Walk for cystic fibrosis premieres on campus

ALEXANDER MILLER
Staff Writer

The FIU Wertheim College of Medicine is sponsoring the first walk for cystic fibrosis to occur at the University to create awareness about the illness and get people involved as a whole.

Through the national Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, there are a series of walks (called Great Strides) for cystic fibrosis that take place around the U.S., but this is the first time there will be a walk taking place at FIU. It’s pretty exciting to be planning the walk and it’s the first time we’re having a walk for cystic fibrosis at FIU,” said Rebekah Kharrazi, FIU Cystic Fibrosis Foundation chairperson.

According to the organization’s Web site, cystic fibrosis is an inherited chronic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system of about 30,000 children and adults in the U.S. and 70,000 worldwide.

A defective gene and its protein product cause the body to produce unusually thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs and leads to life-threatening lung infections and obstructs the pancreas and helps the body break down and absorb food.

In the 1950s, few children with cystic fibrosis lived to attend elementary school. Today, advances in research and medical treatments have further enhanced and extended life for children and adults with cystic fibrosis.

Many people with the disease can now expect to live into their 30s, 40s and beyond. Kharrazi works on research directly related to cystic fibrosis at the College of Medicine’s Department of Molecular Microbiology and Infectious Diseases.

Program prepares freshmen for writing exams

MARIELLA ROQUE
Contributing Writer

The Common Reading Program for freshmen finished its first University-wide implementation this semester and will continue into this Summer and next Fall.

The freshmen-geared program has first-year students read a book chosen by the Common Reading Committee.

The program, which was initiated by Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies Glenda Belote and University Ombudsman Larry Lumsford, is a requirement for incoming freshmen.

It began as a pilot program in the Summer semester of 2008 at Biscayne Bay Campus, and has received high student approval ratings since.

The program is tied to the First Year Experience course, a University Core Curriculum prerequisite, in which professors assign the students a two-page essay based on the book as well as a quiz.

The program aims to prepare students for college reading and get them used to writing and taking tests on a book.

“They basically want to enhance [the students’] reading skills,” Lumsford said.

Originally, the late Jeffrey Knapp, director of the Academy for the Art of Teaching, was placed in charge of the project. But it was handed down to Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies Valerie Morgan after Knapp’s passing.

A committee of 10 faculty and staff and two student representatives leads...
Proposal includes a new council

FLU promoted through fundraiser

WALK, page 1

“This is a place for education and it’s an opportunity to raise awareness and it makes it a great thing,” Khairrazi said.

Khairrazi added that the goal is to get as many people to participate in the inaugural walk, and that the event is a fundraiser.

“Whatever people feel like they can raise would be great,” Khairrazi said.

The planning committee for the walk is composed of students and professors, including College of Medicine students.

Other organizations have been instrumental in the planning and promotion of the walk, such as Beta Beta Beta, an honor society for the students of the Biological Sciences Department at FIU and for those interested in biology and related fields.

“IT’s nice to be a part of the walk because the people involved are so passionate,” said Maria Donayre, member of Beta Beta Beta.

Donayre also said that they are urging all professional students to get involved with the walk. They have reached out to the Council for Student Organizations as well to help advertise students on campus about the walk and get them involved.

“This event will put FIU’s name on the map and we are very excited,” said Dr. Karla Matthe, faculty in the Department of Molecular Microbiology and Infectious Diseases at the College of Medicine.

Matthe added that the event will introduce people to FIU and knowledge of cystic fibrosis as a whole. Matthe has formed a team with her lab that has participated in this walk in past years, and like Khairrazi, her research deals directly with cystic fibrosis.

The walk, held on April 3, will begin at the College of Medicine building (HLS I and II at the Modesto Maidique Campus) and will go around the campus. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. and the opening ceremonies will begin at 9 a.m.

Any person is permitted to participate and it is free to register for the walk as an individual or a team.

For more information and to register for the walk visit http://www.elf.org/aboutFIU and http://cysticfibrosis.org/a_walk/index.cfm.

Books to meet QEP criteria

READING, page 1

Common Reading. Morgan and the board select a number of books for the students to read and narrow down the choices.

