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English class delves into rising sea levels

Cristina Garcia
Staff Writer

When you think about environmental activism on-campus, you may expect to hear from the University Organic Farmers Market or the FIU Garden Club. Now the English Department is adding its voice to the cause.

Patricia Warman-Cano, English professor and instructor of Writing as Social Action, a class that started a project to save the Everglades, has organized the event “6 ft. Under.” On Nov. 22— in conjunction with the FIU Nature Preserve— to raise awareness about rising sea levels, the loss of the Everglades and their effect on South Florida.

Amelia Caceres, senior English major in the class, said she was among those students that are “seriously interested” in what approached by environmentalists, but the class agrees there is a reason to care.

“The reason I learned to be compassionate was because [the environment] makes the economy work,” Caceres said. “And we need a working economy.”

The Everglades houses 34 percent of Florida’s endangered animals, provides the state with approximately 124 gallons of water per day, and alligators can live in it, but other animals like manatees need fresh water. We can’t save the Everglades no matter what we do,” Bravo said.

“What does that mean for Floridians?” According to FIU’s case study highlighted South Florida’s population as one of the fastest growing human populations in the United States – approximately 900 new tenants enter Florida daily and about 39 million vacationers annually.

“The average person uses approximately 124 gallons of water per day. A publication by the University of Florida said while the state is “rich in water resources,” intensive use of water places it under a lot of stress.

“At this rate, we’re going to have to invest in desalination. Orlando and Tampa have had to invest in it already. This will lead to a need to raise water taxes,” Bravo said. “But it is prohibitively expensive”

According to Bravo, the rising sea levels are a product of global warming, a naturally occurring phenomenon. The only unnatural thing about global warming is the accelerated rate at which it is happening – a product of humans’ ecological footprints.

“There are two sides on the issue. One side says we should protect [the environment] for children and freshwater,” Bravo said. “The other side says we need to find alternatives to fund us to be more sustainable, to lower emissions and for more time to prepare.”

The Natural Resources Defense Council describes global warming as “the single biggest environmental and humanitarian crisis of our time.” According to the Council, global warming refers to the increasing temperatures of Earth’s atmosphere stemming from an atmosphere full of “heat-trapping carbon dioxide,” which lead to a wide-scale impact on climate.

As depicted by the Council’s “Extreme Weather Map 2012,” Florida did not pass last year unscathed, as evidenced by record-breaking heat, rain and a total of 62 large wildfires. Nationally, the United States saw “the worst drought in 50 years,” Hurricane Sandy and wildfires that burned approximately 9 million acres across the U.S. “In the next 100 years, the most optimistic predictions say

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Professor emeritus motivated by University’s growth

Destiny Burt
Contributing Writer

Stephen Fain thought it was a prank call when he was asked to be part of the University’s founding team, the one that would build the school from an old airport.

“Well you could imagine getting a phone call and someone says that to you,” said Fain. “I thought it was a joke until I called the person who originally had the idea and that’s what I knew they were serious.”

The professor emeritus in the College of Education and fellow of the Honors College joined the University in 1971 as the founding team’s academic planner. Fain established the University’s academic programs as the team’s curriculum developer.

“Dr. Fain has seen each of these buildings come up at the University and you can sense that he doesn’t concede that sense of pride he has,” said Rhandi Elliot, development assistant in the Office of Annual Giving.

Fain said watching the University evolve is what he’s kept him here for so long. “I thought I would stay for about two years, but the University got moving very quickly,” Fain said. “It moved much more quickly than people thought it would, and the momentum was enough to keep your passion ignited.”

Fain has a devoted Panther for 42 years. One of the most compelling components about the University to Fain was that they served an under-served community. “It was important work and it seemed to grow in importance,” said Fain, “and the realization that time and time again, as you met more students, it was like a snowball picking up momentum rolling down a hill — you just get caught up in it.”

“As one of FIU’s founding professors, Dr. Fain has been instrumental in moving our university toward its next horizon,” said Howard Lipman, senior vice president of University Advancement and president and chief executive officer of the FIU Foundation, Inc.

