University opens new Tech Station

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Like in a Google laboratory station, students are engaging with technology at the University’s new $3 million Tech Station.

Located in Parking Garage Six, the station serves as a technology hub for students to be actively engaged in technology learning experiences. The 8,000 square-foot facility opened Aug. 26.

It includes high-tech classrooms, “team rooms” where students can work on group projects, advising centers, research and computer labs, a hardware lab and open areas for workshops. It is designed by the College of Engineering & Computing for majors with the college’s School of Computing & Information Sciences.

The facility was paid through different grants by the Florida Legislature with the intention of producing more graduates for careers in the state’s highest-need areas, said Mark B. Rosenberg, president of the University at the station’s opening ceremony.

Steven Luis, director of Information Technology, Ram Lyengar, SCIS director and Mark Weiss, SCIS associate director, collaborated in creating the vision for the facility about a year ago.

The station was created in hopes to expand, provide further in-depth advanced training for students, allow students to optimize their thoughts and have room for active learning, said Luis.

Luis said the station’s location in the garage was a perfect choice since it is directly across the street from Engineering and Computer Science building.

“We could not have asked for a better location,” he said. “It makes the continuity of our operation so much easier.”

The hardware lab gives students opportunities to physically tear equipment apart and figure out how to put them back together. An advanced training room, which expands 48 machines, allows students to work with instructors and mentors from different companies.

Luis said that the University was rewarded with a Targeted Educational Attainment grant and an Information Technology Performance Funding grant to purchase the facility, build it with equipment and Japanese tatami-inspired furniture. The funding is referred to as IT performance funding.

The project was approved April 2014.

Everything in the Tech Station was designed a certain way for its different features. For example, the advising rooms are integrated in the open to better identify student struggles and to help each student reach optimal performance.

“Interventions take place in the study rooms or team rooms, where students may find study groups, peer lead discussions or teacher assistants,” Luis said. “This is another way to maximize student learning and academic variation.”

The classrooms are designed with removable seats and experimental models. The station is open to all students who use lab resources and experience what it is like to actually develop technology, said Luis.

Elliot Moncrieff said he has already worked with other students on computer assignments and has received help identifying computer coding on a technical project in the station.

“One of my classes have required me to go to the technology station yet, but I am anxious to get in there,” said Moncrieff, a junior computer engineering major.

“I like being able to stand up and ask anyone in the room about coding or breaking down a model and more than likely everyone in the room can help me because we all share the same common major and interest,” he said.

Although the technology station was designed with efforts of program technology enhancement and advance training, it is open to all students.

“We would like to see all students get involved in creating technology,” Luis said.
Panel to speak on Haitian issues

The Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs will host a panel discussion on the current crisis of deporting Haitians and the current border and migration issues between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

The panelists will include directors and professors among the FIU community, as well as a professor from Colorado State University.

The panel is set to take place on Friday, Jan. 5, from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Modesto A. Maidique Student Union Ballroom. This event is free and open to the public.

The panel discussion will ideally explore the border and migration issues between the D.R. and Haiti. This will offer students a chance to be knowledgeable and accurately educated on issues around the world.
IT'S AN ART FORM

I CALL IT "PROcrastination"

SEND US YOUR LETTERS
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.

With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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Mental health: It’s okay to seek help

Mental health in college is a difficult thing to maintain for many students.

According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, in a report they titled “An Epidemic of Anguish,” 58 percent of college campuses have seen a rise in anxiety disorders, while 89 percent have seen an increase in diagnoses of clinical depression.

Caught among stress, relationships, lack of sleep and, for most, being away from home for the first time, it’s no surprise when these statistics come to light.

This editorial board wants the students of FIU to know how and where they can get help.

Whether they need to relax, get something off their chest or even receive regular counseling sessions, Counseling and Psychological Services at FIU is an invaluable resource for students.

On the second floor of the Student Health Services building on MMC, and in WUC 320 on BBC, CAPS offers free, one-on-one short-term psychotherapy, victim empowerment measures, group counseling, workshops and testing for those struggling academically, among other services made available to all registered FIU students.

