University students stand with Missouri

YURIELLE MENARD
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There’s more violence, homelessness and diseases within the transgender community,” said Daniel Capote. “People are so afraid of the wrong pronoun they’re not sure to just use they,” he said.

According to Capote, there are a lot more people that are very open and successful about being transgender, like Blanca Martinez, Deanne Cox and Caitlyn Jenner.

“Transgender individuals have to face the challenge of validating their gender because people think they’re lying,” Capote said.

“As a member of Alpha Phi Alpha, Shirley has a special connection to the Mizzou controversy.

“I found out that one of my frat brothers at Mizzou is actually the president of the student body and also an athlete on [Mizzou’s] football team,” said Shirley. “Within my fraternity, we are one brotherhood...his issue is my issue as well.”

Demonstrators marched to the front of the library, chanting, “I’m f*cked up and I can’t take it no more,” and, “No justice, no peace.”

Once the demonstration reached the front of the library, students lined up, linked arms and started chanting, “I am Mizzou. FIU to Mizzou.”

The rally concluded when organizations, like BU, HSU, ASO and Dream Defenders, recorded videos stating their support for Mizzou’s black population.

Some videos are available on YouTube and other social media platforms.

Throughout the demonstration, students expressed their anger and frustration toward the harassment of Mizzou’s black student body.

But there were also moments of laughter as the organizations united in solidarity.

“A laugh is like a pause to breathe,” said Nykeema Radway, a member of BU and Dream Defenders and one of the lead organizers of the event.

She said that laughter in the face of adversity is a way of being unstoppable.

“We’re still here,” she said.

Larry Lumsford, vice president of Student Affairs, released a statement proclaiming diversity to be FIU’s strength.

He also wanted students to know that there is space for an open dialogue on these issues.

“The Division of Student Affairs has several resources available to support students and provide forums for ongoing dialogue. In addition, any student who ever feels threatened or intimidated should share their concerns with us,” he said.

Students can learn their options for reporting concerns or seek support services by visiting www.PanthersCare.edu or by contacting the Dean of Students office at 305-348-2797.

Students from Black Student Union and Dream Defenders as well as around campus unite to stand in support for the University of Missouri black student body at the Graham Center Ballrooms Wednesday, Nov. 11.

After several racial incidents at the University of Missouri, University students held a demonstration to showcase their support for the black student population.

The incidents at the University of Missouri, better known as Mizzou, included white students yelling racial slurs at students of color, swastikas drawn in faces on dorms and threats to kill Mizzou’s black students.

The series of racial tensions resulted in the resignation of both the university’s president and chancellor, as well as the continued harassment of black students. Mizzou’s black students have reported via social media that they are still being threatened and fear they will be harmed if they go to class.

The demonstration, FIU2Mizzou, was based on the hostile treatment of students of color at Mizzou, wrote TmdLo’s via Newbury, the president of Dream Defenders, in her Youtube page.

The demonstration, hosted on Wednesday, Nov. 11 in the GC Lawns, was planned hours in advance.

Newbury said that members of Dream Defenders and the Black Student Union reached out to University organizations at the last minute.

“I researched the organizations that both FIU and Mizzou share, such as the fraternities and sororities that are on both campuses,” said Newbury.

Participating organizations included the Black Student Union, African Student Organization, Hispanic Student Organization, Dream Defenders, members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated and four members of the college’s football team.

Participants were standing in a circle, singing and dancing while introducing each demonstrator. Once the introductions were over, the rally took a more serious tone.

One by one, black students stepped into the middle of the circle and explained the importance of the Mizzou controversy.

They also shared their own experiences with racial discrimination.

Dashah Shirley, member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and president of the National Panhellenic Council, read aloud the letters that Mizzou’s black organizations sent to its former president, Tim Wolfe.

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Throughout the demonstration, students expressed their anger and frustration toward the harassment of Mizzou’s black student body.

And his for an individual that associates with as a male.

Capote uses “they” to refer to an individual.

“It does a lot more harm to misgender a person and use the wrong pronoun if you’re not sure than to just use they,” he said.

According to Capote, there are more people that are very open and successful about being transgender, like Blanca Martinez, Deanne Cox and Caitlyn Jenner.

“Transgender individuals have to face the challenge of validating their gender because people think they’re lying,” Capote said.

