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LUAU PALOOZA
BBC annual fest hits

ELECTION GAME
Gamers, politics meet on Xbox LIVE

SECURE NETWORKING
Employers looking at profiles

WOMEN'S SOCCER
Coach expects improvement

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FUTURE HOUSE

Representing America in Beijing

LIANET CHAO
Contributing Writer

Envision a future, decades from now, where the power of technology will completely transform how a typical American house uses energy.

A house with solar operated faucets, home appliances that use 85 percent less

electricity and 60 percent less water is now a reality.

Unveiled at the Beijing Olympics, "Future House USA," was made possible by FIU College of Engineering professors and students.

The FHUSA project began with the goal to reduce the pollution and limit climate change in China. When design-

ing the house, the engineers used the "Home Biology 101" theory, which uses energy efficiency, indoor air quality, storm water management, reduced water consumption and recycling. The theory goes hand in hand with the energy saving features of the house.

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EFFICIENCY

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President opens up about recent budget cuts

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO AND CHRISTOPHER NECUZE
Beacon Staff

The Beacon met with University President Modesto A. Maidique to talk about the effects of this year's budget cuts, among other FIU developments.

Q: Will the budget make it more difficult to hire and retain faculty-- are there fears they will leave?

A: There are several key jobs a leader has, and one of the most important ones is hope. My goal is to help engender hope, so that we will lose a few but not many. This is going to be another tough year but in 2010, in 2011, we are going to pick up again, so don't leave me because we had a bad year.



MAIDIQUE

Q: Still, is FIU trying to create new incentives?

A: We can't just arbitrarily set salary. We are making a proposal to the Faculty Union that includes giving incentives to the faculty members that are doing the best work, but we can't do that alone. We can only do that with the consent of the Union and the Provost.

Q: How will the College of Medicine help FIU?

A: A medical school attracts research and private dollars like no other university program and therefore makes the whole University more prestigious, more recognized and acts like a rising sea that lifts the whole ship.

Q: How is the College of Medicine going?

A: We were credited faster than any other university that has gone for preliminary accreditation; we hired some folks with 130- 140 combined years of experience in medical schools; we have thus far raised about \$40 million for the medical school and this year we'll eclipse that and make it look like child's play. We expect about 3,000 applications for 40 slots.

Q: What makes our College of Medicine unique?

A: We hope to train culturally sensitive doctors. We hope that a doctor has Peruvian origin and has family in Miami and will stay; that we'll have doctors of Cuban origin and from the Islands. We hope to have a reflection of Miami in our medical school and populated disproportionately, not totally, from residents of South Florida.

Q: Do you think it was a mistake to ac-

Low salaries result in fewer tenured faculty

EDUARDO MORALES
Contributing Writer

Over the years, it has gotten a little harder for Florida professors to afford a living. It doesn't help that raises are a dime a dozen.

The state's economy has been in a declining state and professors are looking for more work hours and, ultimately, to demand raises to cover increasing bills. According to the Board of Governors, Florida professors "have only received a salary increase in two out of the last five years. A \$1000 bonus was received in two years and no new compensation will be received during 2008-09."

Because of the lack of incentive, professors from Florida have taken up other offers to work

in universities elsewhere in the country. This problem has caused Florida to rank last nationally in tenured and tenure track faculty per full time equivalent (FTE) student, with one faculty member for every 27.3 FTE students. This displays a stunning decline of 45 percent from the state's ratio in 1989-1990.

At FIU, the statewide budget crisis has top administration worrying about hiring new faculty and retaining current professors with increasingly dwindled funds.

"This is going to be another tough year but in 2010, in 2011, we are going to pick up again so don't leave me because we had a bad year," President Modesto A. Maidique said.

Still, the University is doing it's best to create incentives. A salary increase plan is in the

FIU Faculty - Student Ratio Stats

- 36,000+ students
- 1,588 faculty
- 54 percent full - time faculty
- Faculty/ Student Ratio 21:1

*Lowest national ratio

works and will be proposed to the Faculty Senate. Non monetary incentives include rewarding faculty doing the best work by redis-

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MAIDIQUE, page 2

Florida proposes plan to increase faculty wages

FACULTY, page 1

tributing existent resources.

The Board of Governors has decided to take action and the Florida Legislature asked for a budget increase of \$65,411,604. The money would specifically be used to pay for a 4 percent raise that would be received by faculty members during the next fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2009. This comes after a year with no raises or bonuses.

Universities are given the flexibility to use the money how they please, however, it must be used to retain existing faculty.

“The faculty and staff would receive a 4 percent pay raise,” said Bill Edmonds, director of communications for the Board of Governors.

“It doesn’t necessarily have to be done across the board, it could be done in some other fashion. We haven’t worked that out yet. The institutions will probably be given some leeway to use that money.”

While the budget increase has not been passed yet, it is the beginning of Florida’s attempt to catch up with the rest of the country.

According to statistics given in the excerpt mentioned previously, the State University System would need an additional 1,600 faculty members to reach the national average of the faculty-to-student ratio.

Eight percent of faculty leaves the SUS annually, whether it is for retirement or the result of competing job offers from other universities outside the state.

“This means that the system must hire over 700 faculty annually just to maintain the ranks,” the excerpt states.

The problem presents something of a domino effect for the state. If respected professors become a rarity in Florida, students will then disperse and universities will see a drop in attendance. This means less money going to education and to the SUS and eventually, the state itself.

Some professors are beginning to see other ways in which this situation may be affecting the future of the state’s current generation.

“I personally like the lowest possible tuition so that economically disadvantaged families can send kids to school.”

John Makemson, Professor
Biological Sciences department

“We rank absolutely dead last in money spent on students and tuition,” said John Makemson, a professor in the Biological Sciences department. “I personally like the lowest possible tuition so that economi-

cally disadvantaged families can send kids to school. Because of this, we have lots of courses that fill up after the first couple days of registration making it impossible for students with a later appointment for registration to get needed courses. If we had more faculty and classrooms, this would not be such a terrible situation.”

