University sociolinguist debunks Miami English stereotypes

ALONSO MONTANO
Contributing Writer

It is heard every day in local classrooms, the workplace and at home. It has a distinct sound, an almost tropical rhythm and in most recent years it has been popularized by de facto Miami Mayor Pitbull – it is called Miami English and it is spoken by friends, family and colleagues.

Yes, people do speak English here in Miami.

Phillip Carter, a sociolinguist in the department of English, has been conducting research focusing on Hispanic-English dialects. He has been presenting his findings and debunking certain misconceptions associated with Miami English.

For example, Carter highlights the fact that Miami English is a native dialect, not an accent, based on standard American English but its pronunciation and rhythm is strongly influenced by Spanish.

“It is spoken by native English speakers, mostly second-, third- and fourth-generation Latinos, who learn it as their first language variety,” said Carter in a recent interview with FIU News.

One important characteristic of Miami English is its vocabulary, which is greatly influenced by Spanish. Words like “oye,” “dale,” “mami” and “chonga” are commonly heard around many parts of Miami on any given day. Phrases such as “pero lice,” “pobrecito” and “ah bueno” are also frequently used. However, these words and phrases are not used exclusively by Latinos. Many non-Latinos find themselves speaking Miami English and using some Spanish words in their everyday activities.

“‘Dale’ is trademark Miami,” said Alex Simeonov, a business major from Bulgaria who has been living in Miami for many years. Simeonov also explained how he has had to learn some Spanish in order to get by in Miami. “When I buy food I have to use Spanish words like ‘empunada,’ ‘arepa’ and ‘croqueta.’”

Another main aspect that makes Miami English unique is its vocalic system and the use of certain consonants.

According to Carter, in English there are about 11 to 14 different vocalic pronunciations; whereas in Spanish there are only five, so many people in Miami tend to use a variation of the Spanish system which is simpler.

Additionally, consonants like the letters L, R and S are pronounced a little different sometimes.

“Despite the fact that for most speakers this influence is ultimately very light, it can be extremely salient for English speakers unfamiliar with the dialect,” said Carter.

Angela Torres, a senior majoring in nutrition and dietetics, thinks that people in other parts of the country could probably notice she is from Miami.

“By the way I say things and conjugate things,” said Torres. “We in Miami also don’t like beating around the bush.”

Popular videos on YouTube, like “Sh*t Miami Girls Say,” have also popularized certain phrases and words which are common

SEE COMMUNITY, PAGE 2

Alumni, the ‘bread and butter’ of the University

MARIA BRITOS
Staff Writer

Every semester thousands of undergraduate university students leave college life, become alumni, and enter the “real world” – what Duane Wiles, associate vice president of Alumni Relations and the executive director of the Alumni Association, calls the “bread and butter of the institution.”

With the University’s most recent and largest donation – a whopping $400,000 to the University College of Law by alumnus Abraham Ovadia – Wiles said alumni help to financially support the University.

“[The donation] doesn’t have to be large. It could be anything from five dollars to 10 dollars to 20 dollars; whatever amount they can give, that money helps,” said Wiles.

Wiles, FIU Foundation, Inc.’s fund-raising goal to raise $750 million in ten years will reach out to alumni in its third phase of the campaign.

According to Wiles, alumni are not only expected to give monetary donations, the association highly encourages participation within university related events. Such programs consist of mentoring to serve as advisors to university students and to other alumni through the new alumni to alumni mentoring program managed by the Career Services.

Alumni can also volunteer by serving on the close to 30 alumni chapters nationally and internationally. These chapters, active in cities like New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, consist of groups of former students who organize events to help support the University and celebrate the Panther pride.

Other ways that alumni give back to the University is by providing student scholarships. Just recently, Pamela Silva Conde, former student and alumna of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, established the Pamela Silva Conde Scholarship for first-generation students in the journalism program. The Univision co-anchor was recently named alumni of the year and is one of the many lifetime members of the Alumni Association.

“They have so much to offer as far as their expertise and certainly can be a resource for our current students,” said Wiles.

But alumni not only serve as a support system, part of the reason their involvement is so important is because they can help as recruitment tools for the next generation of incoming students, said Wiles.

“We need the alumni to go out there and tell the FIU story,” said Wiles.