“Trans individuals lie to protect themselves from the reality they know will destroy them,” according to The Gender Centre.

The reality that trans individuals face is similar to Keys’ statement of mistrust.

The Centre’s website states that lying to their loved ones was one of the hardest decisions trans individuals had to face.

Lying is the single tool that allows a transsexual to reach the point where they can finally take control of their lives, according to the Centre’s website.

The cost of gender change can vary anywhere from $7,000 to $50,000, while necessary hormones cost about $700 a month.

According to a 2011 report by the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, 41 percent of transgender people that participated in the survey had attempted suicide some time in their life.

Rates were higher for those who lost employment due to bias, were harassed or bullied at school, had low household incomes or were victims of physical and sexual assault.

The week of awareness will commence on Nov. 16 and will conclude on Nov. 19 with a day of remembrance, where students will enter a vigil that recognizes victims of suicides and other deaths.

It’s free and open to the public.

University hosts Transgender Week of Awareness

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“The film screening will take place Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 11 a.m. at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

“The film, ‘Just Gender,’” will be shown during the LGBT and Beyond course, where students will learn more about gender and the ideologies behind gender,” said Mario Lara, a graduate assistant in the Office of Multicultural Programs at BBC.

Capote said it’s important that people understand the terminology for LGBTQ.

“Many people do not know that a person who identifies as someone that is designated a certain gender at birth but associates with another gender,” Capote said.

Though many individuals may not agree or understand the transgender community, Lara said the event can help people to understand.

“This [event] is to bring awareness to the transgender community, to those who may not agree or may not understand and help them become an ally to the community,” said Lara.

The University has made efforts this year to accommodate the transgender community with the creation of gender-neutral restrooms in residential housing and in the Graham Center.

The Office of LGBTQ recently started a pronoun campaign. Through the campaign, trans individuals and trans allies are introduced by pronouns they associate with, as such as he, him and his for an individual that associates with as a male.

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**Vandalism strikes University of Missouri’s black culture center**

A sign for the University of Missouri’s black culture center was vandalized early Thursday morning. One day after a death threat against black students rattled the entire campus.

The sign at the Gaines/Oldham Black Cultural Center appeared to be spray-painted to cover up the word “black.” Hours after black student demonstrators held a march at the building to protest racist threats at the university.

The sign was spray painted about 12:50 a.m., and police are reviewing surveillance footage from the area, university police said in a statement.

China’s use of torture increasingly targets lawyers

Over the past five years, China contends it has made significant advances in protecting the rights of suspected criminals, including a crackdown on confessions extracted by torture. But a new report by Amnesty International says torture remains pervasive in China’s legal system, and not just against alleged criminals and political activists. Famously, the report says, Chinese police and their operatives are torturing lawyers who defend people who come into the crosshairs of China’s Communist Party.

EU issues new ruling on labeling of Israeli products

The European Union on Wednesday issued new guidelines requiring labeling of imported goods made in Israeli settlements, drawing a strong rebuke from Israel, which called the move discriminatory.

Under the guidelines, products made in settlements in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, lands captured by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War, would be marked differently from goods made in Israel and will have to carry the word “settlement” on the label.

POLL: 4 in 10 think Clinton acted unethically on emails

A plurality of voters, including big blocs of Democrats and independents, think Hillary Clinton did something unethical in her use of a private email system for government business, according to a new McClatchy-Marist Poll.

At the same time, voters are closely divided over whether she’s answered all the questions about the Benghazi attacks. The results suggest that even as Clinton builds her lead for the Democratic presidential nomination over rival Bernie Sanders, a sizable number of voters have lingering questions about her behavior as secretary of state that would follow her through a general election campaign.

**White House honours engineering professor**

SOPHIE HERBUT

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Atorod Azizinamini said it’s a challenge to get his students in class, while companies are already offering them jobs.

“These consulting offices try to hire them before they graduate,” said Azizinamini, chair of the University’s civil and environmental engineering department. “I’m trying to appeal to his students, and it allows them to have a ‘well- rounded’ education.

Azizinamini said that his graduate students work very closely with the Department of Transportation and consultants. He said that his graduate students are at a very high demand.

“Our some of graduate students have been very influential in the way we design and build bridges in the U.S.,” said Azizinamini.

Jawad Gull was a bridge designer in Miami and one of Azizinamini’s graduate students.