This is especially evident in the English department. One of the requirements in earning a minor in the subject is taking British or American literature before 1800 while another covers the following period. However, only one class covering this material, British literature before the 1800s, is available for the Fall 2008 semester.

“At this point, we don’t have specifics,” Edmonds said when asked about the Board’s long term plans. “But this is a serious issue that the Board is determined to work on for as long as it takes.”

MEET YOUR DEAN



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

NICE TO MEET YOU: Mechanical engineering major, C.J. Calabrese, meets with his school dean, Amir Mirmiran during “Meet your Dean” in the Graham Center Ballrooms Aug. 25.

University refutes verdict, values new football stadium

MAIDIQUE, page 1

cept money from Pharmed?

A: No, there was a point in the history of Pharmed when they were lauded as the first Hispanic company to go over a billion dollars. They were heroes in the community and I think we might have held out for a higher price, that’s about the only thing; we wouldn’t have gotten it because they went under, that happens. The name, of course, has been withdrawn.

Q: Do you think the University should conduct thorough background checks to preserve our image?

A: I think for that donation—neither had a criminal record and neither was convicted. When you are in business and you have many partners, you are always being sued. Until you show me that someone’s guilty, you are innocent unless proven guilty.

Q: Won’t there be a change of policy with other donors?

A: Yeah, higher prices.

Q: Can you comment on the discrimination case brought on by Sean St. Louis?

A: We are appealing because we think it’s absolutely unjustified. To come to FIU and say we discriminated, that is almost a joke. We are one of the most diverse universities in the United States. We are 70 percent minority,

5,000 African-American students and we have a higher percentage of black faculty than virtually any of the high research universities. [The claim is] difficult to take seriously.

Q: Why do you think students think state funds built the stadium?

A: Not a dime of education and general revenue is going into Athletics, that’s one of the greatest misconceptions. It took me years to understand the budget here, so I can understand that a student who spends only a percent of his time trying to understand it-- even a newspaper writer for that matter-- will not be able to.

Q: Is a quality football stadium necessary?

A: If I were in Massachusetts, no. But we are in Florida and in Florida, football is king. It’s only our second year in Division 1-A and when you are 40 years old, you’ll see us beating the best teams in the nation.

Q: So, your decisions with the football team are strategic?

A: Football is a way of saying we have arrived, we are a major university, we are a university to be reckoned with. Football is the easiest way for FIU to get the word out.

I’ve told the football coaches, football team and the athletic director—you have a lot of potential to do good but I don’t want one thing out of line here.

THE BEACON

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House of tomorrow harnesses positive energy

HOUSE, page 1

FIU was the only American university invited to participate and represent the United States in the "Future House Village" project.

"Future House USA has been a defining moment in [my] life," said engineering major Denisse Aranada, who worked on the project.

In addition to the power and water efficiency, the house uses ground source - energy used from under the ground - and solar thermal energy. Therefore, it conserves natural resources.

With a measurement of 3,200 square feet, the house's features are made of only nontoxic materials, adhesives and laminates. A recycled aluminum and zinc stone coated roofing

system and doors made of wheat straw inner cores for enhanced indoor air quality are some examples of natural materials used to build the house.

When visitors walk through the house's wheat straw doors, their feet are also greeted by bamboo floor made from recycled wood.

These features add to the FHUSA's outdoors theme, which can be compared to a "hut in the mountain," said FIU engineering professor and project director Yong Tao.

According to Tao, the interior of the house, despite its modern comfort, is very nature-like with earthy brown colors.

"The entire design of FHUSA was inspired by the ancient Chinese practice of Feng-shui where we utilized the laws of both heaven

and Earth to create harmony in a living space," Aranada said. "The art work is done by Frank Floyd who has art work on display as we speak in the Hirshorn Gallery in Washington DC."

Various engineering students have volunteered to work in FHUSA. This is a tremendous opportunity for the students, as they get the experience they need for when they graduate and pursue careers as engineers.

Aranada explained the opportunity to work on this project has taught her about international relations as well as dealing with business transactions and learning about marketing and public relations. These are all things that are "not really taught in engineering school," Aranada said.

Tao first began consulting the idea of

FHUSA when he was invited to talk at a business forum named "Future Oil." There, he began discussing the idea of creating a future house that would be the U.S. version of a green house.

Afterward, he consulted Founder and Director of Alternative Energy Living George Bialecki Jr. who provided the finances for the project.

The Future House community will be in display between 2007 and 2014 as a platform to inform and educate about the importance of conserving energy.

"The purpose of FHUSA is to introduce foreign technology that everybody can learn from and use, and then expand on it," Tao said.

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HOT BARBECUE



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

BAYSIDE FUN: Students returning to BBC for the Fall semester were treated to a Welcome Back Barbecue sponsored by Campus Life (top) and music by Caribbean Music Farm hosted by Tribal Love Entertainment (middle). BBC Wishgivers dunk junior Joe Mintz to raise funds for the Make-A-Wish foundation (bottom).

Freshmen can meet their peers during luau

DAIANA KUCAWCA
Contributing Writer

Biscayne Bay Campus' annual Freshman Luau welcomes students to the Fall term with free food, music, art and gifts.

The luau is "designed to welcome new students to the University and Biscayne Bay," said Rafael Zapata, assistant director of Campus Life.

According to Zapata, "first year students will be able to meet other students, faculty and staff," while also enjoying good music and food. The event is a tradition at FIU five years in the running.

The luau will take place

in Panther Square at BBC on Aug. 28, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, but "is really meant for incoming freshmen," according to Sarah David, office manager for Campus Life at BBC.

According to David, the event will feature many activities such as a caricature artist, T-shirt giveaways and table games.

