FIU partners with Portfolium network

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In Spring 2016, Portfolium started a campus-wide spread of its ePortfolio network platform at Florida International University, allowing all students the opportunity to create a free portfolio where they can publish all their works. The decision was made after a successful pilot program with the Chaplin School of Hospitality.

Ever since the partnership between FIU and Portfolium began, more than 44,000 students from all majors were given access to a free ePortfolio. According to Portfolium’s website, it partners with various universities in order to “connect learning with opportunity.” Their mission is to “help every student meet their full potential by integrating learning with career management in an open and connected network; that makes it easier to discover, prepare and qualify for the most relevant career opportunities.”

Portfolium is currently partnering with over 150 institutions, and its ePortfolio network is assisting over five million students with starting their careers.

The ePortfolio network is a cloud based platform where students can post their works they believe will show their skills and talents. Portfolium describes this as “lifelong opportunities to capture . . . and convert skills into job offers, while giving learning institutions and employers the tools they need to assess competencies and recruit talent.”

“This is a great opportunity for FIU students to be ahead of their competition—utilizing the portfolio to showcase their skills and knowledge,” says Edgar Sanchez Gomez, a senior majoring in Business Administration. Portfolium was launched by Adam Markowitz in 2014. Markowitz graduated from UC San Diego in 2008 with a major in Aerospace Engineering. Although throughout his education Markowitz worked on challenging projects, volunteered, and worked part-time.

He noticed that when employees searched him online, they would not find his school work, but rather him socializing with friends. According to Portfolium’s website, Markowitz decided that he needed to stand out in the competitive work field, and he made a portfolio with all his works and accomplishments. His portfolio included everything he thought best represented him, his works, essays, pictures, and more.

Markowitz brought the portfolio to his next interview and was hired as an engineer for the Space Shuttle Program. After launching the Space Shuttle, Markowitz began developing Portfolium.

Since its launch, Portfolium has become an international network that allows students to show employers their professional potential. According to Portfolium’s website, it is backed by Seed and Vertical Ventures’ Triton Fund, and University Ventures.

Portfolium allows the student to create an electronic portfolio that is organized and easy appealing. In an e-mail sent out to the student body from the Office of the Provost & Executive Vice President, students can “upload real work samples including photos, videos, presentations and papers to showcase . . . coursework, projects, extracurriculars, volunteer activities, internships and work experiences.”

Additionally, in today’s world, “work samples are the strongest individual predictor of new hire performance, with number of years of job experience and number of years of education near the bottom of the list,” according to the e-mail.

For FIU students that create a portfolio, companies such as Disney, Nike, Google and Facebook will have access to view them. “I think this is a great opportunity for us students, as incomers into the workforce, to get an adequate exposure in terms of our strengths and what we have to offer to potential employers. A typical resume is often not designed to highlight these skills and assets,” says Veenu Bahugori, a junior double majoring in Statistics and Psychology.

Besides having the opportunity to have employers view students’ work, ePortfolio allows students to connect with their classmates and alumni, and work together on projects. The idea behind this was to encourage students to share ideas and build a student community.

Students have the opportunity to connect with others, similarly to LinkedIn, as well as like posts and leave comments. Also, all FIU students have free access to Portfolium, even after they graduate with no costs, fees, or storage limits.

Resources available at FIU to combat hazing

STEPHANIE ESPAILLAT
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Recent hazing accusations at Miami University in Ohio has made officials end all ties with two fraternities that were suspended earlier for hazing violations. As violations of misbehavior performed by Greek organization become more concerning for individuals across the nation, these incidents have sparked a national concern for student’s overall safety.

The two fraternities will now face disciplinary action, university officials said.

According to a statement released by Miami officials: “Following investigations into allegations of hazing and alcohol violations, Miami University and the national council of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity have jointly suspended the Miami University chapter of Pi Kappa Phi, and both Miami University and the national council of Pi Kappa Tau have suspended the local chapter of Phi Kappa Tau.”

“As more hazing and misbehavior violations appear on university campuses, many universities nationwide are responding to these issues by focusing on different forms of campaigns and anti-misbehavior initiatives. FIU and its many facilities on campus have made initiatives to combat hazing as well as other forms of bullying.”

In an e-mail sent to Student Media, Christianne Medrano, associate director of the interfraternity council said “we are constantly educating students about [these] hazards and risks that involve hazing.”

Medrano also mentions that despite popular belief that Greek Life is the only group on campus that performs hazing, she shares that this is a universal issue that is also demonstrated in many unexpected groups on campus.