Fain is also the chair of Ignite, a University fundraising campaign driven by faculty and staff. “Through the Ignite campaign, he’s taken that fearless passion and drive to the next level and is helping our faculty and staff connect with and support the FIU projects they care about the most,” said Padron. “Fain is excited about the Ignite campaign because he has the opportunity to work with people who understand the importance of giving back.”

“It’s a pleasure to work with Dr. Fain because Ignite is so much more than a fundraising campaign for him, the team he’s created and all the faculty and staff he’s involved,” said Laura Padron, assistant vice president of University Advancement.

Fain said he is passionate about investing in the University since he has seen it evolve from nothing. “I am challenged by the idea that there are people who don’t get it as much as others” said Fain, “and maybe I can help them become aware of how special FIU is.”

According to Padron, Ignite is “about making an impact and investing in the FIU dreams, initiatives and projects that fuel creativity, discovery and innovation.”

“Working at FIU has been extra special because I’ve had a chance to make a lot of things happen,” Fain said.

Fain has also served as the faculty athletics representative at the Student Athlete Academic Center since May 2004. “Right now even though Dr. Fain is busy with the Ignite campaign, he was asked to take on the position at the SAAC and he was willing to do that because he loves the University so much that he is willing to put aside

SEE IGNITE, PAGE 2

Henna artists use henna to raise money for leukemia and lymphoma organizations.

Henna artist Usamah Gilani (right), junior pre-med psychology major, raises money for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society by drawing henna on dinner attendees like Briana Philippe (left), junior marketing major.

SEE ENGLISH, PAGE 2

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SEE ENGLISH, PAGE 2
Department Recitals showcase top performers from School of Music

In between faculty and student meetings, Trumpet Instructor Jim Hacker takes a moment in his office to check on the most recent submissions for the School of Music: Department Recital.

“I’ve been coordinating this for about four years now,” said Hacker. “This is going to be just like an evening concert, only it’ll be happening at 3:30 p.m.”

The concert on Nov. 21 will be held twice a semester and is free for University students. It will feature premier students from all different music disciplines, including: jazz, percussion, vocals, piano and classical guitar. Each department in the School of Music chooses all-star students to represent them that have satisfied the requirements and have displayed extraordinary talents.

KIERON WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

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The performance for next week include a vocal group piece, a classical guitar piece and a trio which consists of a piano player, a violin player and a cello player.

Students invited to play in the Recital must first have already performed in an area forum within their discipline, exhibiting their talents to an audience of peers and teachers within their focus. In these area forums, the performer and the audience have a back and forth, which the audience says what they think, what should be improved and the performer continues based on their criticisms.

This is kind of their chance to shine.

Jim Hacker
Trumpet Instructor
School of Music

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the sea levels will rise 6 feet. Six feet and Miami is underwater - exponentially worse than when a hurricane happens,” Bravo said.

The aforementioned case study explains that the warming of the planet causes ocean surface water to expand, in addition to melting glaciers and ice sheets. Currently, South Florida’s sea level has risen over 10 inches since 1840s and is rising today. Rising, scientists have measured at the rate at which the sea level rises to be about 8-16 inches every 100 years, a rate 6-10 times faster than the average rate for the past 5,000 years.

“We keep looking for solutions that create more problems,” Caceres said. “We need to stop the model and use it to create a sustainable city that could survive the class’ findings and their proposals for steps to be taken for a more sustainable place for future generations.”

Panther invests passion into University

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English class underlines rising sea levels as cause for concern, action

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Amelia Caceres
Senior
English Major

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Amelia Caceres
Senior
English Major
**A case for human compassion**

JAIRO RAMOS  
Contributing Writer

They must have not believed themselves when they first walked outside and saw that the world had ended. Typhoon Haiyan had swept their wrath through the streets of Tacloban and left behind only remnants: broken statues, skeletal trees and tall clusters of wooden debris looking like hills. The survivors must have shivered out of body when they first saw the corpses, piled up like bricks, cold and distant under the morbid wind — like the city, no longer reminiscent of their former selves.

As I read the stories of the Asian disaster and saw their faces on the news, I thought back to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. I still remember my first walk around the ravaged neighborhood that day and the unspeakable sensation of being in a movie set... perhaps that of “Twister,” that 1996 film with Helen Hunt.