Entertainment will be provided by Travelin' Max, whom David describes as "a Jimmy Buffet kind of performance."

On his Web site, the entertainer describes his show as "the ultimate audience participation act." His act

includes giveaways including maracas, hats and leis.

Just like Buffet, a Florida rock legend known to perform in a very interactive way with the audience, the main part of his show is the music, as Travelin' Max brings a diverse catalogue to be performed.

"I keep the stage mics open for all who wish to join me ... It makes for some hilarious and unforgettable moments," Max said on his Web site *trav-elinmax.com*.

The event is organized by the Office of Undergraduate Studies and the Office of the Vice Provost. For more information, contact Campus Life at (305) 919-5804.

Beer-brewing gives course work a facelift

CHRISTOPHER ADAMS
Contributing Writer

As the old saying goes, "It's not good to drink before noon," but FIU is willing to make an exception with home brewing: a new subject starting this past summer, where students learn to brew their own beers.

"We specialize in the home brewing equipment because folks can take it home with them, and they can buy home brewing kits," said Professor Barry Gump.

According to Gump, it takes the class seven to ten days to brew and bottle a beer.

"We go over a number of styles of beer - this summer we brewed four times going

over light ales, stouts, porters and Indian Pale Ales," Gump said.

Gump was a professor of chemistry and oenology at Fresno State University and California State University, prior to transferring to FIU where he has taught for one year.

"Home brewing is a new subject; the traditional course was brewing sciences. I taught a home brewing class [before] at Fresno State - it was sort of an independent study," Gump said. "Recently, I received an e-mail stating that I probably was the only one teaching an academic brewing class in all of Florida."

The class is only offered at the Biscayne Bay Campus, but is open to all majors.

Some students attending the course never knew this class existed, until they heard it from a third party.

"I saw an article in the paper for a class about brewing beer, and it was three credits so I decided to take it," said George Miliam, a senior liberal arts major. "It is a nice, fun and different class to take."

Although students do not need to be 21 to take the course, there is a catch.

"Due to the nature of the class and University rules, students need to be of age in order to taste their brews, and sample brews set out for the class and exams," Gump said.

The class is available this Fall semester on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m.

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GAME TIME

With a pending election around the corner, efforts are being made to grab voters using the Xbox 360



Microsoft, Rock the Vote partner for convenience

IRIS A. FEBRES
Asst. Opinion Editor

Adding to the conveniences of the new millennium – including Global Positioning Systems and liposuction – voter registration has just gotten easier too.

America has already taken steps to make voter registration accessible to everyone, especially through the Internet. Online, visitors can print out applications and even check the status of their registration. Aside from the Web, applicants can visit any library, post office or elections office to register as well.

But now, Xbox LIVE subscribers can use their console for registration after a partnership with Microsoft and political organization Rock the Vote was given breath.

Through the use of Xbox LIVE, a new audience is tapped. Utilizing Microsoft's gaming platform will allow Rock the Vote to reach an age group known for its apathetic attitude toward politics.

This initiative does not stop at registering voters. With the online service, Rock the Vote intends to host a forum for users to voice questions and concerns toward the candidates, as well as allow them to participate in polls and download public service announcements. Because many users may not be well informed about the issues pivotal to the upcoming election, these features will facilitate important information to a younger potential voter.

But why bother reaching this audience of 12 million if their age group has already proved to be apathetic to voting in the first place?

Frankly, why *not* bother? I don't believe such an enterprise is a lost cause. To overlook 12 million people solely because they're considered gamers – and therefore, probably uninterested in politics – is ludicrous. According to an online press release, Rock the Vote notes that if Xbox LIVE subscribers were considered a state, it would be the seventh most populous in the country and would hold 20 electoral votes.

Does anyone remember the 2004 election, and how it came down to Ohio? The

White House could have gone to John Kerry had he won over those final ballots. It is clear every vote counts, including those of younger populations.

I know some Xbox gamers do not plan on becoming informed about politics before November on their own, but if they have the opportunity to participate through a medium with which they are familiar, they are more likely to become interested – especially now, as young adults face daily challenges they cannot avoid.

Nowadays, people hardly have the time to take a breather between multitasking, classes, work, paying bills and anything else the regular college student endures. I can understand if signing up for a voter registration card slips from a person's mind, even during an election year.

The Xbox grants some convenience to a potential voter. Rushing to an elections office before business hours could now be a thing of the past. Instead, people can come – or stay – home and register through their television screen, granted they own an Xbox 360 with an Xbox LIVE subscription.

Thinking about this monumental – and honestly, really cool – step for voting made me consider the practice of voting in the long run. It is obvious that the lifestyle we now face revolves around speed and convenience. When we want something, we want it now, and we can't slow down.

When was the last time you sat down at a desk and wrote a handwritten letter to a friend? Admit it: it's easier to simply pop open a laptop and write an e-mail. So why mail in a form (and remember, it could get lost en route) if you can pick up a remote, turn on your TV and have it submitted instantly?

Time is money. We pay for time because we desperately need it and it's only a matter of time until we can simply vote for future presidents from our homes.

We have already moved from paper ballots to the electronic booth as a means to vote. Such a measure would be another step toward additional convenience, following a trend we see today with evolving technology.

Contact Iris Febres at iris.febres@fiusm.com



Registration through a console is questionable

ERIC FELDMAN
Opinion Editor

Now available at your local GameStop: Race for the White House 2K8. As the line blurs further between gaming and reality – I don't remember if I killed that hooker for real or if it was during a trip to San Andreas – young Americans who previously did not have enough time to put down their controllers between yells of "BOOM! HEADSHOT!" and register to vote for who runs their community and leads their country will now be able to do so directly from an Xbox 360, thanks to a collaborative effort between Microsoft and civic activism group Rock the Vote.

It's not like you couldn't already sign up for perhaps your most vital civic duty of voting without leaving your house. Registration forms can already be printed from your county's Supervisor of Elections Web site and mailed in to the office. But I can understand that paying off your monthly Xbox LIVE subscription takes priority over the postage.

