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NICE TO MEET YOU



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

KNOCK KNOCK: Dr. Rosa Jones, vice president of Student Affairs, introduces herself to Samuel Ogilvie, an English major on Sept. 3. Dr. Jones, along with other FIU faculty and administrators, went door-to-door at all of the residential halls to meet and greet students.

Travel ban removed, research made legal

JULIO MENACHE
Asst. News Director

Walking into Mrs. Uva de Aragon's office, located in Deuxieme Maison 365, there is an immediate sense of joy and excitement that cannot be contained in this usually soft-spoken woman.

"I'm just ecstatic we won. If you would have come a few days earlier you would have seen me jumping for joy," said Aragon, who is the current head of the Cuban Research Institute at the University.

That's because recently, a federal judge ruled in favor of a lawsuit filed by Aragon, alongside other professors on campus, that challenged a Florida law which barred professors and faculty members of state universities from doing academic research in countries listed as "state-sponsors of terrorism" such as Cuba, North Korea, Sudan, Iran and Syria.

U.S. District Judge Patricia Seitz struck down a section of the law which barred academics from using non-state funds for the trips. According to *The Miami Herald*, the judge concluded that the law was an "impermissible sanction" and served "as an obstacle to the objectives of the federal government."

Since the Cuban Research

Center uses grants from private institutions, they can visit the island and other blacklisted countries.

"The law reaffirms my faith in the system," said Aragon. "It was not a fair law and I'm happy it was overturned."

According to Aragon, the Institute prides itself in having a history of academic relations inside the island. In 2004, before the travel-ban was passed, she took a group of students to Cuba for a week to teach a class in humanities in the country.

She also helped graduate students get an academic visa to visit the island for their thesis statements. These students were only allowed if they were working on their thesis. Aragon would speak to facilitators and contacts inside the University of Havana in order to secure them passage.

"The students wrote on a variety of subjects such as an outbreak of cholera, colonial history, religion, art, etc," Aragon said.

She noted, however, that there are subjects that are "sensitive" in the island nation.

"Cuba is not a democracy, so [FIU students] are limited in what subjects they do," she said.

Still, Aragon attempts to help

TRAVEL, page 2

Vehicle initiative program strives for more student parking

DAVID A. BARRIOS
Staff Writer

University administration established a new vehicle policy in late July in response to several issues being faced such as budget cuts, conserving energy and limited parking on campus.

The new policy aims to create more parking for students by limiting the number of University vehicle spaces on campus. This will occur by removing department vehicles that do not fulfill new University vehicle guidelines.

"Limiting parking spaces for the golf carts and other vehicles will add additional student and staff parking spaces to our inventory," said Bill Foster, director of Parking and Transportation.

"This will occur as the number of University cars, trucks and vans declines," he said.

Foster says that that only a handful of State Vehicle spaces have been converted to regular parking, but he and Parking and Transportation expect the number to increase over the next few weeks.

According to Foster, University

owned vehicles need to serve specific needs and be used on a constant basis. Criteria for a department to show sufficient need for a vehicle includes fulfilling the job functions of Public Safety, student compliance, student recruitment or for constant intra and intercampus transportation of the University community and handling of heavy or dangerous material.

"Constant means the vehicle is used daily," Foster said.

Infrequent or sporadic needs will be handled by using the new University Vehicle Pool Program, in which the surplus vehicles will be housed and vehicles will be assigned departments based on levels of University prioritization.

A maintenance fee for the vehicle pool is being changed to all University departments as well. Although the new policy addresses the current parking issues at the University, the financial benefits of the policy cannot be overlooked.

"While the new policy's intent is to clearly define the justification for a vehicle, the limited purchase of new vehicles and an anticipated reduction of

the fleet will save the University significant dollars in purchase prices, gas and maintenance," Foster said.

Also, the program is responsible for saving the Educational & General Funds over \$300,000, and the Parking and Transportation expects more money to be saved in the future.

Director of Recreation Services Rob Frye is in charge of all the intramural games held at FIU. His department needs two golf carts to transport game equipment. Although the carts do occupy parking spaces, they have to be registered and paid for.

Even so, Frye understands why his department is still required to register the vehicles.

"For the most part, I think the policy makes sense. It does put some financial obligations on departments that have vehicles, for some things that they didn't have to pay for before. But overall it makes a safer campus," Frye said.

The results have been positive, according to Foster, with new vehicle

PARKING, page 2



GIO GUADARRAMA/THE BEACON

CONTROLLING SPACES: Department ownership and usage of University vehicles will now be regulated.

