

New aquarium unveiled on FIU campus

Graham Center aquarium replaces tank that burst in July

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Published On: Nov 05 2015 12:01:25 PM EST Updated On: Nov 05 2015 03:55:22 PM EST



SOUTHWEST MIAMI-DADE, Fla. -

Something's fishy on the main campus of Florida International University.

Don't worry, that's a good thing.

Aquarium bursts Thursday at FIU's main campus

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JANINE AND VICTOR, WE'RE WORKING IT ANDY WILL GET YOU NEW DETAILS AS THEY COME IN. Janine Stanwood: ON THE 4:30 JUST ON THE ONE AND ONLY, FISH OUT OF WATER AT FIU. THIS AQUARIUM BURSTS SENDING WATER, ROCKS AND FISH ONTO TO FLOOR BUT IT'S A HAPPY ENDING FOR THOSE FISH THANKS TO THOSE STUDENTS. Victor Oquendo: AND LOCAL10 NEWS REPORTER GLENNA MILBERG IS LIVE AT FIU'S MAIN CAMPUS IN SOUTHWEST MIAMI-DADE WITH THIS FISH TALE, GLENNA. Reporter: YOU KNOW, IT IS NOT OFTEN THAT AN AQUARIUM BREAKS MAKE THE "NIGHTLY NEWS," HOWEVER THIS ONE WAS SO SPECIAL TO THIS SCHOOL AND IT WAS JUST SO PUBLIC IT. HAPPENED RIGHT IN THE GRAHAM CENTER WHICH IS THE STUDENT UNION, THERE WERE SO MANY PEOPLE AROUND, SO MANY STUDENTS WHO SAID THEY HEARD THIS POP ALL OF A SUDDEN, AND THEN A CRASHING THEN ALL OF THIS WATER AND THE FISH JUST CAME GUSHING OUT. THE AQUARIUM THERE IS ABOUT FIVE YEARS OLD. THERE'S BEEN ONE APPARENTLY FOR A LONG TIME BUT THIS ONE IS JUST FIVE YEARS OLD. IT HAD SALTWATER FISH, NOT A LOT, MAYBE CIRCUMSTANCES SEVEN THEM, CORAL ROCK WAS ALL ON THE FLOOR, A BIG FLOOD, AND ALL OF THE FISH ARE ACCOUNTED FOR ACCEPT EXCEPT FOR ONE. WE WERE ALL KIND OF DID THAT REALLY JUST HAPPEN? THERE WERE PEOPLE STANDING FROM THE TOP FLOOR AND A BUNCH PEOPLE WERE CROWDING AN EVER AROUND WHILE WE WERE SCRAMBLING TO PICTURE UP THE FISH. Reporter: SO THERE WERE SOME HEROES IN THERE. JANINE, VICTOR, YOU MENTIONED A HANDING. HAPPY SO FAR BUT FRANKLY ALL OF THESE FISH NOW THEY SAY ARE IN SHOCK FOR WHAT HAPPENED. THEY HAVE THEM ALL CONTAINED IN A SALTWATER TANK IN A DARK ROOM AND SO THEY'RE REALLY HOMING THAT THIS WILL BE A HAPPY ENDING FOR THEM.

Four months after an aquarium [burst inside the on-campus Graham Center](#), a new tank has been unveiled to replace the old one, bringing joy to students, faculty, and all gill-bearing animals alike.

Back in July, the center's tank cracked and sent water and fish all over the floors. Students rushed to save the fish, while the clean up was extensive.

The new 8-foot long aquarium holds over 500 gallons of water and is decorated with sculpted coral in the school's colors of blue and gold.

Living Color Aquariums, one of whose "Big Fish" is a FIU alum, reached out to the school after the original incident, offering to build them a replacement.

Unlike the old aquarium, the new one is made of acrylic, meaning it won't shatter. It's the same material the company used to construct the aquariums behind home plate at Marlins Park.

The brand new tank was installed on Tuesday.

Shawn Rich of Living Color Aquariums believes the old tank's troubles stemmed from it being made of glass and a wooden support structure that weakened over time.

"The aquarium was very important to the faculty, students and the Marine Biology department," said Rich. "So we had to make sure to get it right."



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