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Students design recycled material for fashion show

CAMILA SAENZ
Contributing Writer
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The College of Architecture and the Arts will present its second annual Eco-Couture Recycled Fashion Show at the University. Kelly Meyer, an office assistant in the Department of Architecture, was involved in last year’s show.

“The event had attracted an audience of more than 500 people,” she said. “The goal for this year’s fashion show is to attract a broader audience.”

Aimee Ajlouni, an alumna of the College of Architecture and the Arts, started the fashion show last year, allowing all students at the University to submit their designs of outfits created from recyclable material.

Once the winning designs are picked, the designers are able to recreate their ideas into actual clothes, which will be displayed by models on a runway.

The models are provided with hair and makeup assistance at the show.

Ajlouni had wanted to create this project a few years back, but she lacked resources and preparation. “Once thesis time came rolling around, I remembered this idea of a project promoting sustainability, which I had had a few years back,” she said. “Even though I would not have an abundant amount of resources, I now had enough to start the project.”

The fashion show allows for an entertaining medium of creativity for those involved in the project and those who participate in the audience, said Ajlouni.

According to her, the modern world has had a shift. “Now the public has become more ecologically aware and more inclined to protect the environment from depletion.”

Ajlouni believes that this project can become a popular event, bringing attention to a popular and current issue: recycling.

In her mind, recycling is becoming more important in the modern world. “I think that worked out [last year],” Ajlouni said. “I also wanted people to be inspired, and… that worked. Finally, I wanted to start a tradition.”

The Eco Recycled event will also display artwork promoting sustainability. It will be held on Thursday, April 2 at the Paul L. Cejas School of Architecture courtyard. The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. with a cocktail hour and live music.
Iranian-led Shiite militias fighting as US joins battle

Iraqi Shi'ite Muslim militias, angry that the government of Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has asked for American help in ejecting Islamic State fighters from the central Iraqi city of Tikrit, began Thursday withdrawing their forces from the battle, the first major break between the Iranian-trained militias and Iraq's military establishment since the Islamic State fighters from the central Iraqi city of Tikrit. 

The silence in the cockpit during the last eight minutes of doomed Germanwings Flight 9525 was broken only by the co-pilot's even breathing. Measured and controlled, the exhalings picked up by the cockpit voice recorder were enough for investigating voice of the 27-year-old who had exuded pride in his piloting job could have intentionally killed himself and all 149 on board.

Yemenis flee capital as Saudi warplanes blast Houthi rebel targets

Saudi warplanes bombarded a military airbase at Sanaa's civilian airport and struck at other strategic locations in a sudden air campaign aimed at halting the advance of Iranian-backed Houthi rebels.

Residents packed their cars and fled the capital by every available route, and local news outlets reported on at least 20 people killed and 50 wounded by the air assault, which involved more than 100 aircraft and hundreds of bombs.

Houthi authorities responded to the airstrike as the city of Sanaa is one of the most culturally diverse areas in the nation because the people are a link between both Latin America and other parts of the world. She believes that this unique space in which people could have saved their friends and family nearly a decade ago. 

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Details of Germanwings copilot's life, death emerge; friends are shocked

The wreckage of a Germanwings Flight 9525 was found in the French Alps to conclude that Andreas Lubitz was conscious and deliberate in directing the Airbus A320 to divert from its cruising altitude into a sharp and fatal descent.

Lubitz's employers, German and French authorities, his friends at a private flying club and his acquaintances and neighbors were speechless at the news that the 27-year-old who had exuded pride in his piloting job could have intentionally killed himself and all 149 on board.

Killer whale Lolita lives in inhumane conditions, activists tell court

The court hearing was packed with supporters of the animal rights group who advocate for the release of captive orcas. 

The two-day conference will begin on April 9 at 9 a.m. at the Modesto A. Maidique Conference Center. It's free and open to the public.

"You won't want to miss these speakers, as they will be some of the most memorable," said Boutaghou.

Killer whale Lolita lives in inhumane conditions, activists tell court

The government’s “rubber stamps” the license for the Miami Seaquarium despite the park keeping Lolita the killer whale in inhumane conditions, an animal rights group told a federal appeals court Tuesday.

