

Free

AUMNIBUS

Warhawk
Issue
#37
Jan. 2017

Chronicling the Campus Community and Beyond Since 1971

Changing the ‘Latino Threat Narrative’

By Brianna Goodman

STEREOTYPED

Latinos are constantly stereotyped in the media. Photo courtesy of NPR Latino USA.

Cultural competence is one of the most important skills that every journalist, if not every person, should exercise. The basic definition of cultural competence is the understanding of other cultures, and the awareness that using stereotypes to portray a certain group of people can be harmful and should be avoided at all costs. Today’s media and their audiences have the bad habit of being especially ignorant towards their portrayal and perception of Latino immigrants and the diversity that they bring to America. When all anyone sees or hears about in the news are negative stories, then all they are going to associate this group with is just that—negativity.

According to a study by the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, less than 1 percent of news stories are Latino-related. Even more shocking is the fact that 66 percent of that mere 1 percent have to do with crime, terrorism and illegal immigration. Anthropologist Leo Chavez has called this recurrent negative set of representations “The Latino Threat Narrative.” On the other hand, even when the media tries to report on the Latino community in positive ways, they are still giving inaccurate representation.

“Zoo stories” tend to treat subjects like they are animals locked up behind bars for the amusement and entertainment of guests. They put immigrants on display, making them seem irreconcilably different (foreign,

that is) or “exotic.” This kind of writing is similar to and can often cross-over with the “gee whiz” stories. These pieces create a narrative of surprise and awe when immigrants do something that is deemed extraordinary for “their circumstances.” This narrative can also be twisted around in such a way that when undocumented immigrants do, in fact, something extraordinary, as soon as their status is revealed, they are then stripped of all accreditation.

This was the case for Larissa Martinez, who announced that she was an undocumented immigrant during her valedictorian speech at her high school graduation in Texas. Her speech was meant to inspire her fellow classmates as they prepared to start the next phase of their lives, and undoubtedly meant to inspire other undocumented students to pursue their dreams. Unfortunately, a positive message was turned into negative stories and headlines because of her status.

Those who work in the media know that what their audiences love more than anything is drama and conflict, which is what makes “conflict-only” stories so popular. Arguably, such stories do a higher amount of damage to immigrants as they tend to perpetuate negative stereotypes. The Latino community as a whole is simultaneously overrepresented negatively and underrepresented positively. It is this paradoxical mixture of misrepresentation that continues

to perpetuate stereotypes and negative feelings toward the Latino immigrant community.

Thanks to advancements in technology, the rate and manner in which we consume media is at an all-time high. While this can be beneficial for research and education purposes, it is disastrous in the wrong hands. Articles and news stories that are either full of false information and/or have phrases like “illegal aliens,” “Latino terrorists,” and “Mexican criminals” also play a big role in hindering cultural competence. Labels and rhetoric like these are why people can perceive immigrants in a negative light.

While some people would argue that words don’t mean anything, or that the world is becoming too politically correct, words can and do have a very strong impact on how something or someone is viewed. This was evident in the recent presidential campaign. Donald Trump used hateful rhetoric when talking about Latino immigrants and often lumped all of them together as “Mexicans.” The Huffington Post even compiled a list of nine of the most offensive things president-elect Trump said about Latinos during his campaign, such as the infamous statement upon announcing his candidacy to the presidency. “When Mexico sends its people, they’re not sending their best,” Trump said. “They’re sending people that have lots of problems, and

they’re bringing those problems with us. They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re bringing rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.” Well, the president-elect doesn’t strike me as being culturally competent.