Since voting is indeed so important, I should be happy that it is being made more accessible to everyone. The Xbox registration drive follows such great feats as the concept of early voting, which allows the working public a greater opportunity to get their vote counted. Now, Americans who have volunteered to serve a digital representation of our nation in Call of Duty or who suffer from post-traumatic stress after a bad round of Counter-Strike have their opportunity as well.

One might ask the question: Why reach out to people who don't care in the first place? This effort is not simply about making it easier to get involved; it is about finding people who weren't going to come up for air during their Halo 3 LAN party to vote anyway, and getting them to catch up on years of American politics in order to make an informed decision in the general election, just over two months away.

I don't mean to make gamers sound stupid here – I respect video games as an art form as much as anyone. But the only gamers I want pushing buttons on a Diebold voting machine instead of their Sixaxis controller are the ones that obtained a voter registration card without

being told to do so by Samus Aran.

"We need to go where young Americans are," said Heather Smith, executive director of Rock the Vote, according to a statement. "There's no doubt in our minds that many are on Xbox 360 and Xbox LIVE."

With online registration and early voting, anyone who uses time as an excuse for forgetting their right to vote simply does not care enough.

I would personally feel insulted if the powers that be in both the government and corporate world thought that the only way of reaching out to me was through an Xbox. I may be part of a digital generation with not enough hours in a day, but that is no excuse for apathy.

With online registration and early voting, anyone who uses time as an excuse for forgetting their right to vote simply does not care enough.

Another disconcerting facet of such voter registration drives with these vast goals – this one hopes to sign up 2 million voters – is their focus on youth. It is vital to our democracy to encourage young citizens to play their role in the system.

But where are the voter drives on the AOL message boards for "Funky Fifties?" Could this have anything to do with the ideological views of the youth crowd?

According to the Web site for the Young Democrats of America, <http://yda.org>, young people support Democrats by a margin of 2 to 1. There are other concerns about political motives behind the Xbox drive as well.

"This collaboration is truly a double-edged sword," said Andre Jaumot, a junior majoring in finance. "[The Xbox drive] can also be used as a means to directly influence our youthful demographic toward bipartisanship. I personally feel that multi-partisan governments are the best examples of a democratic nation."

Jaumot also mentioned that Microsoft's Political Action Committee Web site states that it supports "bipartisan" causes.

So, vote, or don't. But be aware of your own decisions, and don't make it necessary to shove a registration form down your throat.

Democracy shouldn't feel like a tooth extraction.

Contact Eric Feldman at eric.feldman@fiusm.com

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First impressions may happen sooner than you think

SHANNON FALLON
Staff Writer

“Vodka and a zanex, a girls best friends.”

A student recently posted this as her status on her

Facebook this past week, thinking only her friends would be able to see it. Frequently updated statuses may be commonly shared with close friends and acquaintances, but how about your mother or, even worse, a recruiter for your ideal internship or job?

Personal information students are posting on the web could be giving them a bad reputation and even blacklisting them from a dream job.

According to *The New York Times*, many companies that recruit on college campuses have long been using search engines like Google and Yahoo! to conduct background checks on college students looking for internships and entry level jobs.

But now, recruiters are taking it to the next level by looking up applicants on popular social networking sites like Facebook, MySpace, Xanga and Friendster.

Students often post inappropriate photographs and inappropriate comments about drinking, drug use and sexual activity on what they assume is their private page.

“It’s an invasion of privacy, I understand that companies are looking to find

more information on you as an individual and, by looking at your profile, your definitely able to obtain things that they would have never gotten through interviews or a normal background check, Tina Adeoba, a senior and hopeful employment seeker said.

What one does in one’s private life may be private, but once it’s posted to the web and becomes public, it is surrendered to the public for judgement. Companies in general care about their public image and do not want any liabilities. No matter what the protest may be, companies are going to continue collecting information on future employees, as well as their current employees, as protection on their investment.

If your personal profile isn’t following with a company’s value system then you might be out of luck for a job.

“I’ve always tried to keep both my Myspace and my Facebook clean in general,” said Mariel Aleman, a senior and current *Ocean Drive Magazine* intern.

Business Week recently reported that your online reputation is more important than your word-of-mouth reputation, with that said it’s time for students to start cleaning up their profiles and here are some guidelines for where to start:

- **Change your privacy settings to filter who is able to see your profile. Options can include just your friends to an entire network such as your college.**

- **Remove any pictures where you are clearly intoxicated or under the influence of drugs, as well as any picture where anyone possesses a beer funnel or bong.**

- **Understand the site’s privacy policy and privacy set-**

tings. Consider the strength of assurances given about privacy and security on the sites you visit, and the conditions of acceptance. You might find that you are being asked to consent to wider commercial uses of your information.

- **Remove any pictures of being Naked, half naked or almost naked. This also includes people surrounding you in the picture.**

- **Leave any groups that promote illegal activities, are politically incorrect or are in any way inappropriate or degrading.**

- **Get rid of all things previously mentioned in your special interest and quotes area.**

- **Don’t write any blogs or notes mentioning any of the above activities.**

- **Don’t assume that anything you post online is completely private or limited to certain groups, or that the passwords you set up cannot be accessed through inadequate software protection. Even basic information, such as an address, birthday, photo or mobile number can be coupled with other public information, enabling someone to steal your identity.**

- **Lastly, use common sense and start using the internet for your own benefit and gain. You’re more likely to be rewarded than denied during your next interview.**

“I strongly feel that who I am in my personal life, is very different than who I am in a business setting.” It almost feels like these employers are stalking, whatever happened to just calling your references?” Adeoba said.

Panther Camp helps students cope with first-year jitters

KASSANDRA POOL
Staff Writer

There may not be a book for dummies or a crash course on how to survive college, but for incoming freshmen, there's Panther Camp.

