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SHAPING PEOPLE, SHAPING BUSINESS



ALPHA KAPPA PSI
THE COED BUSINESS FRATERNITY

XI SIGMA CHAPTER
AT
FLORIDA
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

THE PREMIER DEVELOPER OF
BUSINESS LEADERS WORLDWIDE

OPEN TO ALL MAJORS



AKPsi

EXIT

PANTHER *MAGAZINE*

Vol. 1 Issue 6

A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

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Campus life edition

CONNECTED CAMPUS

Housing resident assistants advocate for students

BARBARA ANDRADE BRITES
Contributing Writer

The resident assistants at the University assist in creating a healthy, safe and thriving environment where students can develop their interpersonal, academic and leadership potential.

Abbey Olson, a first year RA majoring in International Relations, works with freshmen in the Lakeview South residential hall and became a resident assistant after being involved in numerous events for FIU residents.

Olson, who also works for Student Media, said she wanted to gain leadership skills. She said her RA encouraged her to consider becoming an RA so she applied for the job.

“I absolutely love being an RA. My staff is amazing and I have had the opportunity to meet incredible students,” said Olson. “Not only am I wronging as a person and as a leader, but I am also opening avenues for residents to become leaders as well.”

An RA is a trained student leader in colleges and universities charged with the responsibility of living with and supervising students in a

residential hall.

For many student residents, RAs serve as leaders that can help with many commonly faced issues and help residents get to know the students that live around them.

“Some students think that RAs are kind of like police officers looking for trouble and trying to enforce policy but really when it comes out to it, your RA is kind of the first person you can talk to,” said Olson. “My residents can come to me about anything and they can ask any questions and my job is to help them in any way I can.”

The RAs at FIU serve as a critical link between the students on his or her floor, the assistant director for Residence Life and the Residence Life Office.

The RA leadership opportunity requires being a representative of the college and a representative of student issues in the hall and across campus. In exchange for their hard work, RA’s get to live on campus for free.

“A lot of people think that we do it for the free housing, but put it this way: you can get a part time job that is less work and you could pay off your housing,” Olson said. “Being an RA is about having that passion inside you. This is a job unlike any

other I know and that is why I love it so much.”

Destiny Lawson, a graduate student getting her masters in Criminal Justice, has lived in the Parkview residential hall for the past two years. She said she has had great experiences with her RAs.

“I really like my current RA. He is super nice and helpful,” said Lawson. “I remember one time I wasn’t getting along with my roommate because she was being really dirty and disorganized around the dorm and I didn’t know what to do, so I talked to him and he really knew how to handle the situation and make both of us happy.”

Each RA is required to do three programs per month; two community builders, which consist of activities to get the residents to socialize with each other, and one educational programming where RAs help promote FIU initiatives.

“My RA always organizes cool events in our floor. Those events are a great opportunity to just hang out and get to know who is around you,” Lawson said.

Olson said she planned a program called “just a cup of tea,” where the students on her floor talked about sexual assault awareness and how consent is like offering someone a

cup of tea.

“I plan to do a cool program on April called Empanadas en pajamas. I want to combine the culture in Miami with like a fun community builder,” said Olson. “This is going to be a pajama party with empanadas for lake south residents mostly but I would not mind if other students come to hang out.”

Jaine Weiser, a junior majoring in international relations, is a first year RA at Everglades Hall.

Weiser said she became an RA because she enjoyed the experience that she had as a freshman. She lived in Lakeview South last year and said her RA inspired her to pick up the position.

“Coming from Maryland, it was my first time in the state of Florida and obviously I didn’t know who everyone was, but the more I went to my RAs programs the more I was able to connect with her personally as well as the people in my floor and the dorms in general,” Weiser said. “It really made me think ‘wow I want to do the same for somebody else’ so I joined the Residential Assistant life.”

Weiser said ever since she became an RA, she has had the opportunity to experience some amazing networking events.

Recently, Weiser was nominated

to go to the Florida Resident Assistant Seminar where she got to see other RAs from other universities and what their programing consists of.

Both Olson and Weiser re-applied to be an RA next semester and they will find out if they get the positions next month.

Weiser said she loves being an RA. She explained how through this job she not only helped students, but also has developed herself.

“Whether or not I end getting the position which obviously I hope I get it again, I just want to be able to go out and support whatever my resident is because I realized how important a RA assistant is and how many avenues can open for a student,” Weiser said.

In spite of the challenges of being an RA, Olson said that residential life is an opportunity to engage with the FIU community.

“There’s is this sense in college that you have to pick your classes and you have to do your homework and submit papers and that is what college should be but I think in residential life you become a learner outside of your classroom and your comfort zone,” said Olson. “If really if you go to programs and engage in your community there is no limit on what you can do.”

SGA-MMC share updates on shuttle to Publix supermarket

ARIANA RAMSUNDAR
Staff Writer

As a school of mostly commuter students, a distinct 8 percent of the students at FIU face the challenge of finding ways to get to the grocery store.

In the spring of 2016, SGA implemented a pilot program to help residential students make the commute. The program consisted of buses that would run on Sundays for a four-hour period, taking students from residential housing to Publix and back.

“I think it was a good idea, because I usually walk to Publix, so when there were a lot of things to carry the tram would come in handy,” said Dionne Grundy, a junior accounting major.

Since the program came to an end Grundy, like many other students, reverted to walking to get their groceries every week.

“Since I live in University Apartments, walking to publix isn’t much of an inconvenience. But if I have a lot of things or heavy things I have to take an Uber which adds up in the long run,” said Grundy.

However, as the semester came to a close so did the program.

“When I was speaker of SGA Senate we wanted to give the students access to go to the Publix across the street,” said Alian Collazo, MMC’s

current student government president. “We were able to reallocate the funds from the money left in the contingency for MMC spring 2016. The program was funded for spring semester, but we knew that we would not have the money to do it every semester.”

