Students falling victim to identity theft often

Jackie Skevin  
Staff Writer

Below the Gulf of Mexico deep in South America, someone in Brazil pays a $70 restaurant bill. The prepaid card is theirs, but the information is not. It was obtained by copying a different card’s data and saving it onto a credit card machine, most likely at a gas station.

“I’ve heard about this before, but I never thought it would happen to me,” said Vanessa Jerez, a senior hospitality major.

Jerez was a victim of identity fraud last month, but her problem didn’t end there. Earlier this month, a second physical credit card was stolen and used to purchase $217 worth of items at a CVS in Maryland. Her bank notified her both times through text message alerts — Jerez is not alone.

The Federal Trade Commission reported South Florida as the number one Metropolitan area in the nation for identity theft and identity fraud in the last two years.

And federal authorities in South Florida recently charged 45 people, in 30 separate cases of identity theft, responsible for at least 22,000 stolen or compromised identities. The identities were used in attempts to claim more than $38 million in fraudulent tax refunds. Authorities say many were insiders that used jobs at places like schools to gain access to identities.

While baby boomers are the biggest demographic to be victimized, college students are just as vulnerable if not more vulnerable,” said Paige Hanson, manager for education programs at LifeLock, an Arizona-based company that provides comprehensive individualized identity protection to customers nationwide.

“They are often at [graduate] school and job fairs which ask for their social security number on many of their forms, but just because they ask, it doesn’t mean you should list them.”

She advises students to protect themselves by limiting the personal information they give out, never leaving their wallets or personal information out on display in their dorms or apartments and running a yearly credit report on annualcreditreport.com through Transunion, Experian or Equifax.

Adrian Suarez  
Staff Writer

Anthony Da Silva, a junior majoring in finance, said he invested over $300 in a stock that he said he was sure would destroy a decent GPA.

“The reality is that students concentrating in any academic area need to have a basic sense of knowledge of how to build credit responsibly, understand the effects of student loans and gauge the consequences of defaulting,” said Deanne Butchey, senior lecturer in finance.

Butchey, senior manager for education programs at Identity Theft Solutions, a company that provides comprehensive individualized identity protection to customers nationwide, explains that students should have a strong understanding of credit — how easy it is to acquire and how difficult it is to pay back. “Butchey said.

Credit is the building block of ensuring possession of capital assets in the future after college, such as a car and house. Understanding the importance of building credit and how to repair a poor credit score is essential to allow a student to be financially stable in the future, according to Butchey.

Though credit cards are popular possessions among students on-campus, several students who own one seem to agree that they have difficulties when it comes to comprehending policies or simply paying for the cards on time.

“I am drowning in credit card debt,” said Xiao Liu, a senior chemistry major.

“But it’s my fault because I didn’t even know what I was getting myself into when I got the cards.”

Liu is not alone. Several of the students interviewed shared the same sentiment, adding that they would have appreciated some form of guidance when taking out their credit cards.

Panthers making an international difference in Nicaragua

Destiny Burt  
Contributing Writer

Women and children in El Crucero, Nicaragua, journey down a steep hill with old containers to fetch green water from a reservoir to do their laundry.

Each spring break, students from the International Business Honor Society take a week-long trip to the town to help these people. Last year, they recognized the lack of clean water in the San Julia village and the treacherous three-mile trip people had to make to retrieve it and decided to make it their mission to help.

“This is a huge challenge for a small organization, that’s why we are looking at it as a Universi ty-wide campaign,” said Maria Del Caprio, an international business graduate.

To alleviate the San Julia village’s quest for water, the society recently launched their campaign One Student, One Dollar. The goal of this campaign is to raise money from University students, in hopes that it can raise a dollar for each student enrolled – about $50,000 – to build a well in San Julia.

San Julia is a small village made of 300 people in El Crucero, Nicaragua. The group that aids their village is made of 16 women who have been working together to fight circumstances of extreme poverty in the community of 63 families.

A lasting visual that Luis Terron, senior international business major, will never forget is the living conditions of the villagers.