Founded in 2006 as an attempt to help freshmen have a smoother transition from high school to college, PC has expanded over the last two years.

What began with one camp for 25 incoming students has grown into two camps for a total of 125 incoming freshmen at each camp.

Up until the day of, students don't really know what to expect. The only knowledge they have of PC is the hype given during orientation during the Get a Life segment.

Incoming freshman Andrew Gill is excited to meet new people and make friends at camp.

"It's a big college and you are coming in as a freshman, you don't know a lot of people. It's nice to recognize a face in the crowd when school starts, that way you don't feel so alone," Gill said.

Over the course of seven to eight months, the 20 facilitators selected for the 2008 year have been rigorously training and planning to ensure the success of each camp.

PC facilitator, Scott Tenreiro, a junior and political science major, looks forward to the outcome of their hard work at the end of the camp.

"Knowing that I made a difference in someone's life — that is my guidance [to continue], knowing that I influenced them to change and gave them [the] experience of a lifetime," he said.

Once students arrived at the camp they are broken off into groups, each containing about 10 to 12 students who are paired up with their two facilitators.

From water sports to team building activi-

ties, from ice breakers and FIU cheer songs to making smores, the facilitators have created the three day camp to not only motivate the students, but to create and build upon their school pride.

Just like any other camp, PC has their secrets that only those who attend camp know about, such as the acronym P.R.I.D.E. that was created by the 2006 facilitators.

This year both panther camps took place at Lake Worth, Florida. The first session took place Aug. 6 - 9 and the second camp took place Aug. 21 - 23. Students who went to PC paid \$50 to attend and were able to select the date they preferred according to space and availability.

Along with the \$50 fee, students who signed up were also given a free, one year membership to the Student Alumni Association.

Although PC is only open for incoming freshmen, another way to get involved is by becoming a facilitator. Applications will be out by mid September. Students who are high spirited, motivated, hard working and generally interested in getting involved on campus can apply to become a facilitator. For more information on applications contact the orientation office at (305) 348-6414.

Some of the sponsors this year include SAA, the Residence Hall Association and Campus Life.

Sophomores and facilitators Ruben Diaz-Neda and Ivana Harris can both agree that one of the most rewarding aspects is seeing how much the campers enjoy the camp and seeing them evolve into leaders on campus.

For incoming freshmen and marketing major Jason Caceres, the experience of attending PC has left him with tremendous amount of school pride and the motivation to get involved on campus.

"I went in knowing two people, but left [the camp] knowing 100," Caceres said.

DANCING IN A RAGE



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

DANCE OFF: Desiree Rodriguez, an FIU recruitment advisor, shares a dance with Roary during a Pep Rally outside of the Graham Center on August 25.

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Alumni join each other during life after college

JADE LEONART
Staff Writer

Given the size of the school, and it's over 100,000 alumni, FIU alumni are everywhere.

It's not common though to find three of them working at the same place, in such close proximity. But that is the case at the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) wing of the Florida Department of Transportation. There, Jimi Mitchell, Manuel Fontan and Javier Rodriguez, all FIU graduates, make a living for themselves.

At the ITS building, where all three engineers work, many important Department of Transportation duties take place. Road Rangers are dispatched from this building and expressway display signs are sent from it. The ITS building also deals heavily with any technological projects the Department of Transportation is working on and it is there where employees plan them out.

"ITS simply put is the use of technologies and telecommunications to manage the surface transportation infrastructure more efficiently," Rodriguez said.

Mitchell, a 2005 FIU graduate who studied civil engineering, is the Road Ranger project manager for ITS. He had been working at a consulting firm and was a part of the Miami-Dade Metrorail expansion proposal, landed the job shortly following graduation. After posting his resume online, the Orlando office of the Department of Transportation called and asked him to head over to the Miami office for an interview. At the end of the next day, he had received an offer letter.

In many ways, Mitchell is working his dream job.

"As a consultant, I like that I get to work on

What I like most about my job is that the field of ITS is relatively new in Miami-Dade County. Everyday you come into work, there is always something new and exciting to work on, such as travel times, ramp metering, express lanes and the Florida 511 system

Manuel Fontan
FIU Alumnus

a lot of different projects," Mitchell said.

Civil engineers are always working with different clients with different ideas. Mitchell enjoys taking these jobs on and seeing what he can do with them.

Civil engineering projects take lots of time to work on. Those looking for a 9-to-5 job won't find it in the civil engineering world.

"It's not a traditional job as far as hours are concerned. You're working for whoever your client is and it all depends on how much they want you working," Mitchell said.

Mitchell has taken some collegiate skills he learned at FIU with him into his everyday job. The analyzing and problem solving skills he learned in his engineering classes also come in handy.

"Just knowing how to manage your time, your responsibility, yourself, helps a lot," Mitchell said.

Mitchell hopes what he learns at his current job will help him with what he someday hopes to be: a city or county manager.

"It's basically the mayor's right-hand man. He makes sure the mayor carries out his promises," Mitchell said.

ITS Project Manager Manuel Fontan

is a 2004 FIU graduate. After graduation, Fontan worked at the Florida Department of Transportation as a P.E. Trainee. The job required learning about all of the different elements of transportation engineering. One of them was Intelligent Transportation System, so when Fontan saw an opening at the ITS field of the Department of Transportation, he applied.

"What I like most about my job is that the field of ITS is relatively new in Miami-Dade County. Everyday you come into work, there is always something new and exciting to work on, such as travel times, ramp metering, express lanes and the Florida 511 system," Fontan said.

Fontan is currently studying for his Master's degree at FIU and plans on continuing to study there once he gets it.

"There are plenty of other areas which I feel FIU may assist me with my daily job duties," Fontan said.

His studies help him everyday at work, thanks to two important lessons he remembers day after day.