“Azizinamini had a significant influence on my career. I have involved in a variety of research projects [that are] not conventional for [doctoral] students,” said Gull.

Graduate students usually work on only one research project, but Azizinamini allows them to work on a “variety of topics [in bridge engineering].”

Gull worked on advances in steel bridge design, he focused on developing theories explaining their behaviors during construction.

He analyzed the “fit-up force” and simplified the method of calculating it to reduce construction delays. Fits are the measure of the closeness or degree of contact between mechanical parts.

He also worked with a variety of consulting companies during his time with Azizinamini such as High Steel Structures, Hirschfeld Industries, L.P., Olson Engineering, Tampa Steel Company and Quakeproof.

Gull said he was able to create a unified theory that explains the behavior of skewed steel bridges during construction.

This December, Azizinamini is hosting the National Accelerated Bridge Construction Conference in the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Miami. It is scheduled to have workshops, networking and keynote speeches, among others such as Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart and the Federal Highway Administration’s director Gregory Nadeau.

“Azizinamini brought visibility to the subject,” said Berrin Tansel, CEE undergraduate program director.

He has worked at FIU since 1990 and has seen Azizinamini expand the faculty in structural engineering, especially in the Accelerated Bridge Construction area.” Azizinamini is the director of the Center for Accelerated Bridge Construction at the University.

The center is made up of a group of U.S. bridge engineering professionals gathered in Miami. It focuses on bridge replacements due to the need to replace substandard bridges in existence while maintaining traffic flows, according to its website.

The center also hosts a free monthly webinar that attracts an average of 4,000 participants, according to Azizinamini. He said he continues his research for personal curiosity and to create a more effective teaching method.

Azizinamini is not hesitant in involving his students into his research. He said that keeping up with research while educating his students is important, so that they get the most recent information on bridge engineering, rather than just what they find in textbooks.

“If [I] go to take 10 years from now to get [some material] into the textbooks,” said Azizinamini.

“I believe the greatest lesson I learned from him was to criticize previous works and look at them with the eyes to improve them or create a better theory,” said Reza Fametti, a University of Miami alumnus whom Azizinamini was an advisor for.

Originally, Azizinamini’s research was focused on earthquake and seismic engineering, which led him to choose earthquakes, like the Kobe earthquake of 1995.

Azizinamini’s focus on bridges came from an interest in transportation and the need to narrow his research to bridge engineering and lead his students by example.

“At you mature as a faculty, at some point in your life, you have to give it focus,” he said. “That’s the only way you’re going to make a contribution.”

Azizinamini said he found urgent bridge engineering because of the closing gap of physical and online life in the digital era.

The U.S. is home to about 600,000 bridges and, out of those, 25 percent need replacement or renovation, according to the ABC center.

Azizinamini produced a safe solution for bridges under 60 feet long that need renovation called, the “Folded Plate Steel Bridge System.”

It is the efficient way bridges steel plates bent into hollow tube sections.

The system provides the durability of steel in a lightweight form as a framework to incorporate concrete to be a cheaper alternative for bridges. It is also one of the options available in the center’s “Design Guide for Bridges for Service Life.”

Azizinamini was the principal investigator in the creation of the document. It is a guideline that provides different options and steps to create new bridges that have a longer span of service and that extend the life of the older ones. It has been implemented in Iowa, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Hawaii.

Azizinamini said the FPBS is one system that incorporates the ABC philosophy by building a large component of the bridge off traffic site and piecing it together “like a puzzle” on the truck, reducing the cut construction time to two days.

He also said it is an option for a “safe and cost-effective” way of building or rebuilding bridges.

“We are paying attention to the details but maintaining the same quality as if you build them the normal way,” Azizinamini said. “Our hope is that in 10 or 15 years, this technology will be the normal way bridges are built.”

He believes that the strategy is effective for both the public and agencies in preventing accidents and saving lives.

“The number one reason why we need to shorten [the time] is not only construction time, but to prevent accidents [caused by traffic changes],” Azizinamini said.

“The key to success is that we work as a team,” he said. He added that in his opinion, one of the top ten programs for bridge engineering in the U.S. FIU is the future face of what higher education is asking for and he believes that in the next 10 years.”