The “highly intelligent” whale is kept in a tank that is too small and “without shelter from the hot Miami sun and without the company of another orca,” a lawyer for the Animal Defense Fund told a three-judge panel Tuesday.

Tuesday’s court battle was the latest push in a long-running campaign to free Lolita, a 20-foot, 7,000-pound killer whale that has performed at the Virginia Key marine park for over four decades. The whale, captured in the cool ocean waters of the Pacific Northwest, was recently added to a federal endangered species list, a protection given to her wild family nearly a decade ago.

The court hearing was packed with activists, some wearing T-shirts emblazoned with her name. Over the decades, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has routinely renewed the Seaquarium’s exhibitor’s license—a practice that became the focal point of a 2012 lawsuit filed by the ADF and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

At issue: Lolita’s supporters believe the annual license renewal flies in the face of the 1967 Animal Welfare Act, which calls for the “humane” care and treatment of marine mammals. Seaquarium managers have repeatedly rebuffed the accusations, saying the killer whale, long a tourist attraction, is well cared for.

A South Florida federal judge threw out the initial lawsuit, but Lolita supporters appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, which granted Tuesday’s oral arguments held in downtown Miami. 

While the debate over the fate of the whale is a publicized media event, the legal argument focused on technical matters, with the hearing delving into the arcane intricacies of internal USDA license renewal rules.

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The shrub hub: involving students in the conservation of the environment

DAYAMI PADRON
Contributing Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

The morale of the shrub hub tale is that University students are situated on a unique ecosystem that they must cherish and protect. If students were to inform themselves and their communities then defending endangered native species would be much simpler.

Last semester, graduate teacher assistant, Andrea Salas, was taking a walk on campus when she saw that her favorite native shrubs were being removed.

Salas was alarmed because, as an environmental scientist, she knows the shrubs provide homes for caterpillars and nectar for ants. They are a key component that drive various biological interactions.

The shrubs that the landscaping crew replaced were the threatened native plants known as the Bahama Senna. These are currently scattered around South Florida because their endemic pine rockland ecosystem has suffered serious habitat fragmentation.

Because the fragmented pine rocklands are located in close proximity to agricultural and urban sites, it is important that the University encourages conservation outside of designated “protected areas” through the reintegration of threatened native species. In other words, our landscape must reflect our commitment to species preservation.

In reality, the new plants are not invasive. “This happened between ECS and the Greenhouse. You can see the Clusias there,” said Salas.

She said that the Clusias are going to grow large enough to obstruct sunlight for other plants in the enclosed area outside of the greenhouse. In fact, an undergraduate student was using the outside edge of the greenhouse for a plant experiment, but the Clusias’ shade was using the inside edge of the greenhouse. The premier landscaped plants have already begun to disrupt a campus habitat.

The problem at hand stems from a lack of information. Most students and faculty probably cannot differentiate between threatened, native, and invasive species at plain sight. Those who have the knowledge to do so, are endowed a sense of responsibility and a source of frustration.

Salas spoke to her advisor, a Botanist who also studies the Bahama Senna and its interactions with other organisms and one way or the other, she managed that landscapers no longer be allowed to plant by the Greenhouse.

The ecological victory, however, was short lived. On separate occasion soon after, gardener unknowingly removed plants in the butterfly garden of the Greenhouse that were host plants for pollinators—bees like bees and butterflies that spread seeds which are also our biggest agents of biodiversity. This just goes to show that protecting species is a tricky business.

The morale of the shrub hub tale is that University students are situated on a unique ecosystem that they must cherish and protect. If students were to inform themselves, their communities then defending endangered native species would be much simpler.

Our landscapers would already know. Salas was able to explain the importance of the shrub and other threatened native plants to landscaping crew members. The men continued to apologize to her each time they see her.

She learned that the University employee in charge of their removal and selection process—choosing plants that will make the school look nicer. Usually, many of the same shrub species are planted to create a uniform aesthetic and it further decreases biodiversity.