Collazo mentioned that, for the moment, the transportation to and from Publix for residential students is not available, but they’re always looking for solutions.

“We are working on a sustainable way to implement the program, so it is not based on whether extra funds are available or not,” said Collazo.

Collazo expanded on the plan to actualize a long lasting program, explaining the current work taking place to ensure that the students have access to a transportation system.

“We are now in conversation with parking and transportation to facilitate a more sustained and reliable way for students residing on campus,” said Collazo. “The Sweetwater Trolley is being integrated into the university system. We are working with them to see if they are willing to make the stops.”

The use of the Sweetwater Trolley could provide more students with seats to Publix, a problem Grundy says she experienced while using the program last spring.

“I know a lot of students used to use the buses. That was sometimes the problem, the tram was only so big for the amount of students who wanted to use it. On the first day there

was about sixty students using the program. I would really like to see the program return I think that a lot of students benefited from the program,” said Grundy.

In addition to trying to get service to the Publix shopping center, SGA is also working on extending the program so that students can use the Sweetwater Trolley already makes stops at Dolphin Mall, SGA would like students to be able to utilize this resource.

SGA met with the mayor of Doral on Tuesday, Feb. 7 to discuss integrating the transportation system of Doral to allow students to go to more businesses in Doral as well.

By utilizing the Sweetwater Trolley and the CATS shuttle, SGA is planning to extend the two stops to 10 stops and identify days and times for maximum student useage.

Freshman nursing student Kelly Woza was not attending the University at the time, but expressed her personal experience getting groceries.

“I am not from Miami, so I want to be taken back and forth and know that I am okay. I normally walk back and forth to and from Publix at least once a week, and crossing 107th Street is dangerous sometimes,” said Woza. “Since I live on campus finding a ride can be difficult, so walking is my only option for going to get groceries. I think this program would beneficial to students and would be much safer that how we currently commute.”

EDITOR’S NOTE

Campus life a broad but important topic to discuss

CAYLA BUSH



EDITOR IN CHIEF

By stepping onto any of the University campuses, we inevitably become a part of campus life.

Whether we consciously join the organizations that are a part of Campus Life - everything from the Council for Student Organizations to the Black Student Union - or seek the student organizations that will give us a chance to improve our resumes -

like the Society of Professional Journalists or Public Relations Student Society of America - we’re contributing to the campus life experience.

Campus life is such a broad topic to broach - it includes student organizations, both Student Government Councils and Greek life.

It also includes the issues that affect housing, and those who work in housing.

We wanted to shed some light on the organizations and entities that go into creating and maintaining a campus lifestyle that students would like.

Greek life: University professional fraternity develops ‘business leaders’

TAPKANNIA KEOUN
Contributing Writer

The term ‘fraternity’ is most commonly denoted as the perception of male brotherhood; however, at its core are the elements of opportunity and friendship. One fraternity that exemplifies these elements is Alpha Kappa Psi, a co-ed fraternity specializing in the area of business.

Alpha Kappa Psi is the earliest established professional business fraternity and possesses the largest membership overall among business fraternities in the United States. The FIU Chapter, Xi Sigma, currently has 140 members.

In contrast to service fraternities that focus on providing community service, professional fraternities prepare students for skills in a specific occupation.

“AKPsi’s main goal is to develop principled business leaders. We work on interview skills, have resume workshops, and bring in recruiters to speak to our members,” said Vice President of Membership, senior Ashley Guerra. Current members refer to Alpha Kappa Psi as ‘AKPsi’, a shortened form of the name and an indication of the common

bond members share. Alpha Kappa Psi was traditionally an all-male fraternity at the time of its creation in 1904, and permitted the integration of female members in 1976.

“Having both men and women in the fraternity resembles a more realistic environment, like in a company. One of our goals is to prepare our members with a professional atmosphere, so they know what to expect in the real-world,” said FIU’s Xi Sigma Chapter President, Maria Areiza.

The co-educational attribute of men and women in such a distinguished business fraternity, provides a platform of inclusivity and in turn, altering the standards for fraternities.

As with any other fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi partakes in a recruitment and pledge process to extend full membership.

“We start tabling and marketing ourselves during the second week of school. As for our rush events, you must attend at least one of the five events in order to be considered,” Guerra said.

The recruitment process is a means for the fraternity to exhibit visibility among potential members and to identify the people who are genuinely interested in

joining.

Once the recruitment period ends, Guerra explains that bids are extended to ‘rush-ees’ and the pledge process includes educating pledges about its central values, history of the fraternity and building upon personal and professional development.

On the latter note, a benefit of Alpha Kappa Psi is the idea of improving oneself personally, in preparation for the business component of the fraternity.

“It has given me the opportunities to exceed in leadership, confidence, and public speaking. I would also say I have grown so much professionally, because I carry myself in a completely different manner now as a brother,” said Jhon Carlos Barrera, the fraternity’s recruitment leader.

For many, the fraternity is a stepping stone on the road to building networking skills and adding desirable qualifications on job resumes.

The Xi Sigma chapter recently won a regional conference held in Atlanta, Georgia. The chapter will also be celebrating their upcoming 25th Charter Anniversary, having been inducted at FIU on June 27, 1992.

The group is also



COURTESY OF FIU ALPHA KAPPA PSI

University Alpha Kappa Psi chapter, Xi Sigma fraternity has the largest membership overall among business fraternities in the United States.

a proud contributor to members facing financial hardship, called the “Alpha Kappa Psi Scholarship.”

“We have many generous donors who contribute to the scholarship and AKPsi does fundraisers, and on average we raise about \$4,000 a year to help our fellow members,” Areiza said.

This feature not only aids a fellow member

in economic strain, but also displays an overall assurance of the fraternity in taking care of its members.