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Hirschfeld Industries, LP,

High Steel Structures Inc.,

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Fit-up is the measure of the

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Mizzou protests highlight the power of student activism

Mobile app could help student safety
Orange Oratory exhibits new artists

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Accomplished Miami artist Amanda Keeley founded Exile Books in 2014, which is a traveling bookstore that supports, features and sells books by artists who wish to share their creations with the world through a unique medium.

For the past year, Exile Books has had their traveling bookstore hosted at more than six different venues and in each venue there was a different theme. Keeley and the University partnered to bring the exciting bookstore to FIU’s Wolfsonian museum in Miami Beach, where it will remain for the next two months.

As she does with every location, Keeley created a unique theme for the Wolfsonian titled “The Orange Oratory.”

The idea for the theme comes from a 1939 Miami Herald article about the opening of the 27th Avenue Bridge over the Miami River. The story features the decision by the event’s organizers to use fresh-squeezed orange juice to toast the opening of the bridge at the official inaugural ceremony.

The Oratory focuses on what the Miami society looked like back then, how Florida’s oranges were advertised and how the orange industry affected life in south Florida.

The Oratory does not stop at reviving South Florida’s history, but it also wants Miami residents to explore the creative medium of artists books. Exile Books has over 400 artists book titles in its shelves. All the books are either independent publications or self-printed books hand picked by Keeley.

The books featured in the Oratory are very diverse and unique in their own way. One look at the them will make it evident that these books are a far cry from just being art books. They are artists books, which makes each one of them an original work of art.

Unlike traditional art books, artists books are created by an artist who conceives the book as a medium to express themselves and make the books personal expressions of their inner feelings and thoughts. Artists choose books as a platform for their art themselves because it gives them freedom of expression not found in other mediums.

Something that has helped artist books gain popularity is the fact that they are, in fact, books. Unlike a painting or a sculpture, a book can be conveniently taken on a bus ride or flight and can be shared and studied practically anywhere.

Exile Books and FIU’s the Wolfsonian through the Orange Oratory, in a creative exposition of art and history, are giving FIU students and Miami residents a golden opportunity to learn about an exciting and innovative form of art, as well as an opportunity to learn about South Florida’s unique history.

CINDY RAYS
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For those of us in our junior and senior years, entering the “real world” can be a scary thing. Even with a worlds ahead education there is no guarantee we will land that dream job and start a triumphant career.

The Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Center invited back three alumni who are successful in their respected fields of journalism, advertisement and public relations to share with current students how they thrived after graduating.

They spoke about their careers, how they got there and gave insights about how their education was the base that took them where they wanted to go.

Joelle Parra, communications and social media manager of the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation started her career with dreams of becoming a reporter.

For three years she worked for Channel 7 and made her way up to the associate editor position. “What happens when you get that dream job but you decide you want to try something different?” Parra wanted to make a move to public relations. “There are three needs you need to do,” she said, “One: be open-minded.

Two learn to create opportunities for yourself and three: never stop learning!”

One thing that Parra stressed is that there is no linear path. You might have to go out and start in an unexpected position, but as long as it is in your field, any skill you gain will be beneficial in the future.

Barbara Corbellini Duarte of the Miami Sentinel says she wouldn’t have gotten her job if it wasn’t for Professor Pinto. “Your connections are everything” Duarte said.

She advises students to look for an internship. In the real world, showing you have a 4.0 GPA will not get you a job. Employers need to see what you can do.

Have a personal blog, learn how to write well, create a portfolio, brand yourself and most importantly have a positive attitude. “Before you go into the job search, take time to really get to learn about yourself and what makes you happy.”

Lily Saviñon, founder and executive director of LD Creative, graduated in spring 2010. A short month after she was already working as a bilingual copywriter.

After working for one year, she decided to go to Boston University to pursue her masters in advertising. She came back to Miami looking for a job and applied for what she thought was “the longest shot ever,” creative and marketing director of the luxury real estate company The Jills.

“You’ll never know if you don’t apply,” Saviñon said. It was working at The Jills where she discovered that her passion was being creative. Two and a half years ago she founded LD Creative.

“Knowledge is never going to go to waste,” says Saviñon on majoring in public relations but ending up in advertising. Saviñon also runs the student- driven Bold Agency at FIU.

Parra invites students to “hire themselves.” For example, this includes reach out to small businesses in the community who don’t have the means or knowledge to brand their company. “Create their social media profiles, help them get the word out about their products.” This will not only be beneficial for the business, but it will give students something they can put in their resumes and portfolios.

