SPC unveils surprise celebrity guest

FIU’s Student Programming Council covered the GC Pit in orange and black, Monday, Feb. 1 between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. at their SPC Has a Secret event.

Handing out cupcakes and sandwiches, SPC Director Natalie Sarracino promised to reveal a secret announcement.

“We’ve been advertising this as a secret for about two weeks now,” said Sarracino, a junior journalism major.

Just before the scheduled reveal, however, a fire alarm was triggered in GC, requiring that the building evacuate for about 20 minutes.

Upon reconvening inside, SPC revealed their next guest in the SPC Speaker series, Selenis Leyva, during the SPC Has a Secret event Monday, Feb. 1.

Leyva is a Cuban-American actress who plays Gloria Mendoza in the Netflix original series “Orange is the New Black.”

“Except for the Eboard, nobody else knew about this,” said Erin Swink, a freshman nursing major and SPC member. “It was really exciting, even for us.”

The event is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. in the GC Ballrooms. Doors will open to attendants at 5:30 p.m.

Sarracino, a junior journalism major, said Leyva will cover a number of topics during her talk, including her experience on “Orange is the New Black.”

“She’ll be talking about immigration because her parents are of Cuban and Dominican descent, and she has a transgender sibling, so she’ll be advocating for LGBT issues.”

Having recently started watching the show, Swink was pleased to hear the news.

“I really like [Orange is the New Black], so that’s how I knew who she was. I thought it would be somebody less known, but it turned out to be really cool,” Swink said.

Afterward, Leyva will hold a Q-and-A where she answers questions posed over Twitter with the hashtag #SPCITNB.

“We chose to collaborate with the Cuban Research Institute, the Cuban-American Student Organization and International Student Scholar Services so a lot of international clubs who, hopefully, the members can relate to her story,” said Sarracino.

Admission will be free for students who present their OneCard and $5 for guests at the door.

Black Student Union welcomes Marc Lamont Hill

February marks the beginning of Black History Month and campus organizations are planning out events to celebrate. This week the Black Student Union will have guest speaker, Marc Lamont Hill, visit the university to kick off Black History Month.

BSU expressed excitement for his visit, seeing as he will help to engage the community in their events this month.

Rashaad Perry-Patterson is a junior majoring in political science as part of FIU’s School of Law Program and is the education and enrichment coordinator for the Black Student Union. He is one of the co-chairs for BSU’s Black History Month festivities.

Esi Fynn-Obeng in her fourth year at FIU and is a double major in communication arts and sociology. Fynn-Obeng serves as the educations and traditions coordinator for the Black History Month committee.

Marc Lamont Hill is a social activist who has been on different media platforms speaking out against racial injustices. Hill is also a professor, author and journalist who has written books on the prison industrial system, reported and commented on the ideologies of republican and democratic candidates and has provided commentary on the retention rates of schools and universities.

Perry-Patterson says “Because [Hill] is black, we’re excited that we can show that we have someone that dynamic in our community who can reach out to other students and other races.”

Fynn-Obeng adds, “So much is going on in our community and he has been very vocal about these issues.”

Fynn-Obeng also mentions that Hill is a great example for the message they want to convey this Black History Month because “The theme being ‘I am’ and ‘I am social change’, ties into what we are hoping that he’s going to get people ready for Black History Month.”

BSU will have several forums and events for community interaction throughout the month of February. Fynn-Obeng expressed that one of the main reasons Hill’s presentation is something to look forward to is the hope that he will inspire the community to participate in the entirety of Black History Month.

“When people hear him speak and see his presentation they’ll get excited for Black History Month and get excited for the black community on campus” she said.

Perry-Patterson adds that Hill will “kick [events] off on the awareness and education level, to better understand why we’re doing what we’re doing for Black History Month.”

“Hopefully he doesn’t just influence the FIU community” Fynn-Obeng says, “but everyone in the community around us as well.”