While Trump has not outright told his supporters to attack those who oppose him, or those who he believes don’t belong in this new “great” America he is building, his history of using his words to speak hateful and incorrect facts about immigrants has spurred on his extremist supporters. Spewing incorrect or out-of-context rhetoric about Latino immigrants, while being the president of the United States, is an extremely dangerous combination. One of his jobs is going to be meeting and negotiating with foreign leaders, and some of those will include the foreign leaders of the countries that Latinos in the United States immigrated from. Another one of his responsibilities is to be the president for all Americans and that includes Latinos who have immigrant family members and friends. This means that the kinds of words and narratives that are used when talking about the Latino immigrant community has changed the way they are perceived by people outside their culture. If Trump continues to speak this way about immigrants after he is sworn into office, how will that affect his relationships with the aforementioned foreign leaders?

Now comes the hard part: how do we as individuals help to change the narrative? How do we keep negative stereotyping from turning people on immigrants? If we take a stand, do we have the power to change the Latino immigrant narrative? Do we have the power to change the perception others have of them? Do we have the power to create a so-called "second impression" and convince everyone that most Latino immigrants are hardworking, caring and loyal, and prove that they bring so much diversity to our nation?

While it seems a difficult task to change these misconceptions about Latino immigrants, there is something each of us can do. Shalita Grant of The Guilliard Journal suggest the following: "Stop supporting films and plays that perpetuate stereotypes. Stop a friend who makes any remark about someone's character based on race. Stop creating work that perpetuates stereotypes. Stop attaching unnecessary race qualifications in character descriptions."

It's time for us to step up to the plate and start turning our words into actions. It's time for those of us who understand the importance and the power of cultural competence to educate our friends and family, and even strangers, about it. It's especially important for all of us future media writers who are still in college to learn about cultural competence early on, so that we can be the voices of reason and change.

What's Inside:

- 1 Changing the 'Latino Threat Narrative'
- 2 Changing the 'Latino Threat Narrative': Continued / MJ Yoga
- 3 Muslim Student Association Speaks Out / New Semester, New Tactics!
- 4 This Year Will Be Different / Sleep Deprivation
- 5 Club and Organization Spotlight: NAMI / Letter From The Editor
- 6 Congratulations and Thank You to the Learning Center and Instructional Support Lab!
- 7 Meet The Staff
- 8 Monthly Ad