For those afraid for their privacy, they can be assured that CAPS is completely discreet. Anyone at the office will assert that if you pose immediate danger to yourself or others, they will not share any information exchanged between patient and counselor.

That said, there is a stigma that licks around the acknowledgement that one might need a little help dealing with their life as it comes. Conditions like anxiety and depression are touchy subjects, both culturally and personally.

This board is of the opinion that no one should feel ashamed at being unhappy, nor that anyone should suffer alone when so many services are made available to them.

Admitting to oneself that something is wrong is often the most difficult part of the healing process. And that’s just what healing is - a process.

It takes work to be healthy, especially when happiness is, for better or worse, not the default human condition. It’s okay to be unhappy, what really matters, though, is the action one takes to feel well.

Panthers, we’re in college - we’re supposed to be over-stressed and under-slept, but we’re also supposed to have fun. Here’s to a healthy, happy semester at FIU, and to taking control of one’s emotional well being.
**SPC celebrates Hispanic Heritage**

**LAURA GONZALEZ**  
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With more than half of the Miami population being Hispanic or Latino, FIU is never far behind in events that showcase the diverse group of students that attend.

The University is currently gearing up for Hispanic Heritage Month, from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, by having a month full of events that bring awareness to and celebrates the multi-ethnic aspect of the University.

The Student Programming Council started celebrations early, in the beginning of September, and they will continue until Sept. 25.

On Monday, Sept. 14, they held a Hispanic Heritage Pit Event in the GC Pit, in which they gave out food and SPC merchandise to promote upcoming Hispanic heritage events.

“SPC is responsible for making these events and what we wanted to do today was bring a mix of cultures with decorations and food,” said Andres Macias, one of the SPC directors in charge.

When asked about the importance of events that celebrate Hispanic and Latino culture in universities he said, “Even though we’re technically a minority, at FIU, since we’re an international school, we’re a majority. It’s about making the hispanic community feel respected.”

Leilah Collazo, 20, junior psychology major shared similar sentiments regarding the event.

“Events like these create awareness about the diversity that we have not just in South Florida, but also within FIU,” she said.

The event featured a decoration table filled with straw hats and guitars, a concession table with food like pastelitos, finger sandwiches and croquettes. Across from it was a table filled with SPC merchandise where students could choose from mugs, shirts, water bottles and notebooks that had the SPC logo on them as well as Hispanic Heritage and the events that were planned.

Neymarie Rodriguez, junior biology major said, “Events like these are definitely important as they appeal to more cultures. Plus, the food helps!”

SPC’s event prior to this was a comedy show on Tuesday, Sept. 3. Two more events are planned for the month: Noche Latina on Sept. 22 in the GC Pit and “Instructions not Included” on Friday, Sept. 25.

“Students can expect a lot on Noche Latina,” said Macias, “It’s a more interactive experience. We’re going to have food, a do it yourself maraca station that students can take home with them, a live band, dancing and artists that will draw student’s names.”

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**Low ages gracefully with new album ‘Ones and Sixes’**

**ALONE WITH A CD**

Low is not the type of band to listen to on a bright sunny day or at a party, the pace of their songs is too slow to allow that. Low is the type of band you play when you want to cry but the tears won’t come out at 2 a.m. when sleep is no longer a possibility.

In the 90s when bands were trying to be faster, louder and more aggressive, Low served as a complete counterpart to that attitude. For many of their earlier shows, audience members would sit down on the floor to listen to them. Early critics would label them as “slowcore” or “sadcore”, and with the exception of Mark Kozelek of “Red House Painters”, they are the only act from that sub-category that have remained relevant today.

With over twenty years and eleven studio albums to show, Low’s consistency is admirable. Their ability to maintain such a distinct musical style has led them to have a very dedicated fan base, but at the cost of predictability.

The main issue with Low’s last album “The Invisible Way” is that many of the songs become a chore to listen to due to the lack of instrumental variation.

The decision to draft the Wilco frontman, Jeff Tweedy, to produce the album led to a dull Americana-influenced sound. “Ones and Sixes” marks an interesting new direction for the band. Many of the characteristics that define a Low album are still there. The tempo is slow, the mood is melancholy, and their vocal harmonies are as strong as ever. What differentiates this album from their previous work is the seamless combination of acoustic instrumentation and electronics.

