Car count system to reach all garages by next fall

NICOLE MONTERO
Asst. News Director
nicole.montero@beacon.com

The roughly $400,000 system, introduced by the Department of Parking and Transportation, will tell drivers which garages have available parking spots, similar to what Parking Garage 6 offers.

“When you drive into the University and you go into Gold Garage, you don’t know if it’s full or not,” said Thomas Hartley, executive director of the department. “You drive all the way to the top and to the bottom. This way, we can just direct people ahead of time.”

The system will have sensors that count when cars come in and out of garages by reading each vehicle’s license plate.

It’ll be released sometime this fall in conjunction with a mobile app. The Parking App, for both iOS and Android devices, will feature permit purchase, citation appeals, citation payments, information about where to park and Pay by Cell functions for visitors, as well as a place to report parking violators on campus.

App approval for iOS devices is a longer process so the car count system may be finished first, said Hartley.

In the meantime, the department plans to have signage outside the garages.

“We’re going to have signs that’ll change the car count as cars are driving in and out of the garages,” said Hartley.

“We’ll know because we’ll have cameras set up that look at each car’s virtual license plate permit.”

The University recently went from having physical decals and stickers to virtual permits, which helps the department use license plate recognition to identify who’s parking where.

With the LPR technology, the department will know the availability for both student and nonstudent parking spots.

“When you drive through the garage, it’ll stamp your plate and that’s what you’ll know if you’re a student, rather than a staff or other,” said Hartley.

The new system includes cameras in all garages and will be able to tell how long each person stays at the University.

“We’ll be able to start making some good predictive modeling and direct people in advance,” he said. “If we know, for example, that Gold fills at a particular time, we’ll be able to communicate this to folks.”

Alejandro Hernandez, a sophomore math major, thinks this is big step for the University as a “technologically-savvy college.”

“I can see what’s available beforehand,” he said. “It’s a huge plus for FIU.”

Hernandez also thinks the new system will make everything easier.

“PG6 has it and I’m glad they’ll be implementing this in every garage,” he said. “You know where to go and it’s convenient. It’s about damn time they have something like this.”

The system is set to be finished in November, depending on construction.

Construction will start with PG1 and PG2 and then continue with the remaining garages.

“I think being able to direct people to the closest available parking is a huge win for everybody,” said Hartley.
President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet next week in New York for the first time in nearly a year to discuss the war in Syria, where the Kremlin is building up a military force, and consolidating a peace deal in Ukraine, the White House announced Friday.

Pope Francis to the powerful: Serve humanity better

Pope Francis spoke to Washington’s political power and comforted it’s powerless on his final day in the nation’s capital, delivering the same message at two stops: Those with the most must do more to help those who have the least. The populist pope straddled this city’s political and economic divide Thursday, making history in the process as the first Vatican leader to address a joint meeting of the House of Representatives and Senate before meeting nearby with some of the city’s homeless.

Apple’s new iPhones hit store shelves

The new iPhones hit store shelves Friday morning. Consumers were able to buy the latest models of Apple’s smartphone, the iPhone 6s and the jumbo-sized iPhone 6s Plus, at the company’s retail stores. They were also able to find them at the stores of the major wireless carriers and some other major electronics retailers. The key feature of the new models, which share the same size and shape as last year’s versions, is something Apple calls 3D Touch.

O’Brien kicks off ‘I am Latino in America’ tour

An award-winning journalist spoke to FIU about police brutality and African-American civil rights in February. Now she is back with a different twist. A CNN correspondent and philanthropist and executive producer, Soledad O’Brien will talk to University students about pressing issues like voting, the economy and education amongst the Latino community. O’Brien was first invited by the Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council as part of her Black in America tour earlier this year. She talked about racial profiling using different clips from her documentation, “Black & Blue.”

O’Brien will kick off her I am Latino in America tour at the University Monday, Sept. 28, which is also during National Hispanic Heritage Month. She will also stop at the University of Texas Rio Grande Oct. 5 and at the Los Angeles Occidental College Oct. 15. O’Brien will be a panel with local artists and University faculty. There will also be a meet and greet with O’Brien for those who attend.