Like Salas, University students can protect native plants on campus if they spread the word and volunteer. They can do this by volunteering at the Greenhouse, supporting research projects related to conservation, removing weeds they can recognize, planting natives and keeping themselves informed about current threats to endangered species.

Is education hurting students?

JESSICA SOLER
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The first two years of college should be reevaluated in order to really help students better decide what kind of future they want to have.

For those students who enter college unsure of their future occupational goals, the pressure of deciding on a specific path is more daunting.

From elementary through high school, students are taught the same curriculum: reading, math, science, etc. However, college is a whole other game and it’s not so clean cut.

As it is, the first two years of college are a waste of time. Entering university, students are required to take a certain number of credits from specific classes. These classes are an extension, if not an exact replica, of classes they took in high school.

Students choose a science class, a math class, a literature class and an elective class for fun. By this time in a students’ education it is a pretty established fact which subject they enjoy taking and which one they hate.

It is then from these broad subjects that students are expected to nail down their future.

Many college graduates speak of all the times they changed their major before they finally settled on one they were really interested in. While this is a good option to have, there is not enough time to take advantage of it.

Even if a student knows what they want to study before entering college they still need those first two rudimentary years.

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Students usually start taking classes geared toward their major in their third year. These introductory courses should be offered to second year students.

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The second option would be to change the major and take an additional two years studying a new major, which is expensive. The second option would to be stick with the major and finish out the final semester.

Colleges, it seems, are very interested in keeping students in school for as long as possible to make money off tuition.

By taking away those first two years, students only have another two years to figure themselves out.

Even if a student has picked a major, the class selection for some of them is so limited students have no choice but to push their graduation date farther and farther back.

Ideally, college should be a learning experience. For most students, college is too expensive for them to really explore all their options.

The first two years of college should be dedicated to providing students with the opportunity to explore different areas of learning to see what subjects really interest them.
Flash and Arrow episodes: ‘exciting’ and ‘incredible’

Flash

We pick up right where we left off on our last exciting episode of “The Flash.” And it still had that exciting feeling! It leaves off right where Barry ends up a day in the past and is confused and finishing everybody’s sentences for them, in turn, freaking them out. With the timeline all screwed up, we had no idea what was going to happen next!

This episode really delivered for a few reasons. One, we got our good ol’ Cisco back alive and being the dork that we all love him for. Two, for giving Barry the confidence he needed to talk to Iris (I’ll get to that later). And three, this episode gave us insight into what Barry now can do and what he wants to do with it.

When Barry kept going around all confused and finishing up sentences for others, I kept facepalming myself because I knew that things were going to get bad. Because now he’s fudging with the timeline and possibly creating alternate scenarios that were never supposed to happen.

Hello? Butterfly Effect, anyone? We all know that if you fudge with time just even a smidge, you create an entirely different future for yourself.

To continue, Barry, now that he thinks he knows how Iris feels about him, is feeling confident enough to not even worry that Linda breaks up with him, because he feels as if he can just run into Iris’s arms. Well, that worked out. Not.

The entire time that conversation was happening, I was picturing Genie from Aladdin as the bee yelling “MAYDAY! MAYDAY!” That was the ultimate crushing and burning.

Cisco winds up captured by Captain Cold and Heat Wave and is forced to tell Cold who The Flash really is, otherwise he’d kill Cisco’s older brother. Even though his older brother’s a total jerk, he still saved him.

This episode ended in a way that I never imagined a superhero fight would end, the two combatants actually TALKED out their problems. Flash was able to talk Captain Cold into not fighting him and to not harm his family members, he’d put him out of commission. This was a new experience for me and I have to say that I approve of it.

Finally, Barry starts to get that doubt in his mind about Dr. Wells/Thawne being not all who he seems to be.

Arrow

What a way to get a city to turn against their hero, right? The League of Assassins took it upon themselves and followed in the footsteps of their master, Ra’s Al Ghul, and committed several murders while disguised as the Arrow.

This left Ray Palmer with a very bad taste in his mouth about our beloved Arrow and made the decision to “stop” the Arrow’s string of murders.