“You must also understand that hazing although it has been known to happen in Greek Life, main issues with hazing happen in larger social settings with your friends who influences the hazing that happens in athletics [and the band],” writes Medrano. “Believe

Retailers are using Virtual Reality to make shopping fun

SHAN U
Los Angeles Times News Staff

The next item you try on at the mall might be a virtual reality headset.

No longer relegated to video gamers, VR is coming to amusement parks, movie theaters and classrooms. But the technology presents a major opportunity for retailers as they try to draw fickle shoppers into their stores, particularly as consumers shift more of their buying habits online.

Already, Best Buy’s, Tom’s and North Face are turning to virtual reality to sell products, boost their brands and make shopping more fun.

“Virtual reality is going to fundamentally transform the human experience of shopping,” a report from digital agency SapientNitro says, predicting that it would “hit sales for these retailers who get ahead of the curve.”

Louie’s has added a futuristic edge to the often teeth-grasping process of remodeling a kitchen or bathroom. In 19 stores around the country, the improvement chain has installed a space that enables shoppers to see a 3-D mock-up of new cabinets, countertops and backsplashes.

Called the Hololoom, the simulated space can be personalized with individual

SEE VR, PAGE 2

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SEE VR, PAGE 2
Supreme Court strengthens free-speech rights of public employees

Just in time for the election season, the Supreme Court has strengthened legal protections for the nation’s 22 million public employees against being demoted or fired for supporting the wrong political candidate in the eyes of their supervisors. “The Constitution prohibits a government employee from being discharged or demoting an employee because the employee supports a particular political candidate,” Justice Stephen G. Breyer said Tuesday. This applies, he said, even if a supervisor mistakenly assumes an employee is supporting a particular candidate. What counts is “the employer’s motive,” Breyer said. The 6-2 decision revived a free-speech lawsuit brought by a New Jersey police detective who was demoted to patrol officer because he was seen carrying a campaign sign supporting the mayor’s opponent.

A predator fish in California has lost its White House support

A still-controversial 1992 law intended to boost California’s striped-bass population can be scaled back, the Obama administration now believes. In a modest softening of the state’s polarized water debate, a top Interior Department official voiced sympathy Wednesday for a Republican-authored bill that would end the 1992 law’s stated goal of doubling the number of striped bass living in and around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

“Makes sense to remove the striped bass from the doubling goals,” said Tom Isenian, deputy assistant secretary for water and science, adding that “the striped bass is a predator of native species.” Maintaining the goal of doubling the predator-striped-bass population potentially undermines the 1992 law’s accompanying goals of doubling the populations of other fish that ascend the Delta and Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers.

Retailers use VR for new visual concepts

Down the line, as virtual reality becomes more mainstream and consumers buy their own headsets, much of the retail experience will likely change. Shoppers could move away from stores and into the home. That means you could walk through a store to “shop” without leaving your couch.

But analysts say virtual reality may not be smart for deploying virtual reality so that it’s both relevant and doesn’t feel gimmicky.

Virtual reality is also being used to add an experiential aspect to in-store shopping, unrelated to the actual buying of products. Retailers are dabbling in virtual reality for the same reason they are adding other conveniences like curbside pickup to lure people back into stores. They figure that the sci-fi aspect of virtual reality can be used for the impression that can’t be replicated from behind a computer screen.

“Retailers have been down for so long, they have got to differentiate themselves to get people to shop,” said Ron Friedman, a retail expert at advisory and accounting firm Marcum in Los Angeles.

Anti-hazing resources are available on FIU campus

writing Ordóñez. “One at noon in the GC Ballrooms, another at the stadium Club at 6:30 pm. 357 students were reportedly in attendance for the events. If students have been victims of hazing or any other forms of bullying on campus, Medrano said “if a student has been a victim of hazing or bullying, they can report the incident anonymously to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution... You can also search on the FIU Website in Student Conduct Link for ‘Report an Incident.’”

“The University knows that all fraternities and sororities are valued organizations and we want individuals to be active in what we are doing,” said Medrano. “Any organization that behaves contrary to what their ritual suggests is an organization that is not congruent with what we have discussed within our community.”

Medrano also said that “FIU Fraternity and Sorority Life in collaboration with Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution have worked in partnership to hold our students to the highest expectations which means following the policies in the Code of Conduct...”

