Society.

Nyman spoke of her experience helping the University as a solution maker that tackles a variety of issues, they want to continue changing.

Through the listed involvements, Nyman said that she was able to serve the University community as a leader and a mentor.

For Nyman, her experience helping the University has been different. Nyman spoke of her experience with the Model United Nations team at the MMC. At these events, she plans on engaging students and asking them what areas that may be used as student space in order for students to get to study on campus and build a sense of affinity with the University.

Both have already gone around campus with University administration to identify areas that may be used as student space in order for students to get to study on campus and build a sense of affinity with the University.

Giancarlo Becerra, director of federal relations in the University’s Office of Governmental Relations, for a funding plan for the proposed program. They are also reaching out to other departments for help.

One of the projects she plans on continuing to assist Calatayud with is the creation of student space on campus. While the average percentage of student space on a university campus is 20 percent, the University is falling behind with just 4 percent of student space.

One of the items she plans on asking her to make a donation to her alma mater.

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I never see anyone from student government around school. Whoever wins next should fix this.

Yolanda Puchades
Junior Psychology

The discussion then moved to a topic on the public good and the University’s role in influencing it.

In terms of how she may help the University with strengthening its influence on the public good, Nyman focused her discussion on alumni relations. She cited an instance in which a friend of her who graduated from the University received a letter in the mail within a week asking her to make a donation to her alma mater.

Nyman believes that there are better ways of reaching out to alumni, and part of her and Stefan Bahad’s platform is connecting current students and alumni through the form of internships and other leadership development opportunities that may influence the public good.

For Roman-Biffa, on the other hand, her focus is set on different sights.

She and Calatayud are working to designate the University as an Ashoka campus, a designation that distinguishes colleges and universities considered to be hubs of solution-making. Although both women already consider the University as a solution maker that tackles a variety of issues, they want to continue changing.

A critical part of running SGA is the ability of both the president and vice president to work together.

As far as Nyman was concerned, her plan was to divide the platform items between Bahad and herself.

One of the items she plans on overseeing is the street team, an organized group of SGA representatives that wear bright-colored shirts, and carry iPads around campus with the intention of engaging students and asking them what their issues and concerns are and how SGA may be of assistance.

When it was Roman-Biffa’s turn, she responded by saying that she and Calatayud are already a team.

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Some students are concerned about communication between themselves and the SGA representatives.

“I never see anyone from student government around school,” said Yolanda Puchades, a junior psychology major. “Whoever wins next should fix this.”

Roman-Biffa plans on reaching out to the student body by holding breakfasts, similar to the ones that were held earlier in the year in the Betty Chapman Plaza at the MMC. At these events, she plans on engaging students and asking them to communicate their concerns about the University.

Part of her plan also includes attending send-off sessions for Panther Camp and informing the freshmen there of the opportunities to engage with SGA.

Nyman’s sights are with her street team and the possibility of actively reaching out to students in areas they frequent.

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SEE SGA, PAGE 2
Iran nuclear talks head into extra day as US, partners agree progress being made

After more than a decade of on-again, off-again debate about Iran’s nuclear future and six intense days of negotiations in this toby lakeside resort, officials from the world’s most powerful nations on Tuesday set aside a self-imposed midnight deadline and agreed to talk some more.

State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said the announcement eight hours before the deadline was made in order to give diplomats a chance to make a ‘judgment’ of whether to extend talks.

The Iran interim nuclear deal was reached in September 2013 and sets out a framework for a comprehensive agreement that would end international sanctions against Iran in return for nuclear concessions.

It was due to expire at midnight Tuesday, but Harf said representatives from the US and Iran agreed to extend talks through Wednesday.

The US and its partners pushed for the talks to continue and avoid a deadline which they were concerned could lead to an agreement being reached not by ‘mutual consent’ but out of concern the other side would get tougher.

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Cinderella increases female empowerment

JESSICA HIERRO
Contributing Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

I remember when I was just a kid, my dad would play Mario Bros. with me on the Nintendo Entertainment System instead of reading a book before bedtime. It was the best.

The love of video games is so embedded in me to now that I realize how much they play a part in people’s growth and development; in ways both good and bad.