“We really want to continue to give the book to students for free, we don’t want them to feel like they have to spend money on another text,” Morgan said.

The books chosen must meet the Quality Enhancement Plan criteria – the book should be student-friendly, flexible and “must show the students different perspectives.”

The book for the next three semesters will be chosen by the end of this month. The sponsors of the program are BBC, Modesto Maidique Campus, School of International and Public Affairs, and the Office of Graduate Affairs.

“The program has been very successful,” Lansford said, explaining that the students interact well with the selections and respond positively at the end of the term.

“If students don’t read [the book], what’s the point?” Morgan said, clarifying that the committee’s reason for selecting the novels was to engage, to interact well with the selections and respond positively at the end of the term.

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Team gives BBC a positive evaluation

MIKIALA C. TENNIE
Staff Writer

FIU is being pushed to make the most of the “I” in the middle of its name by a team from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Visits by this association generally strike fear into the hearts of schools, as SACS is responsible for the accreditation and evaluation of colleges and schools in the Southeastern U.S.

Edwin Rugg from Kennesaw State University and Terry McConathy from Louisiana Tech University are volunteer members of the SACS team that visit schools based on a federal government requirement. This visit in particular was to discuss the new initiative FIU is planning on launching in the Fall called the Quality Enhancement Plan. The University’s QEP is Global Learning for Global Citizenship.

“We’d like this to be an open conversation,” McConathy said. “SACS visits are not supposed to be ‘gothals’ visits.”

Members of student support personnel from Student Affairs and the library met with the team to discuss the Biscayne Bay Campus and the QEP.

“It used to be that anything less than 30 miles off of the main campus was a part of the campus, but your campus here is considered an off-campus operation,” Rugg said. “What makes this place special?”

The consensus was that BBC had an intimate community feel and that its environment made it a beautiful campus.

After getting a feel for why BBC is important to the University, the team focused on an aspect of the QEP that will bring more interdisciplinary courses to the school, with classes being taught by multiple professors from different areas of expertise.

According to Rugg, the school was supposed to have more than one of these types of classes up and running by this point. At press time, only one exists.

“What ways can the campus improve?” Rugg said.

One of the answers given was having additional courses on this campus and having more start-to-finish programs offered so students don’t have to travel between MMC and BBC as much.

The SACS team was guided through a brief tour of the campus, ending with a three-course lunch hosted by students from the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. The lunch split the SACS team up between two tables, where they interviewed an array of BBC students from different programs at the undergraduate and graduate level.

In the next meeting of the day, the SACS team utilized the information they received from the students in a discussion with the deans from the campus.

“You should know your students are very happy with your faculty,” Rugg said. “Keep up the good work as you grow bigger and better. Keep to your roots of success as best you can.”

The final meeting consisted of faculty from all over the campus discussing how the University can go global with the QEP by being intentional about putting global aspects into courses, by linking academics with extracurricular activities and by focusing on end-of-program results rather than end-of-course results.

“We don’t just want it to be ‘Here’s a class, and here’s an extracurricular activity,’” said Elena Cruz, director of Upward Bound and meeting attendee.

“We want to integrate the two and SACS challenged us to go beyond just activities and class.”

The QEP is a five-year initiative to make the University live up to its name and be internationally minded with its approach to learning.

“We do think you’re on to something, especially with the ‘I’ in the middle of your name,” Rugg said. “You’re doing tough work, but you’re doing good work. Make the QEP show that.”

ON THE RECORD

Dan Rather, host of CBS Evening News from 1981 until 2004, talked about his past in journalism and the current and future state of the field to a crowded auditorium at his lecture “Dan Rather: Journalism in Crisis” in the Mary Ann Walter Theater on March 9.