Although universities across the nation are responding to misbehavior within Greek Life by discipline or by using pre-emptive measures to educate those involved with these organizations, FIU also provides information for those that have been a victim of bullying or any other forms of bullying by reporting it at the student affairs website.
Face facts: Tubman on the $20 is insulting

GABRIELLE GARCIA

I feel like it’s very important that we do have members of the black and brown community in historical context, but when we think about putting Harriet Tubman on the $20, no. She wasn’t a person for capitalism or for economics. That’s not Harriet Tubman’s role in history.

With all the reverence due to a previous president of the United States, one must remember he was a slave-owner majorly responsible for the Trail of Tears. Jackson’s presidency also saw the rise of the “patronage system.” As can be garnered from the name, a winning political party rewards campaign donors, patrons, friends and family members with government positions upon the party’s election. Just because a man is a founding father or a former president, though he commands the best, will not have any significant effect upon the relationship between the United States and its American Indian population. Not being of that descent, though, I can’t say it wouldn’t at least be an appreciated gesture. Conversely to Jackson, Tubman is known for her work with the Underground Railroad freeing slaves, advocating for women’s suffrage, acting as a Union spy during the Civil War and freeing 700 slaves in the first woman-led armed expedition during that same war.

Certainly, she would be a better role model to print on the bill we produce the second most, superceded only by the $100 bill. Wouldn’t she?

To the previously mentioned Feminista Jones, putting a former slave - a woman once considered property who risked her life to liberate others who had been designated the same way - on the $20 bill would not be an honor to her memory.

Trula’sia Newberry, an International Relations and Political Science senior and president of Dream Defenders FIU and founding president of UN Women at FIU, agreed.
VEGAN VISITORS
Environmentally-conscious clubs seek to raise awareness

Camila Fernandez / The Beacon

Much has happened this spring at Florida International University, where the new Plant-Based Society Club has gained more than 100 members. The club began with a merge between the Plant-Based Society Club and the Vegan/ Vegetarian Society. Since then, the club has hosted different events to promote their cause against eating or using animal products.

Plant-Based Society is led by club President, Stephanie Bird and Vice-President, Sarah Bird, two sisters, who are passionate about sustainability. Both traveled to Thailand, where Thai food, like other Asian cuisines, can easily be vegan. Vegan food include, rice, noodles, vegetables and no cheese, butter or milk.

PBS has worked with several film screenings, like Cowspiracy and Vegucated. On April 26, both will host a Meat-Out day event, where they’ve used the hashtag #DaretoBePlantBased. Speakers include James Wildman, Animal Rights Foundation of Florida humane educator and Elyssa Diehl, Humane League SouthFlorida Grassroots director.

With hopes to continue to grow and promote sustainability and plant-based diets, PBS will continue their progress as one of few vegan clubs on campus.

Top left: Sarah Bird, senior engineering major and vice president of the Plant-Based Society Club, tastes vegan food.

Right: Bianca Garcia participates at a vegan food sale by Plant-based Society Club with the FIU Garden Club, which gathers on Wednesday’s near the Green Library from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bottom: Melissa Subido-Remblay, a senior nutrition major and Sarah Bird, senior engineering major enjoy the stands at the food sale.

The clubs also worked to fight against developers and administration on campus, who are currently building athletic facilities at the University’s Nature Preserve at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

According to Food Navigator USA, 36 percent of U.S. consumers either prefer milk alternative and use meat alternatives, which is substantially greater than those who claim they are vegan at seven percent.

“I feel better than ever since going vegan. (The club) is here to support anyone interested in living a healthier, greener, and more compassionate lifestyle in whatever way we can,” Sarah Bird, Vice President, Plant-Based Society Club said.

The clubs also worked to fight against developers and administration on campus, who are currently building athletic facilities at the University’s Nature Preserve at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

A petition was created to show the number of students who opposed the plan. During the semester, PBS and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) 2, have worked closely together to promote veganism. PETA 2 is similar to PETA, which promotes animal rights campaigns, which include ending fur and leather use and meat and dairy consumption. PETA 2 representative, Erica Melamed, helped host Humane Meat April Fools on April 1. Nearly 50 people participated at the tabling event, which was funded by PETA 2. Free vegan meat was offered, and a petition on getting more vegan options on campus brought attention.

The club and PETA 2 also hosted a Rainforest Tarp Demo event, where about 100 people participated. A red tarp was used to demonstrate how eating meat destroys a certain amount of rainforest every 1/10 of a second.