The police department is also invited to the event as an emphasis put on the Black Lives Matter movement, which will be addressed in the presentation. According to Perry-Patterson and Fynn-Obeng, this is to show that the students, the community and the officers are not at a battle with each other, but that they stand together. Perry-Patterson says he hopes for the community to understand and agree with the fact that “when we respond, we respond together” in the search for justice. BSU is holding the event featuring Hill as the keynote speaker Wednesday, Feb. 3, in the GC Ballrooms at 8 p.m.
Prosecutors reach deal with Missouri professor charged with assault

Columbia prosecutors have reached a deal with University of Missouri-Columbia assistant professor Melissa Click, in which she will avoid prosecution for a misdemeanor assault charge stemming from a November run-in with student journalists.

Click’s part of the deal requires her to complete 20 hours of community service work and not break the law for one year. “Based on the facts of this case, I believe this disposition to service work and not break the law for one year is in the best interest of Melissa Click and in the best interest of the University,” said Circuit Attorney Caleb Bradford.

Click gained national attention last year after she was captured on video blocking student journalists and calling for “muscle” to keep the journalists from taking photos and videos of a campus demonstration.

The video prompted a strong backlash from members of the public, school officials and legislators, some of whom called for Click to be fired.

This week, interim Mizzou Chancellor Hank Foley resisted calls to fire Click. He said he would wait for due process to play out.

In his weekly television and radio address, “I’ve got a plan to help make sure all our kids get an opportunity to learn science.”

The president’s proposal would provide $4 billion to states and $100 million to school districts over three years that could be used to train teachers, expand course offerings and improve programs that encourage girls and minorities to pursue technology careers.

The White House said technology companies had pledged to increase their investments in computer science education as part of the initiative.

The expansion of medical schools in South Florida has seen a rapid trend in development and Florida International University remains one of the most competitive institutions.

The University, alongside Atlantic University, has increased the amount of residency programs in its institutions. Recently, Nova Southeastern University has announced that Dr. Johannes V. Vieweg, the director of the University of Florida’s Prostate Disease Center, will act as a founding dean to its second medical school.

While the University of Miami revealed last Thursday that the family of Stuart A. Miller, chair of UM’s Board of Trustees, donated $50 million towards the development of an advanced medical building for its medical school.

The University of Miami maintained the first medical school in Florida based on a “traditional medical doctor program”, followed by Nova Southeastern, which developed on osteopathic medicine.

In 2009, medical school development in South Florida greatly expanded, with the development of FIU’s Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, which was followed by Florida Atlantic University’s school of medicine in 2011.

By 2018, South Florida will have five medical schools after the construction of NSU’s MD program.

The reputation of UM’s medical school, Pascal J. Goldschmidt, stated, “This is good for the area, it’s difficult to be the only medical school. It’s important to have a mass effect of people who are very well educated and who are engaged in research activity and medical care.”

These expansions have arrived just in time as recent predictions state that by 2025, Florida will need 7,700 physicians.

FIU alone hosts 480 medical students at the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and continues to expand. The medical school also employs over 8,300 employees and contributes to estimated $1 billion to the state economy.

In 2015, the University in partnership with Nicklaus Children’s Hospital, Cleveland Clinic, and Broward Health North opened a new residency training program at West Kendall Baptist Hospital.

Dr. John Rock, Dean of FIU’s medical school stated “We’re actively increasing the residencies, because obviously, we want our students to stay here in South Florida and train.”

Rock insists that many students that complete their residencies at FIU will remain in South Florida.

The expansion of medical school expansions major trend in Florida.
Cody the Camel fights against HIV

PANTHER HEALTH

My family emigrated from Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere. Unfortunately, that fact still remains true today. This country that has been ravaged by corruption and greed finally had an opportunity of conducting a democratic election on Jan. 24, but a day before it was to be decided who would become the next presidential successor, the election was postponed indefinitely. Jude Celestin, a presidential candidate, “refused to participate over alleged fraud,” as mentioned by a Reuters article. Creating a stable government has been a recurring issue in Haiti. Since 1957, Haiti has been unable to build a proper governmental system due to the dictatorship of the Duvalier family.