SPRING BREAK AT THE BAY

MONDAY, MARCH 15
MIAMI MIC MONDAYS

Open mic night for hip-hop hopefuls and spoken word poets.
WHERE: 9:00 PM - 12:00 AM
WHERE: Miami Pipeline
14837 NW 7th Ave
Miami, FL 33168
HOW MUCH: $5
CONTACT: (786) 586-8197

YOGA IN THE PARK
WHERE: 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM
WHERE: Tina Hills Pavilion
Bayfront Park
301 N Biscayne Blvd
Miami, FL 33132
HOW MUCH: FREE
CONTACT: (305) 358-7550

TUESDAY, MARCH 16
IMPROV COMEDY JAM
WHERE: 8:00 PM & 10:30 PM
WHERE: Miami Improv Comedy Club, 3390 Mary St, STE #182
Biscayne Grove, FL 33133
HOW MUCH: $12
CONTACT: (305) 441-8200

WICKED: THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE WITCHES OF OZ
The Broadway hit play has finally followed the yellow-brick road to South Florida.
WHERE: 8:00 PM
WHERE: Ziff Ballet Opera House, The Arsht Center
1300 Biscayne Blvd
Miami, FL 33132
HOW MUCH: $38-$150
CONTACT: (305) 949-6722

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17
ST. PATRICK’S DAY CRUISE
Celebrate Ireland’s most popular holiday with a touch of Miami flair.
WHERE: 9:00 PM
WHERE: Bayside Marketplace
401 Biscayne Blvd
Miami, FL 33132
HOW MUCH: $59
CONTACT: (305) 379-5119 ext. 201

THURSDAY, MARCH 18
CRIME IN MIAMI
The world’s upcoming fashion designers arrive to show off their latest work.
WHERE: 9 PM
WHERE: Shops at Midtown
Miami, 3401 North Miami Ave.
Miami, FL 33127
HOW MUCH: $25 General
CONTACT: (954) 476-5761

FRIDAY, MARCH 19
12 AT 12
This high-end pizza parlor offers a gourmet meal at a low price.
WHERE: 12 AM-2 AM
WHERE: Fratelli la Bufala
437 Washington Ave
Miami, FL 33139
HOW MUCH: $12
CONTACT: (305) 532-0700

LAUGHING GAS COMEDY
IMPROV SHOW
WHERE: 11:00 PM
WHERE: Main Street Playhouse
6766 Main St Miami Lakes, FL 33014
HOW MUCH: $10
CONTACT: (305) 461-1161

-Compiled by Jasmyn Elliott

Music fest incorporates charity to aid, support farm workers

HECTOR MODENA Staff Writer

Every summer, numerous music festivals take place across the country to aid, support farm workers. These festivals serve two purposes: raise money for the non-profit that brings awareness to the plight of farm workers and foster the goodwill of many of the attendees who want to see their favorite bands perform.

The festival taking place in Miami is the Hope Fest, which is sponsored by the Miami-based organization Hope exists to bring good music and a message of human rights awareness to the south. This year's festival will take place at the Miami World Music Festival in Coconut Grove. The festival will run from March 12-14 on the 3,700-seat parking lot.

Hope Fest is held in south Florida at the University of Miami, with the goal of raising money and awareness for farm workers. The organization is still in its early stages, but has plans to build upon its success in the near future.

The festival offers a variety of music genres, including rock, indie, and alternative. The featured bands include Man Man, Future Islands, and The Faint. The festival also offers opportunities for attendees to volunteer and contribute to the cause.

In conclusion, Hope Fest is an important event that brings together music, fun, and a message of human rights awareness. Attendees will have the opportunity to see their favorite bands perform and help support a cause that is important to many people.
Let’s face it. Marco Rubio isn’t going to be much help in the Senate.

The state legislator, who is currently running for the Republican nomination in the race for one of Florida’s U.S. Senate seats, has repeatedly said he would like to handily defeat his GOP opponent, Governor Charlie Crist.

But, Crist currently leads Rubio by 32 percent according to Public Policy Polling.

Rubio, of course, has also taught a class part time at FIU since 2008.

His hating attracted some criticism, since as speaker of the Florida House, he led the State Legislative in a billion dollar cut to Florida’s education budget.

Plus, some worried that this job was just something he’d be doing to kill time until he moved on to the next political gig...

Now, as he prepares to do exactly that, and move up to the political big leagues, where he can finally cut education at the federal level, it’s time FIU took action.

It’s time to make a trade.

FIU should promptly swap Rubio for Charlie Crist.