"The most important things I learned in FIU, which have helped me succeed in my career, are 'learning how to learn' and 'the ability

to adapt to change'," Fontan said.

The most important thing to Fontan though is to continue providing exceptional services to motorists in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.

As the head honcho over at ITS, Rodriguez has many responsibilities.

"I am responsible for the operations of the center (planning, budgeting, procedures development, operations strategies and implementation), including the operators that manned the center and the Road Rangers," Rodriguez said.

It sounds like a lot to deal with but the 2001 graduate – who also earned a Masters in 2003 – finds it very rewarding to have such an impact on drivers in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.

"Hopefully ... drivers could experience less congestion on the various highways managed," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez believes the Masters program highly enhanced his knowledge of civil engineering.

"FIU gave me a great foundation in order for me to be able to perform many of my daily duties," Rodriguez said.

As far as the future is concerned, Rodriguez hopes to continue to gain knowledge and experience, as well as take advantage of the various opportunities at the Florida Department of Transportation.

The ITS section might have three FIU alumni working closely together but it's not the only place. The Department of Transportation has many former Golden Panthers working behind its doors.

"Traffic Operations at the Department of Transportation is full of FIU graduates. Really, FIU engineering has lots of people working all over the county," Mitchell said.

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Hush Sound speaks up on life on the road, new album

ROSALYN DELGADO
Contributing Writer

On Aug. 15 at the Culture Room, Chicago pop/rock band The Hush Sound took some time after a show to talk to *The Beacon*.

The Beacon: Can talk a little bit about the band?

Gretta Salpeter: Well, Bob and I met when I was 12 and he was 15. We became friends and started to write music. Then Chris [Faller], our bass player, came in. That's when we became a band. A couple of years later, we recorded an album on our own and put it online.

Ryan [Ross] from Panic! at the Disco stumbled upon it and sent it over to Pete Wentz of Fall Out Boy. He quickly signed us to Fueled By Ramen and we began a series of extensive cross country tours. During half of the last tour we almost broke up as a band.

We didn't see it going anywhere for some reason, then we did a headlining tour and it was absolutely amazing. The crowds were very responsive.

We figured we had something really special in our hands, so we decided to stay together. We finished our tour and hit the studio [and now] we're finally on the road with a really fun record in our hands.

The Beacon: Tell us more about [the band's latest] album [*Goodbye Blues*]. It's your third one and the sound has indeed evolved but you can still hear traces of old Hush Sound.

Salpeter: Well, the record is still pop music. [It's] still kind of whimsical and imaginative, but it has its roots in the history of American pop music. When I was writing I was listening to a lot of early jazz and blues, it has an American feel to it, very folk.

Chris Faller: With this album we've kind

of simplified [the sound] a little. [We've] brought it down to the bare minimum, to the essentials, and kind of built it back up again [and] we are very much proud of [it].

Salpeter: This is our first adult record, We matured very much. With the first two albums I feel like we were babies, [like we] didn't know what we were doing, still trying to figure out what kind of music we wanted to make and now we finally got it down.

The Beacon: This is not your first time in South Florida. The last time you came I believe was with Fall Out Boy. How do you like South Florida thus far?

Faller: Well, aside from today's humidity, Florida has actually been really good to us. I mean, a lot of bands come down here and don't do as well for some reason. I guess it's the culture of the region. It's also got to do with the genre I believe, but for some reason [we have] been welcomed here, we've always had very awesome and responsive fans.

The Beacon: Your tour is about to wrap up in one more week. How has it been for you guys? Any good experiences or stories you'd like to share?

Salpeter: Oh yeah, so far we've really enjoyed it. All the bands on the bill have been awesome. The lifestyle however has been one of the most challenging. Our tour bus isn't exactly the most comfortable place to inhabit, [laughs] but we've liked seeing the fans every night and getting on stage. [We are] kind of sad it's almost over.

The Beacon: Speaking of the fans, how have they reacted to the new and improved Hush Sound?

Faller: Oh, we've had some crazy, well crazy I guess is not the right word, over enthusiastic fan encounters in the past, but this time



COURTESY PHOTO

QUIET NOISE: Chicago based pop-punk group the Hush Sound recently sat down with *The Beacon* following a show at the Culture Room.

around it looks like they've chilled out a bit. They've more relaxed and a lot sweeter

Salpeter: We've got the greatest people as fans. We recently got a dinosaur shaped cake with our name on it. It was great.

The Beacon: Does the Hush Sound have any request for treats while on the road?

Gretta: Yes. We love fresh fruit and veggies, so if anyone wants to bring us those we'll thank you with kisses.

The Beacon: Good to know for the next time you come back to town. What's in store for The Hush Sound in the future? Coming

back anytime soon?

Chris: Well, we're going overseas to Japan with The Academys Is ..., and we're very excited. Then we're coming back and doing a few dates with One Republic back in the states.

Gretta: After that we're pretty much taking over the world. It seems like a lot in a short time, but we can't wait.

Read the rest of the interview online at FIUSM.com.

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SILVER PANTHER



GREGORY BULL/AP PHOTO

LEANING CLOSER: Kerron Stewart, center, leans out to win the 100 meters final, in front of Sheri-Ann Brooks, left, and Sherone Simpson, right during the Jamaican National Track and Field Championships and Olympic qualifier, in Kingston, Saturday, June 28, 2008.

Volleyball receives preseason accolades

VOLLEYBALL, page 12

us. Sabrina is a very talented athlete ... who has a lot of room to grow. It's amazing how fast she has learned her volleyball skills and I was surprised when I found out that she has only been playing for three years."

The depth of talent on the back row will increase the competition for playing time. Vying for that playing time are seniors Vanessa Romero and Marion Drumeva, and freshmen Nina Colon and Rachel Fernandez. "It will be interesting, there will be a lot of competition and everything is up for grabs" Tomic Said.