For more information on the Leadership Seminar series contact Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication at kcener@fiu.edu or stop by BBC Academic II | Room 251.
Patrick Kennedy adresses mental illness at event

COLLINS SIMPSON / STAFF WRITER

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On Sunday, Nov. 1, Books and Books hosted Patrick J. Kennedy, a famous face in the political world. Patrick Kennedy is the son of the late senator Ted Kennedy as well as nephew of famous U.S. President John F. Kennedy, and was also a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Rhode Island.

Kennedy came to Books and Books with a mission. He has taken on the challenge to be a leading political voice on mental illness, addiction and other brain diseases. He left Congress in 2011 to take on a new role.

He has become an advocate for the treatment and research of brain diseases. On this Sunday afternoon, he stood before a packed audience and disclosed the events of his life to strangers whom he hoped to impact.

Patrick has recently written the book, "A Common Struggle, A Personal Journey Through the Past and Future of Mental Illness and Addiction," in which he reveals his journey through mental illness and addiction and weaved his story through an array of private and professional narratives. Kennedy wrote his story in conjunction with Stephen Fried, an award-winning healthcare journalist and an adjunct professor at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. Although some of Kennedy’s family members were not pleased with the publication of private family secrets, he felt the need to break the silence and talk openly about what he and his family have suffered due to mental illness and substance abuse.

In addition to his own addictions, Kennedy discussed his mother’s addiction to alcohol; stressing how it was a non-discussion item when he was young. He also stressed that the need for discussion is imperative in the treatment of addiction and mental illness, as these subjects cannot be taboo. Kennedy emphasized that addiction and mental health illnesses must be treated as medical issues, not personal failures.

For Kennedy, this road has truly been a struggle. In May of 2006, Kennedy crashed his car into a Capitol Hill barrier due to a prescription drug-induced haze. This was his turning point. Hours after the incident, he publicly disclosed his addiction to prescription painkillers and his struggle with bipolar, depression and anxiety disorders.

Kennedy had been in and out of treatment centers since the age of 17, but this time was different. This incident could have ended Kennedy’s political career, yet instead it was the beginning of a realization that change had to occur. Kennedy became an advocate for mental health and substance abuse awareness, understanding, and discovering cures for all mental illnesses.

He also advocates the need for a coordinated national effort to support private and public research as a means of bringing more awareness, understanding, and discovering cures for all mental illnesses.

Kennedy emphasized that addiction and mental health care, research, and policy both in and out of Congress. Through this endeavor, Kennedy sponsored the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) in Congress. He left Congress in 2011 and founded the Kennedy Forum, which brings together the community of mental health.

He co-founded "The One Mind for Research Campaign," which brings together researchers, policymakers and philanthropists to promote brain research through a collaborative effort. Kennedy advocates the need for excellence in mental health services, the importance in working with existing mental health organizations and the need for new tools, standards and laws to bring about change in the American Health Care System to provide more support to the mental health community.

Kennedy also had some suggestions in ways to get more involved, even here in your own community. You all have a lot happening here in Miami. You’re all definitely in the right place, that’s all I can say.

Kennedy is boldly trying to make a difference in the world. His endeavors and book is truly a call to action.

Patricia Kennedy signs copies of his new novel with his daughter Nora.

"I think tonight’s event was certainly one of the most important events that we’ve had here at the bookstore. It meant so much to so many people to hear Patrick’s story, and also to hear the story of other people in the community. "It’s great that you’re all interested in subjects like this, and studying is the best way is to pursue that interest. I hope you read the back of my book, and you’ll get lots of suggestions in ways to get
Panthers scheduled to enter conference tournament

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The University’s women’s volleyball team (14-12, 8-7 in Conference USA) faced off against Louisiana Tech University (10-19, 3-12 in C-USA) Thursday, Nov. 12.

With the regular season winding down and having lost four-straight games, the Panthers found themselves in dire need of a victory in order to clinch a spot in the conference tournament.

The team responded with a dominant effort, defeating LA Tech in straight sets with final scores of 25-14, 25-17 and 25-15.

The Panthers controlled the game, and with their win, punched their ticket into the C-USA tournament.

In the first set, the Panthers came out with an early 8-2 lead and never slowed down.