Back then, the idea of a tragedy of such extent had seemed so distant I could only connect it to fiction; and it was no different now. The tears in my eyes, the faces of those who had lost their home, their loved ones, and their part of a separate reality — Tacloban, they all seemed like the disconnection, he peeps for the universal connection. It is here that universality exists since the first notions of stress, work and studies performed in various zones than those who had not. These outcomes are further supported by experimental studies performed in various universities, including Harvard University, which have come up with consistent behavioral results.

Today, Emory University has an established partnership with the Dalai Lama and the order of Tibetan Monks which focuses highly on “Cognitively-Based Compas- sion Training.” Their method employs meditation and other techniques in order to turn “empathic emotions” into auto- matic responses, hence making these more accessible.

The question, then, is: why do other universities not encourage such practices? Why do college societies promote “leadership” but not “compas- sion” in their slogans? Perhaps it is a matter of pragmatism.

Yes, compassion might not carry the highest weight in a curriculum, nor itself be the solution to any problems; however, in a free world, it is the root from which all these solutions stem and the bridge that shortens the gap of distance, time and being that separate our lives from each other’s.

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**What we can give is always significant, but in terms of humanity, it is limited by our understanding of our fellows’ suffering.**

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**Becoming one with nature at FIU**

SHEHYRAF EFFENDI  
Staff Writer

My phone read “slight rainfall and 78 degrees Fahrenheit” as I made my way to the freshly built jogging track near the University nature preserve. BMC is all seemed like parts of a separate reality — parts of myself that I longed for, yet hardly found within my grasp. The struggle of the individual to connect deeply with the suffering of others has existed since the first notions of self and nonself gained the slightest level of concreteness in human society — the search for compassion.

Naturally, in times like this when such struggle grows heavy, the question arises: just what is the role of universities in guiding their students through this understanding? And just what is their duty in the face of tragedy?

Of course, as basic human institutions, colleges have intrinsic leadership positions in any efforts to provide aid to those in need. But this is not enough. Online donations and campus fliers are all essential manifestations of compassion, clearly, but they are not the feeling itself. What we can give is always significant... but, in terms of humanity, it is limited by our understanding of our fellows’ suffering.

Schools are, above all, human workshops and, as such, it should be their responsibility to aid students in their quests for the universal connection. Man searches for his part in the disconnection, he peeps for the universal connection.

**The track is so inviting that it almost dissolves your steps into itself as you progress with your run. It starts from the nature preserve, goes side-by-side to the baseball stadium, followed by Parkview Housing and then finally reaches the baseball stadium. As I jog, I could help but notice all the walkways inside the nature preserve.** Although I was not able to take a tour of these tracks and where they lead, I still had a lot of fun.

As it was raining while I jogged, the feeling became almost heavenly. I was around nature, breathing fresh air while listening to songs and exploring this new mystery that lay before me. After 3.2 miles I stopped and began working out at one of the piers. I saw a couple of people going into the forest while others stood on the outside picking what I took as fruits from trees.

The tall, dark forest not only has pathways that wind up somewhere but it also has planks on stands that highlight the kind of trees that grew around the area and where these kinds of trees actually grow. These pathways appear to be quite inviting as they leap into the middle of the forest and hence provide an amazing opportunity for adventure.

For all those who like adventure I would definitely recommend you to explore these forests. People were going in and walking around the area and I would complete a lap on the back side facing the baseball stadium there is also a little green house from what I could tell. This was where most of the people were. For me, the new jogging track proved extremely helpful because I like to run every day and this track helps me be around nature and actually enjoy what I do.

Although I jog almost every day I still haven’t discovered where the tracks lead to and it is way back I would love to explore more. I wish I could have been able to do this but I am going to be a first-year student for the next semester with this a couple of friends. I would recommend everyone to at least check out the forest because really it is inspiring and brings you close to nature after a whole week of stress, work and assignments.

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Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124.