Wine to Water

Dickson “Doc” Hendley (above), founder of the nonprofit organization and author of “Wine to Water” – this semester’s book for the common reading program – spoke to students about his journey providing clean water to 16 countries, some of which are UN nogo zones.

Margarita Renter/The Beacon

Contributing Writer

Several of the students interviewed shared the same sentiment, adding that they would have appreciated some form of guidance when taking out their credit cards.

Margarita Renter/The Beacon

Photo courtesy of International Business Honor Society

International Business Honor Society students say goodbye to the people of San Juan village in Nicaragua during last year’s spring break mission trip.

SEE CRIME, PAGE 2

SEE FINANCES, PAGE 2

SEE BUSINESS, PAGE 2
Identity theft growing concern

However last semester, FIU Chief of Police Alexander Casas said that in regards to petty theft on-campus “people are just leaving their stuff around. It’s an opportunistic crime where someone will go use the bathroom and leave their laptops and stuff like that.”

Non-traditional forms of theft can easily occur on smartphones and tablets. Websites like Amazon give them the option to create an account and a credit card profile, but students shouldn’t be so quick to do it even if it’s free. They use all social security information, tax returns, addresses and phone numbers to all state or local education agencies that receive federal education funds.

The United States could lose access to an important law enforcement tool used to track terrorist money flows, German officials said Monday, as Europe weighs a response to allegations that the Americans spied on their closest European allies. Spain became the latest U.S. ally to demand answers after a Spanish newspaper reported that the National Security Agency monitored more than 60 million phone calls in that country during one month alone. The report Monday in the daily El Mundo came on the heels of allegations of massive NSA spying in France and Germany, including Chancellor Angela Merkel’s own cell phone. With European leaders dissatisfied with the U.S. response so far, officials have been casting about for a way to pressure Washington to provide details of past surveillance and assurances that the practice will be curbed.

For more world news, check out FIUSM.com.

FINANCES, PAGE 1

Along with the issue of credit card debt, student loan debt seems to loom over students’ heads just as much. The idea of the college experience is so enticing that students disregard the fact of whether or not they’ll be able to pay off loans in order to maximize their four-year enjoyment.

“Getting out of high school, I was all about the idea of going to college and getting a dorm, without thinking about how I was going to pay for it all,” said Stephanie Borrelly, a senior majoring in religious studies. “So I ended up taking out too many loans my freshman year.” But fear not, Panthers: help is available.

“The State Farm Financial Literacy Lab is an open resource for students to get assistance in making sound financial decisions,” said Katherine Grau, Lab manager of the State Farm Financial Literacy Lab. “The Lab aims to educate high school students primarily on how to become financially literate, college students are welcome to come in and receive guidance from the student interns.”

According to Grau, students are able use the lab to conduct financial research and learn how to navigate through the Bloomberg database it has access to. “Because of the lab I know how to work with Bloomberg,” said Stephanie Cortez, a junior majoring in finance. “And this will serve me greatly when I am in the business world.”

STATE FARM FINANCIAL LITERACY LAB SCHEDULE

Monday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tuesday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wednesday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday: 1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: 12 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Modesto Maidique Campus

Business of College of Business 252

International Business Honor Society students help Nicaraguan village

“The houses had a huge impact [on me]—they are small, worn down and they have to cook the old way with fire and black smoke filling up their house from the burner,” Lain said. “They had to bring their water up a big hill, similar to how they do in Africa.”

Last spring, the society helped with a coffee farm the women created to provide for their community. The women of San Julia did not have coffee bags to sell their fincas, so only 70 percent of their profit would be lost if sold raw.

“The society provided them with the coffee bags and created a logo for the product to maximize profits. Though that seems like a small difference, it went a long way in San Julia.

“One little thing doesn’t seem like it makes a difference, but making a logo is easy for us and challenging for them, so they were very appreciative,” Del Caprio said.

Working to harvest the coffee farm, the students saw scarcity of water in the village.

San Julia, located in a rural area with unpaved dirt roads, has a difficult trek to access fresh water.

“The water source was very scarce, and rainy days are not reliable. One day they had to walk the three miles to get fresh water,” Del Caprio said.