NEWS FLASH

FIU

University teams up with Florida Memorial, boosting number of minority nurses

FIU and Florida Memorial University have joined forces and instituted a joint curriculum for nursing students. Florida Memorial, the oldest historically black university in the state, and FIU, which hands the most bachelor degrees to Hispanic students, are looking to boost the number of minority nurses in the state.

Under the new merged curriculum, students will have three different options for pursuing their nursing degree, two of which would allow students to get a degree in both nursing and biology.

SJMC journalism students host their own segment on local television station

Journalism students from FIU will get the unprecedented opportunity to learn the basics of broadcast journalism by producing their very own T.V show.

The morning show looks to center on student life and will feature the *Sun Sentinel* and other print media in three different platforms. The student-made segments will be aired on WFSL-TV 39 and its companion Web site next January.

NATIONAL

Hesitant Mayor allows residents to return to New Orleans after hurricane

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin unwillingly agreed to allow residents to return to the city after many of the people who were driven out by Hurricane Gustav started coming back to neighboring parishes.

Much of the region is still without electricity or working sewers. Most businesses will remain closed through out the week until further notice.

President George Bush has declared 34 of Louisiana's 64 parishes as disaster areas, whose residents are eligible for federal aid.

Police fire at Republican National Covention protesters in St. Paul

St. Paul, Minn. police fired chemical agents and projectiles into a large crowd of protesters outside the Republican National Convention on Tuesday night.

Witnesses said the protesters marched from the grounds of the state Capitol after a concert there ended unexpectedly.

Police officials said that 120 of the 283 arrested were being held on felony charges. The rest were charged with various misdemeanors and other infractions.

– Compiled by Beacon Staff



GIO GUADARRAMA/THE BEACON

SEARCHING: Cuban Research Institute Director Uva de Aragon reaches for a history book on Cuba, a country she has been fighting to research since the travel ban, signed into law in 2006, forbade academic travel to countries.

Cuban spies led to travel ban creation

TRAVEL, page 1

students approach the subject in a way that they can make it happen.

The travel ban was originally proposed by David Rivera, a representative in Florida's Legislature, on the eve of a scandal surrounding two former FIU employees, Carlos and Elsa Alvarez who had admitted to being spies

for the Cuban government.

Carlos Alvarez, who used to work for the Cuban Research Institute, made five different trips to Cuba from 1993 to 2003 under the organization. The only trip Alvarez made with FIU students was in 2000, with a group not affiliated with the University called Puentes Cubanos (Cuban Bridges).

Now that specific bill

provisions have been taken out, Rivera has vowed to fight for the travel ban, which he says has been fully within state power and looks to appeal the decision, according to the *Miami Herald*.

Amid all the criticism of the hot button issue, Aragon states that the free exchange of information is the key component to cultural connections and may foster

change on the island.

"There are some truly amazing student to student interactions [between FIU and Cuban students]. It's a good way to get information to the Cuban people," she said. "In spite of the [Cuban-American] Revolution, students should have a sense of where they came from. Only then will they be inspired to do something."

Vehicle policy will have benefits for all

PARKING, page 1

purchases being put on hold and the justification process, required for all currently owned vehicles, almost complete. An initial reduction in University vehicles has been seen, with the motor pool already established for departmental use.

Further reduction of vehicles is anticipated by the University and, for the most part, reaction from the University faculty is positive.

"Well, even though [the

For the most part, I think the policy makes sense. It does put some financial obligations on departments... that didn't have to pay for [vehicles] before. But overall it makes for a safer campus

Rob Frye,
Director of Recreation Services

College of Medicine does not] have golf carts, the new policy certainly makes sense. It'll cut down on dilapidated vehicles. Somebody has to keep them maintained, which they can do in the vehicle pool," said Robert Dollinger, assistant dean of Student

Affairs at the College of Medicine.

"I don't want to see golf carts on sidewalks, getting in the way of pedestrians at the University. There also needs to be more rules as to where they can be parked, like in the perimeter roads or near the

loading areas. This resolves a lot of issues," Dollinger said.

To justify ownership and usage of University vehicles departments must fill out a justification form for each vehicle. Regulations outlined in the policy must be met and each department dean or vice president must then approve the form.

The Department of Parking and Transportation will then determine whether to put the vehicle in the pool or dispose of it.

THE BEACON

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Travel, earn credits with National Exchange

MIKIALA C. TENNIE
Contributing Writer

Credit cards beware.

Students can satisfy their wanderlust without maxing out thanks to the National Student Exchange program.

The NSE allows participating universities to send students to other schools in the United States and Canada, for either a semester or one full academic year, for the price of in state tuition.