“Latinos are 54 million strong, make up a quarter of the children in this country and include 25 million voters with $1.5 trillion in buying power,” said O’Brien. Jose Toscano said O’Brien’s presence on campus is a great opportunity for the University.

Toscano, Campus Life director at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, said that her tour will bring up controversial questions. “Where do Latinos in America fit into the mainframe of the American society, and what is the next step for the Hispanic population?” Toscano said.

“It’s an important conversation. We don’t think about the community issues that affect us every day.”

He said she will bring into focus education in the Hispanic community, healthcare access and their engagement in political movements. 48 percent of Hispanic eligible voters voted in 2012, which was a decrease from 49.9 percent in 2008, according to the Pew Research Center. This rate is significantly low compared to 66.6 percent of black voters and 64.1 percent of white voters in 2012.

O’Brien’s first stop will be in Miami-Dade County, where 66.2 percent of its population is of Hispanic descent, according to the United States Census Bureau.

Jose Parellada, a history graduate teaching assistant, said Hispanics don’t have a strong tradition of voting. They prefer other forms of political participation like going to rallies and engaging in protests.

Latinos in America should be compared to Jews in Germany, said Parellada. He said Jews are blamed for Germany’s problems, just like Latinos are blamed for the “America isn’t great.”

“It’s the same discourse being utilized in order to scapegoat certain people,” he said.

Parellada also said that there are enough conversations on Latin America and not enough on the reason behind Latin American immigration.

“[Immigrants] can go anywhere in Latin America, but the fundamental question is, ‘Why are they coming here?’ It is political instabilities throughout the region, is it a good path to citizenship or family, [is it to] evade an aggressor?’”

“This could be like Pandora’s box in immigrants [being tossed out]” Murissa Rodriguez said O’Brien could increase the Hispanic voter turnout rate and highlight the importance of the Latino community.

“We don’t know the statistics, and if we’re being informed, it would make us feel more empowered,” said Rodriguez, a freshman dietetics and nutrition major.

O’Brien is chief executive officer of Starfish Media Group, a multimedia production and distribution company. She works to approach pressing social issues in American minority groups featuring real-life stories.

The I am Latino in America tour will start at 7 p.m. in the Graham Center Ballrooms. Registration is required for the event through OrgSync.
Planned Parenthood cuts affect students

AUBREY CARR
Contributing Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

In a 241-187 Legislative vote on Sept. 16, the House passed legislation to freeze Planned Parenthood’s funding for the next year due to alleged fetal tissue use. The controversy stems from a series of heavily edited videos made by The Center for Medical Progress, a California anti-abortion group, in which Planned Parenthood is made to seem as though it alters abortion procedures in order to sell fetal tissue. Dr. Deborah Nucatola, senior director of medical services at Planned Parenthood, said the tissue she was discussing was that of women who donate tissue legally and voluntarily for scientific research. It may just be the media’s popular scandals that promote opinions and concerns reflecting the false accuracy of Planned Parenthood’s mission but when there are representatives in powerful positions who agree with the media’s depiction, public funding for the nation-wide clinic’s health services are at risk, and so are those who utilize the company for more than abortion-related services.

Abortion accounts for only 3% of services offered by the company per year; most of Planned Parenthood’s provisions are within the aim of affordable, general healthcare for both men and women. These provisions include, but are not limited to physicals, counseling, screenings, STD testing, assistance in pregnancies and even overcoming infertility. Furthermore, no government financial aid is permitted to be awarded to the abortion services. Rachel Cooburn, director of the Voices for Planned Parenthood Chapter at FIU, said that she is not too worried about funding being frozen; she expects that if it makes its way onto Obama’s desk, he will veto. “Florida’s [Planned Parenthood clinics] have been defunded for about 2 years now, but no one really knew about it.” She said that even in the off chance that national funding is frozen, “if it’s publicized, well marketed, people will up rise.”