The schedule does not consist of any easy stretches. Before conference play begins, the Lady Golden Panthers will match up against seven teams who reached the NCAA tournament last year.

The highlight of the schedule will be November 20-22, when FIU hosts the Sun Belt Conference Championship at FIU arena.

The Lady Golden Panthers open the season on August 29-30 at the Big Orange Bash at Clemson. They will continue onto the Middle Tennessee Invitational from September 5-6th, after which, they will return home to host a tournament for the first time since 2006, The FIU invitational. Home games are UAB September 26, Troy September 27th, Denver October 10th, and North Texas October 12th. After a road trip, the home schedule continues with conference matches against New Orleans, Louisiana-Monroe and Louisiana-Lafayette (Oct 31, Nov 1, and Nov 2nd). The last chance fans have to see the team at home is Nov. 7 and 9, with Middle Tennessee and Western Kentucky coming to town.

Coach Tomic has a positive outlook for this season, using last season and a learning experience and looking ahead to bigger and better things. "Overall, the whole attitude of the team is very positive and think they are committed to doing whatever needs to be done to get the NCAA's this year ..."

Lady Golden Panthers seek turn around in '08

WOMEN'S SOCCER, page 12

actly what FIU needed after Everton Edwards ended his 22 year tenure with the Golden Panthers.

"The girls were excited about the coaching change last season because it was moving them in a new direction and adding new energy," Chestnutt said.

Yaneash Donaldson joined the women's soccer staff this year after spending 2007 as the first assistant with the Colorado School of Mines soccer squad. Donaldson's youth, motivation, soccer knowledge, and experience arrived just in time as the Golden Panthers begin their road to conference play.

"Our youth and lack of experience can be considered one of our weaknesses and at the same time, one of our strengths," Chestnutt said, "the new players are hungry and ready to prove themselves on the field."

Veteran Marina Pappas is

confident with the team's new infrastructure.

"I'm really excited about the new girls and our new mentality," Pappas said.

Fortunately, the returning players have a lot of experience and credentials to assist in preparing the freshmen for their upcoming contests.

Pappas was second on the team in points, goals and assists. She started in 16 of 17 matches and scored the team's first goal of the season versus the University of North Florida on Aug. 31.

Returning forward Claudia Cardenas should once again be a key factor in the Golden Panther offense as she led the team last season with six goals.

Utilizing her speed to start the FIU attack, senior forward Maria Gualdrón returns to open up the FIU offense. To retain the defensive aggression from last season, the Golden Panthers bring back senior Kia

Rigsby and junior Amy Jackson.

Jackson dominated on defense and scored one goal in her first start of the season against Florida Gulf Coast on September 2 of last year.

Rigsby started in 15 games and was a crucial part in back to back shut outs against Louisiana at Monroe on Oct. 12 and Louisiana-Lafayette on Oct. 14.

With such talent from both rookies and veterans, the coaching staff has set their expectations high.

"We are much faster than we have been in past seasons and an overall stronger team," Chestnutt said.

This speed and agility will be tested as the Golden Panthers move into the 2008 season.

Among the non-conference highlights are meetings with the nationally-ranked Florida State Seminoles and their cross-town rivals, University of Miami.

However, the team's first contest was against the third place finisher

in the Atlantic Sun Conference last season. The Golden Panthers hosted Florida Gulf Coast University on Sunday, August 24.

The Eagles 2-0 lead early in the first half led to a loss of momentum by the Golden Panthers defense, which allowed the Eagles to move into halftime with a comfortable 3-0 lead.

Though FIU missed on two early scoring opportunities by Marina Pappas and Miriam Mercado, the Golden Panthers left the Eagles scoreless in the second half.

Sophomore Claudia Cardenas scored in the 65th minute off of a perfect assist from freshman Jessica Gambill. Pappas then scored off of a loose ball in the 90th minute.

The Eagles walked away with the 3-2 victory. The Golden Panthers will be back in action as they travel across town to the University of Miami on Aug. 29 and then host the University of Buffalo on Aug. 31.

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Men's soccer needs more scoring

BIG THREE, page 12

Returning to help assist the offense, and create some consistency are sophomore forward Cabas and junior forward/midfielder, Caporaletti.

Cabas showed considerable talent in his freshman campaign, when adjusting the college game. He placed second on the team with five goals scored, and three assists.

Cabas seems poised for a breakout after his stellar play in the postseason, where he scored two key goals.

Caporaletti netted four goals last season, teaming up with Guerra and Cabas to provide the bulk of the offense for the Golden Panthers last season.

The defense, which was the strong suit of the team last season will be without both Ainsley Deer and Raoul Voss, who both

graduated.

Eketebi hopes the defense will be bolstered by the addition of two new recruits, freshman Brian Carvahal and junior transfer Dane Smith.

Seniors Phill Fisher and Corey Kendall will be counted on heavily to be adequate stop-gaps and junior Kyle Emerson could contribute as well, although he has been hampered by a leg injury.

The team is kicking off the season against a formidable North Carolina squad on Aug. 29 and then faces the defending national champions in Wake Forest on Aug. 31.

There remains little doubt that the thought on the hearts and minds of the Golden Panther soccer team is to exceed the accomplishments of last year's surprising playoff run, while improving the team's regular season record in the process.

MEN'S SOCCER

NEW ADDITIONS



DANNY BONACHEAT/THE BEACON

NEW EDITION: Sophomore forward Samantha Girard looks to distribute more (two assists in 2007), to improve the Lady Golden Panthers offense (15 goals in 17 games).

Recruits add depth to veteran team

AUDRINA BIGOS
Staff Writer

Women's soccer has all the key ingredients needed for a winning season with 12 new promising recruits and a handful of solid veterans.

Though the team ended its 2007 season with only three wins, the new additions will be instrumental in putting together a fresh start and improved results.

"Coming out of last season, we saw the areas that needed improvement and we addressed those areas with our new players in the offseason and preseason," said head coach Thomas Chestnutt.