Food was funded by PETA 2, and several members from PBS brought homemade food.

“A lot of people were a bit confused on the statistics of the demo, but after some quick research, I was able to come up with a short monologue to tell people about how much they make sense,” said Melamed.

“Many of the members were actually very interested in learning how to go right out and speak to people and have the confidence to do it. This event was so much fun and a really great way to get people to notice us and come speak with us about the issue,” she said.

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Camila Fernández / The Beacon
New initiative to bring luck to graduating students

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Luck can sometimes be hard to find, which is why the Wellness and Recreation Center at BBC would like to provide graduating students with a little extra.

Beginning this year, students can purchase and decorate padlocks, and lock them on the fence at the Aquatic Center in honor of luck. The new initiative, called Locks of Luck, was brought to the University by Elias Bardawil, director of the Wellness and Recreation Center.

“Locks of Luck is a new graduation tradition that is hosted by the Wellness and Recreation Center at BBC,” Bardawil said. “The idea came about from the Locks of Love idea on bridges in Paris. I said, ‘What if we can do the same thing for students at FIU and this is their Locks of Luck, toward success and affinity to the University?’”

The tradition, Bardwil said, is open to any University student, regardless of the campus they’re on most often.

“We wanted the students to have a lasting memory of their time in the Wellness and Recreation Center on BBC,” Bardawil said. “When they walk into the facility, the staff congratulates them on their graduation. We walk them to the dedicated space at the Aquatic Center where we take their pictures and their locks are placed. The event has been very well received.”

Students interested in participating in the initiative can participate during the three times a year when cap and gowns are distributed, at the Wellness and Recreation table at the BBC bookstore. Alumni can also participate during this time as well.

Tubman causes controversy

“I think that it’s disrespectful,” said Newberry to Student Media. “I feel like it’s very important that we do have members of the black and brown community in historical context, but when we think about putting Harriet Tubman on the $20, no. She wasn’t a person for capitalism or for economics. That’s not Harriet Tubman’s role in history.”

Indeed, it seems rather ham-handed to slap the face of an anti-capitalist icon onto currency. I somehow doubt any foreign powers will think the United States more progressive for simply exchanging a slave-owner for an abolitionist on our greenbacks.

“I think it is an insult, most definitely,” said Newberry. “It’s like a ploy. I don’t know the end-all be-all reason, but I think it’s out of place and inappropriate.”

In fact, before the controversy, could you have named the faces on the dollar bill increments? Or on our coins? Personally, I had to look up who was on the $50 bill. It’s Ulysses S. Grant. That rather makes Jackson the odd-man-out on issues of slavery. Even Washington on the $1 bill, who owned slaves, was a proponent for slavery’s gradual abolition.

Though I think Jackson should be replaced on the front of the bill, the point of the controversy is best voiced by Newberry.

“I don’t feel like those who are humanitarian and abolitionists, people who fought for rights, should be on the staple piece of parchment that supports global commodity and capitalism,” she said.

Sam Says is a bi-weekly column discussing social justice issues in popular culture and current events. For further commentary, contact Sam at sam.smith@fiusm.com.
FIU wins series 2-1

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The FIU softball team took the loss, dropping her record to 0-5 for the season. She allowed two home runs, both being two-run shots, five total hits and walked two in her 3.1 innings pitched. Leon led the bats with three hits, while Belans had two RBI on two hits.

Corrine Jenkins put the Panthers back in shape in the second game, throwing a three-hit shutout. This marks her 13th career shutout but just the first of the season. She improved to 6-8, striking out six and not walking a single batter in what can be called the best game of her senior year.

The game broke open in the fifth inning, as Leon put FIU on the board with a two-run RBI single. Cather Alema Lopez provided an RBI single in the sixth, an inning that also featured two FGCU errors to add to the Panthers lead. FIU won the game 4-1.

During Sunday’s game the pitching shined again for the Panthers, but it was Abby Summers who had her heroics on the mound. Summers tossed her fourth complete game of the season, allowing one run and five hits in a 3-1 win to give FIU the series.

FIU was scoreless until the fourth inning, an inning in which FIU scored two runs. FGCU scored their lone run in the sixth inning. Summers was one strikeout away from her career high, finishing the game with five. Summers also improves to 10-7 for the season, the first FIU pitcher to reach 10 wins this year.