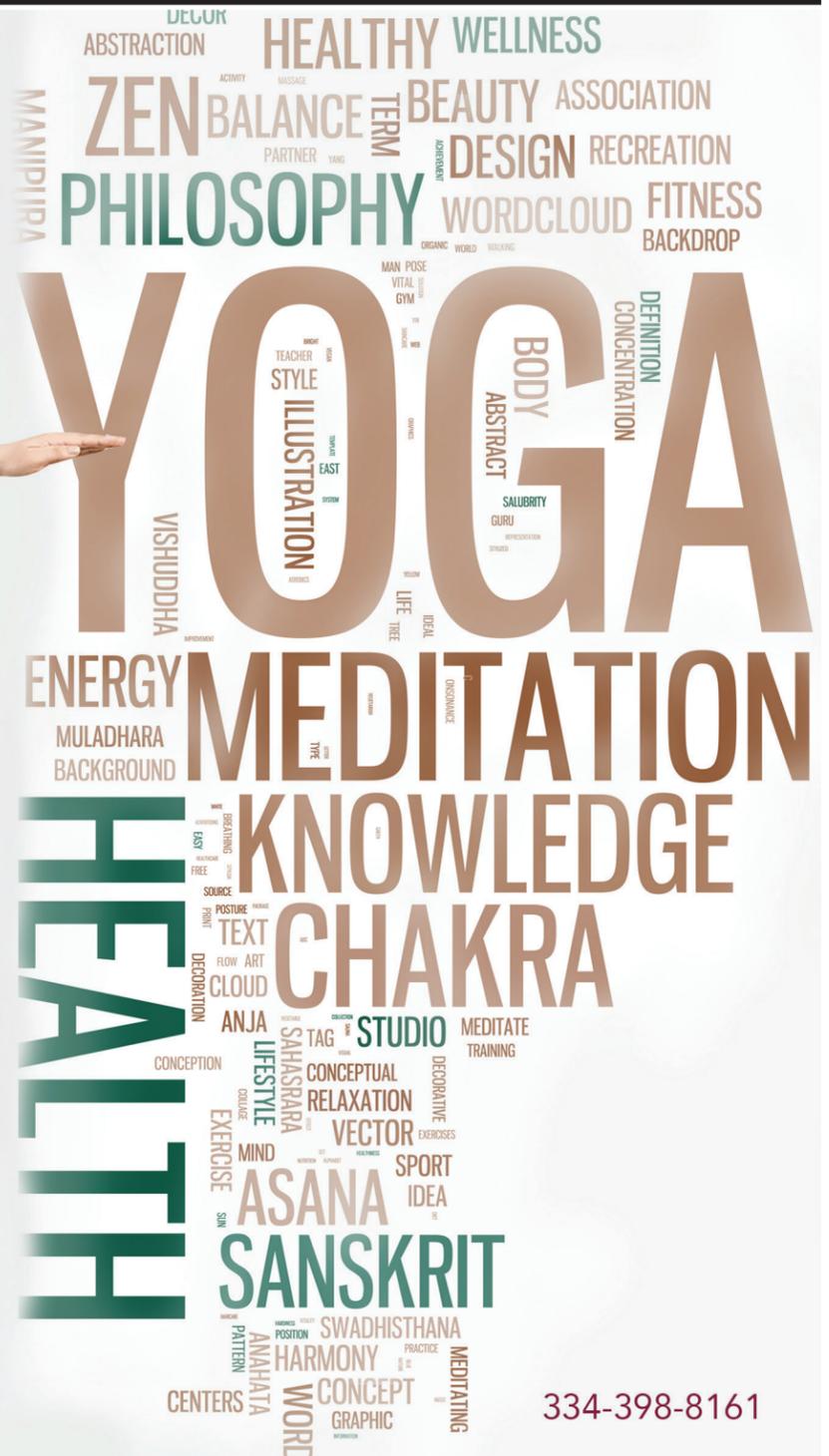
Yoga Wellness Center
inspiring the southeast



www.mjyoga.net

#mjyoga108

est. 2007



334-398-8161

Muslim Student Association Speaks Out

By Seneithia Parker

Over time America has learned to make laws and policies that fit the needs of a broader, more diverse range of individuals. However, as the new year takes off and the United States places the new president-elect in office, many fear that the directions the country was striving towards may take a turn for the worst.

During the presidential campaign, Hillary Clinton and President-elect Donald Trump had completely opposite viewpoints that sparked controversy across the nation. Many people felt that Trump targeted certain expanding minority groups in ways that could affect their residency here in America. In an interview with NBC, Trump stated that he wants to place a ban on Muslim people. The ban would stop Muslims from traveling to America as well as get rid of Muslims that are from terror-ridden nations.

"We are normal people, like everyone else," said Hanaan Clark, president of the Muslim Student Association. "A lot of people want to make this election about Trump ... It is not, it is about us, Mexicans, Blacks, all minority groups."

Trump's campaign has not



Hajir Abdelmagid, vice president of the Muslim Student Association and member Mercedes Menefield presented in Delta Sigma Theta's I am not a Stereotype event. Photo by Shaneka Barron.

only created concern in minority groups, but it has enabled some Americans in being outwardly hateful. "I was hurt, now I look at some people differently," said Hajir Abdelmagid, vice president of the Muslim Student Association.

The Muslim Student Association has been on campus for a while now, but was relaunched by Clark and Abdelmagid last spring. Although the main focus of the Muslim

Student Association is to teach students about Islam, the organization does not seek to convert students. Instead, the club's goal is to educate students about Islam, encourage diversity and foster a fun enlightening social environment. The association currently has 22 active members. "Most of our members are non-Muslim, anyone can join," Clark said. The Muslim Student Association meets once a month depending upon

the members' schedules. The club hosts events ranging from forums to bake sales. To join the MSA, there is a small fee of 10 dollars, which covers membership, t-shirts and events.