The students of the International Business Honor Society want to help out the village of San Julia by doing something more than giving charity – they want to provide the village with business analysis.

“So, to help San Julia better, addressing one issue at a time and in order to do that, they need help from the University community to have the funds to do so. The International Business Honor Society will be holding three happy hour fundraising events next month.

“There are so many things to improve in the village, that it sometimes gets overwhelming,” said Del Caprio. “Students can donate to the International Business Honor Society’s cause on its website at ibhs.fiu.edu.

Students falling victim to identity theft.

Vanessa Jerez
Senior Hospitality major

“The authorities can make this call, but many still don’t press charges.”

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act guarantees privacy of students education and personal records – including all sex, security information, tax returns, addresses and phone numbers to all state or local education agencies that receive federal education funds.

Europe mulls sanctions against US over spying

Moody’s reaffirmed its Aaa rating for the United States as it weighed the fallout from the National Security Agency scandal. The agency said Monday that inspectors have visited only 21 of Syria’s chemical weapons stockpile have missed an early deadline in a brutally tight schedule after security concerns prevented them from visiting two sites linked to Damascus’ chemical program. Experts from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons were to have checked all 23 of Syria’s declared chemical sites by Sunday, but the organization said Monday that inspectors have visited only 21 because of security issues. While there are no consequences for missing the deadline, the group’s failure to meet it underscores the ambitious timeline as well as the risks its inspectors face in carrying out their mission in the middle of Syria’s civil war.

Israel’s prime minister faced a political uproar from across the political spectrum on Monday over the planned release of 26 Palestinian prisoners during Summer B. One copy per person.

Israel in the coming months.

Financially illiterate can now seek help

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The perks of group work at the University level and beyond

MOISES FUERTES
Staff Writer

Most of us begin our courses with a syllabus in hand which includes a group project. From my experience, the majority of students dread the assignment. They shouldn’t. Perhaps the most valuable, and real world, experience our courses attempt to emulate are those that revolve around groups. The reality is that wherever we end up working, we will have to do so with other people. Yet, according to Susan M. Heathfield, a human resources expert of the Society for Human Resource Management, “few understand how to create the experience of teamwork or how to develop an effective team.”

But, there is a very distinct difference between work groups and teams. In every group, thanks to a leader, members feel invested in the group and as a manager, meaning that everyone relies on one another to get the work done. This type of group has the highest potential to become a team. Incidentally, teams are known to produce the best results in any given time. The key here is that everyone must be a manager of sorts while working with a team. The playing field can only be even if everyone is responsible enough to work hard, swap roles on the team, and emphasize the team above their own ambitions. This is the direction I believe our courses at FIU lead group work, and each semester I see groups struggle and some students fail miserably.

Students don’t seem to realize that successful teams create their reality through hard work. I’ve had members who never communicate, never show up to the class and don’t even bother to come to team meetings. These students all have one thing in common: irresponsibility. They all rush at the end of the semester to try and get with the group, perform poorly in the work that they do and always disappoint everyone involved. I think this type of experience is why students dislike group projects, as there are not enough opportunities for one to stand out among a team member that is useless.

Here is some advice: let them sink. A person that shows that type of attitude in the workplace will be fired. It’s that simple. Consider it a learning experience for that member and move on.

Inversely, I’ve had members that rise to the tasks, communicate effectively and interchange their roles to fit all situations. In these cases, the experience has been positive and fulfilling, and it has shown itself through the work produced.

This too is part of the experience that these projects are meant to give us, all while giving us insight that we will likely use after we graduate. The lessons are there for those who wish to see them.

Deciding whether to eat in or dine out

ADRIANE RICHARDSON
Contributing Writer

“Money doesn’t grow on trees, and they don’t even see my paycheck.”

The meal plan included Panther Bucks which made it easier to buy food on campus, I used to purchase food on campus, not realizing how the dollar amount stack up.

If you buy food on campus you are likely spending $5 or more, depending on where you go. For example, I love Subway but I had to cut back because $6 a sandwich made it seem like there was a hole in my bank account.