"It's a wonderful opportunity. The financial benefit and the fact that there is a coordinator to help facilitate them [at the host university] means they don't have to go through the admissions process," said Valerie Morgan, assistant dean of undergraduate studies and NSE contact at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

This opportunity includes a chance for students to see other parts of the country or Canada while earning credits towards their major.

"The goal of the program is to expand student's horizons. It's a matter of learning different areas, cultures, academic programs and it's a good way to open up internship opportunities," said Jaime Perez, NSE coordinator for the last 18 months.

The application process involves an application fee of \$150, two letters of rec-

ommendation, a personal statement explaining the student's goals and intentions, as well as a list of at least three schools the student would like to attend. A minimum 2.8 cumulative GPA and full-time academic status are also required, Perez said.

Upon acceptance, a student would then participate in the exchange the following academic year. However, there are no guarantees that students will get to attend their first choice of school,

"The more flexible a student is [in placement], the better experience they will have," Perez said. "The host institution may be limited by how many students on options A or B they can accept. Each school makes their own decisions on that. It's a first come, first serve as to where a student will go."

These options are two payment plans students can choose from. Option A consists of paying in-state tuition to the host institution. Option B allows students to pay in-state tuition directly to FIU.

Aside from tuition, an NSE student would also be responsible for food as well as room and board either on or off campus. FIU students who pay tuition, live on campus and have a meal plan would pay the same amount of money on exchange with this program.

"Students coming back from the program wonder why so many other students don't know about the opportunity," Perez said.

Rocio Perez, an FIU graduate with a double major in international relations and French, participated in NSE during the 2007-2008 school year. For a full year, she lived in Quebec and attended L'Université de Sherbrooke.

"Instead of paying lots of money to go to Paris, I went to Quebec to learn French. I experienced Communist protests, and every night there was a sit down dinner for three hours. I've never done any of that before," said Rocio Perez.

Interested students should attend one of six informational meetings conducted by NSE coordinators during this academic year. Three will be at BBC on Dec. 3, Jan. 24 and Feb. 6. At the University Park Campus, meetings will be held on Dec. 6, Jan. 22 and Feb. 5.

"It makes students more well-rounded and grounded individuals. It plants the seed for them to be able to conquer other things, and is a building stone for their life as a young adult," Jaime Perez said.

Applications are due Feb. 21, 2008. For more information, contact Jaime Perez at (305) 348-1292 or visit www.undergrad.fiu.edu/nse.

Bond with friends at little known North Miami locales

Like many of you, I grew up in South Florida struggling to find some entertainment to pass the time.

I am officially bored of always going to the movies and the same old chain restaurants with my friends.

I dedicate this column to finding new places close to the Biscayne Bay Campus that you may not have visited yet.

Normally, I start the semester by spending hours with my friends on the over-sized couches at Starbucks. I never thought there was a better way to spend time together and catch up. But recently, I started thinking there must be other means of connecting with friends.

Don't get me wrong, I

love a good cup of coffee. However, the best part of friendship is sharing things, and coffee is not one of those sharable drinks.

Luckily, there are plenty of other places around BBC, with a more intimate setting than drinking coffee in front of each other.

My best friend, Alexa, and I recently went to the Melting Pot restaurant after prematurely leaving a horrible party. As we discussed the headache we had from spending the night with former high school classmates we no longer wished to see, we had the added treat of a fondue pot sitting between us.

For those who don't know, fondue is a Swiss dish that involves melting cheese or

chocolate in a pot. You usually dip bread, fruit or vegetables inside the hot dip.

Alexa and I dipped strawberries, marshmallows and pieces of cake into a chocolate turtle fondue. The dim lights and candles in this restaurant create a romantic vibe, so I encourage couples to go there though it's also perfect for a friendly dinner.

The Melting Pot can be a little expensive and maybe you want to pinch a few pennies and not spend as much on dinner. Don't fret, there are other cheaper places to share a meal that are close by.

P.F Chang's China Bistro is an Asian fusion restaurant that prides itself on their family-style meals that pretty much force sharing. Last week, when I was dying to tell my friend Jessica about my summer vacation, we went there

CARNIVAL DAZE



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

STEP RIGHT UP: Biscayne Bay Campus' Student Programming Council kicked off Fall Fest, a week of games and activities, with an all American fair day Sept. 3. Students could toss bean bags and basketballs for prizes at the carnival booth (top). Juniors Melissa Binns and Melissa Desrameaux spun out in the "Twin Spin" (middle). Pie eating contest winners took home \$15 gift cards (bottom).

for the first time.

The food was placed in the middle of the table and we had the option of eating as much or as little as we wanted, without having to commit to a specific dish. The atmosphere of P.F Chang's is welcoming and encourages conversations about virtually anything.