Spreading the message to the world via graduates can help increase and build affinity for the institution. It’s the school

SEE ALUMNI, PAGE 2

Permaculture club works to restore environmental reserve by BBC

SELEMA HUSSAIN
Staff Writer

The permaculture club works to restore environmental reserve by BBC

The cottage stands in the large yard, alongside two mango trees, two avocado trees, oregano plants and rosemary herbs. A large black labrador roams around, searching for his best friend and owner, Joao Garcia.

When Garcia emerges from the cottage, clad in lime green swims trunks and baggy white T-shirt, Mu-Rain pounces with excitement. Garcia sits on a homemade fruit and vegetable smoothie made from avocados, watermelon, papaya, grapes, almonds and spinach. His long, tight curls are damp from an ocean swim – nature is his shampoo of choice.

Garcia, a 22-year-old environmental engineer major, is the president and founder of the Permaculture Club.

After his breakfast of what he calls “baby food,” Garcia will head to campus to oversee his first official Permaculture Club meeting.

“Permaculture is just a new way of doing old things,” said Garcia. “We take degenerated, devastated land, and we regenerate it – help it cure itself.”

Permaculture, or permanent culture/agriculture, is an ecosystem design that mimics patterns seen in nature. By applying these to the environment and the community, Garcia said he hopes to create a functioning, flourishing space at the University.

Garcia’s interest in permaculture came at a time of deep stress. Bonnie Quiceno, Garcia’s yoga instructor, suggested that he find his deepest passion.

“From the moment I met Joao, I knew he was a gentle person with a sweet spirit,” Quiceno said. “I call him Gentle Giant in my mind. I know he’s going to do great things.”

Angela Garcia, his mother, said Garcia’s passion for nature was clear from his childhood days.

“I recall one trip to Disney when [Joao] was around six,” Angela said. “He was more interested in the geckos at the bus stop than looking forward to going to the parks.”

J. Garcia does not own a TV, claiming it to be “tell-a-lie-vision.” Instead, he practices yoga and plays musical instruments, mainly acoustic guitar.

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Eco-warrior to study BBC, located near landfill

ENVIRONMENT, PAGE 1

“(Quali Springs) used to be flowing with rivers and vegetation,” J. Garcia said. “After about 100 years of cattle grazing, the land turned into a desert.” J. Garcia said that programs offered by Quali Springs aim to restore the area through planting crops, such as grape vines, that can grow easily in Southern California’s climate. J. Garcia plans to restore Arch Creek East Environmental Reserve – a dry, parched land behind Biscayne Bay Campus – with the Urban Paradise Guild in Miami English.

Right now, we’re acting as nature’s white blood cells.

Sam Van Leer President and Founder Urban Paradise Guild

To remove deadly, threatening plants. “I use a lot ‘like’ and ‘bro’ and the use of words such as ‘irrelegless’ and ‘supposably’,” J. Garcia said that programs offered by Quali Springs aim to restore the area through planting crops, such as grape vines, that can grow easily in Southern California’s climate. J. Garcia plans to restore Arch Creek East Environmental Reserve – a dry, parched land behind Biscayne Bay Campus – with the Urban Paradise Guild in Miami English.

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In Miami English. According to the video, characteristics of Miami English include the overuse of the words “super,” “like,” “bro” and the use of words such as “irrelegless” and “supposably.”

Every dialect has its own history, and no one language variety is more or less correct than another.”

Phillip Carter Sociolinguist Department of English

Spanish and English infused in Miami

COMMUNITY, PAGE 1

“that’s crazy” where they elongate the A in crazy. Also, literal translations from Spanish to English like “get down from the car” from “bajate del carro” are quite common as well. Word elongation is also common in Spanish phrases like “no way” where they elongate the Y and “crazy” where they elongate the A in crazy. Also, literal translations from Spanish to English like “get down from the car” from “bajate del carro” are quite common as well. Word elongation is also common in Spanish phrases like “no way” where they elongate the Y and

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Digital news gains paid readership

MOISES FUERTESS
Staff Writer

Since the digital age started, the newspaper business has been in decline, which is no surprise to me. History has shown time and again that the use of a new medium of communication flourishes, other mediums stagnate until they adapt to the new one. As a result, the newspaper business has started to adapt to the online scene. Everything is easier now due to how effective the Internet is, particularly when it comes to publishing online.

There is, however, a shift in the way news is accessed online recently. Digital versions of newspapers today are beginning to input paywalls for the content, as opposed to before, when the news was posted online for free.