The Panthers are back on the road next weekend in their second to last series of the season against Marshall University. The three game series will get underway Saturday, April 30 with a doubleheader.
Islanders eliminate Panthers in six games, advance to second round

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The Panthers were down 2-1 in the series heading into game four. It’s almost a must win game the Florida Panthers needed to win game four to turn back the advantage to their side. After being tied in the first period at zero, I say go for it. For the last few days I have been making a case for the Islanders to squeeze in that sort for the rest of the season. We see Panthers coming together, and with that improvement, that is the case. I say go for it. For the last few days I have been making a case for the Islanders to squeeze in that sort for the rest of the season.

Panthers

Panthers were down 1-0 to start the first period. The Islanders came out hot and the Panthers started off the period too hot. The Islanders put one past Roberto Luongo as the Islanders scored the first goal of the game off a rebound of Roberts Luongo. The Islanders scored first and were on their way to victory in the game. The Panthers were down 1-0, and it was all over. The Islanders scored off of a rebound of their own shot and pushed their lead to 2-0. The Islanders were leading the game with a 2-0 lead and were on their way to victory in the game. The Islanders scored off of a rebound of their own shot and pushed their lead to 2-0. The Islanders were leading the game with a 2-0 lead and were on their way to victory in the game.

Mike Matheny

Mike Matheny is the manager of the St. Louis Cardinals. He has been with the Cardinals since 2012. Matheny has managed the Cardinals to two NL East championships and one NL pennant. Matheny was named Executive Vice President of Baseball Operations for the St. Louis Cardinals in January 2019.

The Panthers ended up going into overtime and got an extra chance to tie the game off a deflected pass. The Panthers got into penalty trouble in the second overtime as Derek MacKenzie took a questionable slashing penalty. It was the second straight game gone to overtime and the teams played some good hockey. The teams played some good hockey. The teams played some good hockey. The teams played some good hockey. The teams played some good hockey. The teams played some good hockey. The teams played some good hockey. The teams played some good hockey.
Mejia, the first re-elected SGC-BBC president in almost 20 years

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For the first time in nearly 20 years, BBC students have re-elected an SGC-BBC president to serve a second term. Allhan Mejia, a senior seeking a dual degree in marketing and environmental sustainability, was elected to serve a second presidential term last Thursday, April 21. The last student to be elected twice was Arthur Papillon whose second term lasted from 1997-1998.

“The expectations this year [for candidacy] were a bit higher than the year before, because that first go round was a coin flip [between the two candidates],” said Mejia. “I actually only ended up winning by 42 votes that first time around.”

“But this year... I ended up getting 66 percent of the votes,” he said. “So it seemed like everyone expected that result because I was coming in as the current sitting president.”

The pressure of meeting his peers’ expectations for victory added more stress to this year’s campaign, according to Mejia. He said, “People were just like ‘yey, you’ll get it.’”

“So [the feeling] was like ‘woah, if I don’t get it, that’s even scarier,’” he said.

The purpose of his campaign was to have a chance to complete certain projects that were started during his last term, according to Mejia.

“There are some really cool things that we want to do that we haven’t been able to do since it takes a lot of adjustments during that first year [as president],” he said. “It’s because of all the people you have to meet, all the people that you have to connect with in order to even get past the red tape to get approval for these projects.”

“Next year it will be a lot smoother for us to get our projects accomplished,” Mejia said.

Among those projects is a Zen Garden Mejia hopes to add to the second floor balcony of the Wolfe Center.

“It’s an outdoor space where there’s going to be a chalkboard wall called a ‘Wall of Positivity,’” he said.

Students will be able to write positive thoughts and words of encouragement on the wall for others in the community to see.

“(SGC-BBC) will put some plants that attract butterflies into the garden,” said Mejia. “So it’ll be a nice little space where students can go to just relax.”

For now members of SGC are getting price quotes and reaching out to vendors to help complete the project, according to Mejia.

Mejia says the project won’t be approved until after the Wolfe Center has made some renovations to the area. Even then, he says, he would still have to take the proposal the center’s Space Committee.

Environmental sustainability is also a large part of his future initiatives as SGC-BBC president.

“Start the projects earlier. A lot earlier,” he said. “We started [our projects]in almost late-Fall”

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“Start the projects earlier. A lot earlier,” he said. “We started [our projects]in almost late-Fall”

“That was on [SGC-BBC] because we were so focused on regrouping at first,” he said. “But now we want to do that [start the projects earlier] but also be more patient.”

The Beacon will return to production for Summer Semester B.

WRGP will continue broadcasting, and you can keep up to date with updated FIU news and sports on fiusm.com.