The tempo is slow, the mood is melancholy and their vocal harmonies are as strong as ever. What differentiates this album from their previous work is the seamless combination of acoustic instrumentation and electronics.

The album starts off with two of the best songs that Low has recorded in years, “Gentle” and “No Comprende.” Both of these songs have electronic elements in their percussion that add a slight grittiness to their sound, which is especially helpful considering the minimalist arrangements. What makes these tracks so great is the intense climaxes towards the end, where a thunderous explosion of amplified bass overwhelms the listener. This prevents the songs from becoming background music by commanding attention through a calculated use of dynamics.

The rest of the songs on the album follow a similar routine to varying degrees of success. “Lies” and “Kid in the Corner” act as a catchy escape from the cold and icy mood while songs like “No End” feel more like rehashed versions of older songs with a slightly different recording style.

“Ones and Sixes” is the result of musical veterans attempting to enhance their sound with modern recording techniques and electronics. While Low may be showing signs of their age, their readiness to embrace change will assure them a spot in the world of modern independent music for quite some time.

**ALONE WITH A CD**

Jean Marquez  
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Super smashing community at University

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What started as two students playing a Nintendo Wii on a small CRT TV in the piano room soon became eight people crowded around the aforementioned setup asking, “Who has next?”

Students who just got out of their last class are grabbing on Friday nights to play some pickup Super Smash Brothers.

There is a competitive gaming community at FIU that a lot of the student body might not know of. The party multiplayer fighting game series has a pro gaming community that is one of the biggest. It was featured at the Evolution fighting game championships, the Super Bowl of fighting game tournaments, which had almost $30,000 available in prize money for Smash games and over 3,000 entrees.

FIU is home to some of the world’s best players, including multiple players in the top five in South Florida, a Smash hotbed. Rankings are based off of national and local tournament placements.

“I have made a lot of close friends playing Smash here,” said FIU student Jose Luis Rosario who is the number three ranked Super Smash Brothers Melee player in South Florida. “I learned competitive play here. I thought I was so good before, but after playing here I got so much better.”

Students often play around the piano room across from the bookstore in GC at all hours to hop on a set up and play friendlies or set up their own game console and terror to play with their friends and often times, strangers.

“I met around four new people today,” said Daniel Monterrosa, a senior at FIU. “People are so receptive in our community, it’s great. People wanna learn and get better so we try to give them tips and teach them.”

“What a lot of people might not understand is how complex Smash is. On the outside it is a silly party game with wacky items and stages, but when looked at more closely, it is one of the most complex fighting game ever made. Smash is an all around game involving Smash, EH, wave-dashing, ledge trumping, dashdancing, perfect pivots, L-canceling, crouch canceling, missile canceling, flame canceling and an assortment of other cancels that might sound like a bunch of made up phrases, but they are all advanced techniques and strategies for Smash. The YouTube video the Evolution 2015 Super Smash Brothers Melee grand final shows how advanced the game is.

“The game is all about baiting your opponent to do something so you can counter. But always have to keep in mind that your opponent is thinking the same. It’s a game of cat and mouse and it’s all in the mind games,” said FIU alumnus Daryn Andrews, who still visits campus after work occasionally to play some Smash.

“I miss playing on campus a lot, so it’s nice to come back and visit my Alma Mater. Helps me stay connected with the great Smash community and gives me a chance to visit school,” said Andrews. “It is going to be a fond college memory of mine.”

Not only does Smash bring alumni back to the university, but it brings people from all over the community.

“Sometimes around 50 percent of the people who play with us aren’t even FIU students. It’s a lot of alumni, Miami-Dade students or high school students that come play after school,” said Luis Rosario.

“We are all a big community,” said Monterrosa.

As more and more people join and become aware of the Smash community, the students who are regulars are trying to form an official university club.

“We want to do more organized events, host tournaments and get more people involved,” said Luis Rosario. “It’s important to us. We have built this and want to keep growing.”