I recently took a small survey on Planned Parenthood around FIU’s Modique campus and online. Although it wasn’t a very large enough selection to use for scientific purposes, I think it shed light on how those between the ages of 17 to 23 understand Planned Parenthood. Most participants either identified less involved or did not identify with any party. When asked, “What is the first word that comes to mind when you hear ‘Planned Parenthood’?” the answers were mostly “birth control” and “healthcare” instead of “abortion,” which I expected to overshadow the mission. I took the let the Cooburn suspects this is because this age group is still forming its opinions and it needs help in politics than the older generations. Moreover, she said that Planned Parenthood can be difficult to access for college students and these students turn to Planned Parenthood for their birth control prescriptions, exams and so much more because Planned Parenthood’s services are inexpensive and accessible.

Freezing or completely cutting off funds for Planned Parenthood is not only an “enforced mandate” on women’s rights as one survey participant commented, it is an attack on available healthcare and education for everyone, because Planned Parenthood does not only lend itself to the aid of women with unwanted pregnancies. Planned Parenthood provides extensive care for men and women alike; those with no specific concern for their reproductive decisions as well as those who wish to correct their infertility. Planned Parenthood is about safety, choice, education and rights. It is about providing help for a young adult or low-income American who finds him or herself in a difficult situation and cannot access safe, geographically reachable and economic healthcare services. Defunding Planned Parenthood turns into less ridding the world of abortion and more about restricting the rights of and services for fully developed humans.

THE FALL

MAYNINE KRAMER
Contributing Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

We are living in the information era. As technology continues to be improved and developed, it enraptures people with all the perks and benefits it has to offer. Today, one practically needs a smartphone to survive in the first world. If you look around, you’ll find people staring at a screen that nearly everyone is face-down staring at a screen. Smartphones today can track times, nutrition, and now they may be able to track and warn their users of depression too.

Many of us are more attached to our iPhones and Androids than to our human counterparts. Like a good partner, our smartphones should know us better than we think. It was found in a study that the more time spent using a phone and the fewer places you visit the more likely you are to be depressed. However, with accurate self-assessment, a smartphone can help determine whether one may suffer from depression or not.

Through an app called Purple Robot, a small sample size of individuals were tracked by their location, movement, moods and feelings, phone usage and other relevant activities. For two weeks, Purple Robot collected information every five minutes and sent it back to researchers at Northwestern University for analysis. When the data was compared against a PHQ-9, a nine-question test used to survey signs of depression, it was found that the app successfully identified 87 percent of individuals at risk for depression.

In addition, the study was able to reveal some personal behaviors. Participants who identified as depressed spent an average of 68 minutes on their phones each day, while non-depressed individuals spent an average of 17 minutes. When people are depressed, they tend to withdraw and feel like they have no motivation or energy to do things. Data reveals that they are prone to moodiness, materialism and temperamental behavior. However, this is not to say that spending a lot of time on your smartphone means you’re depressed. The study was only over a small population during a short period of time, leaving plenty of room for error. Also, people can be stereotyped as being introverts for sitting in a corner and staring at their phone, and introversion is one quality researchers found not be associated with smartphone addiction. It could be that constant checking of emails, texting, checking Facebook and playing games acts as pacifiers for an unstable individual – distracting them from any worries and providing temporary solace.

While being addicted to anything is not good, we should stay away from constantly being plugged in and logged on. It’s better for our health and well-being to physically interact with others and do things that make us happy.
We're here to show you why we matter. The narrative of violence against black women is getting erased.

Esi Fynn-Obeng
Presidential African Student Association

The creative hands behind The Muppets

DAMIAN GORDON
Contributing Writer
dlife@fiusm.com

The forty-third anniversary of the franchise is coming up next year and there’s bound to be a roll out of announcements with the young and old glued to their screens around the world. “Everyone always looks forward to the next Muppet project and that’s been since Jim passed away, which I can’t believe it’s been 25 years now. It’s also been the way that Brian Henson, Cheryl Henson and the guardians of the Muppets have taken care of them. There’s a great anticipation for this new show, so it’s still working,” said Gilchrist.

Gilchrist will be working with Henson’s company a whole year for free Gilchrist got a call from head writer Jerry Juhl bringing him the job and the rest is history.