The future of Alpha Kappa Psi is focused on growth and improvement, according to Areiza. “We’re working on getting a signature service event, improving our charter’s website, and just getting our name out there to expand our membership,” Areiza said.

She adds that the fraternity is not limited to business majors, herself a senior double majoring in chemistry and biology, stating they are open to anyone interested in the field of business.

“Alpha Kappa Psi is a family to me. This is where I’ve been to join a group of people who are all like-minded in the sense [of] bettering themselves,” Barrera said.

StartUP FIU to host Google speaker series

DOUGLASS GAVILAN
Staff Writer

Max Henderson, the head of go to marketing for Firebase, will be at the MARC building to discuss how he was able to start his own development project and inspire students and alumni, on Wednesday, Feb. 22 as part of an event hosted by StartUP FIU.

Henderson is an entrepreneur and strategist with almost 15 years of experience. An alumni of Cornell University, Henderson has worked for Oracle, Google and Firebase after it was bought by Google. Now, as the head of go to market, he oversees and leads the strategy for the go to market department.

“It is an amazing opportunity to have Max Henderson from Google to speak to our students and community members on one what it is like to work for a company like Google,” said Michelle Roopchand, content strategist for StartUP FIU.

Unlike at other universities, events such as the one featuring Henderson hosted by StartUP are completely free for students; non-FIU students are encouraged to join as

well.

According to StartUP’s eventbrite page, the Google speaker series will take place on the third floor of the MARC building on the Modesto Maidique Campus from 6 p.m. till 9 p.m.

“

It’s Google! When will you get another opportunity to sit down ask questions and possibly make a valuable connection with an employee from such an innovative company again?”

and increase their profitability. .

“All of this is tied together with free analytics, and it looked like a very impressive, well integrated platform that should prove attractive to a lot of mobile app developers,” said Michael J. Miller,

Michelle Roopchand
Content Strategist
FIU StartUP

At 6 p.m., visitors will be able to network for around 30 minutes. Henderson will start his speech at 6:30, which will last for about an hour and will commence with a question and answer session for 30 minutes. The last hour will focus on networking.

Firestore is a business created for the purpose of expanding apps. The service helps innovators by helping develop higher quality applications, grow a bigger fanbase

writer for PCMag.

The main advertised feature of Firebase is Firebase Analytics. The service is completely free for companies and is used to track and better understand users. Other hallmarks include helping with hosting, cloud messaging, storage and test labs. Creators can create revenue by adding ads to their app.

Firestore has multiple price points for

different creators. Small users can get the program for free with some restrictions, while bigger apps would need to purchase the service in order to receive all the benefits.

The program has helped manage and provide information for high profile apps that pull in millions of views. These include PicCollage, Fabulous, Shazam and Skyscanner.

According to Firebase, PicCollage is a photo collage software that puts together pictures and videos. It has generated around 120 million downloads. Fabulous is used to further healthy living by replacing bad habits with good ones. Shazam allows users to discover and interact with music and videos. Finally, Skyscanner assist users searching for low airline prices.

“I only have one thing to say to the students who are on the fence about going to our event,” said Roopchand. “It’s Google! When will you get another opportunity to sit down ask questions and possibly make a valuable connection with an employee from such an innovative company again?”

StartUP FIU is located at the MARC building. They can also be contacted by calling 305-348-7156 or by visiting their website for further events.

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS

117 students were nominated in this year’s Student Life awards



I feel blessed to be part of a University that provides its students with a vast range of opportunities to develop themselves as leaders not only within the FIU community, but throughout the community as a whole. It is always humbling to be recognized alongside other inspiring students who motivate you to strive to be better.



Samaneh Khazraeian
Ph.D Student
Nominations: Scholar and Leadership award



Sofia Fernandez
3rd year Ph.D student



Fidel Urbina
Senior



Mia Gabb
Freshman



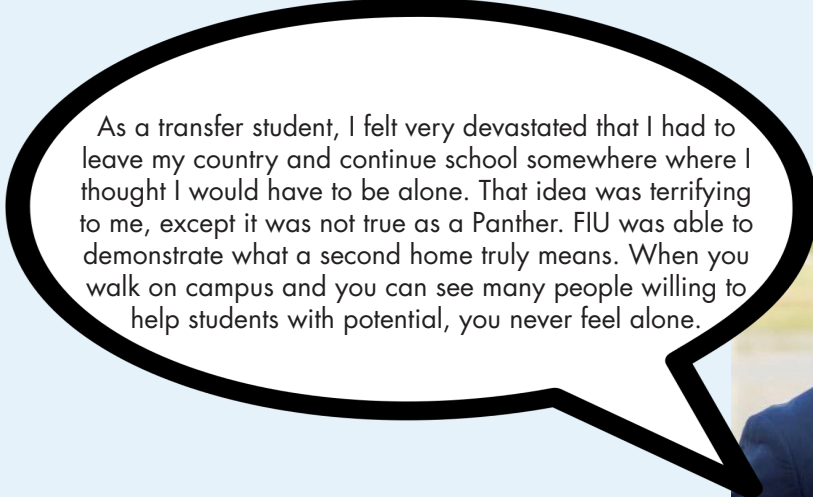
John Ukenye
Senior



Katherine Tarre
1st Year Graduate student



Carolina Amalgro
Sophomore



As a transfer student, I felt very devastated that I had to leave my country and continue school somewhere where I thought I would have to be alone. That idea was terrifying to me, except it was not true as a Panther. FIU was able to demonstrate what a second home truly means. When you walk on campus and you can see many people willing to help students with potential, you never feel alone.



Andrea Saladrigas
Senior



María Sol Echarren
Ph.D student



Amro AlAshi
Senior
Nominations: Scholar and Kaplan Prize award

JOSHUA CEBALLOS Staff Writer

Rather than watch TV or play video games, senior chemistry and psychology major Robert Wood felt getting involved and volunteering would be a better way to spend his time. Students like Robert are being honored by the University as part of the Outstanding Student Life Awards.