Often, I complain about being hungry or not having enough money at the moment to splurge on food like I want to. Since I don’t have a meal plan, I have to buy groceries nearly every two weeks so that I can cook for myself when I’m in my dorm.

Even though I have food, I have no money for anything else. Sometimes I don’t even see my paycheck.

If I am living on campus and am struggling because of the price of food, I know students who live off campus are. “Rushing from home and driving to school for class, I want to eat something,” I have money but sometimes the price of food is ridiculous…. I end up buying to eat anyway because I don’t have time to make something at home. This isn’t elementary school,” said sophomore nursing major Wedline Jean.

The only solution I can give to this issue is to prepare food before going to class, whether you live on campus or off. At least pack a granola bar. You’ll need it or you’ll fall victim to the price of chips. Every now and then you can buy something, but not every day. That’s not a smart decision, unless you have money like Bill Gates.

Nowadays, I find myself eating for substance and not for pleasure like I used to. Times are hard and I appreciate my parents more and more because they provided food for me without me knowing the difficulty of it.

In conclusion, pack lunches and, as I grew older, I began to create their reality through hard work.

This too is part of the experience that these projects are meant to give us, all while giving us insight that we will likely use after we graduate. The lessons are there for those who wish to see them.

moises.fuentes@fiusm.com
**Fighting with Food**

Sigha Alpha Lambda looks to support the fight against breast cancer by selling goods, sharing pink ribbon pins, fluffy cotton candy and giving shirts to survivors. The cheer team and band visited as SAI sold Publix sponsored baked goods.

**On-campus residents encounter the paranormal**

**Ariel Weinstein**

**Contributing Writer**

As Halloween approaches, students are becoming increasingly excited for the festivities and ghostly atmosphere at the University. How spooky can the atmosphere become, however, until things start to feel real?

Students who live on campus in several dorms have reported unexplainable activity within their rooms.

Halloween is the time to be scared and scare others – but when there is no one involved in the pranks being conducted, maybe it’s time to start believing in ghosts for real.

Vicky Garcia is a sophomore majoring in psychology.

Last year, she lived in Panther Hall with her roommate Sofia Rodriguez, an advertising sophomore. Both Garcia and Rodriguez started to believe in a University ghost on September 1, 2012.

On the eve of Rodriguez’s birthday, the two girls were relaxing in their Panther Hall double suite.

As they were focused solely on their homework, a vibration occurred and their phones went off. Looking to question each other thinking that the other’s phone was going off. Looking across the room making those noises – just nothing. It was really like there was a ghost in the room making those noises.

The vibrations continued, and they began to realize that there may be a ghost in the room. Nothing else happened or emerged from in between their desks, and as they became more curious and began searching for the source of the vibrations.

They realized the vibrations pulsed from in between their desks, and as they became more curious, they became frightened, believing someone or something was crawling in search of blood.

The vibrations continued, they began to realize that the only logical explanation for such events was that there was, without a doubt, a ghost within the walls of the dorms at the University of Miami ghost on September 1, 2012.

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In the album “Sky’s the Limit,” a superhero artist by the name of Capeech Cappuccino comes to the rescue to save the masses from crime, villainous fake rappers and oppressors of the poor with his fresh flow, microphone of Mjolnir and superb beats. Robert Douglas (Cappuccino’s real name) was born and raised in Toronto. The album “Sky’s the Limit,” according to the masked avenger, focuses on being close to God, rising above adversity and growing up in the concrete jungle to become your own superhero. Douglas started rhyming after his friend became the victim of gang violence.

The two songs that really stand out on the album are the tracks “For You” and “Patty Cake.” “For You” is about the struggles of poverty and how the situation hasn’t changed since the times in which slavery was prevalent. The strong control the weak in this world where the weak are forced to live hard lives among violence and gangs. The premise of this song is solid and manages to work pretty well; however, the song is a bit lengthy for a mostly strophic form. In addition, in the song “Patty Cake,” Cappuccino speaks of the time that he was forced to deal drugs to make a living and that the act of making drugs was like “Patty Cake,” a children’s game.