Preparations for said club are nearly set, but Monterrosa, Rosario and the rest of the Smash community at FIU need one more thing.

“All we need is a professor who allow us to get the club going,” said Monterrosa. “We had a head before, but it looks like that didn’t work.”

“The people we have met playing Smash at FIU have been great, they are people I hang out with outside of playing Smash,” said Monterrosa.

“I think about it often, how many friends I have made playing Smash here,” said Rosario. “So many great people that mean a lot to me.”

Purity Ring concert features crowd faves

BEACON BITS

LET’S face it, the Biscapey B a y Campus doesn’t have nearly as many food options as the South Campus, however, BIB does have something that MMC will never have, and that’s Popeye’s fried chicken.

Just a 10 minute drive from campus, my friends and I found the restaurant with ease.

The establishment is oddly honey, it’s décor simple, and almost like walking into someone’s kitchen.

Another plus was that the restaurant was very clean, and it even had subtle Louisiana inspired decorations like iron signs which were reminiscent of the New Orleans balcony architecture I’ve seen before.

Upon reviewing the menu, they have a very simple architecture I’ve seen before.

For years, this Popeye’s has been serving students the South Campus, however, my friends and I found the restaurant with ease.

The verdict: Oh my God.

Popeye’s serves an assortment of seafood and chicken options at their North Miami Beach location.

With their friendly staff and amazing chicken, I will definitely visit this place again.

Popeye’s serves an assortment of seafood and chicken options at their North Miami Beach location.

GABBY ARZOLA

CANADIAN music duo Meghan James and instrumentalist Corin Roddick, known as Purity Ring, said they were happy to be back in Miami as they packed The Fillmore at night on Friday, Sept. 11.

Purity Ring is currently touring the release of their second album “Another Astronomy”.

Opening for the band was California native HANA who filled the auditorium belting out vocals while manning a mixer. Although most of the crowd was there for the main act, some could be heard singing along to her lyrics. By the end of her set the crowd cheered and praised her performance.

“As the night began it was obvious Purity Ring upgraded their stage presence.”

Around 9:30 p.m., James took to the stage in an all white jumpsuit reminiscent of futuristic couture. While holding a light up cone shaped mesh and she sported a pink waistband with silver shoes.

Roddick drummed and controlled lights on what looked like a row of white plastic torches while pinching a DJ controller, but what complemented their outer space look was the rows of dangling lights on each side of them as they played from the center.

The sound was incredibly crisp and clear, identical to what you hear on the album, but the music was taken to another dimension as the venue drowned in the lights.

The band immediately started with songs from their new album and then took seasoned fans back to 2012 playing songs such as “Crawlersworn”, “Unjirgled”, “Birdspeak” and “Odeodear” from their first album “Shrimps.”

James dominated the stage entirely walking and playing between the hanging lights. During a song she drummed with Roddick, and during another she went up and drummed on what looked like a moon that hovered above her. She then slipped on white hand gloves with small broken mirror pieces on the palms and played with her own row of touch lights which glistened like glitter through the audience.

The songs were jagged and bold and then gentle. She looked incredibly natural in her element and reached out to the front row where she engaged and held hands with them.

The crowd responded with love and at one point a fan handed her something that looked like a necklace.

The crowd was diverse with people of all age groups and styles, most of which were dancing and drinking.

Between songs, James made sure to tell everyone how grateful she was for those who came out as the show didn’t sell out and how much fun they had at the beach earlier.

Before ending the show, Purity Ring took it back once more and played the crowds favorite throwback jam “Fineshine” which started a chorus and a small mosh pit. The encore “Begin Again” which was also the single from the new album finalized the concert and left the audience craving for more.

The lights turned up and people emptied out from the venue, all that could be heard was the murmuring of how awesome the show was.

Hfiu.com
**FOOTBALL**

FIU drops to 1-1 with loss at Indiana

The team started off the weekend with a tough victory at home against Stetson. The Panthers beat the Hatters with a score of 26-24, 15-25, 21-25, 23-25, and 15-10. The first set had a total of 13 ties and three lead changes, but the Panthers were able to hold and start the match off with a 1-0 set lead. However, the Hatters responded, forcing the Panthers to committing five attacking errors and taking the second set. With the score tied 21-22, the final set, the team was able to finish the job and improve its record to 5-2 for the season.