“[These awards are] a unique opportunity for faculty, staff and students to recognize FIU student leaders who have excelled academically and in the areas of distinguished service to others, citizenship, scholarship, innovation, leadership, diversity advancement, and promotion of the Panther Spirit,” according to Vice-president of Student Affairs, Larry Lunsford.

Sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs, 117 students have been nominated for the 2017 Student Life awards, of which there are eight categories: Kaplan Prize, Outstanding Leadership Award, Outstanding Service Award, Diversity Award, Spirit Award, Shining Star Award, Scholar Award and the Presidential Award.

Graduate and undergraduate students can be nominated by faculty members, other students, and they can also self-nominate, according to Bronwen Bares Pelaez, the chair of the Student Life Awards. Once nominated, a review board

selects the individuals who meet the criteria to move onto the next three round of selections.

Finalists, along with two guests of their choosing, are invited to an awards ceremony on April 6 in the Graham Center Ballrooms for the results of the award selection.

“Every finalist gets a certificate that night when they arrive, then the winners are announced, and the winners get a physical award... and there’s three awards with monetary pieces associated with them,” says Bares Pelaez.

Lauren Zulueta, freshman nursing major in the FIU Honors College, is nominated for the Outstanding Service Award and is appreciative of the recognition.

“I feel honored and humbled. It’s a humbling experience. Just to be in a nomination with other nominees who are also striving for greatness and being able to make a difference in the community.”

Zulueta is involved in a range of different service projects in and around the University community and an active member of CURE, an international non-profit organization that operates hospitals in countries around the world.

“One particular instance which still touches me today is my involvement with Blue Lakes Autism Academy,” she said. “I had tutored kids and played with children while their parents were at work, and because of this, the children were so inspired, they drew a picture for me when we were all holding hands.”

Jessica Weissman, a nominee for the Outstanding Leadership Award, is a Ph.D student in the Department of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. She also works as the campus liaison for FIU the American Public Health Association, and the regional student liaison for the South Atlantic region and the New England region.

In the spring of 2016, Weissman planned a conference for the APHA despite her busy schedule with school and writing her dissertation proposal.

Robert Wood, nominated for the Outstanding Leadership Award and the Outstanding Service Award, works on campus as a learning assistant with the Chemistry Department, and says he got into service because it made him happy.

“Service has to come from within. You definitely need to feel like you’re doing it for you and feel like you’re helping people. You really can’t do it because it’s going to look good for this, or it’s going to look good for that,” says Wood.

Throughout his time at the University, Wood has also worked with inner city kids to teach them about science and inspire them, and cooperated with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation during an event held on campus.

On April 6, the nominees will find out if they will receive the award, but each one of them has said that whether or not they win, their service in the community is by no means over.

Campus Life events: ‘Can’t say no when it’s free’

DAMIAN GORDON
Staff Writer

February may be the shortest month but Campus Life at The Biscayne Bay Campus is aiming to make the most of it, as they stuff back-to-back events for the remainder of the month.

Cuisine” is being held at the Academic Center 1 Bus Stop Area from 4 to 6 p.m. At the event, which came from Hannah Katherine Ellis, graduate assistant at BBC’s Campus Life, students will be giving a different flavor of the world in this monthly series with activities to coincide.

Campus Life centers their events toward

students in the past is and incorporating tips given by students, who are given mason jars at events to suggest ideas for future events.

“We’ve seen that our students really seem to like interactive games, having more of an open space to hang out, talk with their friends and engage with each other,” Ellis said.

Cinco De Mayo’s event will feature mini piñatas, trivia questions and painted mini flowers pots to round out its other educational components.

“We’re going to have some really good food. Chicken, some waffles, some really good sweet tea,” Ellis said. “It’s going to be very interactive, we’re very excited.”

George Espinosa, senior who says he “can’t say no when it’s free,” has attended most events hosted by the BBC during his time at the University. One of his favorite events was the makeshift skating rink set up in the WUC Ballrooms back in April 2016, where they also had his favorites, free

pizza and popcorn.

“You know it’s not everyday you see roller-skating in a university, [you go to h]ave fun and try not die,” he added.

The last day of the month will hold Male Mentoring: Manhood in the Media, followed by an open mic night in the WUC Ballroom on March 1, where students will be able to showcase their talents for all eyes to see.

Ivy Siegel Mack, Student Organizations Council Advisor Office of Campus Life, oversees a lot the happenings around campus, developing a preference to specific ones over time.

A personal favorite of hers are the midnight breakfasts held at the end of every semester because they’re “good for the students to wind down.” Mack also mentions the Freshman Luau because of how newcomers and seniors alike engage with each other.

For more information on the events, visit on the Student Affairs website and look out for flyers around campus.

Clubbing at BBC



JULIANE SUNSHINE/PANTHER PRESS

Julie Alba, junior biology major signs up to learn more about Society of Professional Journalism as members Jessica Parra (left) and Peter Holland (right) explain the benefits.

JULIANE SUNSHINE
Staff Writer

With a Valentine’s Day theme, Campus Life and the Student Organization Council held a club fair to invite students to join clubs at The Biscayne Bay Campus.