According to the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, a 2013 report on digital news showed that people within the age range of 25 to 34 are most willing to pay for digital news throughout several countries, while older groups are more reluctant, with only five percent of users 55 years old and older willing to pay for digital news. The Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism additionally reported that “Nearly half (49 percent) of 18 to 24 year olds read a digital newspaper—the highest reach of any age group.”

“I see myself paying for digital news,” said senior English major Alejandro Viera. “I find the accessibility worth paying for.”

“I read most of my news online,” said senior and political science major Dania Hernandez. “Having the content available via the Internet is better because it allows a person from any country to read any publication at any time. However, Hernandez would prefer the news services remain free online, with revenue coming from advertisements on the page. She did mention that she wouldn’t like it if the advertisement became too person-alized or intrusive.

Many newspapers are also developing applications for smartphones and tablets, which has ultimately aided the entire news industry in reaching not only the digital market, but also the mobile market. The same report on digital news by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism shows that individuals using mobile devices, particularly Apple devices, are 50 percent more likely to pay for digital news.

Whether I’m getting the news on my smartphone or my computer is irrelevant to me; I just care that I have access to it online. I do read print publications, but it simply does not compare to the amount of reading I do online.

The way I see it, this is not only a positive gain for the newspaper industry, but also a clear insight that digital natives (those born after 1980) prefer reading online over print. It is also evidence that we will continue to see a shift in the way people communicate as the digital revolution solidifies itself into our daily lives.

-Moises.fuertes@fiu.edu

FIU Student Financials, please get your three different stories straight

ITZEEL BASUALDO
Contributing Writer

When the day arrived, the day so many of us anxiously waited for, Sept. 7, nothing happened. I waited a week. Two weeks. I visited Financial Aid: “Your FIU scholarship hasn’t been disbursed. Check back later.” No sign of Bright Futures either. My credit card bills were piling up: I had put all my textbooks on a card and had yet to pay it back (because I was relying on the arrival of my FIU refund).

My mom, furious and puzzled with the delay of the money, called a friend who works at Financial Aid. They explained to her the inane problem they experienced that caused a delay in the scholarship disbursements and they told her I had nothing to worry about. She was told that I was going to get all of my money’s worth and I just had to wait.

“For the full column, go to fiusm.com

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-Moises.fuertes@fiu.edu

Laws on underage drinking and their repercussions

SHEHRYAR EFFENDI
Contributing Writer

It was 2 p.m. when the discussion erupted over a slice of cheese pizza at the Fresh Food Company. “If we’re old enough to vote, to face the consequences of our actions, to get married and to raise a family, then why can we not drink hard drugs?”

This question appears to be the issue many undergraduate students who reside in dorms struggle with, simply wanting to relax on weekends and blow off steam over a game of beer pong.

Juan Nicolau, a freshman studying engineering, was part of the discussion, having previously attended the university with friends decided to go out and party to celebrate Harry’s birthday. The night came crashing down when Harry collapsed at a local park in Miami. The drugs they bought were bad, which caused one young adult his life.

This incident not only affected Juan but all of us. We all know that one guy who might follow in the footsteps of Harry. As a freshman at the University, I know that drugs like “molly” and “MDMA” are readily available and accessible all over the United States. It is easier to buy these hard drugs compared to a six-pack of beer. Laws prohibiting consumption of alcohol under the age of 21 exist in the country, but they result in teenagers and young adults resorting to secondary choices which they believe will make them feel “ecstatic.”

It is hypocritical to allow 18 year olds to be eligible to join the army and expect them to be responsible for their own actions and choices but prohibit them from consuming alcohol. This gives rise to the consumption of hard drugs that in fact have worse side effects than alcohol. It was reported in the Miami Herald, published in March, that three patients were diagnosed with brain hemorrhages upon arrival at the hospital after they ingested the drug. These patients had no past records of any brain disorder.

Laws such as these promote more bad than good. Such laws need to be revised to be applicable to the time in which we live today. There is no doubt that peer pressure, lack of interest from parents and no proper knowl-edge of drugs has a considerable impact on the consumption of such drugs. However, alcohol being illegal under the age of 21 poses to be one of the huge factors that contributes to such vices in the society.