Like and follow the Muslim Student Association page on Facebook at Muslim Student Association AUM.

New Semester, New Tactics!

By Deanna Chavez Gates

The excitement of a new year mixed with the potential of a new semester creates much to look forward to. This is a time where you can actually be enthused about what lies ahead. This feeling is great, but it often disappears within a week of school starting while panic sets in. As familiar as that may sound, this semester can be different. With the help of a different mindset and some new tactics, you can make the best out of the upcoming term.

Buy a Planner. While this may seem obvious, students often forget about the practicality of a planner and will slack off with using one before midterms even hit. Having a planner can help you prepare for the upcoming semester, especially if you color code it. You can assign different colors to homework due dates, job schedules and extracurricular activities. Having this color chart can break your days down into an even easier guide, making this semester as least stressful as possible.

Join a Club. Studies have shown that participating in extracurricular activities can boost self-esteem along with grades. Clubs will be eager to find new members since many participants may have graduated in the fall. This can range



Students return to the AUM campus for a new semester in fall 2016. Photo by Frank Williams.

from Greek life to the economics club. Finding somewhere on campus where you can have fun makes any semester more enjoyable and easier to manage.

Visit your Teachers. Although AUM has a small student-to-teacher ratio, teachers have multiple classes and that can cause students to begin to blend together in their mind. If you already have a feeling that some classes may become difficult for you, visit your teachers during their office hours and discuss your issues

and materials with them. Faculty members are eager to help you, but often students don't ask for help until ten minutes before the final, and by then it's too late. If you become proactive in your education, teachers will follow suit.

Syllabus Rewrite. When instructors give you their syllabus at the beginning of the semester, take the time to look it over and write all future assignments down in your planner. Some teachers won't discuss assignments in the syllabus until the

day they are due. Having everything written down ahead of time will give you a great overview of how your semester will be. Along with keeping all your assignments in order, you may even be able to get a head start on multiple assignments.

However you choose to spend this semester, remember that it will be what you make of it. A great semester starts with a great mindset and a strong work ethic.

This Year Will Be Different

By Samantha Banks

It's time for a fresh start; a new year's resolution is due. Creating a list of goals that you will attempt to accomplish in the upcoming year is one of the most popular traditions. Your list can have as many or as few items as you wish. The objective, though, is much nobler: to better your life.

"I always say I'm going to work out more and get a better body," senior Sasha Morris said. "I really want to get in shape for spring break. It can be intimidating going to the beach with girls that are perfect." According to Nielson, 37 percent of new year resolutions are to stay fit and healthy. With a new year, you have a reason to work towards your goal body or weight. One way to accomplish this resolution is to start small and change one behavior at a time.

"Unhealthy behaviors develop over the course of time. Thus, replacing unhealthy behaviors with healthy ones requires time," American Psychological Association suggests. "Don't get overwhelmed and think that you have to reassess everything in your life. Instead, work toward changing one thing at a time." Start small by eating fast food less or choosing to drink more water each day. These small changes will help

keep you on track towards your goal.

"Not drop out," freshman Josh Davis said. "With bombing my first semester I don't know if I'll be back" This is the start of a brand-new semester. If you're looking to increase your GPA, invest your efforts in the new semester. Try taking an "easy A" class. There are always wellness classes that resemble high school PE where all you need to do is show up and participate. This is a great way to boost your GPA.

"Not to dress like a homeless man," freshman Carrie Faux said. "I always wear sweats or leggings to class. I probably need to dress like I care." Dressing to impress is more important in a classroom setting than you think. First impressions can be critical. If you make a good impression on your professors, they may be more willing to work with you throughout the semester.

New year resolutions are designed to give us something to work towards in the coming year. By creating these goals, we are open to change and want to create a better life for ourselves. Be sure to make your New Year resolution attainable. Then, by starting small, you are more likely to achieve your goal and better your life.