Crist knows, it doesn’t really seem like that far a deal.

Rubio’s value is quite high right now, and Crist, a longtime veteran of Florida politics, appears to have the hole in the downside of his career.

But see, Rubio is probably going to leave our school no matter what. We might as well get what we can for him.

If we act now, maybe we can swap him for a couple minor league state legislators in the deal.

Crist would probably be a better fit at FIU than in the GOP primary. He’s been criticized by many blacks and Latinos because he’s not progressive enough, and for embracing the stimulus, which infused billions into Florida’s education budget.

Plus, the recent revelation that Rubio used the Florida Republican Party credit card to buy important things sends to doubt whether he is a state legislator, like repairs to his family’s van and purchasing alcoholic beverages, probably makes some administrators wary.

After all, other FIU employees were fired for doing similar things with an FIU credit card, and Rubio’s van might be due for more repairs soon.

Plus, bringing in Crist would be very beneficial to the Florida governor. It would allow him to win a nice little job for a year until the next election cycle comes around.

No such option would be appealing to him; just look at how well that worked out for his opponent.

He would also likely enjoy using the tanning bed at the salon in the Graham Center to refine his trademark orange look.

Crist also fits the same profile as Rubio did when he took the job as a Republican with no actual training as an educator. That’s apparently exactly what is needed to teach that course.

Of course, there might be other options on the block. Maybe Kendrick Meek (FL-17) would be interested in having the job for a while.

Sure, he’s also seeking his party’s nomination for the same U.S. Senate seat as Rubio, and some might object to having a candidate running for office teaching students about politics, since they obviously have a strong political agenda to promote.

But, FIU administration seems to notice no difficulty with that whatsoever when it comes to Rubio, so why not bring in someone like Meek?

Oh, wait a minute. FIU would never go for that. He’s a Democrat.

Maybe Crist might not be interested in such a deal. Maybe another school offers a better deal.

That would completely ruin this whole plan.

Then again, that might not be such a bad thing. FIU’s administration has changed somewhat—what since Rubio was hired under previous President Donald “Doc” Ferguson? We doubt it.

Can it be that our state government is simply that it is a socialist republic and will retain its identity as a meritocratic, capitalist society?

The reality of education in America is simply that it is a growing expense, with many universities needing to realize is that America will never become a socialist republic and will retain its identity as a meritocratic, capitalist society.

How are they spending our money? Are they making the world a better place, or are they lining their own pockets instead? We aren’t sure if our war exist only because we allow it. Our media, must learn what laws our local, state and federal governments are ensuring that FIU remains a research university – an institution where a quality education can be sought.

The aforementioned budget presentation re-affirms that despite the financial crisis, FIU is investing in quality educational professionals, research and employees, to the tune of $17.4 million.

Whether it is via a corporation, a family, or an individual funding the University’s ventures, it is inevitable that advertising is brought into the realm of University life. Such advertising doesn’t hamper the educational process.

If it weren’t for private contributions, FIU, Miami’s only public research university, would just be Primera Casa and a small library, or even worse, a landing strip and a concept in the minds of many.
Barret earns SBC award for third consecutive week

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

FIU Pitcher Kasey Barrett (7-2) has put up staggering numbers this season as the Golden Panthers have enjoyed their best start to a season since 2005.

The Sun Belt conference has noticed.

The senior, who boasts a 0.37 ERA, has recorded three straight Pitcher of the Week nods from the SBC.

Her efforts last week include two complete games, a shutout, and two saves. In 20.0 innings of work, Barrett struck out 31 batters and a single run. "I really think that our offense and knowing that there’s defense behind me to make all the plays has helped me out a lot," Barrett said on March 3, after earning her second consecutive SBC award, "and then when I have run support that definitely allows me to relax."

Sophomore Jennifer Gnaidek (6-1) has also been trying to improve in the circle. Although she currently has a 3.02 ERA over 44 innings, McClelland says that Gnaidek has been working on some fundamentals to help improve her approach.

"The walks are coming down and I think she’s going to get there," McClelland said on March 4. "We’re just working on some different pitching things like her legs, lower half, and trying to stay balanced; different focuses for her."