Among the new recruits is midfielder April Perry of Hollywood Hills High School. Perry was

Coming out of last season, we saw the areas that needed improvement and we addressed those areas with our new players.

Thomas Chestnutt
head coach

Broward County's 2007 Player of the Year and two-time All-Broward 5A-6A First Team selection. Last spring, Chestnutt announced that Perry would be joining the 2008 recruit class, which was ranked third in the Sun Belt Conference by *Soccer Buzz*.

Perry joins seven freshmen and two transfers who are practicing hard to fill the void of the six seniors who completed their tenure at FIU last season.

Playing an integral part of the

FIU attack last season was midfielder Francesca Chong. Chong was one of only four players to start in all 17 contests.

Right alongside Chong was goalkeeper Madeline Gannon who also started in every contest. Gannon had 80 saves and was a key factor in the Golden Panthers back to back shutouts against the University of South Florida on Sept. 10 and St. Marys on Sept. 17.

Despite the team's standout

players, the Golden Panthers finished the season with a record of 3-11-3. There is no definite contribution to the 11 losses.

"The record was the only negative aspect coming out of last season," Chestnutt said. "The girls worked hard all season and they were excited, even when we were losing."

Excitement also trickled down from the new coaching staff that began undergoing changes in February of 2007.

Chestnutt came to FIU from Fresno State, where he served as the first assistant coach. His repeated trips to the NCAA Tournament, commended recruiting, and conference titles were ex-

WOMEN'S SOCCER, page 11

MEN'S SOCCER

'The Big Three' seek redemption

JOSE MARTINEZ
Staff Writer

One of the biggest surprises in the world of collegiate sports last season was the unforeseeable turn of events that led to the FIU Golden Panthers (5-13-2) making an appearance in the Conference USA Tournament finals.

They defeated No. 5 ranked Southern Methodist University in the tournament opener (by a score of 3-1) behind the offensive outbursts by the team's "Big Three."

Forwards Juan Guerra, Steven Cabas and Christian Caporaletti

also upset Marshall University, 3-2 in overtime to reach the conference finals, where they lost to No. 9 ranked Tulsa in a devastating fashion (by a score of 3-2), in spite of holding the lead, and controlling the game, until the final five minutes.

First year head coach Munga Eketebi seemed to find himself in a perfect situation when his team, which had, until that point, failed to produce such success in the regular season began defeating opponents in the conference tournament.

This season, Eketebi and his squad look to recapture the fire

they caught down the stretch once more, with the help of promising new recruits and veteran talent.

Entering the 2008 campaign, the offense will be anchored by junior forward Juan Guerra, who was named the Conference USA Preseason Offensive Player of the Year this season, and was named to the Preseason All-Conference USA team.

Guerra was the spark plug for the Golden Panther offense last season, scoring a team-leading eight goals, and assisting on two more. Guerra's eight tally's ranked second in the Conference.

A new face is poised to join Guerra, and bring some flare to the offense, namely junior transfer Ricardo Ximenes, who showed considerable offensive prowess last season at San Jacinto College, where he scored seven goals and chipped in three assists.

This addition will no doubt strengthen the main weakness in FIU's game: scoring goals. Last season the Golden Panthers were outscored by their opponents 21-40, which resulted in a lackluster regular season.

BIG THREE, page 11

VOLLEYBALL

Team hopes to qualify for NCAA tournament

JONATHAN ALPERT
Staff Writer

The FIU women's volleyball team enters the 2008 season with high expectations.

The starters are returning to a squad that was one win away from qualifying for NCAA tournament and posted a 19-8 overall record. Two-time All-American Yarimar Rosa and first team all-Sun Belt Conference selection Olga Vergun help bolster the strength of the team, outside hitting.

Head Coach Danijela Tomic is entering her fourth season at the helm, has led the revival of the squad, taking them from a three win season in 2004, to 24 wins two seasons later, and getting into the Sun Belt Conference Championship match the last two seasons. With better performance, comes increased expectations. "I felt we could have done better [last year] Coach Tomic said "Our goal is to make the NCAA's every year, and I believe our returners feel the same way."

Coach Tomic feels the team has worked hard during the offseason, and has a positive outlook toward the outcome of this season. "[The team] worked really hard on getting stronger in the weight room, better conditioning, and sharpening their skills; focusing on the details. Overall, everyone has gotten better." In addition to Rosa and Vergun, sophomore Ines Medved, and Kansas Transfer Isadora Rangel add depth and strength to the already strong outside hitter position. Medved averaged 2.33 kills a game in conference play and ranked fourth on the team during regular season play. Coach Tomic reflecting on what Rangel brings to the team. "Isadora will add depth to the outside hitter position, she is very physical, has a heavy arm, and is an experienced player who knows the game. She has good size and will help up blocking."

The outside hitter position can only be utilized to its full potential if there are players to set them up. Returning Sophomore Natalia Valentin and sophomore transfer Ashlyn Balensiefer, from the University of Missouri-Rolla, are going to take over full time as the team's setters. Valentin's expedited development started as a freshman, getting major minutes towards the end of the season and in the conference tournament. She was setting when FIU upset Missouri last season, and Tomic seems to have confidence in her. "She got some time as a freshman, and we will look to her more this year." Balensiefer looks to join Valentin as a force in setting up the outside hitters. "Ashlyn has a similar playing style to Natalia ... they will be a good combination." Tomic said.

Returning Junior Gaby James will team up with newcomer Andrea Lakovic and local recruit Sabrina Gonzalez to see the majority of the time at the middle blocker position. Tomic noted on her expectations of the middle blockers. "Gaby was another who really improved a lot over the spring, in practice she was sort of a utility player for us ... now she is focusing just on playing middle and that will make a big difference. Andrea will make an immediate impact; she is the type of middle I've been looking to add ... she should be a great addition for

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