On the process behind writing for the show, Gilchrist described it as creatively freeing as Henson didn’t want to restrict the fun to be had. “He (Jim Henson) would motivate you and he wouldn’t give you your exact assignment. You knew what you were supposed to do, what the destination was, in this case it was 365 days a year do something wonderful for Jim that the whole world would like,” said Gilchrist.

Gilchrist has won multiple awards over his career and was even invited to the White House by President Reagan, but the important thing to him is the fans as they’re what really keeps him going. “The awards are great for having a good dinner and being able to dress in a tux that night, hang with a pretty girl. It’s meeting people and getting the letters, finding out that you meant something,” said Gilchrist.

Gilchrist has taken his assistant Anna Guthrie’s advice to be grounded and is working on his teachings to the next generation and left a simple message of “don’t quit” to aspiring cartoonists.
It’s On Us, each and every one of us

From the Dean of Students

The Dean of Students Office, in the Division of Student Affairs, creates a culture of care for students, their families, faculty and staff by providing proactive education consultation, resources, and response to distressed students or students in crisis. The Dean of Students will provide a monthly column in the Beacon, to acquaint students with some of the important campus resources in place to support their success.

‘Go Set a Watchman’ lacks ‘classic’ feel

Bookmarked

More than half a century after “To Kill a Mockingbird” was released, “Go Set a Watchman,” Harper Lee’s long-awaited, posthumously released novel saw the public light. While “Mockingbird” was written after “Watchman,” it was the first released, and it fictionalized the fictional town of Maycomb, Ala. along with Jean Louise “Scout” Finch, the novel’s protagonist, Atticus, her father; and the rest of her family who were dealing with racial tensions that affected the South.

“Watchman” follows Scout as a woman in her twenties, on her annual visit home. Each and every one of us are responsible to watch out for our encounters with misunderstood sexual harassment. Some students choose to head straight back to their homes or dorms, while others find a quiet spot on campus and either dive into their homework or prepare for upcoming exams. And of course, there are the students who spend their Friday evenings and evenings relaxing. For students who have a free evening, the Student Programming Council of FIU plans special events including “Friday Night Lights,” in which films are presented in a theater-format free for each University student and one accompanying guest. At 8 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 18, 2015, Disney’s “Tomorrowland,” a science-fiction film based off Disney’s Tomorrowland theme park, was shown in the Housing Quad, planned in collaboration with RHA. The stars of this movie were George Clooney and Britt Robertson.

“IT’S ON US! Each and Every One of Us.

College can be the best of times, but for too many it can be the worst of times. According to a recent Association of American Universities (AAU) Campus Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct 2015, just over 23 percent of surveyed undergraduate respondents reported being sexually assaulted since they started college. That is about 1 out of every 5 undergraduate women. These numbers should make us all very uncomfortable.

To address the alarming numbers of students impacted by sexual assault, FIU joined the ongoing education efforts launched when the White House last year to raise awareness on campus. You have probably seen the banners, signs and t-shirts around campus reminding everyone that IT’S ON US to stop sexual assault. The message of the campaign is simple:

Each and every one of us are responsible to watch out for our encounters with misunderstood sexual harassment. Some students choose to head straight back to their homes or dorms, while others find a quiet spot on campus and either dive into their homework or prepare for upcoming exams. And of course, there are the students who spend their Friday evenings and evenings relaxing. For students who have a free evening, the Student Programming Council of FIU plans special events including “Friday Night Lights,” in which films are presented in a theater-format free for each University student and one accompanying guest. At 8 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 18, 2015, Disney’s “Tomorrowland,” a science-fiction film based off Disney’s Tomorrowland theme park, was shown in the Housing Quad, planned in collaboration with RHA. The stars of this movie were George Clooney and Britt Robertson.

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FOOTBALL

Get to know Thomas Owens, the go-to player

REINALDO LLERENA
Staff Writer
reinaldo.llerena@fiusm.com

The women’s golf team struggled in its first tournament of the year, the Golfweek Conference Challenge. The challenge was held from Monday, Sept. 23 at the Fazio Course at the Red Sky Golf Club in Wolcott, Colorado. FIU placed 12 out of 17 schools and finished the week with a team total of 56 over par across its three rounds of play.