One of my favorite game series is The Legend of Zelda, and I find it amazing how some of the things I do in the digital world can translate into the real world.

Games can teach others of how to be aware of their surroundings. You have to know if there are enemies nearby or able to assume where they will be hiding for an ambush.

Video games teach players how to think critically in different situations in order to move on to the next step. It makes people think “what do I have to do next?” and be swift in their decision-making to formulate a strategy quickly. Problem solving skills are also enhanced, which increases confidence that they are making the right moves.

In almost every single game genre, there is a need for strategy to be victorious.

What I find amazing is how video games can be a stress reliever. There’s nothing better than button-mashing the stress away after a long day.

It forces people to look to the details of how things work and how their actions will create a reaction in hopes it will be to their benefit. Memory skills develop as the game storyline progresses and players need to recall what gear they have and how to use it in the best way.

What I find amazing is how video games can be a stress reliever. There’s nothing better than button-mashing the stress away after a long day.

There has even been scientific research on how video games can help those who have mental health problems such as ADHD. Alzheimer’s disease.

I’m not saying that video games are perfect. Like everything, they should be taken in moderation.

Video games can easily turn into an addiction, given how much they stimulate the brain. They should be played in moderation.

Consider the following: A strong, female lead doesn’t always mean that video games are male centered. Video games can be enjoyed by anyone.

A chick-flick is usually some sweet, romantic drama where the audience is waiting for the two main characters to finally get together.

Things aren’t so simple anymore. If I were to ask you whether “The Hunger Games” or “Divergent” were action movies or chick-flicks, what would you respond? They’re action movies with a nice touch of romance to spice things up.

Men may assume these movies are chick-flicks because the protagonists just so happen to be women. I wouldn’t call them sexist, but they are used to the idea of women being the heroines.

The new Cinderella mantra, “have courage and be kind,” is a great one to live by. I know many viewers would have all preferred it if Cinderella socked the dayslights out of her evil step-mother at the end of the movie, but staying true to what she believed in - by forgiving her - was empowering in itself.

A strong, female lead doesn’t always have to get down and dirty to be respected. Things are changing.

If you check out the music scene, there is a pretty strong group of female artists dominating the charts, including Beyoncé and Taylor Swift.

On the professional front, there are many powerhouses like Barbara Walters, Oprah and J. K. Rowling who are each successful in their own right.

Female empowerment is when life throws a woman for a loop and she sees herself through to the end, holding onto her beliefs and never letting her spirit die.

The most obvious sign that the seesaw is beginning to balance towards genders, though, is in the movie industry, as there has been an incredible rise in the number of action movies with female heroes, like Katniss.

University professor, Sherry Gache, explained how this trend is a cultural reflection of today.

“It goes along with the idea of women coming up in every aspect of society, in every institution,” Gache said. “From academia, to politics, to business, with more women in the boardroom, more women in Congress, more women in any kind of power position.”

Female empowerment is when life throws a woman for a loop and she sees herself through to the end, holding onto her beliefs and never letting her spirit die. That’s the story of Cinderella.
Leyanis Diaz wins Miss Black and Gold for 2015

KRISTYN PUGH Contributing Writer ktp@fiusm.com

Leyanis Diaz was crowned Miss Black and Gold 2015 on Sunday night, March 29 in the Graham Center Ballrooms at the Miami Dade Community College North Campus.

After two and half months of rehearsals, late nights and photo shoots, the time had arrived. There were six contestants selected to compete in the Miss Black and Gold 2015. Andrew Jones, vice president of the Tau Delta chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity directed the pageant this year.

“I wanted to take this opportunity and try something new and see how I can use leadership skills in a new thing,” said Jones.

There were well over 30 applicants but only six women were selected to participate. These women were selected as a result of their GPA, school and community involvement and embodiment of true womanhood, not just physical attributes.

“That’s why we chose the girls we chose, we are very particular,” said Jones.

First runner up, Tatyana Brown from singing duo “Karma” and audience received performances of piano playing, singing and many different genres of dance styles. During intermissions, the audience received performances from singing duo “Karma” and solo performance by singer Giovanna Joseph. Later during the evening gown segment, each contestant was asked the same question from a judge, “What is your stand in race relations in the United States and do you think there is anything that can be done about it?”