In the match, senior, Lucia Castro, recorded her 1,000th kill of her career, becoming only the seventh player in FIU history to reach that milestone. She accomplished this during the fourth set and finished the match with 17 kills and 18 digs, recording her third double-double of the season. Stetson out-rushed the Panthers stepped up well. Senior, Gloria Leonor, had seven blocks, 13 kills, and a .478 hitting percentage, freshman, Katie Friesen, collected 39 assists, seven digs and seven kills. Senior, Adriana McLamb, contributed with 16 digs. Overall, it was a balanced team effort.

The following day, the team matched up with the Bearcats. Castro finished the match with 10 blocks and 11 kills, recording her fourth double-double of the season. Sophomore, Jennifer Ene, joined Castro with 10 blocks, Friesen collected 32 assists and 12 digs and McLamb recorded a season-high, 17 digs.

The Panthers took the first set by forcing the Bears to a .056 hitting percentage. However, the following set was much tighter, containing five ties and three lead changes as the team barely slipped past its opposition. The Panthers dominated the final set as they forced Mercer to a .024 hitting percentage. Overall, the team finished with a .202 hitting percentage, seven aces and forced Mercer into 25 errors and a .034 hitting percentage, one of the team’s most dominating performances this season. The team will host the FIU Invitational late this week. The Panthers will face off against Bethune-Cookman University on Thursday, Sept. 17 at 1 p.m. and University of Central Florida on Friday, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m.
Panthers stay perfect at home with win

DAVID DRUCKER
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The Florida International University men’s soccer team improved to 4-2-0 on Saturday night when the Panthers protected their perfect home record against Princeton in a 2-1 victory. Sophomore Luca Giovine and Brad Fountain both scored in the second half to complete FIU’s second-straight comeback victory.

FIU’s offense started slow and was unable to crack the Tigers’ defense in the first half. Although they later put up two scores within three minutes of each other, the mystery of their first half troubles this season—only three of FIU’s twelve goals have come in the first 45 minutes—still puzzles Head Coach Scott Calabrese.

“I think it might be the balance of players we bring on in the second half—we have some different guys that help us to get in behind teams a little more. Sometimes in the first half we tend to want to play possession in the midfield areas without getting in behind. I think it’s going to take us some more time to get down exactly what we’re doing so that there’s not this gap in performance between the first and second half,” said Calabrese.

Princeton was in control in the first half, scoring first when Thomas Sanner got behind junior Arthur Clapor to put his team up 1-0. The Ivy-Leaguers carried the one-goal advantage into halftime.

“In the second half, we made two major adjustments. One, our guys showed character and they competed and they showed their hunger and desire to win. That was the most important thing. The second thing is that they understood what Princeton was trying to do and when a team pressures you that aggressively, you have to play forward quicker and you have to eliminate numbers. Once we did get the ball up the field, there was more space to play in that area and we were able to create more,” said Calabrese.

The Panthers improved their record to 3-3 and seem to have finally found the back of the net for the first and second time against UNF bringing the match’s only two scores to the Panthers.

“I think it was the determination to score,” Chestnutt said after her performance. “At the end of the day, it’s just the desire to score.”

In a game highlighted by offensive firepower, the defense didn’t have much to do throughout the 90 minutes. But they were alert every time they were called upon, this defense answered the call. The Panthers held that egg the Osprey’s lad on the scoreboard at the beginning of the game till the final whistle blew, giving this team their second consecutive shutout win.

The Panthers held on to their 2-1 advantage to win their fourth game in a row.

Photo by Megan Tait / The Beacon

Women defeat Ospreys, improve record to 3-3

LUIS DIAZ
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The Panthers held their place in the food chain, dominating against their neighbors to the north, the University of North Florida Ospreys, to earn a second consecutive victory for the FIU Women’s Soccer team. This one-sided 2-0 victory was the second consecutive shutout win.