Along with consideration and revision of previous laws, steps should be taken towards highlighting the side effects of such hard drugs in the long run and programs should be set up that educate parents to actively take part in the life of teenagers.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unsigned voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, managing, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to opinion@fiu.edu.
Hair won’t define you, but enhance you

Alexia Stark, junior in physics, expresses herself with teal hair dye.

Jaci Fulecker, sophomore studying education, shows off her long, thick braids under a stylish hat.

Claudia Vega, senior studying psychology and sociology, uses her hair color to express her fashion sense.

The Good Wife remains one of the best dramas around

JUAN BARQUIN
COLUMNIST

There’s no lack of drama programming on network television, but CBS in particular has never really been at the top of the game.

Yet, there is one hidden gem relegated to Sunday nights that offers audiences some of the best drama and female characters on television right now. This show—a blend of politics, sex and courtroom drama—is none other than “The Good Wife.”

Good, however, does not even begin to cover what an engaging and strangely addictive series this truly is.

“The Good Wife,” follows Alicia Florrick (Julianna Margulies), a politician’s wife, who decides to rekindle her law career after having her husband’s sexual affairs revealed to the world.

Over its last four seasons, though, “The Good Wife” has evolved in ways few would have ever expected.

There’s no easy way to draw a line down the middle of how the series develops up its time between courtroom and family drama, but it does so with the utmost care.

On one hand, it shows the ins and outs of the law, along with plenty of joking and tension, to propel the narrative forward and often ignoring the procedural plot style that most dramas rely on. On the other hand, however, it focuses on the human side of the show—the relationships between lawyer and client, mother and child, husband and wife, boss and employee—that keeps viewers coming back for more.

What keeps “The Good Wife” a notch above the rest of CBS’ programming is that it’s so much more than the courtroom drama it often presents itself to be.

The show utilizes the sort of quick wit you’d find in some of Aaron Sorkin’s earliest works, addressing and satirizing all kinds of modern political situations in ways something like “The Newsroom” could never hope to achieve.

Further proof of their superiority to that series is in the way that creators Robert and Michelle King have managed to create some of the most fascinating female characters on television.

The women on the series are all as fully-formed as they come, with personalities that actually provide some semblance of depth.

Alicia Florrick is not the only one, with Christine Baranski’s Diane Lockhart and Archie Panjabi’s Kalinda Sharma rounding out the main female cast.

The fact that they experience a real range of emotions rather than exist as bland slates for the men around them makes them a step above most other CBS shows, especially its tactless comedies, with the stellar writing for Joan Watson on “Elementary” being among the best as well.

Each one is a powerful representation of women in three very different places in life: the roles of wife, head litigator and investigator all being explored.

They may be at the same law firm, but each has her own life, her own troubles and her own personality, entirely separate from that of the men in their lives.

Of course, the men are always present—offering story progression through their schemes, sex and stupidity—but they often take a backseat to the women, something that has served the series well.

This immense dedication to making a politically charged law-based series that heavily focuses on women is really what has kept “The Good Wife” at the top of the game.

It’s smart, it’s funny, it cares about its ladies and it’s remained one of the most consistently interesting shows on network television over the last four years.

With Sunday night programming not being as strong at this point in the year and its first four seasons being available for free on Amazon Prime, there’s no reason not to be watching “The Good Wife.”

-juan.barquin@fiusm.com
Prayer, meditation and innate practices in India

CONSUELO NARANJO
Staff Writer

Sometimes, the invisible and un touchable is vital for human existence and survival such as air, love or hope. I learned that in India, while meditating in the middle of a small hummed room fulfilled with faith, vague ness and mosquitoes. A low tone voice asked me to sit on the floor, cross my legs, close my eyes and rediscover what I subconsciously do every second of my life, breathing. While trying to find that energetic spiritual light around my body, waves fulfilled with uncontrollable thoughts caressed my mind. An unstoppable tickling, started from my feet, traveled around my sweaty body, as I wondered if one day I will reach the same level of detachment and freedom that some spiritual souls, walking around earth had achieved.

Practicing meditation seems to be one of the most challenging processes; however, I do believe that it is completely detached and inborn as part of our nature. Finding your inner-self while communicating with nature or the supreme, which belongs from the act of contemplation, in my experience, is the same as praying—by closing your eyes, holding hands or raising them in the air. When we are laying our knees on the ground while singing or reciting spiritual mantras coincidently or sub-consciously we are meditating.