The team finished the set hitting .429 and held the Lady Techsters to a hitting percentage of .129.

Junior middle blocker, Katie Hogan, led the Panthers with three kills, as six different players had at least onekill.

The Panthers didn’t look back in the second set as they took the 2-0 lead. Sophomore middle blocker, Jennifer Ene, controlled the pace for the Panthers as she tallied four kills.

In the final set, the Panthers hit as an impressive rate once again. They finished the set with a hitting percentage of .364 and sealed the deal, winning the match and clinching a spot in the conference tournament.

Senior outside hitter, Lucia Castro, accounted for four kills and three digs in the set.

The team had one of its most efficient games offensively. It finished with 41 kills with only eight errors, for a final hitting percentage of .308.

Defensively, the Panthers held the Lady Techsters to a hitting percentage of .109, only allowing 29 kills and forcing 17 errors.

Ene finished the match with 12 kills and three blocks while senior middle blocker, Gloria Levorin, added 9 kills, as she surpassed the 750 kill mark for her career.

Castro and Hogan combined for 13 kills as this Panther attack showed balance for one of the few times this season. Freshman setter, Katie Friesen, led the team with 18 assists.

The Panthers controlled the game, and with their win, punched their ticket into the C-USA tournament.

The Panthers have clinched at least a seventh seed in the C-USA tournament.

They can move up to sixth with a win against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and a loss by Florida Atlantic University against LA Tech Saturday, Nov. 14. Both games are scheduled to start at 7 p.m.

Earlier this season, the Panthers defeated the 49ers of Charlotte in straight sets at home and will look to do the same for a chance at a higher seed in the upcoming tournament next week.

Wakefield named Conference-USA Player of the Week

DAVID J. NEAL
The Miami Herald
TNS Staff

No wonder FIU coach Ron Turner likens Wakefield to two of the favorite players he coached at Illinois, 11-year NFL offensive lineman Tony Pashos and 10-year offensive lineman Brandon Mcough.

“Tony was one of my all-time favorite people,” Turner said. “I talk to him every day through text or Twitter or something. I love him. That’s why he played 12 years in the NFL because he was a professional and he had an edge about him. Wint is the same guy just without that obnoxious edge.”

“Brandon never said a word. Total opposite to Tony. Extremely serious. Quiet. Intelligent. So, similar [to Wint] in that way.”

The thoroughness with which Wint approaches football left Turner unpersuaded that Wint plays chess.

“I’m here to play football so I’m going to put my maximum effort toward this for 12 weeks or more,” Wint said in that way.

Turning continued. “The ones who don’t learn from them are two or three years. They learn from the true professionals. “Anthony Wint, he doesn’t have to learn from anybody. He’s already a true professional.”

McGough on Record Pace

Perhaps overlooked in the many team records set during Saturday’s 38-31 win against Charlotte was sophomore linebacker Alex McGough resetting FIU’s single season record for pass completions.

McGough’s 27 completions gave him 241 for the season, zooming by the 226 completed in 2010 by current FIU radio color analyst Wes Carroll.

McGough enters this Saturday’s game with 94 passing yards from Carroll’s season record of 2,623, also set in 2010.

Wakefield is currently number three of all time at the University for tackles for loss (34.5), tackles for loss yardage (105). He is also the all-time leader in forced fumbles.

“Peter’s Picks” offers commentary on the University’s football team. For suggestions or commentary, email sportsp@fiusm.com.

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McGough on Record Pace

Perhaps overlooked in the many team records set during Saturday’s 38-31 win against Charlotte was sophomore linebacker Alex McGough resetting FIU’s single season record for pass completions.

McGough’s 27 completions gave him 241 for the season, zooming by the 226 completed in 2010 by current FIU radio color analyst Wes Carroll.

McGough enters this Saturday’s game with 94 passing yards from Carroll’s season record of 2,623, also set in 2010.
The man, ‘The Myth,’ the legend

Sergio Oliva, also known as “The Myth,” posing in his internationally famous Victory Pose, which no other bodybuilder has been able to duplicate. He remains the only Hispanic to have won the Mr. Olympia title.