Men’s soccer

Women’s soccer

Photo by Megan Tait / The Beacon

**Women’s Soccer**

Midfielder Daniel Gonzalez braces to kick the ball in the game against Princeton on night of Sept. 12, where the FIU Men’s Soccer team won their fourth game in a row.

Midfielder Madlen Weinhardt blocks to gain control of the ball during the match against University of North Florida on Sept. 11, where FIU won with a score of 2-0.

Yes this team has big plans for the year, but Head Coach Chestnutt reminds his team, “It’s not about where you’re going, it’s how you get there.” This team has shown the pieces to do all of that and more. The test now is to keep this success throughout the season.

Half plays and delivered the equalizer in the 74th minute when sophomore Brad Fountain found Giovine for his first career goal at FIU. In the 77th minute, Fountain would score himself to give his team a 2-1 edge when junior Jamar Campion-Hinds found him on a cross for his sixth assist of the season. The Panthers held on to their 2-1 advantage to win their fourth-straight contest and improve to 3-0 at home.

“[In the second half] we push each other more and more. We tend to fight for each other instead of fighting against each other. We went down one goal so we worked to push ourselves harder and harder,” said Campion-Hinds.

The Panthers will begin their Conference USA slate of games on Friday at 7 p.m. when they travel to Boca Raton to play Florida Atlantic University.

**Conference USA Women’s Soccer Standings**

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*All records up to date as of Sept. 14*
Fraternity pays tribute to Black Lives Matter

BELEN SASSONE
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The killings of unarmed black Americans have been the subject of much media attention.

In 2012, Trayvon Martin, a 17-year-old African American, was fatally shot by neighborhood watch coordinator George Zimmerman in Sanford, Fla. as he was walking home from a convenience store. Zimmerman was acquitted of all charges, leaving much of the public outraged. African Americans began to speak up about the injustices that they face, hoping to ignite change.

Since Martin’s death, there have been other African American men and women killed, such as Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., who have raised questions about racial tensions in America. 

As a way to garner support, African American activists and supporters formed the Black Lives Matter campaign. According to their twitter, @blklivesmatter, the campaign is “an affirmation and embrace of the resistance and resilience of Black people.”

They have organized various protests throughout the country to bring attention to the issues faced by African Americans, as well as to seek justice for the deaths.

One of the main problems that activists feel they face is lack of support from government. With the 2016 election in full force, activists have been staging demonstrations at campaign events in order to have their voices heard and prompt candidates to speak out on the issues.

Activists have showed up at events for Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders and Republican candidate Jeb Bush, causing them to be shut down after tensions arose with other attendees.

Thursday, Aug. 20, Iota Phi Theta, a historically black fraternity founded during the Civil Rights Movement, staged a tribute to Black Lives Matter. The president of the fraternity, Johnny Lewis, felt it was very important to tribute the campaign “because of the impact African Americans have in our community.”

“Just recently, I was told that black educated men are the highest known threat to man. If we weren’t, then why is the largest hate organization, the KKK mainly targeting African Americans?” Lewis said. “Better yet, why are they still allowed to hold their rituals and parades across the U.S.?”

In July, tensions arose between the Ku Klux Klan and African-American activists over the Confederate flag outside of the South Carolina statehouse.

Lewis said it is important to highlight black lives specifically because they will always be oppressed and feared, not only in this country but in some larger neighboring countries as well.

“Color is everything to a lot of people,” he said.

During the tribute, members of the fraternity wore hoodies with the names of six fallen individuals whom they were honoring. Iota Phi Theta Secretary, Daniel Irving, felt that it was about more than just those individuals.

He said that the organization was founded in 1963 in Baltimore by 12 men during the peak of the Civil Rights Movement when “African Americans were being murdered, lynched, hosed down and worse all in the name of equality.”

Paul Joasues, a sophomore sociology major, said that everyone is being affected by inequalities.

“FIU students are affected because none of them know for sure if they’ll end up as the next hashtag,” said Joasues.

“In my opinion, two things can happen to a person that keeps hearing stories of death. They either become paranoid, desensitized or indifferent; or they want to do something about it to stop hearing such stories because they’re fed up with it.”