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**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Send us your thoughts.
Paul McCartney does it again with “New” album

Paul McCartney’s new album, “New”, is in the top five of the Billboard Top 200 charts, which includes singles, “Queenie Eye” and “New”. This album brings in different musical styles and influences, it’s still able to successfully function and flow together. In short, there’s really no one who makes music quite the way McCartney does. He does it all and does it well.

‘Best Man’ nearly topples ‘Thor’ in battle of sequels

In an unlikely battle of sequels, “Thor: The Dark World” bested “The Best Man Holiday” at the box office. Disney’s “Thor: The Dark World” continued its box-office reign with $30.6 million. In a limited release, “The Best Man Holiday” opened successfully with $9 million. The “Thor” sequel was new and it’s getting a little legs, but “The Best Man Holiday” is stuck in August, leading to a limited release.

At an average of $19,000 per theater, the “Best Man Holiday” grossed $188,360 for the weekend. A 56 percent increase from last weekend’s $121,000, but under the $221,000 of the previous August “Thor” release.

“The Thor” sequel is enjoying a great start just like its predecessor. It’s earned $38.5 million in 13 days, a 35 percent increase from the $28.5 million from the first weekend. The “The Best Man Holiday” fared more modestly, adding $26.5 million to its $35 million total in its second weekend.

‘MATER BUCKETS

Joe Parker, co-coordinator of Student Farmworker Alliance, explains the Coalition of Immokalee Workers’ Fair Food program to students during an event to promote awareness of the labor and compensation from farmers that pick tomatoes. Top Companies have joined the program to help provide incentives for farmers that treat their workers right and rescind their transaction for farmers that do not follow guidelines of equal treatment.
German man hides art for over three decades

FRANK JORDANS
AP Writer

The recluse German collector who kept a priceless trove of art, possibly including works stolen by the Nazis, hidden for half a century says he did so because he "loved" them and that he wants them back.

Cornelius Gurlitt told German magazine Der Spiegel in an interview published Sunday that he wanted to protect the collection built up by his late father Max Liebermann that author Hildebrand, an art dealer for Augsburg prosecutors, however, has been hammering audiences around the globe. "Thor: The Dark World" made $52.5 million internationally over the weekend, bringing its worldwide total to $479.8 million. With Chris Hemsworth as the title character and Tom Hiddleston as the popular villain Loki, the Thor franchise has proven to be one of Marvel's most successful.

Just as "Thor" approached the half-billion mark, Warner Bros. space adventure "Gravity" crossed it. In seven weeks of release, "Gravity" has made $514.9 million globally. "The Best Man Holiday" was the only new wide-release opening over the weekend, as the marketplace clears out for the release of "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire." In limited release, Alexander Payne's black-and-white Midwest road trip "Nebraska" opened in four locations with a solid $35,000 per theater average for Paramount Pictures. Martin Scorsese's "The Wolf of Wall Street" was originally slated to open, but was postponed to Dec. 25 by Paramount. Expected to be one of the year's biggest debuts, Lionsgate's "Catching Fire" will abruptly close the box-office window for "Thor" next weekend. "Catching Fire" opened in Brazil over the weekend, earning $6.3 million. Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. Where available, latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Thor: The Dark World," $38.5 million ($52.5 million international).
3. "Last Vegas," $8.9 million ($3.5 million international).
4. "Free Birds," $8.3 million ($1.2 million international).
5. "Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa," $7.7 million ($5.5 million international).
7. "Enders Game," $6.2 million ($2.2 million international).
8. "12 Years a Slave," $4.7 million.
10. "About Time," $3.5 million ($1.9 million international).

Der Spiegel said a reporter hied out of his apartment last year, he told the magazine. Der Spiegel said a reporter spent several days interviewing the collector while he traveled from his home in Munich to visit a doctor in another city last week.

The death of his parents and sister were less painful to him than the loss of the 1,406 paintings, prints and drawings by artists such as Pablo Picasso, Henry Matisse and Max Liebermann that authorities hauled out of his apartment last year, he told the Associated Press last week that Germany's 30-year statute of limitations may prove to be a stumbling block.