 New year

resolutions are designed to give us something to work towards in the coming year. By creating these goals, we are open to change and want to create a better life for ourselves. 

Sleep Deprivation

By Katelyn Turner

Homework, exams, and work can crowd our schedule so much that something has got to give. Unfortunately, students must often sacrifice their sleep in order to maintain their busy schedules.

Campus Mind Works reports that 73 percent of students have problems sleeping. Adults need a minimum of eight hours of sleep per night, while many only get seven or fewer. Sleep deprivation leads to inability to concentrate, use judgment and have an effective memory. All of these issues are disastrous for a student's GPA.

A Georgia State University study noted that sleep deprivation also weakens the immune system and makes students more prone to getting sick and gaining weight.

Everyday Health listed several tips to help college students obtain a better sleeping routine, such as: avoiding caffeine and alcohol before bed, waking up at the same time each day - including weekends, quit studying at least 30 minutes before bed, don't study or operate a computer in your bed, exercise early in the day, shut the TV off before bed and keep the room dark and noise free before bed by wearing ear plugs and an eye mask.

 **Seventy-three percent of students have problems sleeping. Adults need a minimum of eight hours of sleep per night, while many only get seven or fewer. Sleep deprivation leads to an inability to concentrate, use judgment and have an effective memory. All of these issues are disastrous for a student's GPA. Of all the things students make time for, sleep should be a number one priority.** 

Sleep deprivation is a serious problem amongst college students and its consequences are detrimental to health and grades. Students should try to manage their time enough to get at least eight hours of sleep each night. Making sacrifices such as avoiding staying out late or Netflix binging just before bed can be helpful in getting a more restful, longer night sleep. Of all the things students make time for, sleep should be a number one priority.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ IN THE AUMNIBUS THIS YEAR?

Please send your questions and comments to:
aumnibus@aum.edu

Club and Organization Spotlight: NAMI

By Samantha Dunaway

The National Alliance on Mental Illness, otherwise known as NAMI, has found that 1 in 4 college students live with a mental health condition. Here at AUM, we have our own chapter of the student club that helps those with mental illnesses and those who have someone close to them living with a mental illness. It's not something that you can see, but it can deeply affect the person who has it.

"The main goal is to educate on mental illness and breaking the stigmas surrounding [it]," said Juanita Barnett, the Counseling Coordinator and club adviser. The organization works to show students that there is nothing wrong with having a mental health condition. Their main goal is letting people know that it is okay to ask for help and ensuring our campus is a welcoming place for everyone.

According to NAMI, more than 50 percent of students have felt overwhelming anxiety and more than 30 percent of students have felt so depressed in the past year that it was difficult to function. Adding to that, suicide is a major concern on

college campuses. These facts alone are reason enough for having this organization at our school and getting students involved.

Throughout the semester, NAMI members team up with the Counseling Center to help host programs to inform and support students. Previous events have been the Out of Darkness Community Walk, art therapy and movie showings that have showcased "The Soloist."

NAMI is open to all students on campus. Help is available for those with or without a mental illness. It serves as a support group to anyone who is dealing with troubling times. The Counseling Center on campus is also available for students needing to speak one-on-one. The Counseling Center is located on the third floor of Taylor Center. You can call at 334-244-3469, email counselingcenter@aum.edu or visit the office to make an appointment.

LEARN HOW TO BE...

stigmafree

3 Steps

- Live It!**
Learn about mental health by educating yourself and others.
- Share It!**
Share StigmaFree on social media, strive to listen, tell your own story and see the person not the illness.
- Show It!**
Take action on mental health issues, raise awareness and make a difference.

www.nami.org/stigmafree

NAMI is an organization that helps eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health issues. Graphic courtesy of nami.org.

According to NAMI, more than 50 percent of students have felt overwhelming anxiety and more than 30 percent of students have felt so depressed in the past year that it was difficult to function.