However, the rest of the tracks are weak. The beats in every track are uncreative except for “Patty Cake.” “Little Child” and “Sky’s the Limit.” The rapper does not seem like he is having fun or actually creating art, but instead raps in order to get to a life of fame. He does not take risks or rap from the heart, instead he raps to appeal “likes” on Facebook, desperately trying to get attention. For example, the song “Tribute” is monotone throughout and the words are incomprehensible due to his bad articulation.

The beats in this song are extremely bland. Overall, the song is solely comparable to the noise created by an analog TV with no signal. The album has an excellent premise and does in fact have moments of greatness, however the overall quality of the album is mediocre at best. Cappuccino’s flow is not fresh, but instead very predictable and awkward.

And as for poetic premise he leeches off the stereotypical conflicts of the ghetto without creating any emotion or putting the listener into his situation. The tragic hero “Capeech Cappuccino” falls to the temptation of fame and sells his soul out before actually creating any work of genius. Cappuccino comes dressed up to the show as a superhero, but falls flat on his face tripping over his own cape.

- life@fiusm.com

The Second Annual Mahavir Nirvan Lecture

Applying Jain Principles in Medical Practice

Lecture by Manoj Jain, M.D., Emory University

November 4, 2013 | 6 PM | Frost Art Museum

Dr. Manoj Jain is an infectious disease physician, a writer, and an adjunct clinical assistant professor at Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.

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Please join us after the lecture for a traditional Indian vegetarian dinner

Jain Studies Program
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Coley carries Panthers despite rough start

Behind 45 points from senior guard Jerica Coley, FIU was able to get a 75-69 exhibition win over Nova Southeastern University.

STEFAN ROWELL
Staff Writer

Senior Jerica Coley didn’t even wait for the regular season to start to erupt on a team. Like Coley did many times last season, she led her team in scoring on route to an exhibition win against Nova Southeastern University.

Behind 45 points from the All-American point guard, FIU overcame a slow start and defeated Nova 75-69 in the first of two exhibition match-ups on Sunday at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

Coley, playing the entire game, started off shooting 2 of 9 from the field before heating up and making five of her next seven shots to end the first half including a buzzer-beating three-pointer from the top of the key to give FIU a 9-point lead heading to the intermission.

Coley’s hot streak continued into the second half as she scored 21 points on 7 of 11 shooting in the second half.

Senior center Marita Davydova, last season’s second leading scorer for the Panthers, finished with a double-double, scoring 17 points and pulling down 13 rebounds. The senior, along with Coley, helped spark a 9-1 run that turned Nova’s largest lead of 9 into a 25-23 FIU advantage at the under the half mark.

After the Sharks led 17-8, the Panthers outscored Nova 35-17 and ended the half on an 11-3 run.

“That team played for 40 minutes and we didn’t do, I thought we dropped a little bit and didn’t execute well, we missed so much underneath the basket, but then it was about calming down, squaring up and taking good shots,” Head Coach Cindy Russo said. “I was happy with effort overall, it was sloppy, of course, but both of our guards are out that played last year, so we are playing kids that never played as guards, but I think we did a nice job.”

The Panthers maintained a steady lead throughout the second half in large part of Coley and tightening up on defense holding the Sharks to 13-36 shooting in the second half. Russo had particular praise for the Sharks’ Jasmine Wilkins.

“We did a much better job, that number 35 (Wilkins) gave us a clinic in the first half, but we did a much better job in the second half,” Russo said.

Wilkins tallied 17 points with 10 of them coming in the second half.

Despite that, FIU’s missed free throws and fast break lay-ups in the closing seconds, Nova pulled within four points.

The Panthers hung for the victory and despite the late game struggles with free throws; FIU finished 23-32 at the charity stripe.

With it being first game of the year and many players seeing extensive playing for the first time, sloppy play was evident. The Panthers turned the ball over 19 times with 13 of those coming in the second half.

For the Panthers, two freshmen saw their first action of basketball on the college level. Freshmen Karrah Johnson played 11 minutes grabbing five rebounds and Nikola Todoric played 11 minutes and grabbed three rebounds.