Hildebrand Gurlitt died in 1956, and his wife Helene died in 1967. Officials were unaware of their son's huge collection until a chance customs check three years ago led them to the Munich apartment. Authorities in Bavaria and Berlin kept the find secret for more than a year and a half. But since the case was revealed by the German magazine Focus two weeks ago they have come under pressure to find a solution that will prevent legal obstacles from standing in the way of rightful claims to the art — particularly if Holocaust survivors or heirs of those persecuted by the Nazis are involved.

Gurlitt told Der Spiegel that he won't just hand over the art. "I won't talk to them, and I'm not giving anything back voluntarily, no, no," he is quoted as saying.
Panthers hit mark at late point in season

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Not even a “similar uniform delay” could prevent the Panthers’ drubbing this weekend at the University of Texas at El Paso.

The game with the Miners was delayed for 15 minutes. The reason was tweeted out by the official UTEP Miners twitter account.

“Kickoff for the UTEP & FIU game has been pushed back to 6:13 p.m. due to the teams wearing similar color uniforms. #minersstrong,” UTEP Athletics tweeted.

Despite that, the Panthers finally accomplished a mark after 10 games that Louisville nearly reached in one: 100 points for the season.

That’s right, the Panthers have finally reached the century mark in points, just barely above Miami University (Ohio) for last in the country in points per game at 10.1.

With all of the struggles offensively, the Panthers fell for the ninth time this season in the game against the Miners 33-10.

The Panthers had three offensive players throw at least one pass and the non-quarterback threw the only touchdown when runningback Lamaq Caldwell tossed a 16-yard touchdown pass to receiver T.J. Lowder in the first quarter.

The offense, which had quarterback Jake Medlock start and ended with E.J. Hilliard finishing out, was held to under 100 yards rushing and only had 200 yards total offense. Medlock had three completions on nine attempts for 36 yards. Hilliard had five completions out of 14 attempts for 54 yards.

The Panthers, as of Nov. 18, have 2,234 total offensive yards this season and average 3.7 yards per play average. Opponents of FIU have accumulated 4,167 total offensive yards and have a 6.3 yards per play average. FIU is ranked second to last in the nation in front of only Miami (Ohio).

Staying on the field is also an issue for the offense, as they hold a 24 percent third down conversion rate (34 of 141) and a 47 percent fourth down conversion rate by converting eight of 17.

As of Nov. 18, the Panthers had no set starter for this coming Saturday’s final home game against the Thundering Herd of Marshall University, who are led by quarterback Rakeem Cato, who is statistically one of the best quarterbacks in Conference USA, will look to improve on his team’s 7-3 overall, 5-1 conference record.

Cato has 28 touchdowns as opposed to only seven interceptions. He almost has more completions, 214 out of 355 attempts, than the Panthers do total pass attempts, 236 total pass attempts, on the season to date. With those 214 completions, he has more yards in the air than the Panthers have total offense. Cato has 2,988 yards in the air and 238 yards on the ground.

The game will also see multiple facets return to South Florida as 19 players on the Thundering Herd roster went to high school in South Florida.

Former assistant head coach and offensive line coach Alex Mirabal — a Panther alum from 1993 — will make his first return to the South Florida area after being fired from the program following the Mario Cristobal release.

The game will kick off at FIU Stadium at 6 p.m.

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FIU looks to improve both sides of the ball

STEVEN ROWELL
Staff Writer

After a loss to Florida Gulf Coast University on Nov. 8, and also before hitting the road for three straight games, senior guard Jerica Coley and sophomore guard Taylor Shade cited things that the Panthers must improve on.

The Panthers already with obstacles such as the absence of senior center Marita Davydova, and also with many players playing with limited experience on their belt, FIU is still looking for improvement on the defensive end.

“We just need to work on our defense a lot, we play man and we switch, so it’s not like a huge scheme we just got to play better defense,” Coley said.

“We need team defense; individually we have our strengths and weaknesses but if we can get it down together as a team I think that will be the turning point for us going on the road,” Shade said.

So far to start the season the Panthers have allowed both Florida Gulf Coast and the University of Central Florida to do damage in the paint.

In their loss to FGCU, FIU allowed the Eagles to score 46 points in the paint and in their Nov. 15 loss to UCF, the Knights put up 42 points in the paint.