I’ll tell you one thing, the choreography of the fight between the several Arrows was incredible! It was fluid and well played out. It was continuing at first, when I was watching the fight go on. But once I figured out which one Ollie was again, I had no trouble following through to the end with that fight scene. Back to the plot, Olicity is sort of a thing again. By that I mean because of how the conversation between Felicity and Ray went down, when Ray found out that Oliver is indeed the Arrow and feels backstabbed by Felicity because of all of her previous works with Oliver. I felt like I was watching a Batman versus Superman segment when they went face to face. You saw a man who could fly and was strong, in the suit, going up against a man without any powers and only had tactics and skill sets. Of course, guess who won that bout?

This episode also incorporated the Suicide Squad. If you’ve been keeping up with the show, you know who comprises this team.

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Lavender is created when pink and black mix

The Patricia Frost Museum has hosted a Chinese exhibition "Writing Between Heaven and Earth" in part by the artist Xu Bing, and curated by Professor Lidu Yi. The series displays the "shu" art (meaning books and the act of writing) in his innovative printmaking approaches, marvelous installations, and calligraphy about words with meanings and meanings without words. The Square Word Calligraphy transforms English words by replicating them in the form of Chinese calligraphy. By courtesy of the Xu Bing Studio, his work is attributed with the influence from his revolutionary training during childhood. Ever since the Mao Zedong Revolution, Xu Bing had been driven to scrutinize everything he was familiarized with, including language. It wasn’t until Mao’s death in 1976 which brought about a significant shift in China. Upon returning to Beijing, Xu Bing was allowed a spot in the printed department of Central Academy of the Arts in 1987 after illustrating a newsletter. The exhibit has been on display as of Feb. 21 and will finalize until May 24.

Pride Guide will take a deeper look into the LGBT community at FIU and produce a column that will consist of keen analysis within the daily lives of LGBT students and faculty. Make sure to read more and fiusm.com.

chris.portilla@fiusm.com

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MOVIE: Run All Night
RATING: 3/5

Rafael Abreu in usual brooding-but-butt-kicking form. Kinnaman does a real good job in convincing me of who he is and that his past is a bit of a troubled one.

Ed Harris as Jimmy’s old friend and eventual enemy is very good, too, although it’s not like this role is some sort of breakthrough for him or anything.

Still, like Neeson, he does a good job with the material he’s given. One of the actors that did surprise me was Common, mainly because he played the role so well. He may just be playing a hitman with no backstory or characterization, but it’s clear who he is and what he plans to do. He also manages to be memorable, thanks to what he wears and the weaponry he uses.

The film’s biggest problem has to be its story, which can be blamed on the direction. The story, for the most part, is fine, but this sort of material probably could have been handled better, because the film moves at a brisk pace, and the editing made me feel like it was all in a hurry, with scenes sometimes moving too quickly. However, there are also scenes that take their time, feature good camera positions, editing and the like. I think Collet-Serra felt the action scenes needed to be frantic when they really didn’t have to be, but at least it none of it ever gets disorienting.

"Run All Night" is an alright film, one that’s enjoyable, but not worth writing home about.
Rios leads Panthers with offensive punch

CAPTAIN’S CORNER

Entering the part of the season where Conference USA games will be played, it is crucial for the Panthers to get as many wins as possible.

By getting many wins they will receive a high seed when they enter the C-USA tournament and other schools will notice that FIU is a tough school to beat.

To become a team like this every game counts and to be a force in the conference its all about playing as a team.

One specific player that stepped up in the team’s first C-USA home series against Charlotte was junior Edwin Rios.

For his historic offensive performance, he was named the Conference USA Hitter of the Week for the week ending March 22.

His numbers speak for themselves. Rios had a .389 batting average and hit four home runs and eight RBI for the Panthers in a four game span.

He made his biggest mark in the Charlotte series in the second game when Rios went a perfect 4-for-4, including a double and three home runs with six RBI.

He was the headline player for that game as FIU beat Charlotte by an astonishing score of 23-1.

His six RBI were a career-high and three home runs in that game tied the FIU school record for most homeruns in a single game.