Public Relations Student Society of America is an organization that focuses on PR majors, but we are open to all majors. Our goal is to try and assist students in developing the skills and knowledge that they need for their future career in PR,

Jay Esquivel
Advertising Major
Member of PRSSA

Society of Professional Journalism is the student professional of journalism, it is the students who are broadcast, digital media or public relations [majors]. They are free to join the club and network with other students to understand the media side. The next event is data workshop on Feb.28,

Peter Holland
Digital Media Studies
Member of SPJ / Student Media

Students of Community Health is the only health club at BBC. Our main goal is to give back to the community, so we do different service events on campus to spread awareness on different health issues. This organization means a lot to me because I am doing pre-med, so this is a pre-basis of what I am going to be doing in the future,

Mishal Haq
Biology Major
President of SCH

SGA is the voice of the students at BBC. This organization has taught me how to be involved on campus, there is a lot of great opportunities and you meet really great people,

Ronan Kelly
Computer Science Major
Member of Student Government Association

“We’ve seen that our students really seem to like interactive games, having more of an open space to hang out, talk with their friends and engage with each other,

Hannah Katherine Ellis
Graduate Assistant
Campus Life at Biscayne Bay Campus

With back-to-back events planned, there’s usually something going on for students to take part in between or after classes.

On Monday, Feb. 20, “Late Day Latte: Southern

students and what they want to see so they are typically planned by other students who walk the same halls everyday.

Ellis mentions how crucial pinpointing what has connected to

SPC wants to ‘take Miami’

MICHELLE SILVA
Contributing Writer

With movie nights, pit events, lecture and concerts, the Student Programming Council at the University hosts an assortment of events in order to balance variety and novelty with tradition, says Erin Swink, member and representative.

“Directors try to think of something new, and there’s stuff that we do on a yearly basis,” Swink said.

The upcoming “Hearts on Fire” skating event is one such event, sparked by SPC directors wanting to bring something new to students. Traditions also make their way onto the SPC calendar based on popularity with students, namely Build-a-Bear, which is done every year because, “it’s something that everybody loves and they keep coming back to,” Swink says.

The task of setting up events, done by SPC directors, includes contacting food vendors, collaborating with external companies and having forms approved.

“We take a lot of things into consideration, like what our general members say, what other students say. We’re like ‘what do you [as students] want?’” Swink said.

As a former general SPC member, Swink experienced the attention to students’ wants herself.

“I had told somebody about an event that I thought would be pretty cool, and they took that into consideration and they made it an event. I didn’t think it was going to happen but it happened,” Swink said.

As a student-led organization, transitioning from general member to a higher position is common in SPC. Former general member and current director of events, Amanda Hernandez, advocates for students to join to open up to new experiences.

“As a general member, you would just basically come and help at the events,” Hernandez said. “You get some perks that regular students don’t really get because when we have our concert in the spring and we have comedians and ... we actually get to meet the artists.”

For those who go on to gain a position within SPC’s e-board, there is another dimension of involvement.

“As a director, it’s even more hands-on,” said Hernandez. “In the fall, we had Jodi Sweetin from Full House and so I got to directly work with her and speak to her and meet her.”

E-board members attend conferences that enable them to forge the connections necessary to coordinate these events, according to Hernandez.

Seeking ways to ensure student involvement, SPC also offers positions that involve piquing student interest, as Street Team Coordinator Nirvana Araujo explained.

“I started out as a Street Team member and I kind of moved up from there,” said Araujo. “A Street Team member would learn about the events and then go out to GC or high-populated areas of the school, pass out flyers and inform students, trying to get them to go the events. It’s ... marketing on the ground.”

For members like Araujo, the most gratifying feeling of coordinating events lies in building a community within SPC, as it’s “more than events, it’s the people,” she said.

University culture is not limited to the Modesto Maidique Campus so SPC coordinates events across both campuses to unite the student body.

“I’ve seen them mostly at BBC giving out free stuff like t-shirts, keychains, this,” student Alexis Rodriguez said while pointing at her cell phone’s case.

Beyond spanning across both campuses, SPC does not stay within campus borders, since some events are ventures.

“SPC Takes Miami,” the organization’s latest venture, describing the trips as an opportunity for students to go out around Miami and become more acquainted with the city.

While still in its trial stage, it’s inclusive of students who do not have transportation means and one of their latest trips was to Wynwood.

For more information on SPC events, visit studentaffairs.fiu.edu.

PUTTING THE 'U' IN CAMPUS LIFE

Student organizations enhance college experience

PANTHER HEALTH



MAYTINEE
KRAMER

Most students go to college to learn, but they will quickly learn that there is more to the college experience than the classroom.

College offers students opportunities to pursue interests, but sadly, too many college students pass up some of the opportunities offered because they are too focused on either their academic life or their work life.

Students should also know that taking part in extracurriculars will help them develop skills that will be useful inside and outside of the class.

At FIU, there are all sorts of student councils, organizations and clubs on campus, and there are so many people who have a common purpose or shared duties.

Aside from the plethora of opportunity, getting involved on campus offers so many significant benefits that will make the college experience so much better.

It's a lot of hard work to create a club, and even more to keep a club going, but FIU's Japan Club continues to prove how successful it is.

Miguel Rischmaui, a senior double majoring in computer science and asian studies, and also the president of the Japan Club, said that the Japan Club was originally formed many years ago by students who had an interest in Japanese culture.

"Throughout the years, the club has taken many paths, but with each new group of students that take charge of the club, [the] Japan Club evolves and becomes unique. Each group leading it is different than the previous, but the heart of Japan Club stays the same," Rischmaui said.

Joining a student organization presents many opportunities to learn more about yourself, your goals and your strengths. Having participated in numerous Asia specific events, I learned that I have a passion for studying

Asia.

This passion eventually led me to take Japanese language classes and double major in Asian Studies.

Another great benefit is the ability to learn to work with a team of like minded people.

Stephanie Sosa, a senior majoring in Chemistry, took

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Through KCC, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with individuals outside of FIU that work in the community that are directly related to Korean Culture in South Florida.

Briana Nelson-Canty
President
Korean Culture Club

”

part in the Asia Immersion Day last semester performing taiko drums, a type of Japanese drum, with a group of students.

Having never learned the drums before, she said "It was exciting to learn something new related to the culture I'm studying.

It was also fun to work as a team and help one another improve to give a great performance. It helped build soft skills and team skills, but best of all, I was able to have lots of fun.