In some Asian cultures, mental and physical arts are basic for the ones who are looking forward to a better lifestyle, longevity and good health. In India there are many religions that promote the practice of meditation along with breathing exercises. While living in the Jain community, one of the most ancient religions in the world, I discovered the practice of Preksha meditation, also known as Preksha Dhyan. This is a unique technique within the practice of nonviolence and respect for every living being. It is a mixture of knowledge from variant antique religious practices, modern day science and spiritual experiences.

Preksha meditation was created and mastered by Terapanth Svambara Jain Acharya Mahaprajna, one of the most important spiritual leaders for the Jain community. The main goal of this type of meditation is helping humanity by eliminating stress, relaxing the body and the mind as well as of connecting inner self into a stage of tranquility and awareness. According to Mahadev Lal Sarsoagi, A.A. Science of living, Preksha, the utilization of this method purifies emotions, self-consciousness and creates awareness of the self-existence by clearing the mind. In addition, people who practice this kind of meditation will experience mental balance and peace.

After immersing myself into the path of meditation, I realized that this process does not have a minimum or a maximum time constraint. Much like praying, this technique connects us to the present and allows us to relieved pain and suffering. I encourage you to, no matter what religion or belief you follow, take a few minutes of your time, close your eyes, breathe deeply and be grateful for the positive energy that you have around. Be thankful for being alive and an indispensable part of our world. Meditate for the wellness of others, the ones who are far from or near us.

"Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily adoration of the heart without words than words without a heart.” - Mahatma Gandhi

University student Stephanie De Leon meditating in the middle of a sanctuary located in a northern area of Ladnun, India.

Concert preview: Nine Inch Nails’ comeback

JUNETTE REYES
Opinion Director

Nine Inch Nails is coming back to Florida for the first time since having performed at the Cruzan Amphitheater in West Palm Beach during the NINJA (Nine Inch Nails and Jane’s Addiction) leg of the Wave Goodbye Tour in 2009. The current tour, Tension 2013, marks the comeback tour for NIN and also serves as a platform for the recently released album, “Hesitation Marks.”

Trent Reznor, the mastermind behind NIN, took a break from constant touring as soon as the Wave Goodbye Tour ended, pausing any further developments for NIN. Reznor instead tried his hand in movie score composition, having teamed up with director David Fincher for the films “The Social Network” and “The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo.” The former earned him an Academy Award for “Best Original Score” while the latter earned him a Grammy Award for “Best Scoring Soundtrack for Visual Media.”

Reznor continued making music beyond this, this time for the band “How to Destroy Angels,” which is fronted by his wife Mariqueen Maandig. He couldn’t stay away from touring for long either, with a HTDA tour having started earlier this year on April 10. Throughout this time, Reznor was clearly working on what would soon be titled “Hesitation Marks” and surprised fans with the announcement of the album, with tour dates soon following.

Several songs from the album have been performed live since before Tension 2013 kicked off, as NIN appeared in many festivals since the announcement. This means that the live band, comprised of frontman Reznor, drummer Ilan Rubin, guitarist Robin Finck, pianist Alessandro Cortini and bassist Pino Palladino, should be quite comfortable with the new album.

Besides hearing songs from the new album live, the audience should also expect performances of rarely played songs, such as “Sancified” from the debut album, “Pretty Hate Machine.” Live rehearsal recordings as well as clips from several festival shows have shown the band performing “Sancified,” which has been given an update from the original composition. An update, I must admit, that has given new meaning to the song.

Rarely played songs were also a theme during the Wave Goodbye Tour, with fans hearing heard songs such as a cover of David Bowie’s “I’m Afraid of Americans” during the West Palm Beach show.

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Panthers face adversity as they come into their own

Friday, October 25, 2013

Saturday will bring some familiar faces to FIU Stadium. Head Coach Skip Holtz brings in the 2-5 Bulldogs of Louisiana Tech University for the first ever matchup between the two teams.

Senior defensive tackle Isame Faciane will welcome his cousin, Bulldog redshirt sophomore defensive lineman Malcolm Pichon, to Miami. "We have been trash talking each to each other since we found out that this upcoming game was on the schedule," Faciane said. "You know, when you go against your family you are going to talk. We played together for three years on the defensive line at our high school and we had one of the best units in the state."