He also became the first C-USA player to record three long balls in a game since Rice’s Anthony Rendon on June 5, 2010.

He followed up that amazing performance by going 2-for-4, including another home run and two RBI in Sunday’s series clinching win, 7-5.

Overall, he had an amazing series one that he will never forget as he led his team to a series victory with a .583 batting average in which he collected seven hits from four of which were home runs to go with eight RBI.

He finished the weekend with 20 total bases and a slugging percentage of 1.667 and an on-base percentage of .643.

With having multiple players hitting the way Rios has been as of late, this can be one very dangerous FIU lineup that many opposing pitchers could fear.

By the way Rios was hitting last weekend, fans and opponents wouldn’t have thought he was in a slump prior to the Charlotte series.

Rios entered the series hitting a measly .214. After the series, he improved his batting average 54 points during the three-game set and is now hitting .268.

Rios is one of the players on this talented squad that is heavily relied on to be a leader on and off the field. Even though his batting average doesn’t say much he still makes a positive impact on the team.

This season, Rios has driven in team-high 21 runs and has recorded team best six home runs.

Those types of numbers are very impressive especially since conference play has just begun. Hopefully Rios can continue this in C-USA play and other players can follow his exciting play.

With having multiple players hitting the way Rios has been as of late, this can be one very dangerous FIU lineup that many opposing pitchers could fear.

This is the first time Rios receives this award and is the second time C-USA Hitter of the Week honor has been given to a FIU baseball player.

Last year’s standout catcher and best hitter hands down, Aramis Garcia, was the first one to get it on March 10, 2014.

Golf player receives consecutive C-USA honors

STEFANO RIERA
Contribution Writer

The women’s golf team has had a successful season so far. Dating back to mid-September, the team has been competing in events throughout the country.

The Panthers have finished in the top five in eight of their nine events, including a first place finish in the 2015 Amelia Island Collegiate in Amelia Island, Florida.

A large part to the team’s success has been the performance of Junior Meghan MacLaren. MacLaren, a United Kingdom native, earned second consecutive Conference USA Golfer of the Week award.

This is her fourth time receiving the award this season, and fifth time throughout her career. She has accounted for eight of the eleven top ten individual finishes for the Panthers this season. This includes three first-place finishes.

As a Freshman, MacLaren was named Sun Belt Conference Freshman of the Year, First-Team, and All Tournament Team.

As a Sophomore, she finished 12th at the C-USA Championships and shot a season low 68 in the last round of the Championships.

MacLaren has also participated in International Competitions throughout her career. She won the 2013 Irish Women’s Open Amateur Stroke Play in Dublin as she shot a three round score of 218.

At the 2012 Girls’ Home International Championship at Radly Wales, she scored the title-winning point as her team won.

On March 18, she got her first award of the back-to-back by placing tenth in the Notre Dame Clove Cup in Mesa, Arizona.

In the 54 hole event, MacLaren posted an 8-over 224, including 15 pars, helping the Panthers place fifth.

Last week, MacLaren and the Panthers participated in the Mountain View Collegiate in Tucson, Arizona. MacLaren shot 7-under 209, which was good enough to achieve medalist honors for the event.

The 209 was a personal best for her, just passing her 211 she posted at the Pat Bradley Invitational back in November.

Her score this past week also marked the fourth time she finished a tournament under par this season. She would later be named C-USA Golfer of the Week.

Not only did MacLaren improve on her own personal record, she helped the Panthers post a season record of 861 during the three-round tournament.

MacLaren propelled the team to a 3-under par finish, which was good for second place behind No. 41 Ohio State University.

The Panthers finished ahead of No. 28 Iowa State University and No. 38 Purdue University.

MacLaren and the Panthers are off until the C-USA Championships on April 20-22 in Fort Myers, Florida.

The team will need the leadership that MacLaren has provided all season in order to maintain momentum into upcoming events.
Marlins linked to anything but baseball... shocking

Being in existence only 22 years the Miami Marlins are still a pretty young team for MLB standards. Given that this franchise hasn’t been around for such a long time, they are still known for making some jaw dropping decisions and have had some head scratching moments as well.