“I believe there is a lot wrong when it comes to racial relations in the United States and many things can be done such as different social reforms to help make this country a better place,” said Whitney Joseph, contestant number two.

After the talent and formal wear segments, the Former Miss Black and Gold 2014, Camille Gayle, graced the stage one final time with her crown.

“I can thank the Tau Delta chapter enough for giving me this opportunity. So much has happened in my life and one thing that remained constant was their support and love for me,” Gayle said.

The hosts were ready to crown the new Miss Black and Gold 2015. All of the contestants were presented with appreciation plaques.

Second runner up was contestant number three, Briana Rojo and first runner up was contestant number five.

Tatyana Brown also won Miss Congeniality and best talent. Miss popular was contestant number four, Leyanis Daiz, who was also crowned Miss Black and Gold 2015.

“I didn’t expect to win. I wanted to win of course, but after the show I felt like I was going to be third or second place,” Diaz said.

Diaz is a senior broadcast journalism major who plans to get a master’s in Spanish-language journalism from the University at receipt of her undergraduate degree this year.

Diaz is a proud member of Phi Mu sorority and has been since fall 2013.

“I just laughed about it and was actually more upset about the song being wrong,” said Diaz.

Diaz shared her thoughts on the whole event.

“I enjoyed working with the other ladies and this overall was a great experience...very special I will hold on to it,” Diaz said.

Crystal Pugh/The Beacon

First runner up, Tatyana Brown during the evening wear segment with her escort, a member of Tau Delta chapter Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

Jazz in the Gardens: A decade of jazz

CATIUN HOGAN Contributing Writer lh@fiusm.com

The total was 71,000 people, All of those people came out to the Sun Life Stadium in Miami Gardens for the “Jazz in the Gardens” 10th annual music festival on March 21 and 22. The Women’s Impact Conference and Luncheon kicked off the weekend on Friday, March 20, at the Miramar Cultural Center with the chapter members singing “THERE’S NO ‘S’ ON MY CHEST BUT A HERO LIVES WITHIN.”

The conference featured keynote speaker reality show personality Omarosa Manigault and R&B vocalist Howard Hewett. This was followed by the 2nd Annual Friday Night Pre-Party, hosted by comedian and radio personality Rickey Smiley, featuring The D.M.C. Band, a comedy show, live entertainment and dancing.

Rickey Smiley and D.L. Hughley Saturday and Sunday as well. The impressive line-up included local artists Karina Iglesias of “The Voice” and John Erinosho, followed by Sheikh E., Men of Soul, Toni Braxton and R. Kelly. Sunday’s acts were local artist Valerie Tyson, the Jazz in the Gardens Allstar Band, Brian Culbertson, Run-D.M.C., Erykah Badu and Maxwell.

Mayor Oliver Gilbert of the City of Miami Gardens stated, “This signature event was birthed from humble beginnings with just 1,800 people in attendance our first year. I am proud to have watched this festival grow in number and esteem and reach this landmark of 10 years.”

Along with the lineup, there were more than 40 exotic food vendors present, a Vendor Marketplace, an outdoor gallery exhibiting professional local artist’s paintings and merchandise being sold for fans to support their favorite jazz and R&B artists. Welcome to all ages and for anyone who can appreciate jazz, neo soul, R&B, and hip-hop, University students are encouraged to attend JITG next year.
Mr Wonderful’ rock on LP

LATELY, I’VE heard people either give concern or flak in regard to “The Last Man on Earth” not being good anymore. According to some of these folk, the show has gone downhill ever since the beginning with the introduction of other characters and the run around of the same plot, like Phil not getting over Melissa. Also, according to these people, the show is no longer funny.

That last one I don’t understand, since for me the show has remained just as hilarious as ever, if not more so.

Episode 7, “She Drives Me Crazy” continues with Phil not getting over Melissa and everyone learning that she and Todd are having sex – all the time. This bothers Phil so much that in a hilarious scene involving a town meeting, he tries to vote to make the sex sessions less frequent, but he ends up being voted to clean up his toilet pool.

Soon, he devises a plan to strand Todd in the middle of nowhere during a long car trip, but after driving off, then reversing, then driving off, then reversing again and again, he decides against it.