Born in Cuba in July 1941, Oliva was born into a tough life, working by the age of 13 but it wasn’t until after the Cuban Revolution that he was introduced to the world of bodybuilding. Call it luck or call it destiny but after months of training, Oliva was chosen to represent Cuba in the 1962 Pan American games that were being hosted in Kingston, Jamaica. The night before the competition, he escaped his quarters, outran Castro’s secret police and the Jamaican police and made it to the American embassy where he was granted political asylum and came to live right here in Miami.

A year later, Oliva moved to Chicago after the FBI recommended he should get farther away from Cuba because Castro was sending continuous threats to him. He eventually became a police officer and used any free time he had to workout at the gym, and it wasn’t long until rumors began to circulate in the bodybuilding world about a Cuban Powerhouse who could lift more than any of the champions. Even with all the discrimination Oliva faced at the time, as civil right issues were very intense in the United States, he proved the rumors true as he went on to win first place in over 20 bodybuilding championships, even entering the Book of World Records twice, once for winning Mr. Olympia uncontested, and for being the first ever bodybuilder to win and hold the top standings titles in four competitive bodybuilding federations—IFBB, AAU, NABBA, WBBG—a record that he still holds today. It was through all these accomplishments and the size of his physique, with his arms being bigger than his head and his thighs bigger than his waist, that he gained the nickname, “The Myth.”

While the nickname is fitting, it wasn’t just a myth that people talked about. He was real. He was the first black man to have won the top titles in bodybuilding and still today is the only Hispanic to have won Mr. Olympia. Experts in the bodybuilding world have agreed that his body is not only one in a million but he’s the most genetic champion in the entire history of bodybuilding. He’s still an international sensation and was inducted into fourteen different Halls of Fame during his life. Yes, he was a legend and yes, he was no regular man, like Denise, another legend in the bodybuilding industry, has said, “Greeks had Hercules, bodybuilding has Sergio.”

He’s proof. He’s proof that the American Dream can be accomplished. If he was able to escape communism, find success during a time when discrimination was at its peak and still ignite passion in the hearts of many today, then it means you can as well, no matter where you come from.

We’re lucky to be here in America, in a country where countless opportunities to make yourself what you want to be exist, and we’re lucky to be in a university that is continuously growing and offering us different opportunities to better ourselves. Struggle, fall down, but always get back up, as long as you love your passion, whether it’s a sport or something else, as long as you try, you won’t have regrets. If Sergio Oliva hadn’t tried to get to the American embassy, he never would have been the legend people talk of today. So take the risk, and don’t look back.

“M Talk” is a column that covers innovative events and topics. For suggestions or commentary email michelle.marchante@fiu.edu.
The Comics Club at Biscayne Bay Campus will be bringing their third installment of its annual comics convention.

Convention goers will be able to buy comics and collectibles from local vendors and independent artists, showcasing popular superheroes in their original works and participating in cosplay contests—the practice of dressing up as characters of movies, books or video games.

"We open the floor [for] everyone to bring their best costumes," said Michel-ange Germain, the vice president of the University’s Comics Club.

According to Germain, the event will feature a video game station and artists from DC and Marvel Comics to give fans the opportunity to meet well-established comic creators in person.

"Last year we had Jose Debro, the creator of Wonder Woman, at one of our events," said Javier Diaz, the president of the club.

The artists for this year’s event will not be revealed until the actual event date. "It’s all a surprise," said Germain.

The convention will be held during the same week the University will be hosting its International Education Week.

Diaz said that the Comics Club’s contribution to the International Education Week comes in the form of a presentation highlighting the collaboration of American superheroes with superheroes from other parts of the world, like The Flash joining forces with Argentinian Salamanca in one of its comic book’s issues, releasing the title, "We are going to have a board with different superheroes," said Diaz. "We’ll have some from Europe, and [we’ll] have some from Asia.

Diaz thinks the Comics-Con could serve as a gateway to expose people to comic book traditions from other parts of the world. He said that events like these are meant to entertain and educate people about the "wide-reach" that comics have in the "adult world."

"I overhear all the time, when people step at the tables, ‘I’ll get something for my little brother’. ‘Diaz. ‘It’s not only about little kids, you can also find something interesting [for yourself].”

Alexandra Rodriguez, a sophomore journalism major at the University, likes comic books and is excited about attending the event. "I hope to see a lot of people there," she said. "I hope to find some original artwork or discounted comic books."

The Comics-Con will be held Thursday, Nov. 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the BBC’s Panther Square. For more information, contact the Comics Club at comics@fiu.edu.