Faciane, a native of Slidell, La., received an honorable mention for the "Player of the Week" accolade given by the College Football Performance Awards weekly for his performance against the University of Southern Missippi Golden Eagles, which was highlighted by the end of the game play where he and fellow defensive tackle Mike Wakefield blocked a possible game winning field goal attempt.

Holtz is also no stranger to several coaches that will be on the Panthers sideline.

Assistant Coach Kort Shankweiler, whose father is Panthers offensive line and run-game coordinator Steve Shankweiler, played for and was a four year letterman during his tenure at East Carolina University while Holtz was the head coach. K. Shankweiler lined up at quarterback, fullback, and tight end while he was a player for the Pirates from 2003 to 2006.

Holtz has also been involved in coaching and playing against other members of the Panthers staff in Head Coach Ron Turner, Linebackers Coach Tom Williams, Special Teams Coordinator Kevin Wolflhausen, Defensive Line Coach Andre Patterson and S. Shankweiler.

"It is just a game between two Conference USA opponents," Holtz said. "It ability to see that he is my former coach. We haven't prepared any differently this week as we have been before."

First year running-backs coach for the Bulldogs Jabbar Jukwele also saw two familiar faces when he makes the trip to Miami in former players defensive tackles Darrin Dyson and Leonard Washington. Jukwele coached the pair during his tenure at New Orleans' Edna Karr High School in Louisiana.

Saturday will also mark a return of arguably the best football player to go through the Panthers football program. Indianapolis Colts wide receiver T.Y. Hilton will be the team's honorary captain. Hilton and the Colts were on a bye week following a win against the Denver Broncos.

Holtz spoke on the Panthers as a whole this season and how the two programs have been prepared any differently this week as we have been before. "Playing against FIU will be a great challenge."

Holtz also broke down each side of the ball for the Panthers. "Defensively, it starts with their first team all-conference lineman. They put him on both sides of the field, defensive lineman Greg Hickman. I think he is the best football player on the field when their defense is out there. Regardless of who they play, they can rush the passer and constantly put pressure on the quarterback which has not been our strong point, which something we have to get corrected this week, " Holtz said. "Offensively, they have a returning starter at quarterback. Their tailback is rushing for 90 yards a game at this point. They are getting better and putting points up on the board. For the third week in a row we are facing some very dangerous return men. Cornerback Sam Miller their pun returner is doing a great job. Also, their young talented kick returner is doing a good job. He has a lot of shake and wiggle. Those are going to be guys that challenge our dirty dozen."

The game will kickoff at 6 p.m. at FIU Stadium on Saturday, Oct. 26.

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Hilton to return for game

RHY'S WILLIAMS
Sports Writer

The Panthers' greatest statistical player, T.Y. Hilton, will return and be the honorary captain for the game against the Bulldogs of Louisiana Tech University on Saturday.

Hilton, currently one of the leading receiving targets in the league, was injured against the Indianapolis Colts, will return for his first game back during the Colts by week to watch his former team.

The Colts most recently ended the winning streak of the Denver Broncos, who are led by Peyton Manning who was the Colts quarterback for 14 seasons.

The Bucs, who held books and hold five of the top ten places in single game receiving yards – such as his 201 in the game against the University of Louisville Cardinals in early Sept. 2011 – and holds four of the top ten places for receiving yards in a season, with his highest total coming in his senior year at 1,083 receiving yards.

Hilton's father, who was the Colts quarterback for 14 seasons.

They're a good football team, it's just a matter of time, keep pushing and keep working.

That's the way it is in this league.

The Bucs likely attempted (130) or completed (76) more passes in his first three games than the third-round draft pick out of North Carolina State. Carolina Panthers.
More than 7,000 Americans died in motor vehicle crashes, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Board. In Florida, at least 85 crashes by distracted drivers turned fatal in 2010 and 2011. Counseling and Psychological Services, Student Health Services and the Florida Department of Transportation is hosting CAPSapalooza 2013 just in time for National College Alcohol and Drug Awareness Week.

CAPSapalooza, in partnership with the FDOT’s Put It Down Campaign, will feature two events: “Get It Straight” and “Get Crashed.”

The events are an interactive and preventative approach to helping students think about situations that put them at risk, wrote event organizers Xuan Stevens, University psychologist, and Silvia Hassert, psychology intern, in an email.

“Get It Straight” will feature special guest speaker and vice president of the Humanity Project Board of Directors and assistant professor of criminology and sociology at Barry University, who will share her inspirational story about the dangers of drug abuse and irresponsible behaviour.