Letter from the Editor:



Dear AUM family,

It was with honor that I accepted the position as editor-in-chief of the AUMnibus in May 2015. Now, after graduating in fall 2016, I prepare to hand over the reins to our new editor, Megan Endres. We at the AUMnibus are all very excited to welcome her to our team—we know she is going to do a wonderful job in continuing to provide news and entertainment to the AUM community.

During my time as editor, I experienced many successes and failures. Each of them served as a lesson that ultimately increased the value of my education. Thank you to all of the faculty, staff and students who have supported the newspaper by both reading and contributing. I'd also like to thank our sponsors who have kept us in print over the past year. Because of you, AUM students will continue to experience the real-life process of creating a newspaper from start to finish. My best wishes go out to all of the future news staff of our paper. I know you will make us proud.

Erin Mills
Editor-in-chief

Congratulations & Thank You

to the Learning Center and Instructional Support Lab!



The tutors at the AUM LC.ISL strike a pose at the fall 2016 training session. Photo courtesy of Matthew Kemp.

In fall 2016, the AUM Learning Center and Instructional Support Lab tutored a record number of students since their start in 1983. “This past semester, the LC.ISL helped students in 195 different courses, ranging from freshmen to graduate level,” said Matthew Kemp, Learning Center Coordinator. “In fact, we helped students with as many senior courses as we did freshman courses. Our staff of approximately 40 tutors stayed busy this fall working with over 1,100 students.” The goal of the LC.ISL is to provide a comfortable environment where students can build each other up and develop skills that will be useful inside and outside of the classroom. In addition to

exceeding their record number of students, the Learning Center recently received the Students First Award from AUM Human Resources for 2016.

Sociology tutor Jasmine Boutdy has been working in the LC for two semesters, and for her, it has been a valuable experience. “It is so rewarding to be able to work with students, whether in one session or all semester long,” Boutdy said. “Seeing them grow and excel in their classes is very rewarding.”

All the tutors at the LC.ISL are devoted to helping all students achieve their academic goals—whether that be succeeding in math class or improving writing skills. Services are completely free to all AUM

students. Tutors are available in a wide array of subjects, including science, business, writing, math, psychology, and much more. Students may drop in at the Instructional Support Lab, room 202/203 Goodwyn Hall or schedule a 30-minute one-on-one session at the Learning Center. In order to make an appointment, students should either call the AUM Learning Center at (334) 244-3470 or walk into the office in 225 Library Tower. For more information on tutoring hours and locations, visit <http://www.aum.edu/learnAngcenter>. You can also find them on Instagram (@aumlcisl) or Facebook (facebook.com/aumlcisl).

Check Out the AUMNIBUS Online!



www.theaumnibus.com

Meet The Staff

Erin Mills
emills1@aum.edu
Editor-In-Chief

Rachel Wallace
rwallac3@aum.edu
Co-Webmaster

Samantha Dunaway
sdunaway@aum.edu

Katelyn Turner
kturne20@aum.edu

Megan Endres
mendres@aum.edu
Co-Editor

Brittany Roberson
brobers1@aum.edu
Graphic Designer

Seneithia Parker
sparke24@aum.edu

Brianna Goodman
bgoodma2@aum.edu

Nikki Headley
sheadle1@aum.edu
Webmaster

Takeisha Jefferson
tjeffer7@aum.edu
Photographer

Deanna Chavez
Gates
dchavezg@aum.edu

Samantha Banks
srose3@aum.edu

Advertise with us!

Are you looking to spread the word about your business? Have an event that needs to be covered? Advertise with the AUMnibus and get your name out to the campus community and beyond. For pricing information, send an email to: aumnibus@aum.edu.



Jack's[®]

GOOD EATS *for*
GOOD TIMES.



W E L C O M E

back to **AUM** !

JUST ACROSS THE STREET! • eatatjacks.com