It shows that Phil isn’t all that bad and even Todd thinks he’s a nice guy. And then again, Todd thinks everyone’s nice.

“I could be nicer,” said Phil, as he realizes that he could use some improvement, leading us to the next scene of him really seriously trying to clean out his pool.

Then comes episode 8, “Mooovin’ In” and for the first time in several episodes, the dynamic changes.

Phil stops being so concerned about Melissa and Todd and more concerned about his standing in the community.

He starts thinking that he isn’t being respected or appreciated, and after venting to his sports ball friends at the bar, he realizes he needs to do something amazing to make them all notice him. Enter a random cow, which Phil thought would be great to butcher, but everyone else is naturally against that.

In fact, Todd used to spend time on his uncle’s ranch, so he knows how to take care of a cow! As one can imagine, Phil is less than pleased.

Will Forte is great at facial expressions, and these episodes really demonstrate that as we see him take a smile, hide pain, or pretend to be in pain or surprise. Every emotion Phil has feels genuine or genuinely phony, and the rest of the cast is just as excellent at either being funny, serious or sweet.

Of the many moments I loved in these episodes, a very nice one comes at the end of “Mooovin’ In.” After finding the cow Phil lets loose in another attempt to win sympathy after bringing it back, Todd decides to let Phil take all the credit for finding it.

Todd explains that Phil means so much to him and that letting him take credit for finding the cow seems righteous.

Phil comes off as truly touched, and right as he says he doesn’t want to take the credit, the scene transitions immediately to him announcing to everyone that he found the cow.

One thing these episodes further demonstrate is that Phil has become very unlikable.

While I might not mind and enjoy seeing him fail as well as see him succeed, I fear many people’s complaints will be something along the lines of “how can we root for such an unlikable character?”

Indeed, this is a problem if you’re rooting for Phil. I, for one, am merely observing Phil and his companions as they do their best to survive the post-apocalypse.

As for the future of this series, however, the direction it has been taking thus far may prove a problem for many viewers.

rafael.abreu@fiusm.com

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Tuition too expensive?

Last week, Congressman Carlos Curbelo voted to make it harder for you to pay for school.

Call Rep. Curbelo and ask him why he’s against making college more affordable:

(305) 222-0160

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400 Capitol Street, S.E, Washington, D.C. 20003 (202) 862-0300
Not authorized by any candidate or candidate’s committee.
**BASEBALL**

Panthers look to take Conference USA series against UTSA after B-CU loss

ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE
Asst. Sports Director
alejandro.aguirre@fiusm.com

After dropping their first meeting on March 24, FIU looked to bounce back and even up the season series against Bethune-Cookman. The first game between them, the Wildcats won a close one 3-2. In this past game, it was a back and forth match that went down to the end. B-CU was the team that came out victorious for the second time this season with a score of 7-4. This was a tough loss for the Panthers to take as B-CU is in a bit of a slump with an 11-21 record.

FIU was always able to bounce back after the Wildcats put runs on the board. The Panthers scored four runs on six hits and was led by sophomore JC Escarra, who went 2-for-4 with a solo home run. Freshman Jack Schaaf followed up Escarra’s performance going 1-for-1 on the night with two RBI, while drawing to the bases with doubles in both of the victories played this past weekend against the Florida Atlantic Owls.

Senior infielder Julius Gaines strikes out against the Bethune-Cookman Wildcats on Tuesday, March 31. Now at 5-4 in Conference USA competition, the Panthers play University of Texas at San Antonio on Friday, April 3 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, April 4 at 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 5 at 1 p.m.

**SOFTBALL**

Blazers of UAB next on the schedule for FIU

ALANNAH ALFONSO
Staff Writer
alannah.alfonso@fiusm.com

FIU softball will host a three game conference matchup against the UAB Blazers this Thursday, April 2 and Friday, April 3 at Felserg Field at the FIU softball stadium. Coming off a series victory against another C-USA rival, FAU, the Panthers look to come out victorious against the Blazers that come to Miami for the first time this season.

The Panthers have had dominant pitching and hitting especially by senior Krystal Garcia who cleared the bases with doubles in both of the victories played this past weekend against the Florida Atlantic Owls.