You can add another one to the list as now the Marlins could have a potential “gamble” on the team. Another moment in Marlins history that just makes you want to say What?

Right handed pitcher Jarred Cosart is accused of violating MLB’s gambling rules. The MLB and the Marlins’ front office became aware of this situation this past Tuesday, March 24.

According to MLB guidelines it states, “Players are allowed to legally gamble on sports other than baseball. But if it is proven that he was betting on baseball, there are stiff penalties.

If he bet on a baseball game he wasn’t involved in, it’s an automatic one-year suspension. If he bet on a game he was involved in, he’s banned for life.”

Cosart still isn’t a household name to Marlins fans compared to other players on the roster. That’s due to him being acquired by the Marlins at the trade deadline last July.

Once in a Marlins uniform he instantly made an impact on the pitching rotation and helped push for a wild card berth. Now he is making an impact on the team off the field as he coincidently deleted his official Twitter account Tuesday night.

The reason for this was screenshots of a conversation from himself to a gambling expert were leaked by a third party using the same social media outlet.

MLB has taken full control over this and is still investigating this issue. MLB spokesman Pat Courtney confirmed Wednesday morning the commissioner’s office was investigating the matter.

The main issue that is still up in the air is whether or not Cosart gambled on baseball or he betted on another sport.

Any true baseball fan when hears the word “gambling” always thinks of one of the greatest players ever, Pete Rose. You can say that he was probably one of the greatest hitters in all of baseball history but even with all the hits and awards he received his reputation will forever be tarnished for betting on baseball games.

At 24 years old, Cosart has a long and hopefully successful career ahead of him. But all it takes is one knucklehead move to change one’s path from great to mediocrity and hopefully this isn’t the case for Jarred Cosart.

Twenty-two years in the league and the Marlins are known for fire sales, corrupt front offices, having no fan base and now a player that gambles.

Even with having one of the younger teams in baseball there is nothing innocent here with this ball club.

Can’t they do anything right on that team and not have any drama for once? Only in Miami.

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A win over #3 Notre Dame University, their Elite Eight opponent, on Saturday would move them into a tie for second-most wins in a season.

The team would join teams such as Kentucky’s 2012 squad in the record books at 37 wins on the season.

The University of Memphis holds first place for most wins in a single season with 38, which the Wildcats would tie them for with a win over the champion of the West in the Final Four.

No team in Division I NCAA men’s basketball history has ever gone 39-0 in a single season, but Kentucky can achieve the feat with a win in the championship game.

With every game, the stakes rise not just for Kentucky, but also for college basketball history.

Only time will tell if they will be able to cement their place in the record books.
SGC-BBC Presidential Candidates push for more campus life

More student-campus involvement, on-campus class options and Greek life are concerns being tackled by Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council presidential candidates.

Allhan Mejia, a junior business major and Christopher Morisset, a senior biology and hospitality and management major, face each other to be the next SGC-BBC President for the 2015-2016 year term. Mejia, who has been involved in the SGC-BBC since fall 2013, said his main concern is making the council more accessible and transparent to students.

He said students are not informed enough about what is being made available for them. “Sometimes students don’t realize what we negotiate for them and when they kind of just see us like [the] office in the third floor of the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. In the same way, Mejia said the council needs to be more up to date on student needs. As President, he plans to establish a group called Street Team, much like the one at the University of South Florida’s Student Government, to help promote student government involvement, projects and initiatives.

“My reason behind being President is so that I can make this as student-friendly as I possibly can, and I know I’ll have a limited amount of time to do it. Although you only have a year term, you can plant the seeds for future things,” Mejia said.

On the other hand, Morisset said he is focused on building a stronger relationship between the Biscayne Bay Campus and the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. He said this would increase campus life involvement at the North Campus.

“If I do get elected, I will still continue [to bring] awareness — actually involving FIU to the North Miami community a little bit more,” Morisset said. “I think building that would be a great stepping stone for FIU.”

Morisset has been involved in the SGC-BBC since fall of 2011. He said he has learned a lot from different individuals and would like to take on the legacy as President.