However, I wish there were more events like this. There are so many cool things to learn and showcase [about Japan], and I'd like to see more events highlight the country I am studying about."

Getting involved on campus further allows students to become connected to their school and fellow peers. Colleges are full of resources, but the responsibility is on the student to seek them out.

One such student did just that, and the Korean Culture Club was born. The original Korean Culture Club president first contacted FIU to find out the process of starting a new

organization and found an adviser to oversee the full project.

From then on, the club has been actively promoting the organization and taking part in CSO delegated activities to provide Korean culture to the FIU community.

Briana Nelson-Canty, a senior majoring in communication arts and the current president of the Korean Culture Club, has had the opportunity to to work and communicate with a diverse group of individuals through the club.

She said, "Through KCC, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with individuals outside of FIU that work in the community that are directly related to Korean Culture in South Florida."

In addition, her position as president of the Korean Culture Club has helped her build leadership skills.

"As president of a university organization, it is your responsibility to make sure all things fall into place. Whether it's planning meeting or events, filing for funding or any other documentation, it is my responsibility. So, having this position has allowed me to not only take on responsibility, but it also has taught me to take on responsibility effectively."

She also discovered that she is a risk taker, but through taking risks, she was able to join an organization she loves and worked hard to obtain her current position as president.

According to Nelson-Canty, the Korean Culture Club itself provides insight to the lifestyle and traditions of South Korean culture. The club holds general meetings once a month and shares the knowledge that the members gained through study, travel and communication. Members of the club also volunteered for community service events such as the Nourish the Children of North Korea.

By being involved in the things happening at FIU, Panthers can experience tremendous benefits to their college experience and future career. There should always be a balance between a student's academic and extracurricular activities and attending activities on campus are important for one's well-being.

Maytinee Kramer is the Assistant Opinion Director for Panther Press. Her column, Panther Health, is a commentary on maintaining one's health during college.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sexual literacy still part of FIU's curriculum

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



SOFIA
PABLOS-AGUIRRE

Sexual Literacy, while not a required part of FIU's curriculum, is by no means absent.

Many students' first contact with their healthcare services occurs at Freshman Orientation. The 2013 original skit was designed to introduce students to the health-related departments and campus resources. The time allotted for these presentations is insufficient to address issues such as consent and LGBTQA narratives.

In order to give these issues the appropriate consideration and weight, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) conducts educational events, consultations, and classroom

presentations/ workshops, during which consent and LGBTQA narratives are addressed at length. The Victim Empowerment Program (VEP) works tirelessly to educate FIU about the It's On Us campaign, whose focus is on prevention, bystander intervention, and resources for victims.

At Student Health Services, students can discuss sexual health, safer sex practices, and birth control options with a licensed medical professional. Low-cost STD/STI testing is also available.

The Healthy Living Program offers a variety of programming on sexual literacy. Sexual Health appointments cover STD's/STI's and prevention methods. Free, confidential HIV testing with a certified counselor is also available. Free safer sex materials are distributed at HLP events and presentations, and free at the HLP offices.

Additionally, HLP offers presentations and workshops. This is especially true for

Freshman Experience classes, where professors request presentations on any number of topics, including Sexual Health. The presentations are in-depth, touching upon important aspects of sexual health, including consent, safer sex tools, and an overview of STD's/STI's.

social, and resource programs and services." The FIU Women's Center hosts Take Back the Night "to promote awareness about the issues of sexual assault and intimate partner/gender-based violence on college campuses."

Insofar as the Healthy Living Program's genital-shaped

conversation about sexual health, breaking the taboo- and they're not going away any time soon.

While it's beyond these department's capabilities to mandate that FIU integrate sexual literacy and LGBTQA-specific information into the curriculum, they will continue to provide students thorough, factual, and non-judgmental sexual literacy education.

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Insofar as the HLP's genital-shaped costumes are concerned, we will say this: Gina and Rick, as they are known, are a part of HLP's health-education culture.

Sofia Pablos-Aguirre
Office of Health Promotion
Healthy Living Program, MMC

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FIU SALSA and FIU Bridge provide in-classroom education and conduct tabling throughout FIU. FIU's MPAS LGBTQA works with the LGBTQA student population by "developing and implementing educational,

costumes are concerned, we will say this: Gina and Rick, as they are known, are a part of HLP's health-education culture. These "comical" costumes allow staff to break down barriers with humor. Rick and Gina foster the possibility of an open

Letters to the Editor are not written by Panther Press Staff. They are submitted by readers of Panther Press. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

Sofia Pablos-Aguirre
Office of Health Promotion
Healthy Living Program, MMC

PANTHER EDITORIAL

MMC and BBC should have one cohesive SGA

FIU prides itself on the “Worlds Ahead” university experience, but it feels as though the MMC and BBC campuses are worlds apart.

The campuses are only an hour’s drive away from one another and many students take classes at both.

President Mark B. Rosenberg is the sole president of the university, presiding over each campus, but student life is divided in its leadership and options, so a student’s experience at one campus could potentially be a stark comparison to a student involved at another.

Why should some student organizations be separate but equal?

Where things get confusing is in the Student

Government Association, which is divided into two branches, one for MMC and one for BBC.

They each receive the same amount of funding and have an equal amount of power, but they each have their own president.

If they are really supposed to be one unit, why is the power distributed between two presidents?

As mentioned, the campuses are relatively near to one another, so there shouldn’t be an issue of the president not being able to make it to meetings at either location, or other such circumstances.

The main office of Student Media, for example, as well as many other organizations, is at MMC, but that doesn’t prevent us from

participating in the BBC campus.

The same editions of the Panther Press are still circulated around all campuses, involving information from each location and with the same e-board members and writers putting the paper together.

The departments of Campus Life do vary depending on the campus, but much of this has to do with what is available at either campus.