FIU hasn’t been hurt by three-pointers as they have allowed a combined 6 makes on 24 attempts in their first two games. In their first two games, however they have allowed their opponents to penetrate and also reach the free throw line.

While defense is something FIU is seeking improvement in, the Panthers also look to reverse the turnovers from 30 against FGCU to 15 against UCF.

“We are still figuring out our offense a little bit, like coach said we are still figuring out each other because there are a lot of new people so we have to get used to each other and how people are going to play us,” Coley said.

They were able to cut down the turnovers from 20 against FGCU to 13 against UCF and the points off turnovers from 30 against FGCU to 15 against UCF.

Another trend that hasn’t gone FIU’s way is the edge in fast break points. For a team that likes to run and play up-tempo, the Panthers have only two fast break points in two games. Against FGCU, they were outscored 16-0 on the fast break, and UCF outscored FIU 16-2.

As FIU seeks to do damage in the offense in sync, they will have to do it without Davydova whose return is still uncertain, who was the Panther’s second leading scorer last season and their top rebounder. Davydova’s only action this season was in an exhibition game on Oct. 27 against Nova Southeastern.

“Shes a huge contributor on offense, defense, and rebounds so we definitely have to adjust now,” Coley said.

Panthers fall to 6-2, look to bounce back at Harvard

Against UCF, unlike the game against FGCU, neither team led by double digits as UCF pulled away down the stretch over FIU 71-66. Coley led FIU by scoring 25 points on 11-25 shooting. Sophomore Brianna Wright added 12 points her first double figure scoring game of her career. For UCF, senior forward Sara Djassi led the way with 23 points.

Next up, the Panthers travel to Cambridge, Mass. to take on Ivy League opponent Harvard College on Nov. 19. Harvard is 3-1 and currently on a three game winning streak.

The Crimson are coming off a 84-56 win over North Dakota State University. Harvard is led by senior guard Christine Clark who is averaging 18.2 points per game and is coming off a 21 point outing against NDSU.

Harvard so far is 9-7, 7.5 turnovers a game including an average of 7.5 steals per game.

“Shes a huge contributor on offense, defense, and rebounds so we definitely have to adjust now,” Coley said.
The Swimming and Diving season for FIU has been nothing but successful. The squad has shown improvement from all aspects of the game. From the new freshman class to the well experienced seniors, the entire team is stepping up. The coaching staff has also created a positive impact on the team by ensuring a better performance season by season since their arrival.

This was a hopeful season by the Panthers, but not many would have predicted such an immediate success from these Swimmers. This season is highlighted on both sides of the pool, in the diving platforms as much as the swimming pool, and having a balance of these two sports has given the Panthers the edge over their opponents.

Getting things started from the beginning with their first matchup against Florida Atlantic University in which they posted a season high 175 points and a victory that also marked the largest win for the Panthers over the FAU Owls in the history of the rivalry. After the win against the Owls FIU has gone on to defeat the University of North Florida with a score of 140-98 and most recently came up with a win against Indian River 140-101.

On the swimming platforms, it has been the senior-freshman duo that has been arguably the best in all of Conference USA. Senior Sabrina Beaupre along with freshman Lily Kaufman have dominated the diving platforms this season, this Canadian couple has shown great strength in competition along with the leadership of Sabrina and the performance of Lily. They have combined for two C-USA Divers of the Week awards, each being recipient of one, their first of this award in their careers. Beaupre was the latest to achieve this recognition with her performance against Indian River State College by winning both of her events, the one-meter and the three-meter diving competitions posting scores of 294.45 and 285.97 respectively. Kaufman was recipient of the award after her three-meter victory over the University of North Florida on Oct. 19 with a score of 270.90.

In the Swimming events, FIU has been led by senior Sonia Perez which has not lost an individual’s event this season, she also earned Swimmer of the Week honors on the UNF victory when she won both of her events, by posting a conference’s best time of 4:20.93 in the 400 IM, and an outstanding time of 58.70 on the 100m backstroke. Along with Perez, FIU saw great success with Hannah Vander sluris early in the season with impressive breaststroke times.