“Get Crashed” will feature a rock-climbing wall and a bounce house that Stevens and Hassert say will be part of an educational experience geared towards changing students’ negative association and inappropriate use of the bounce house while intoxicated.

The Florida Department of Transportation, the American Automobile Association and AT&T are also bringing some interesting attractions: a distracted driving simulator, a roll-over simulator, motor squads, a BAT mobile and more. Delicieux Capri-Sun “mocktails” will be served at the “Get Crashed” event, and subsequent events are certain non-alcoholic,” says Hassert.

Students from local surrounding high schools are invited to join the events. According to Hassert’s findings, about 662 students attended in 2011 and there were about a thousand attendees in 2012, with more expected this year.

Carlos Sarmiento, community Traffic Safety Program Coordinator at the Florida Department of Transportation. District 6, says the “Put It Down” campaign has visited high schools, colleges and universities for the past three years, and has reached 4.2 million people so far. This year the FDOT hopes to get new data on how effective the recent Florida ban on texting and driving has been in making roads safer.

“The Put It Down Campaign and CAPSapalooza is an opportunity for students to learn and share experiences about what they do when they drive,” said Sarmiento.

Funding for CAPSapalooza is provided by CAPS, the Victims Empowerment Program, Student Government, Campus Recreation, Student Health Services through the student health fee, and Campus Life through the student activities fee.

In attendance will be members of the Florida Highway Patrol, Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Miami-Dade Metropolitan and Planning Organization, South Florida Commuter Services, as well as officials of various police departments such as Bay Harbor Islands, Aventura and Sunny Isles, to name a few.

CAPSapalooza “Get It Straight” will take place on Oct. 30, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Bay Vista Housing at BBC, and will be video-conferenced to the Parkview Multipurpose Room at MMC during that time. CAPSapalooza “Get Crashed” will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Oct. 29 in ACI Breezeway at BBC and on Oct. 31 at Betty Chapman Plaza at MMC.

Sarah Kenneally, senior health educator of Student Health Services Wellness Center, says it’s not just about drugs, alcohol and texting while driving.

“We want students to be more responsible with the decisions they make and the consequences of their actions,” Kenneally said.

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Swimming and Diving: the hidden success of FIU

ALEX BLENCEW
Contributing Writer

The FIU women’s swimming and diving team has started to raise eyebrows as the team has won its first two matches this season in convincing fashion, handing defeat FAU 175-102 and UNF 140-98.

The Panthers, who will share her inspirational story about the dangers of drug abuse and irresponsible behaviour.

The Panthers ranked in the top five of the Sun Belt Conference the past three seasons, and with the new addition to the C-USA, they will have FIU with the ball-scye on their back coming off their previous success and starting this season 2.0.

Next time you debate about what is FIU’s bright future, you might want take the Swimming and Diving team into consideration and with all their accolades and prospects, they might be the only team with a legitimate chance this year to put FIU into the NCAA map, for a long time.

The FIU Swimming and Diving team was unavailable for comment on this story due to inclement weather.

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When we talk about FIU Athletics we talk about success programs, who do we think of? Maybe past football success, baseball, I would guess the soccer team has won a couple of games, right? Well, all of these might be right, but the dark horse of the university that nobody talks about is the swimming and diving team. Yes, FIU does have a women’s swimming and diving team.

When it comes to go to the University of North Florida, the Panthers picked up where they left off, by downing the Ospreys with a score of 140-98. FIU won 11 out of the 13 events that took place during the day to take the victory over UNF.

Perez again led the way for the Panthers by winning two individual competitions, blowing away her competition in one relay event. In the diving category, FIU was led by Kaufman who won her first career diving event which came via the three-meter diving platform. These performances earned Perez and Kaufman the Conference USA weekly awards of Swimmer and Diver of the Week, respectively.

These are the first C-USA weekly honors for both of these athletes, although Perez was a two-time Sun Belt Swimmer of the Week.

The Panthers ranked in the top five of the Sun Belt Conference the past three seasons as a coach, The Florida Panthers, it has come in great part on the coach’s foundation over years, Head Coach Randy Horner. Horner has been working throughout his first three seasons as a coach, The Florida Panthers, he was bringing international talent to South Florida as FIU’s current team is composed by athletes from 10 different countries.

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