Students discuss discriminatory thinking and behavior

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On Thursday, Nov. 10, the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services held their fifth and final “A Love Movement” discussion of the Fall Semester. The discussion focused on how regional stereotypes are forms of discrimination, that people may use to define others based on preconceived notions of behavior. Jeffrey McNamne, Associate Director of MPAS, guided the conversation.

Participants were given a map of the United States and wrote down the stereotypes that each state might be known for, shedding light on the judgment calls made about a group of people simply based on where they live.

As the conversation led to racial discrimination, students of various ethnic backgrounds sat in a circle and shared anecdotes of uncomfortable situations they’ve faced.

One of the participants, Jephthe Laguerre, a Haitian-American junior majoring in health administration, recalled working in retail and how his boss asked him to only follow African-American shoppers to make sure they weren’t stealing anything.

"To be honest, African Americans were not the main ones stealing from the store," Laguerre said. "We ended up losing over $5,000 because there was too much focus on one particular race instead of looking at people as a whole.

"Laguerre’s story is a reflection on the harmful generalizations that are used to define a community without actually knowing who people are on a unique level.

"The way we process faster is to group things," McNamne said. "But people aren’t things. They’re very unique and multi-layered.”

"Laguerre is a part of MPAS and finds value in the ALM discussions because it brings attention to problematic social structures that continue to persist when these issues are ignored or only addressed behind closed doors.

"These discussions give people a more informed way of how to approach a situation instead of jumping to conclusions," Laguerre said.

"Many of the problems with our current generation and generations to come is ignorance, and it has become more and more prominent," said Vi Elena Crawford, a hospitality management junior.

"Crawford works with MPAS as part of her work-study program and is also a part of Upward Bound. She loves being a part of such groundbreaking discussions every year because it helps to break social barriers in a time of intense racial tension.

"It’s important to have discussions like this so we can educate people," said Crawford.

"She has faith that people once held discriminatory beliefs based on stereotypes can realize where they went wrong and change for the better.

"McNamee is proud to facilitate these annual discussions instead of only going online. It’s important to have discussions on controversial issues and help students open a dialogue about them.

"McNamee hopes that participants realize that people are mostly individualistic despite the fact that they may have similarities with stereotypes that often apply their ethnicities and cultures.

"The next discussion is on February 3, 2016 and will cover institutional racism.

Can the world’s coral be saved from extinction?

David Hevarg
Los Angeles Times
TNS

Two steps are a perfect snookering spot on the Big Island of Hawaii. Black lava rocks step down twice into the clear waters of a small bay where, on a good day, you’re guaranteed to see brightly colored fish and green sea turtles schooling through myriad forms of coral in shades of brown, green, yellow, pink and purple.

But if you happened to visit last month, you would have found about 30 percent of the corals bleached wedding-cake white.

It’s a sure sign that the ocean is heating up. Overly warm water causes living coral polyps to expel the photosynthetic algae, called zooxanthellae, that give them their varied colors and about 70 percent of their nutrients. If the bleaching lasts too long, the corals starve to death.

All of Hawaii’s coral reefs are bleaching this year, a “really serious problem,” says Sheila McKenna, a marine ecologist at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. And a problem that seems to be accelerating.

With the return of a strong El Nino in the Pacific Ocean and the continued effects of global warming, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has just declared the third global coral bleaching event in history (the first two took place in 1998 during an earlier El Nino and in 2010). Ninety-five percent of U.S. corals, which are mostly concentrated off the coasts of Hawaii and Florida, are likely to be exposed to conditions that can cause bleaching.

Tropical coral reefs cover less than 1 percent of the ocean, but they are home and nursery to 25 percent of all marine species; billions of fish, mollusks and other creatures rely on reefs for their food and shelter. Their beauty generates tourism dollars, and they act as barriers providing storm protection for millions of coastal residents.

Unfortunately, they are especially fragile in the face of pollution, ocean acidification, overfishing and climate change. Most are not expected to survive this century.

There is some hope. Emerging science suggests coral reefs that are fully protected from pollution and overfishing are more resilient to the impact of climate change. That’s one reason a coalition of Hawaii-based groups is calling for an emergency moratorium on the collection of aquarium-trade fish off their reefs.

At the same time, those who care about coral are looking at triage—not every reef will survive.