In addition to creating the Street Team group, Mejia said he would also like to help bring more classes at the BBC for students in business and administration and the College of Arts and Sciences.

“Throughout the years, we’ve been fighting to get more classes here because some students want to come to this campus but don’t have the opportunity because classes aren’t offered here,” Mejia said. He said that the possibility of having more classes at the BBC would probably not be resolved in a year.

However, he believes that once there is student housing in fall 2016, that would open opportunities. Samantha Pierre-Louis, a freshman health service administration major, agrees that not enough classes are being offered at the North Campus.

“BBC has a lot of land. Instead of expanding MMC, which is already huge, look into expanding BBC as a campus that more people could come,” Pierre-Louis said. “It shouldn’t have to be that you can’t pick classes.”

Pierre-Louis also said that her favorite campus is the BBC because of its tranquil setting. However, most of her classes have only been offered at the MMC, forcing her to pay $10 weekly to use the Golden Panther Express.

Nonetheless, she said she is content with last year’s opening of the Panther Plaza and the Panther sculpture. “It added the more university feeling to it. They’re always progressing, doing, getting something done,” she said.

Finally, both Mejia and Morisset hope to expand Greek life presence at the BBC as a way to improve campus life.

“I feel like if Greek life is here, that would allow or increase student involvement overall,” said Mejia. “[I] feel like some students want to do it, but they don’t want to travel to go to South Campus.”

“I don’t think MMC should be the only one to have [Greek life],” said Morisset. “We’re two campuses, but we’re one FIU.”

The final SGA Candidates Debate will take place Monday, March 30 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Panther Square. Voting will take place Tuesday, March 31 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Registrar’s Office.

Michael Slackman, international journalist and correspondent to lecture at Biscayne Campus

The University’s Student Government Association announced that Michael Slackman, International Managing Editor of The New York Times, will be guest speaker at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The event is dedicated to Slackman’s experience as a national and international journalist and correspondent.

According to Rafael Zapata, Associate Director of Campus Life and SGA Advisor, the lecture will cover Slackman’s experience at The New York Times.

“I believe one of the purposes of the lecture will be to educate students about the importance of cultural understanding in journalism today,” he said.

Prior to his current position as international managing editor, Slackman served as deputy foreign editor of global coverage with a focus on the Middle East, Europe and Russia. He also worked as Berlin Bureau Chief for The New York Times, covering Germany and Eastern Europe, as well as Cairo Bureau Chief reporting in the Middle East.

Slackman also worked as a government and politics reporter in New York covering local, state and national politics -- including the presidential race in 2004. He was part of the team of reporters to win the Pulitzer Prize in 1997 for breaking news.

Larissa Adames, SGA coordinator, thinks that Slackman’s appearance at the University will bring great things for students.

“This lecture is an opportunity for FIU students to ask questions to Mr. Slackman about his job outside of the United States and how to be prepared for the working force,” she said. The summit will focus on the importance of covering international news and will be followed by a question-and-answer session with students and the general public. Slackman will also make an appearance on Wednesday, April 1 at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

SGA is currently involved in a partnership with The New York Times.

According to Adames, the partnership contributes to the realization of events and lectures related to topics of interest for students.

“Thanks to the partnership between Florida International University and The New York Times, there is a variety of events and recognized guest speakers that provide knowledge and advice to our students,” she said.

Juan Gómez, graduate student of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, is glad that an event like this is coming to the University.

“This is an interesting lecture, specially for students who are pursuing a career in journalism,” said Gómez.

“These kinds of events and the participation of guest speakers, like Michael Slackman, help us to understand the world of journalism, as well as to identify the requirements of becoming a good journalist in this competitive area. Mr. Slackman will provide us tips of how to cover relevant international news,” he said.

This event will take place at the University’s Biscayne Bay Campus Wolfe University Center Ballrooms on March 31. The talk will begin at 3 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

“This lecture is important for FIU students because it gives them the opportunity to hear first hand about international news reporting,” said Zapata. “Mr. Slackman’s experience and expertise should provide some insights into this particular journalism world.”