Sophomore Gabby Spallone is now leading C-USA in doubles (12) with sophomore Stephanie Teixeira (10) and Ashley Belans (9) are tied for second.

FIU has a good conference matchup against UAB and have Caitlin Attfield to look out for offensively. The junior is leading in almost every category including batting average (.495), on base percentage (.533), and hits (54). Junior Sara Beth Williamson is also one to look out for as she leads her team with 7 home runs this season tied with FIU sophomore Stephanie Teixeira.

Teixeira will definitely put the pressure on as she leads in a few of the same categories. With 38 RBIs so far this season, UAB should definitely be careful when pitching to Teixeira.

Both programs have a solid offense which will be a fun matchup to watch alongside both pitching staffs that have aces like UAB’s freshman Megan Smith and sophomore Cara Goodwin against FIU’s junior Corrine Jenkins and senior Shelby Graves. Jenkins registered her 11th career shutout victory over Florida Atlantic last weekend placing her as fourth leading in all-time Panther softball history.

It will be a great conference matchup to watch Thursday at 6 p.m. at Felsburg Field at the FIU softball stadium and a double header on Friday at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

JOIN OUR STAFF!

The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don’t be shy. Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124 or apply at fiusm.com.
The sand volleyball team has shown how strong they are this year. At the beginning of the season, the Panthers were ranked No. 9 and looked for a strong start for the program’s third year. The team has done exactly that for the first month of the season.

On Monday, March 30, the team moved up to No. 3 in the nation in the DiG Magazine Collegiate Poll. They have accomplished this with a record of 13-1, which includes twelve consecutive victories, a 3.0 record against AVCA Top 10 opponents, and a 4-1 record against DiG Magazine Top 20 teams. This is the best start to the season that the Panthers had in its short, three year existence.

The Panthers have swept three consecutive tournaments they have participated in: the UNF Sand Invitational in Saint Augustine Beach, Florida, the Tiger Sand Tournament in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and the Palmetto Invitational, South Carolina. At one point, the team went five straight matches winning, showing how dominant it can be.

The latest tournament the Panthers competed in was the Palmetto Invitational against Pepperdine University and University of South Carolina, the host. Pepperdine was ranked No. 2 in the DiG Magazine rankings before the Panthers won 3-2. The team posted the same outcome against South Carolina, which was ranking No. 17 going into the match. The Panthers used these two victories as momentum in order to jump into the No. 3 spot.

In the DiG Magazine rankings, the Panthers trail University of Southern California and University of Hawaii. The Trojans are undefeated with a record of 12-0, and the Warriors jump into the No. 2 spot with a 10-0 record.

Despite trailing those teams, the Panthers lead the way for Florida teams in the Top 10 rankings as No. 5 Florida State University and No. 9 Stetson University continue to have impressive years.

The Panthers have played both FSU and Stetson this season in the Stetson Spring Break Tournament in DeLand, Florida. The team defeated the Seminoles 3-2, which were ranked No. 2 at the time, but Stetson handed the Panthers their only loss of the season with a tightly contested, 2-3 victory at home.

They run the No. 1 spot for the team and are 13-1 in dual matches, including eleven straight wins. These players have an opposing playing style that is working for them. Samadaying at 6-foot-2, provides power needed for kills, while Licking, standing at 5-foot-9, provides speed and quickness for defense.

The team will host its first tournament of the season as it welcomes four teams to the Doctors Hospital FIU Surf and Turf Tournament on Friday, April 3 and Saturday April 4 in Miami Beach. On Friday, the Panthers will face off against Webber International University and St. Thomas University, which is currently ranked No. 15 in DiG Magazine. On Saturday, the team will compete against Carson-Newman University and Florida Atlantic University.

The Panthers will look to use their No. 3 ranking as fuel going into another tough weekend in order to maintain one of the best records in the nation.
Good Wine and Good Company

KRYSTAL C. PUGH
Contributing Writer
kpb@fiusm.com

Students no longer have to wait until Friday night happy hour to have a nice glass of wine. Friends of Wine is a social club based on the Biscayne campus that has been around since 1989. However, the club originally was apart of the school of hospitality, the club just recently branched off onto its own.