Meghan MacLaren placed well in the individual portion of the tournament, finishing at seven over par to tie for 17th place in the challenge. After a disappointing 5-over-par first round, MacLaren bounced back in her subsequent rounds. Over her final two rounds, MacLaren shot a combined 2-over-par to close out the tournament at 7-over-par.

If there was an award for the most consistent player of the week, then the award would go to Camila Serrano. The junior from Colombia shot three consecutive four-over-par rounds and finished tied for 36th place at 12-over par.

Sophie Godley, the number five starter, had the lowest round of the weekend for the Panthers. The senior from the United Kingdom shot a 1-under par 71 in the final round of competition. However, Godley struggled in her first two rounds. In her first round, Godley came in with a 10-over-par 82. She improved on day two, but the senior shot a 9-over par 81. So, even though Godley had the lowest round of the week for the team, her inconsistencies in the first two rounds offset her impressive final round. As a result, Godley finished in a tie for 57th place at 18-over-par.

Katerina Krasova struggled in the Conference Challenge. The sophomore from the Czech Republic, who averaged a 76.14 scoring average last year, was unable to score lower than a 6-over-par 78 over the course of the tournament. Krasova’s below-average performance in the challenge netted her an 83rd place finish at 29 over par. Expect Krasova to bounce back in the next tournament.

Carla Jane could not get into a rhythm, either. The senior from Chile, who posted a 76.50 scoring average last year, tied for 69th place at 22 over par. Like Krasova, expect Jane to bounce back in the next tournament after posting below-average scores in last week’s competition.

Notably absent from the tournament was Coralia Arias, FIU’s second-best golfer from last year. She did not make the trip to Colorado.

The women’s golf team hopes to rebound at the 8th annual Johnie Imes Invitational in Columbia, Missouri on Monday, Sept. 28. The Club at Old Hawthorne will host the invitational. In last year’s invitational, the Panthers tied for third as a team with a combined score of 2-under par. Last year, MacLaren and Serrano paced the team with individual scores of 4-under par and 2-under par, respectively. If there is one tournament to look forward to after a struggling, the Johnie Imes Invitational is that tournament for the Panthers.

Golf stumbles in first tournament of the season

The Beacon – 6
PETER HOLLAND
Sports Director
PETER HOLLAND
FOOTBALL
PETE’S PICK

GOLF

Before a game I think about my mom a lot. It just pushes me. Sometimes I pray on it before practice. It just pushes me to keep going. It gives me a good grind.

Thomas Owens Wide Receiver FIU Football

I think about my mom a lot. Owens said. “Just pushes me. Sometimes I pray on it before practice. It just pushes me to keep going. It gives me a good grind.” Every time T.O. steps on the field whether it’s a practice or a game, it’s always family first and it’s enough for the sophomore to motivate him and jostle his elevation as the number one receiver. Whenever Owens isn’t on the field, weight room or classroom, he is on the basketball court shooting hoops for fun.

Despite being considered an underdog team, Thomas Owens, with a lot of confidence, believes that the Panthers will succeed in C-USA. “We just need to stick with the game plan and if we excel and play hard, we should accomplish our goal and that’s to win,” Owens said. sports@fiusm.com

“Before a game I think about my mom a lot. It just pushes me. Sometimes I pray on it before practice. It just pushes me to keep going. It gives me a good grind.”

Thomas Owens Wide Receiver FIU Football

PETE’S PICK

Is it a coincidence that the Panthers have a T.O. on their roster that happens to play wide receiver and happens to wear a number 81 jersey? No his name is not Terrell Owens nor has family relations to the former NFL player and future hall of famer, however, when you see the sophomore receiver, Thomas Owens, in the last three games, you might think it’s Terrell Owens taking his talents to Tamiami Trail. Owens, at 6’1” 198 pounds, has been the go-to receiver for the Panthers in the last three games.