MMC is the bigger of the two, so many of the student groups operate primarily out of the MMC campus, either leaving BBC out of the picture completely or including rare events nearer to the BBC campus.

It makes sense, however, that the kayaking and scuba club would be at BBC, since Key

Biscayne makes a perfect practice point for these activities.

Nevertheless, SGA’s itinerary isn’t restricted to the shores of the almost-Bahaman water.

It’s a major component of student life and what it decides for the school directly and indirectly affects everyone involved in any form at FIU.

The shared power and distinct leadership in SGA is an interesting and albeit confusing set up, especially considering our proximities between each campus.

If policies concern everyone at FIU equally and the government is meant to be one cohesive unit, why divide the power?

BBC campus shows “spirit in a big way”

POLITICOBUZZ



FABIENNE FLEURANTIN

It’s your first semester on campus and you are in a bind — stuck between the choice of being all academics or all social life. Well, maybe it’s time you find a balance of both, and Campus

Life at the Biscayne Bay Campus can help with that.

Campus Life at BBC takes the initiative “to engage students in holistic learning by instilling diversity, leadership and personal development through its program and services,” according to the FIU Student Affairs website.

So, for all you BBC-ers out there who are interested in getting involved at FIU and outside the community, this is the way to go.

BBC may be a smaller campus, but they show their spirit in a big way, with the amount of events and activities that are available on the campus. Just as the Modesto Maidique Campus has Week of Welcome, for example, so does BBC.

And any student who wants to eat at the Breakfast Bonanza, participate in Arts by the Bay and have lunch, or play some video games and have smoothies is more than welcome to do so.

They also have Panther Power, the spirit council at BBC. It’s responsible for invoking “a sense of pride in each student to enhance a sense of community.” They host tailgates, provide transportation to athletic events at MMC and so much more.

Camila Gonzalez, a sophomore majoring in journalism and international relations, appreciates all that Campus Life at BBC does for its students.

“I like how they get students involved through different activities that are both informative and fun to be a part of,” Gonzalez said.

Junior broadcast media major Emily Hernandez also shared Gonzalez’s sentiments about BBC and its emphasis on student involvement.

“BBC is a calm campus, but when events like Mrs. FIU are hosted here, you really get to see the pride our Panthers have,” Hernandez said.

Campus life at BBC also creates flyers and posters to promote organizations on campus as well as pins to distribute to students.

Students can also enjoy the Restaurant and Business Fair that is hosted at BBC annually. Over 30 businesses share their most popular cuisines and products with students, and over 600 attendees take part in the event every year.

And believe it or not, but all of these events are sponsored by Campus Life at BBC.

The endless effort of inclusivity and involvement are apparent in all the activities and events that BBC provide for their students.

It’s a home where students, faculty and staff become acquainted with one another and learn more about what BBC has to offer.

Coming to BBC and seeing the influence that this campus has on its students is extremely refreshing. It’s more than a place where students go to class and go home. It’s a place of comfort where students know they have found something that they can excel in.

This gives students a chance to see what they are interested in, meet new people and gain access to a whole new world where they can embrace the culture and diversity that is BBC.

Fabienne Fleurantin is a staff writer for Panther Press. Her column, PoliticoBuzz, is a commentary that raises awareness about political issues in the US and worldwide. She also covers events at FIU’s Biscayne Bay Campus.

Finding study nooks is the way to be involved

PULITZER’S PHENOMENA



DANIELA PEREZ

If you’re attending Florida International University and currently do not have a job, consider yourself lucky.

While a job is helpful in more ways than one, it might not let you fully enjoy what it means to be an FIU student.

Hindering the FIU experience, however, doesn’t necessarily mean halting it.

Our school offers a broad variety of campus life activities and two beautiful campuses that make time management easier and more enjoyable.

With weekend plans and dawn to dusk activities, being an involved student doesn’t mean you can’t keep up with a

part-time or full-time job.

So, how does a student maintain balance?

With beautiful installments and various locations to study in, campus life for a working student could be discovering and taking advantage of study nooks, just like Martina Corral, a junior majoring in psychology, does.

“It’s not easy. My studies are my main priority and my term for “campus life” is studying on campus when I can,” Corral said.

Modesto Maidique Campus offers plenty of peaceful study areas such as the green grass in front of the Ryder Business Building.

From Vicky’s Cafe to Barnes & Noble, studying on campus is the most valuable experience when it comes to campus life, even for online students.

Due to time management, Corral said, she decided to take a few online classes this semester but it hasn’t stopped her from interacting with her

classmates.

“[We] meet on campus to get to know each other and to study,” Corral said.

From what I’ve seen, the two most popular places to meet are the library and Vicky’s Cafe, but meeting at Vicky’s can lead you to another discovery: the Frost Art Museum right next door.

Although working students may not be as involved in extracurriculars, the fact that there’s a campus like MMC at their disposal is essential when it comes to campus life.

Taking a different route to class will open your mind and lead to more discoveries and if you work, take advantage of studying on campus and any other resources offered.

You never know who will help you or what you’ll discover.

Daniela Perez is a contributing writer for Panther Press. Her column, Pulitzer’s Phenomena, is a commentary on human interest.

PANTHER MAGAZINE

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Aikido club teaches self-defense techniques



PETER HOLLAND JR./PANTHER PRESS

PETER HOLLAND JR.
Staff Writer

Aikido is no ordinary martial art. The practice is not used as a platform of violence; instead it teaches students self-defense and energy releasing techniques.

Aikido is a modern Japanese martial art, defined as a way of unifying life energy. It involves entering and turning movements that redirect the momentum of the opponent's attack.

Unlike other martial arts such as taekwondo or karate, aikido does not involve striking or any form of ruthless aggression. The sport focuses more on techniques.