Ever since then, the transition of power to another successor has been one of difficulty. “This is a country that has a terrible history of dictatorships and coups. And so, it’s been very fragile, the democracy here, only a change in power peacefully one or two times,” Carrie Kahn said on NPR. Michel Martelly is the current president and is due to step down this February. The two candidates, Jude Celestin and Jovenal Moïse, are in the running for the position with two very different ideas of Haiti’s future. Moise is favored by Martelly mainly because they have similar values—bringing foreign investors into the country and helping the tourism industry flourish. Celestin, on the other hand, cares deeply about the poor people of the country and doesn’t want to be a part of a corrupt government. His negation to partake in the election has caused protest and violence in the streets.

This accident resonated with Haitian students here at the university. Protesting is sometimes a way to distract from the real problems of Haiti—which, in my opinion, a lack of knowledge and fear government the country and resolving its problems,” FIU student Fabienne Pierre said.

The people of Haiti are afraid that the government will fall into the wrong hands which is why they want Martelly gone in the first place. Moise and Martelly both have the same vision—bringing in foreign investors to help boost their economy and help them put Haiti on the map as a tourist destination. However, the people won’t get a say in what is being done within their country. “Why are we the ones being scared to go back home while foreigners are walking the streets of Haiti like they are home?” Another university student, Niva Fleurantin, said.

In order to know what is going on in Haiti, you would have to know its history.

This has been a circumstance that the Haitian community has felt before and they don’t want to experience the same setbacks. If foreign investors go in to build their own companies, who is to say that they won’t hire the Haitian people as workers and pay them next to nothing? The people need to have a voice in the government that represents their concerns and helps see them through.

Does Haiti need help to rebuild? Of course, it does. Every country needs a helping hand when it’s in the middle of a crisis. However, it can become an independent nation and not have to depend on other countries just constantly give them aid. Haiti needs a president who is willing to create jobs domestically instead of bringing overseas investors to dominate their country. Plus, the workers will be able to produce an income for themselves and their families. Most of all, Haiti needs a president the people can trust in order for progress to be realized.

In order to have a prosperous and functional country, there needs to be a foundation on which it can thrive. Haiti needs to have a presidential election soon if they want the remnants of what’s left to become something tangible and fundamentally strong.

Politicuzzi said that raising awareness about political issues in the US and worldwide. Fabienne Fleurantin is a commentary on college health and nutrition. Maytzeine Kramer is a staff writer for FIU student media. For more commentary, please contact Maytzeine at opinion@ficucm.com.
PANTHER CORONATION
The 2016 Mr. and Miss FIU Pageant in Photos

Top left: Kaitlyn Bourke, a freshman majoring in theatre performance, responds to a question from Mr. FIU 2015 Michael Cabral during the pageant’s Q-and-A session, Saturday, Jan. 30. Bourke is the 2016 Miss FIU Runner Up.

Above: Torya Whittaker, Miss FIU 2015, opened the show with a dance number to introduce the night’s contestants. Whittaker and Cabral served as the pageant’s hosts.

Bottom Right: Rene Maurice, a senior corporate finance major, celebrates being crowned the 2016 Mr. FIU pageant winner. Maurice will use the platform to spread awareness on the gentrification of Little Haiti.

Below: Julian Sarmiento, a junior majoring in business, serenaded the crowd with a cover of Usher’s “Nice and Slow.” Sarmiento was the runner up for Mr. FIU.

Left: Stefanie Almeida, a senior studying marketing, dances to Demi Lovato’s “Confident” during the talent portion of the 2016 Miss FIU Pageant. Almeida was crowned the 2016 Miss FIU winner, serving with Feed Miami as her platform.
Kaitlyn Bourke, a freshman majoring in theatre performance, responds to a question from Mr. FIU 2015 Michael Cabral during the pageant’s Q-and-A session, Saturday, Jan. 30. Bourke is the 2016 Miss FIU Runner Up.