Head Coach Randy Horner entering his fourth year in FIU has probably been the most powerful change on this program over the years, he has worked day in and day out with these girls as well as taking recruiting to another level by having nine different countries represented in the team, he is what the swimmers call a great coach and someone that would put full trust on their divers, a method that has given him great success so far. Horner has also just announced nine new divers into the new signing class, this new recruiting class is a class he referred to as “a class that will make immediate impact on our team next fall, and can’t wait to get them to campus”.

This is a program to watch out for many years to come, FIU swimming and diving will be talked about as a legacy and somewhere anybody would be honored to be part of. It has raised their performance and standards year by year and it keeps growing at a very rapid pace. FIU has finished third in the Sun Belt Conference Championships, but entering this new season and on a new conference, they are keeping sight into taking first place this season, and coach Horner is making sure that they stay focused on the price, as to him everything is a checkpoint until the end of the season for championships and zone competitions.
LGBTQQA Initiatives creating “safe zones” with faculty training

PAOLA MOLINI
Contributing Writer

Cruel jokes, judgmental looks and even fear of using University restrooms are some of the challenges faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer students.

While this type of adversity was once considered routine, members of the faculty and staff are now challenging it.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Allies Initiatives—a national program within the Multicultural Programs and Services office—is hosting Safe Zone training on Nov. 20 to provide faculty and staff with tools and resources to address a number of situations students may encounter, like harassment, questioning their sexual orientation or “coming out.”

“The amount of harassment and victimization on campus is at an astronomical level,” said Gisela Vega, associate director of the LGBTQQA Initiatives. “This population is at a higher risk of dropping out of school than its straight counterparts.”

The Safe Zone training program has been in place for more than 25 years throughout the nation. The University began Safe Zone trainings in 1997, initially funded by The Jewish Community Foundation. Today training is funded by The Miami Foundation.

“Our office is now funded through Student Government Association,” Vega said. “It’s not institutional funding. It’s external funding, and it’s really important that we help students understand the meaning of what we are doing.”

The faculty and staff that participate in Safe Zone training assist to gain a broader perspective of issues they are not familiar with.

“A lot of times faculty and staff members come to these trainings knowing that LGBTQ students are bullied, but they only know what they’ve heard from others or what they see on the media,” Serrano said. “Safe Zone training gives volunteers a lens of what is actually affecting their students, as well as provides the resources to become better informed in helping their students succeed.”

LGBTQQA Initiative’s Safe Zone training program will take place from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center Room 155 at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

“We are here to meet the needs of our LGBTQ students and also all the needs of who we call Allies, our straight friends, to learn to appreciate and understand this community because the reality is its going to touch everyone’s life at some point,” Serrano said.

 Speakers every year to inspire and encourage the audience based on their journey as writers.

The message wants to tell people to adopt a new set of habits where everyone takes an initiative to start practicing their writing. “James Allen Hall was my pick because this happens to be my friend who is a wonderful poet, but if you go to the event, you get the benefit of not just meeting a writer who is reading up on a stage far away from you, but also you get the experience of Q&A that follows; you can ask questions,” Wade said.

Hall wrote in an email that he is looking forward to meeting the writers and students at the University. “The people of my heart, the people for whom language matters desperately.”

“People should come hear me read and expect a good time. They should expect to receive a nice smile,” he wrote. “They should expect to hear a hell of a poem. Intense feeling given eloquent form. That’s what I expect of myself and of every poet writing in America.”

“Poetry is that art form that incorporates silence: every poem begins and ends in silence, and every poem utilizes the line break, that moment of pause, of deliberation, of waffering; of quiet disquieted, of reflection pregnant with meaning,” he wrote. “My own silence as a young gay man was like that: fraught, full of meaning, of things unsaid, things waffering and left in the air, trying to take form.”

Hall’s reading will begin at 8 p.m. on the first floor outside of the bookstore in the Wolfe University Center.

“I would say, to encourage people to come, that James is a person who, if you are a poet, he wants to make you be a better poet and he gives you a way into his poetry that is exciting, new and captivating. If you think poetry is not for you, I think James is someone who would make you rethink that,” Wade said.