FRESHMAN PHENOM

Before the season even began, McClelland told student media that Bri Rojas would be “the crowd favorite.”

She was right.

The freshman has shown outstanding ability early in the season and has turned heads with a team-high four home runs, while leading the Golden Panthers with a .483 batting average. In FU’s most recent outing, a 3-1 loss to Bradley on Mar. 7, Rojas went 1-fer-1 at the plate and recorded two walks.

"I can’t tell you how glad I am that she picked FIU," McClelland said on Mar. 4, after Rojas knocked out a three-run shot to defeat Eastern Michigan 6-1. "Thank God she’s on our team."

For Rojas, although the big hits come often, she says it’s always about having a good at-bat.

"It’s about quality at-bats every time," said Rojas, who has eight home runs this season and has turned heads with a team-high four home runs, while leading the Golden Panthers with a .483 batting average. In FU’s most recent outing, a 3-1 loss to Bradley on Mar. 7, Rojas went 1-fer-1 at the plate and recorded two walks. "I can’t tell you how glad I am that she picked FIU," McClelland said on Mar. 4, after Rojas knocked out a three-run shot to defeat Eastern Michigan 6-1. "Thank God she’s on our team."

UP NEXT

The Golden Panthers will host four games this weekend, beginning with a double header against Michigan State (7-12) today at 4 and 6 p.m. FIU will look to continue their dominance at home, where they have a record of 9-2.

Leading the Spartans offensively is Lindsey Hansen with a .382 BA while Kelly Confer (2-5) leads the defense with a 2.06 ERA on the mound.

Meanwhile, George Washington University (2-6) will face the Golden Panthers on Sunday at noon and 2 p.m.

The Colonials showcase a weak pitching staff that includes two players, Heidi Penna and Kara Claurus, with an ERA over 5.00.

Both hurlers have just a win a piece on the season and have allowed a combined 46 runs to opponents.

The Colonials’ offense may become stagnant against FIU’s defense, as they have not allowed a single player batting over .300 with 300, Julie Orlandi leading them with a .286 clip.

Kasey Barrett (Above) has earned herself praise from the Sun Belt Conference with her 7-2 record and 0.37 ERA.
The Golden Panthers split home series with BC

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers (9-3) split a two-game weekday series with Boston College (5-6) after struggling to produce runs when they needed them in the first game, but lit up the scoreboard in the series finale.

BOSTON COLLEGE 11, FIU 5

Most times it is the first out which is the hardest to get. Usually, it gets easier after that.

But for FIU, taking on Boston College on Mar. 9, it was getting the third out that caused headaches for the Eagles ravaged the pitching staff, scoring all 11 of their runs with two outs already recorded.

“Don’t swing the bat very well in Arizona and we didn’t swing the bat very well tonight,” coach Turtle Thomas said.

FIU posted two runs in the bottom of the second to open up the scoring, but BC responded with their own two-run inning in the top of the third.

With two outs, Robbie Antonatto tattooed a pitch by FIU starter Daniel Desimone into centerfield that sailed away from FIU outfielder Pablo Bermudez for an RBI double. Matt Hamlet followed with a single to right field to tie the game.

Things got dicey for FIU from there on out. Hamlet came back to haunt DeSimone again with another two-out RBI single to give the Eagles a 3-2 lead and then Mickey Wiswall smashed a three-run homerun to bust the game wide open. Boston College would add more runs to their already comfortable lead with a series of hits and added three more runs to their already comfortable lead.

The Panthers would strike back in the eighth with three runs of their own, powered by a two-run two-out double by Rudy Flores, but could not come up with a game tying run.

Reliever Dillon Vitale got two quick outs in the sixth, but the Eagles roared back with a series of hits and added three more runs to their already comfortable lead.

In the final inning, FIU came into the game with the championship on the line and a season sweep over BC.

Rivest scored the goal that opened the game and put the championship holders out in the first half. After Chill was unable to keep the ball away from the defense for a game winning shot, the Panthers emerged victorious.

As the second half closed down so did the game and put the championship holders out in the first half. After Chill was unable to keep the ball away from the defense for a game winning shot, the Panthers emerged victorious.

Continued...