Torya Whittaker, Miss FIU 2015, opened the show with a dance number to introduce the night’s contestants. Whittaker and Cabral served as the host, celebrating being crowned the 2016 Mr. FIU pageant winner. Maurice will use the platform to spread awareness on the gentrification of Little Haiti.

Julian Sarmiento, a junior majoring in business, serenaded the crowd with a cover of Usher’s “Nice and Slow.” Sarmiento was the runner up for Mr. Demi Lovato’s “Confident” during the talent portion of the 2016 Miss FIU Pageant. Almeida was her platform.
The 2015 baseball team receives their championship rings during a halftime presentation during the men's basketball game Saturday, Jan. 30.

Lopsided Superbowl in the making

A once explosive offense when Manning first came to town has seen much better days. Could it be going hand-in-hand with the aging of Manning? I think so, but now is the chance to break out and prove the doubters wrong.

It’s not like Denver doesn’t have weapons. Their wide receiving duo in Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders is near the top in the league. Running backs Ronnie Hillman and C.J. Anderson are solid players that can get the job done.

However, I think it’s the inability to possess a consistent running attack that hampers this offense. An aging quarterback’s best friend is a consistent running attack. It keeps defenses guessing and forces them to play on their toes, and the Broncos struggled mightily all season to get this going.

Believe me, I was foolish enough to draft Anderson in the first round of my fantasy league and it did not pay off.

The moment Carolina wide receiver, Kelvin Benjamin,....
The Panthers found it tough going against the Monarchs as they held a lead for the majority of the game. Williams was blocked in the lane and couldn’t start in this one. Freshman guard Kimar Draper believes that the Panthers must get back to their identity if they are to get back into a winning rhythm.

“We need to be more focused on playing defense,” said Draper. “We failed our team on the defensive side of the ball and need to execute better. “

Although the Panthers were dominated on the boards and shot poorly, they managed to keep close down the stretch and were behind only a single possession with a minute left. A reach-in foul by Boswell, a fake from ODU’s Trey Freeman and a Boswell miss on an open three took the Monarchs back into a winning rhythm. Draper believes that the Panthers must get back to their identity if they are to get back into a winning rhythm.

“Usually, we’re more focused on defense - it’s our staple as a team. Guys have to be more focused on playing defense,” said Draper.

Next up for the Panthers is a road trip to the University of Alabama at Birmingham Thursday, Feb. 4, when the Panthers take on the Blazers who have won 15 of their last 16 games. The Panthers suffered a tough loss against the Monarchs as they held a lead for the majority of the game.

FOOTBALL

Tackle, page 6

Carolina’s defense key to success

Carolina’s defense has been a key factor in their success this season. They have allowed just 20.7 points per game, which is the second-lowest in the ACC. The Panthers proved that they could compete with the best teams in the conference when they defeated Florida State 28-27 in Tallahassee.

This defense is not solely dependent on the front seven. The Panthers have been successful in keeping teams out of the backfield and disrupting their passing games. They have also been effective in forcing turnovers, with 10 interceptions this season.

Another key to Carolina’s success has been their ability to hold teams to low-yardage gains. They have held teams to an average of 286.2 yards per game, which is the fifth-lowest in the ACC. The Panthers have also been successful in forcing turnovers, with 10 interceptions this season.

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One of the reasons why Carolina’s defense has been so effective is because of their consistency in running the ball. Newton has been a real plus for the offense, especially when executing the read option. He hasn’t let Newton’s ability to roll out of the pocket or take direct snaps. At 6-foot-5 and 245 lbs, Newton is built like a true tight end with running back speed, a dangerous combination.

“We’ve all heard the saying “defense wins championships,”” said Petrovic. “That all being said, I truly think Manning would win this game and end his career on a positive note. However, I have it going to Denver because I think Carolina’s defense will bother Manning and the Broncos’ offense too much.”