Both were held scoreless.

“Karrah played a nice ballgame, she had five rebounds and played some really nice defense,” Russo said.

“Nina (Todorovic) she did some nice things, got rebounds, played good defense and she’s comfortable in the ball so I was real happy with her.”

Leading the way for Nova was the Sharks’ third leading scorer last season, Amanda Burakowski, with 18 points. It was Burakowski that helped sparked a late game push for the Sharks to climb within four points at 63-59 before FIU held on.

“I think we just lost focus and concentration, and we can’t do that,” Russo said.

In addition to the victory, Russo was pleased with the effort on the boards as the Panthers racked up 21 offensive rebounds and out-rebounded the Sharks 52-33.

The Panthers will host one more exhibition game on Nov. 1 against Barry University before FIU opens the season against in-state opponent Florida Gulf Coast right on the Panther’s home court on Nov. 8.

-Patrick Chalire/fiusm.com
There is one game left.

One game to seal a division title in Conference USA. It’s been marvelous to watch a group of girls who started the season 2-7-0, lead their division.

Heading into the Panthers’ season finale against Marshall University at home, FIU has a chance to nab a number one seed in the conference tournament in Houston and make some noise in it.

A win would clinch the number one seed the Panthers have worked all season for. The current number one seed, FIU, is only separated by two points from the number four seed, East Carolina. The top four seeds in each division make the playoffs.

From Ashley Shim to Nicole DePerna to Paula Zuluaga to Johanna Volz to Kim Lopez, I could go on and on about the depth this soccer team has. They have caught everyone’s attention.

If they pull a win this Halloween against Marshall (8-6-3) they could ride into Houston with a 8-10-0 record and with a swagger that is uncommon for a sub .500 team.

If you give me the entirety of sports to choose from, I cannot find a team who has parlayed a 2-7-0 record into a number one seed. It’s something surreal. Words cannot state how amazing that is.

Looking at that rough start, this team has received criticism. They weren’t scoring and had a habit of getting shut out. Since losing to Charlotte 2-0 and having four shutouts on the season, FIU has only been shut out twice - a sample spanning four shutouts on the season, FIU has only had some deserved criticism. They weren’t playing as well as they deserved to.

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Beasley’s new start in Miami has arrived

Tim Reynolds
AP Writer

For the first time this season, the Miami Heat practiced Sunday with only 15 players on the roster.

Michael Beasley was one of them.

The cuts have been made, the team for opening night has been selected, and Beasley has his first victory of the season. He’s still in Miami. There was no guarantee that he would stick with the Heat, even after he decided to accept a one-year non-guaranteed contract. But when the team’s brass gathered Friday night to decide how many and which players to keep, Beasley remained in the mix.

So he’ll be there when the Heat get their rings and see their championship banner raised Tuesday night. Beasley won’t be getting a ring, of course. What he said he will get that night is inspiration to be a real part of one of those title-savoring parties sooner than later.

“Regardless of the year or who you have returning from your roster and who you’re bringing in, it’s always so many tough decisions,” Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. “I sat in (Friday night’s meeting) for about an hour. They stayed there until about 3 o’clock in the morning, talking about the roster and the last few spots. It’s always comes down to it. I don’t know why. Now we’ve got our 15 and we’re looking forward to starting the next step.”

Beasley played with Dwyane Wade, Udonis Haslem, Mario Chalmers, James Jones and Joel Anthony during his first stint in Miami. Combined, they will have a total of 12 Heat championship rings by the time Tuesday’s ceremony ends. Beasley is still waiting for his first.

But given the potential of this Heat team, albeit with Beasley in a far different role than what he had the first time around in Miami, that wait could end about a year from now.

“We can’t play 82 games tomorrow and play a whole season in the next week,” Beasley said. “I’ll continue to work hard, continue to do my part, continue to gain the trust of my teammates. I get that chance, I get that chance. Just trying to take it day by day.”
World Hunger Day Dinner at the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management

ALEX BLENCOWE Contributing Writer

The signs are everywhere: “Will Work For Food.” “Please help, need food,” “HUNGRY.” According to the CBS documentary, “Hunger In America,” there were 20 million hungry in 1985, 37 million hungry in 2007, and this year there are more than 49 million hungry in the United States—the worst in USDA history.