Friends of Wine meets every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. on Biscayne Bay campus in the hospitality building in the Carnival Center. Students are able to try anywhere between three to five wines paired with appetizers.

The events for the rest of this semester are free. However, in the future if there is a fee, it’ll be $5.

There are variety of events each semester with guest speakers and regional wines from all over.

On Tuesday April 7, the Friends of Wine will have the honor of Javier Fonseca speaking to them about El Carajo International Tapas -Restaurant- Wine-Shop- Bakery. Fonseca will provide further details about the restaurant and of course the wine selection and other great information.

The event to follow will be April 14 with guest speaker Eric Lake where the club will learn about dry wine. The flyer suggests the question “Is this wine dry?”

Professor Patrick Chip Cassidy, a wine professor here at the University, created Friends of Wine.

He started the club for a wine sales job he held and two of his students attended.

This encouraged him to make something similar available to students. Allowing students to taste wine and become educated on the different kinds, tastes and learn to have a greater appreciation.

The club indulges in different tastes from around the world and learn the history of them. Learning where they came from, how they came to be.

All questions about wine are answered within this club. Landie Koch, a graduate student of Hospitality and president of the Friends of Wine club encourages all students to come.

It’s a very relaxed educational environment.

“I fell in love with wine before I came to FIU. I went to a restaurant and the sommelier had me try several kinds of wine,” Koch said.

Koch said that a red wine called Bordeaux was her favorite. “After tasting wine I became so curious and kind of made wine tasting and educating myself about it, my hobby.”

Wine has often been described as poetry in a bottle, and the best wine is wine served with friends. Take a friend and go check out the club you might enjoy yourself more than you expect!

“We are a small club but we are a close-knit group.”

Alumnus wins recognition for food blog

SUDEYN NAVARRETE
Contributing Writer
sud@fiusm.com

With a zeal for food and pugs, Geoffrey Anderson, a FIU Student Media and FIU journalism alumnus, has been awarded the 2015 John Hopkins & Wales University Zest Award for best food blog by reader’s choice.

Along with his girlfriend, Dianne Rubin, he features different restaurants across Miami interviewing chefs and owners to understand their pursuit for top-notch food service. According to the JWU website, the Zest Awards honor leaders in culinary arts to celebrate South Florida’s culinary heritage.

Graduating from the University, Anderson began to visit different restaurants and it occurred to him that blogging about food was what he wanted.

After a trip to Chicago two years ago, Anderson and Rubin came up with the idea of incorporating their favorite dog with their food blog to deliver a unique idea to their followers.

“Everybody has a food blog, [but we asked], ‘How are we going to be different?’” Anderson said.

“You’re not allowed to take a pug with you inside a restaurant. The next best thing was to photoshop pugs into our food photos,” he said.

Fonseca was declared winners after a month of waiting for votes to be counted. She said they couldn’t keep calm when they were announced winners.

“The moment we won I was like ‘yeah!’” Rubin said. She said the award opens opportunities and more chances to grow as bloggers.

She said her interest in food grew after she became an English major. She enjoyed learning where they came from, how they came to be.

Both were shocked at receiving the award since their blog has only been active a few years. Other nominees were older, well-known blogs such as the Burger Beast and the Hungry Post.

Their blog started as a Tumblr page. It wasn’t until last year that they decided to go bigger and create their website miamifoodpug.com. Both said they needed to “go big, or go home.”

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They have visited restaurants in Brickell, Doral, Miami Beach, the City of Sweetwater and Wynwood, for example.

They started with restaurants and bars in Coral Gables and made their first interviews and reviews about their food service and events.

Their favorite restaurant is Sweet Dogs on Calle Ocho. It offers unique foods, especially in hot dogs. According to the blog, customers have the choice of creating their own hot dog to fit their particular tastes.

Anderson said the restaurant’s owner, Victor Ruiz, gives exceptional customer service.

“He’s the nicest and most humble man ever,” said Anderson. “[Sweet Dogs] was ranked number 12 in the top 100 restaurants in the country [according to yelp.com],” Anderson said.

They’ve been able to maintain friendships and connections thanks to the blog. “They know who we are,” Rubin said.

Rubin said the couple is planning to move together this fall with the adoption of a pug leading their interest for food and pugs to success.