According to Petrovic, Manning will be “dabbing” his way to the franchise’s first Super Bowl victory. “Carlotta had the right game plan,” said Petrovic. “But it looked like Manning was trying to run in the second set and got frustrated when things didn’t go her way.”

The Broncos will struggle to run the football, being Manning to pass 35+ times and committing a couple turnovers. Newton and the Carolina Panthers will be “dabbing” their way to the franchise’s first Super Bowl victory. Bowl Bash discusses NFL football games including the Super Bowl. For suggestions or commentary email nefano. river@fiusm.com

SPORTS

The Beacon – Wednesday, February 3, 2016

FINISHING STRONG

Women’s tennis

Trocjans’ end rival threat

The Troy University Trojans’ comeback win in the final singles match of the FIU women’s tennis home opener on Friday, Jan. 29 left the Panthers frustrated and annoyed. The 1st-1 lost to the Trojans 2-1, 4-3 in their home opener after junior Carlotta Orlando lost to Sanee Otta of the Trojans in the final singles match of the day. Otta came back from a one-set deficit to down Orlando and the Panthers.

“There’s nothing you can say to the team after a loss like this,” said head coach Katarina Petrovic. “These matches can go either way. Unfortunately for us, this match didn’t go our way. It’s frustrating, but we need to execute better and be more consistent in the next match and move on from this one.”

Recurring troubles in the doubles play was the downfall of the Panthers against Troy. "We have a problem with motivation," said Petrovic. "After Vekslers win, Lazaros defeated Karaky, 6-2, 6-4, and a Boswell miss on an open three took the Monarchs back into a winning rhythm. Draper believes that the Panthers must get back to their identity if they are to get back into a winning rhythm.

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The Ferryman is the student newspaper of Florida International University. We are the voices of the students, the teachers, and the community.
MR. AND MS. FIU 2016

Scholarship pageant crowns next 2016 representatives

ERICA SANTIAGO
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This past weekend the Mister and Miss FIU Scholarship Pageant took place at the Mary Anne Wolfle Theater at BBC and culminated with the announcement of the University’s new Mr. and Ms. FIU 2016. This year, students Stephanie Almeida, a senior marketing major, and Rene Maurice, a senior corporate marketing major, were crowned Mr. and Ms. FIU 2016 respectively.

As the winner of Mr. FIU 2016, Maurice received a $550 scholarship, an official Mr. FIU crown, sash and plaque.

Among the many awards Almeida received as the new reigning Ms. FIU was a $1,500 scholarship, an official Miss America crown, sash, pin and plaque. She was also awarded $150 towards her gown for Miss Florida Pageant as well as a $400 towards her gown for Miss Florida University.

“I’m excited about every opportunity to be a voice to women at FIU and every opportunity to be a Florida.”

Almeida was asked about her proudest accomplishment, he answered that he was proud to have gone from a student facing legal troubles a year ago, to being in the running for Mr. FIU 2016.

After the evening wear and Q&A session, Whittaker began to prepare for her final farewell. Each Miss FIU winners choose someone to mentor as Miss FIU’s Sunshine Prince or Princess.

Prior to her final walk, Whittaker’s younger sister Dallas Whittaker took the stage to perform a short dance routine to the song “Beautiful Liar” by Beyonce and Shakira.

Dallas Whittaker is 6 years old and was the former Miss FIU’s Sunshine Princess.

After deliberation from the judges and taking into account the audience choose vote, Almeida and Maurice were crowned Mr. and Ms. FIU 2016.

SEE PAGES 4-5

Panthers fall to Miami Hurricanes 95-205

CAYLA BUSH
Staff Writer
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The FIU swimming and diving team fell to the University of Miami Hurricanes, Saturday, Jan. 30 at the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Center.

A complete change from the seniors, sophomores

Panthers have one more meet, Saturday, Feb. 6, at Florida Atlantic University, before traveling to Atlanta for conference championships, which begin Wednesday, Feb. 24.