,” said Rosenberg.

The Pamela Silva Conde Scholarship will begin accepting applications on November 1.

Students who attended the event were excited to be part of the SJMC and learn more about the new opportunity. “It encourages me to work harder and get more involved. It’s like an inspiration,” said Maria Vargas Pardo, a freshman majoring in digital media.

For Laura Sofia Oroco, a freshman majoring in broad-
cast journalism, Conde’s scholarship means more than just a way to relieve financial burdens.

“I came as an immigrant and being a female Hispanic minority is a big thing for any scholarship, so being able to receive this scholarship would be a huge thing,” Oroco said. “So many students want what Pamela has. She’s a terrific role model of someone who is smart, persistent and who did not come from priv-
ilege, but is willing to help other students become the next Pamela,” said Richards.

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Study: Temperatures go off the charts around 2047

DESTINEY BURT Contributing Writer

Dual enrollment professor James Jiler swiftly dug a hole in the backyard grounds of Miami Northwestern Senior High on Monday afternoon, planting fruits in preparation for the unveiling of the school’s aquaponics lab. Aquaponics is the study of aquacul-
ture, which is the process of growing fish and using its waste to fertilize plants.

Miami Northwestern Senior High is the first school in Miami-Dade County to have an aquaponics lab. Oct. 17 was the ribbon cutting ceremony for the formal unveiling of the aquaponics lab.

According to Maria Lovett, assistant Professor in the college of education, the lab allows students to get involved with hands-on experience and learning in many areas including science, business and culinary arts. Through the aquaponics lab, “students are also able to gain entre-
preneurial and leadership skills.”

The University, JP Morgan Chase and Miami-Dade County Public schools support the aquaponics lab. The school received a three-year, $1-million-dollar grant from the JP Morgan Chase Foun-
dation. With that grant, the partners have collaborated to establish The Education Effect, which is a partnership to support education in Liberty City.

“Plan it Forward” is an extension of The Education Effect that will build on the aquaponics program and introduce students to careers in the hospitality industry, as well as help develop entre-
preneurial skills.

This educational partnership is a great way for FIU, hospitality, earth and environment and business students get involved with reaching out to the commu-
nity by engaging with Miami North-
western students.

“Even if college is not for you, it’s that every single child should have the option,” Lovett said. “This program allows students to have that decision and if they don’t go to college, it’s because they want to pursue something else.”

This program offers students an oppor-
tunity to earn both high school and college credits through dual enrollment with University. Professors teach the courses free of charge to the students.

The aquaponics lab also growing edible food plant such as lettuce, papaya, moringa and more.

“They don’t want just an ordinary school garden, where people play in the dirt, plant a few vegetables and then they die,” Jiler said.

They are developing something more “that is long lasting, like a food forest,” said Jiler. According to Jiler, it will be a garden that will not only have an impact on the school but an impact on the community as well.

Once the garden takes off and the plants have fully grown, the class will be using them in the classrooms for the students to cook in culinary arts. This program not only offers classes to their students to be involved with the aquaponics unit, but also an after school program called Agroecology, which students can get involved anytime during the school year.

Hospitality and Management students assist in teaching Miami Northwestern students in the agroecology program how to cook, and explain the science of the food they are growing.

This improves students learning and college readiness. According to Lovett, the program has cause an improvement in graduation rate increasing from 64 to 80 percent. “Aquaponics is a great class, I’ve learned new things,” said Jeffery Green, a junior at Miami Northwestern, who said the program has also had an impact on his degree decision.

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