USA Today says the government-approved other million cut from the reauthorization of the farm bill has “taken away food stamps from millions of poor Americans [as well as] restored the eligibility requirements of the food stamp program, ending dramatic expansion in the number of people dependent on government.”

However, due to the economic collapse of 2008, there are more people dependent on the government now than ever.

To raise awareness about the increasing issue of world hunger, the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Management’s Restaurant Management Lab held an experimental event in partnership with the School of Business on Thursday, Oct. 24, at 6:30 p.m., in which three dinners were served: a three-course meal (consisting of shrimp bean stew, chicken with 40 cloves of garlic, couscous salad with cranberries, wine, bread and lemon tart crumble for dessert) for the wealthy, rice and beans with water for the middle class; and stale bread with cold water for the poor.

Attendees of the social experiment were divided into three classes depending on colored cards passed out to each guest. A guest of the middle class table, event planning senior Caroline Hardenbergh-Perry, said it has become systematically harder for people to get social services and food stamps, especially in Florida.

“It’s almost like the government is saying, ‘These people have no right to ask for help,’” said Hardenbergh-Perry, one of the millions of Americans in the food stamp program, who has boycotted against various multinational food-distributing organizations who throw away countless amounts of food every day, rather than give the food to the homeless and hungry.

Professor Judith Williams, whose class managed the restaurant that night, said the experimental event is supposed to help facilitate discussion about the issue of hunger and encourage others to change the way they see hunger.

“We want students at the wealthy table to say ‘Forget it; I’m going to go sit with a poor person and share my food,’” said Williams.

After the dinner, a clip from “Hunger In America” was played and a discussion about the event followed.

For retired attorney and guest, Michael Boyd, ’73, the event made him feel guilty sitting at the wealthy table and seeing the poor table nearby.

“There’s no food on the table, the food stamp is saying, ‘These people have no right to ask for help,’” said Boyd. Boyd’s wife, Therese, is the director of Student Health Services at BBC.

“After the dinner, a clip from ‘Hunger In America’ was played and a discussion about the event followed.”

“Dead Connection”

to give a Halloween tour of campus

BRANDON WISE Editor-in-Chief

This Halloween, the Student Council at Biscayne Bay Campus will host “The Dead Connection” featuring psychic Chris Moon, who uses a “Spirit Phone” to communicate with the paranormal world.

The campus is one stop on Moon’s college tour that began Sept. 23, that will not so coincidentally visit the University for a tour of its history and ghostly haunts on Oct. 31.

During this event, Moon will take students on a tour of the campus to give them a chance to hear what SPC leadership director Joshua Carrasco calls BBC’s “eertiness.”

 “[Moon] will be walking throughout the campus, hearing spirits and telling stories from certain time periods,” Carrasco said.

“Usually 30-50 students will walk with him. Some students truly believe in it and some want to be aware of the history.”

According to Moon’s website, the psychic had his first personal experience at the age of 7.

“Daily occurrences from that time on included objects disappearing and reappearing; doors opening and closing on their own fruition, strange shadows and light anomalies and nightly haunted sonnets on the family’s one hundred year old grand piano,” his biography states.

Moon uses his “Spirit Phone” when conducting his tour of an area.

“The machine is believed to be the completed version of Thomas Edison’s legendary ‘Telephone to the Dead.’”

“This invention facilitates actual two way communication with the spirit world. The Spirit Phone requires a very specific Psychic Medium’s energy to work correctly,” according to Moon’s website.

Carrasco said that he thinks it makes sense to host this event on Halloween. “Students should attend whether they believe in spirits or not,” Carrasco said.

“So many students and faculty can donate food that will be available for students who cannot afford food on campus.”

“Changing the world is not about giving money,” said Garcia-Duran. “It’s about taking action... It’s never too late or too soon.”