With the Panthers 2-1, Owens has contributed the offense so far with the total of 22 catches for 286 yards and three touchdowns. He averages 13.00 yards per game. Week one against UCF, he was one shy away of breaking T.Y. Hilton’s record for most catches in a game. Week two, despite a loss against Indiana, he broke out with nine catches for 166 yards and two touchdowns. That makes Owens the fourth receiver in school history to have more than 150 yards in a single game. Just last week against North Carolina Central, he finished with three catches for 42 yards and one touchdown. It has been a while since the Panthers have a receiver who can not only put up productive numbers but can also make a difference for the Panther’s young and explosive offense. “This year they gave me the opportunity and I’m just trying to take advantage of it,” Owens said. The only word that he described his well. The combination of a dual athlete gave him the advantage of being a wide receiver. “Basketball helped me a lot with the first season as a starter was “better.”

Owens came to FIU recruited as an athlete coming out of high school. The Delray Beach native played multiple positions back in Atlantic Community High School. He was a solid basketball player as rebounds, blocks and defense,” Owens said. With his basketball background and his 6’1” 198 pound frame, it’s not surprising for him to fight for the ball against the secondary. “He has been the safety blanket,” starting QB Alex McGough said. “Thomas has been kept comfortable this season. It’s great to know that if I throw it to him, he’s going to make a play.”

Owens, who’s a sports management major, doesn’t necessarily have a favorite NFL player, but he is willing to learn from current NFL players and try to imitate their abilities on the field. When Owens was asked about FIU, he thought about T.Y. Hilton and what he accomplished. Inspiring him to do great no matter what the future holds him. “T.Y. is a great player,” Owens said. “It’s a great experience knowing that an NFL player came from your school and is making a big difference out of it.”

What’s important for Owens when he is getting ready to take the field is thinking about his family, including his mother. “Before a game it’s practice or a game, it’s always family first and it’s enough for the sophomore to motivate him and jostle his elevation as the number one receiver. Whenever Owens isn’t on the field, weight room or classroom, he is on the basketball court shooting hoops for fun.

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Pac-12 football make an impact for programs

GARY KLEIN
Los Angeles Times
TNS

Todd Graham imprinted his philosophy on Arizona State’s football program from the moment he arrived on campus.

Graham took over a program that in 2011 led major college football in penalties and, arguably, undisciplined play. A year later, the Sun Devils were the least penalized team in the Pac-12 Conference and had built the foundation for consecutive 10-win seasons.

“We conform the culture quickly,” Graham said this week. “I think now, after three years, it’s transformed.”

Arizona State will attempt to take another step in its evolution when the Sun Devils host 19th-ranked USC on Saturday night at Sun Devil Stadium in a key Pac-12 contest.

“I hope they had a full culture change,” Graham said. “And I think it never happens all at once. It’s a 18-to-24 month process that they’re having success.”

Sarkisian, who is in his second season with the Trojans, will try to calm a roiling fan base after last week’s loss to Stanford.

Graham is one of several Pac-12 coaches who have either reversed the fortunes of their predecessors or maintained the program’s winning ways.

In a sport that features such long-tenured coaches as Alabama’s Nick Saban, Louisiana State’s Les Miles, Georgia’s Marc Richt and South Carolina’s Steve Spurrier in the Southeastern Conference, Michigan State’s Mark Dantonio in the Big Ten and Oklahoma’s Bob Stoops and Texas Christian’s Gary Patterson in the Big 12, the Pac-12 features a majority of relative newcomers.

Eleven of the Pac-12’s 12 coaches started at their schools in 2011 or later. Only Utah’s Kyle Whittingham, who took over the Utes in 2005, has been entrenched longer than five years.

But Graham, UCLA’s Jim Mora and Arizona’s Rich Rodriguez have developed programs that are regularly ranked in the top 25. Oregon’s Mark Helfrich, who led the Ducks to the College Football Playoff title game last season, and Stanford’s David Shaw have built on the winning foundations laid by Chip Kelly and Jim Harbaugh.

Sarkisian, who succeeded Sarkisian at Washington State in 2008, raised Washington’s then-winless program to respectability before taking over at USC, which finished 9-4 in his first season and is a shaky 2-1 going into Saturday’s game in Tempe, Ariz.

California’s Sonny Dykes is off to a 3-0 start in his third season, and Washington State’s Mike Leach and Colorado’s Mike MacIntyre are 2-1 in their fourth and third seasons, respectively.