"We focus on not causing harm. That's the principle behind aikido," said James Ashe, the president and instructor of the Panther Aikido club. "It's all about taking balance. That's everything. Without having any experience, that helps a lot because you're a blank slate. If you can't do a technique slowly, you can't do it at all because doing it fast and muscling the person works, but there is always someone

that's always bigger and faster. So, what are you going to do for that person?"

Panther Aikido club was discovered by former graduate student Mitch Fernandez in fall of 2010, according to Ashe. Ashe, a mechanical engineering major, is the first member to have a certified black belt from the aikido club. Originally a taekwondo fighter, the senior joined the club after being invited by a friend.

"The transition was interesting," said Ashe. "It wasn't really a big deal at the time. But my time with the aikido club, I was the first person to go from white belt to black belt completely within this club. Like I didn't come with Aikido experience from another dojo or anything. I started from this club and ended where I'm at now."

The Miami Gardens native is also involved on campus as a member of the anime club and a member of the National Society for Black Engineers (NSBE).

Every Tuesday and Thursday evening, each member will meet and train in the Gold Room on the second floor of the FIU Recreation Center.

"I tried it out the first day and I stuck with it," said Brianna Weiss, the vice president of the club. "I think it's great, especially for girls to learn because I thought you need to have strength for this, you don't have to be strong for this which is awesome."

Weiss, a junior biomedical engineering major, encourages all students, especially the women who live on campus, to join the aikido club so

they can learn to protect themselves if they are in danger.

"It's something to do and something great especially for the girls if a creep is bothering you on campus," said Weiss. "If anything, this is a way to be able to protect yourself in for most of other students and the people that attack you is always someone that you know. It's great self-defense for yourself and you don't have to be physically strong to do it."

Gabriel Torres, another member of the club, also encourages students to join the club because of the benefits that it provides. The freshman IT major enjoys martial arts, but was physically unable to participate in any competitive martial art clubs before joining Panther Aikido.

He also thinks that club is good for students who don't have anything else to do in their spare time.

"To anyone who has nothing to do on campus, take advantage," said Torres. "You never know the people you meet. You never know what you're going to learn. I was hoping to get into something that was more aggressive, but you don't need to be strong to do this. It's all about technique and a wonderful way to defend yourself without messing up the other person. It's an option. You will learn a lot, if you keep at it, it will stay with you for life."

For more information about the Panther Aikido Club, go to pantheraikido.org or pantheraikido@gmail.com.

Being involved on campus makes a difference

HEATHER O'DELL
Staff Writer

FIU, primarily a commuter school, has a lot of campus activities and organizations for students to be involved in. And Nick La Roz, a junior studying pre-med, thinks joining Phi Delta Theta has changed his experience at FIU.

"A lot of students just go to class, maybe catch a bite to eat, study a little bit and then

go home," said La Roz. "I used to be that kind of student too until I decided to be involved on campus and join Phi Delta Theta."

Being head of the philanthropy committee for Phi Delta Theta, La Roz has many opportunities to help plan events on campus and most importantly give back to the community.

"Some people have mixed opinions when joining a fraternity or sorority," said La Roz. "Since I've joined Phi Delt, I've had many

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Having an active role on campus really makes a difference.

Nick La Roz
Pre-med
Junior

opportunities to take a lead on many projects and make meaningful connections that can even help me in my professional career."

Along with the people you meet by being involved on campus, all the fraternities and sororities participate in intramural sports.

"It's always fun to play some games against other organizations on campus with some friendly competition" La Roz said. "We play soccer, basketball, softball, volleyball, anything. You name it."

La Roz advises FIU students to get involved on campus any way they can. There are plenty of organizations a student can join whether it's going Greek, running for a position for Student Government or joining a club that's relevant to your major.

"Having an active role on campus really makes a difference. I wouldn't trade it for the world," La Roz said. "The memories I've made during my time at FIU are ones I'll never forget thanks to Phi Delta Theta."

Club sports 'fun and flexible' activity for students

JASMINE CASIMIR
Asst. Sports Director

Club sports give you a reason to get out of your dorm and widen your social circle. They also allow you to stay in shape while relieving some of the stress that academic life can bring.

Juan Vasquez, the vice president of the rock climbing club, said he has created an environment around his club for that exact purpose.

"We provide a different point of view with people at the university being stressed all day," said the international relations and economics major. "You can relieve that same stress by joining our club and rock climb."

In intercollegiate club sports, there

are no athletic scholarships, no roaring crowds and minimal adult leadership.

Students conduct practices, make team rules, raise money for uniforms and game officials, and manage paperwork. It's

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I like how we weren't pressured into dedicating so many hours to the team.

Montrell Robinson
Sports and Fitness Studies
Senior

college athletics without the pageantry or prerogative, and that's the way athletes in

club sports like it.

"I like how we weren't pressured into dedicating so many hours into the team," said senior sports and fitness major Montrell Robinson.

The former member of the intramural basketball team said it's flexible, fun, and it's not as competitive as division sports.

College sports aren't limited to the high-caliber NCAA division sports that you watch from the student section or on television. There are a few degrees of competition, ranging from intramural team activities to club sports and University-owned teams.

For many, the biggest benefit aside from continuing to play a beloved sport is the social connection.

"It's nice because you see the guys around campus and since they're on a team with you, you have a relationship with them that you don't have with a lot of other people," former member of the

baseball club and senior psychology major Carl Alteme said. "I highly recommend joining a club sport, even if you just want to join for new friends."

Clubs have been so enjoyable for many college students that if given the chance to turn their teams into fully financed varsity sports, most said they would decline.

"It would be less fun," Robinson said. "We probably wouldn't be involved for the same reasons because varsity sports have restrictions, caps, and incentives. But club sports eliminate the barriers and let anyone in to be free and do their best."

If the University doesn't have a sport that you're interested in, you can also create your own club if you gather enough people who are interested and follow procedures laid out by FIU.

For a full list of club sports, visit studentaffairs.fiu.edu.

FIU



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