Chris Petersen, who succeeded Sarkisian at Washington, is in his second season, Oregon State’s Gary Andersen his first.

“Everybody’s been different,” Sarkisian said. “Everybody’s doing it their own way, but they do what they believe in and they’re having success.”

Mora succeeded Rick Neuheisel at UCLA before the 2012 season. Like several coaches interviewed for this story, he said that instilling a new culture was paramount.

“You just always want to go into a place and create a culture that you believe in,” Mora said. “For me, that’s a culture of toughness, discipline, accountability. And when I say toughness, I mean mental, physical, emotional tough.”

Mora began instilling that mindset in December of 2011. The former NFL coach was keeping his distance as UCLA went through bowl practice under an interim coach. One day, players went “over the wall,” a then-Bruins tradition of ditching practice for one day.

“I hope they had fun going over the wall because it is the last time it is going happen,” Mora told reporters. “It might happen again, but you won’t see those guys on the field the next day.”

The Bruins finished 9-5 in Mora’s first season and 10-3 the last two. They are off to a 3-0 start and are ranked ninth heading into Saturday’s game at No. 16 Arizona.

The process of maintaining a culture, he said, is ongoing.

“If you feel like you’ve done it, then you stop,” he said. “I feel like we’re always on a mission to improve it. But I feel like there is very little resistance from anybody to buy into what we’re trying to establish.”

Sarkisian was USC’s offensive coordinator before he succeeded Tyrone Willingham after the Huskies finished 0-12 in 2008.

In his third game, Sarkisian coached the Huskies to an upset victory over mentor Pete Carroll and the third-ranked Trojans. He compiled a 34-29 record in Seattle before he was hired at USC to replace the fired Lane Kiffin.

“It’s a work in progress,” Sarkisian said of the Trojans’ transition.

“We’re just getting over the bump here after a year and (some) time into it, but that’s the part that’s fun. That’s the part that kind of excites you every day when you see one guy kind of buy into what you’re doing. That’s why we do what we do.”

Petersen, who annually produced winning teams at Boise State before succeeding Sarkisian, said “getting everybody on the same page” in a short period of time is “really, really hard” because older players are accustomed to different schemes and different ways.

“As a coach, you know there’s other ways out there, but you believe in your way,” he said.

Petersen estimated an 18-to-24 month process for a full culture change.

“And I think it never stops,” he said.
University hosts flashmob for banned books

ERIC SANTIAGO
Opinion Director
eric.santiago@fiusm.com

On Wednesday, Sept. 2, a frightening disturbance occurred at the Wolfe University Center that still leaves students shaken to this day. It began with a heated exchange between a student and someone in the WUC game room, said student irrationally left the room after threatening to come back “with a strap” – also known as a firearm.

The University police were alerted of the incident and evacuated the room shortly after. The doors to the game room were then locked as a safety measure. Later that evening, the student returned and unsuccessfully demanded to be let in. He was gone by the time campus authorities arrived; as a precautionary measure, all students and faculty were escorted into their vehicles.

The student was eventually identified and apprehended by Miami-Dade police. As of right now there are conflicting stories as to whether or not a gun was ever actually involved. Though the situation seems to be resolved, there are still some lingering issues that need to be addressed.

The University knows that a major issue is to remain passive. To speak out, gather students interested in staying informed and teach the library and students to work. The library and students should be provided for the interest, information and enlightenment of the community.

Like every university, FIU knows that a major key in maintaining the comfort and well-being of its students. This is because more students are likely to want to stay enrolled at a University that prioritizes the safety of its scholars. If students don’t feel safe, they will most likely not want to stay enrolled. This means that new students enrolled at FIU will lead to a monetary loss for the University.

If students want to talk about potential dangers on campus the University will have no choice but to take note and do everything in its power to avoid a similar incident in the future.

As students we owe it to ourselves and to our colleagues to speak up when there is danger on campus. Our voices have the power to inform, to ensure the safety of our community and, most importantly, to implement change. To not speak up is to remain passive. To remain passive is to further jeopardize our own safety.