The good thing about gossiping and catching up with friends is that it can be done under any setting, even where there is no air conditioning.

Karma, my Maltese Poodle and Coco, Jen's yor-

kie, came along when we met up at East Greynolds Park, a small dog park where you can walk around with your favorite human and canine friends. Parking is cheap, and on the day we went there was no admission fee.

This park is perfectly located along the banks of Maule Lake and the Oleta River and there is a small boardwalk to stroll while taking in the breeze. Even those without dogs can have fun at this quaint picnic and dog-walking spot.

Your friends are going to be your support system for the rest of the school year. They are the people you will complain about teachers to and celebrate all of your accomplishments with. Start the year off right and share a meal, go for a walk together or have your dogs become friends. Do whatever it takes to connect and start the bonding.

Read Weekends with Paradise every other Friday for more tips on places to go in the North Miami area.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Campus crosswalks become riskier as new buildings, students cause congestion

As a staff member and alumna of the University, I have been a member of the FIU community for almost 13 years now.

Something that bothers me is the ignorance our community members have for pedestrian crosswalks.

Every semester of every year, I see total disregard for and blatant violations of these crosswalk signs on our campus. It is my understanding that if the pedestrian is in any part of the crosswalk, the driver must stop his or her car and allow them to complete their crossing.

This would mean that a pedestrian *could* be on the opposite side of the crosswalk, and the driver *could* make it past, but is not supposed to.

I have had to stop for a car to pass by me, sometimes within a foot or two of my nose, and at a relatively high speed. I have even had to yell at people, and once, tap someone on the shoulder, to stop them from walking in front of a moving

car that was obviously not going to stop.

I think this has become increasingly dangerous with the recent expansions of University Park.

It has become an obstacle course for pedestrians, and therefore more difficult to cross the streets on our campus.

Add to that the increase we have had in the student population – as well as faculty and staff – and you have a lot of activity on foot during the day and evening around us.

I realize that our campus police do not have the staff to man every crosswalk, nor should they have to. It is both a law and even common knowledge that pedestrians come first in a crosswalk.

So, with all of this having been said, I ask the University community to please slow down, and watch out for pedestrians.

Georgiana Hall
Astronomy Lab Manager
Department of Physics

TOUGH TIMES

Smarter decisions necessary during recession

JAIME RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

If you've been feeling pain at the pump and in your wallet, I'm sorry to tell you, but it's not going away any time soon.

Not to be a bearer of bad news, but don't expect this financial crisis taking place across the country to disappear quickly. In fact, the dreaded global downturn is now beginning to emerge in international markets as well, and it's better for us as students to be prepared and manage our finances in a proper manner with these times ahead of us.

This financial crisis is now a global financial crisis, and as far as the U.S. is concerned, it wouldn't be farfetched to say that although we've seen major issues, the worst is yet to come.

The last few weeks have been brutal for the housing sector, worse than the two previous quarters.

According to Merrill Lynch, CEO Herbert Allison has stated in an interview on CNBC's "Fast Money" that investors threw away shares of home funding giants Freddie Mac and Fannie May in record numbers this year. Freddie Mac and Fannie May own half of the nation's mortgages and the government, as a form of damage control, may nationalize these two companies.

FIU students will be indirectly affected in a major way, for our state is only one of three in the country officially in an economic recession, according to Senior Economist for Wachovia Financials Mark Vitner in an article published Aug. 1 in the *St. Petersburg Times*. The other states are Nevada and Michigan.

To make matters worse, the hurting economy is now going overseas – but what has arguably kept our country afloat is our weakening dollar.

Our dollar has allowed the U.S. economy to export to in-

ternational markets that were never able to acquire American goods and commodities. The dollar was cheap while the euro and other economies were strong.

Unfortunately, this cushion is now ending and the inflation will now balloon emerging markets.

Jaime Giraldo, a senior engineering major, agrees.

"It doesn't look very good," Giraldo said. "The one thing that we can hope for is that the government initiatives start working sooner rather than later."

If we use the proper tools and make sound financial decisions, we can adapt to these unstable times by living within our means.

With inflation increasing, it would come as no surprise that most commodities will stay where they are in value, if not grow. And yes, this includes gasoline prices.

So if you are tired of seeing \$4.99 per gallon at the pump, get used to it – but it will more than likely not go higher than \$5.10 or \$5.15, according to Chevron's CEO David O'Reilly.

To international business major Julian Gastelbondo, the government hasn't done enough, or not as much as it can for the national financial crisis.

"Dragging on the economy even more than necessary is the weak dollar. Why hasn't this administration done more to pump up the dollar?" Gastelbondo said.

To some, such as current Citibank Latin America Account Executive and FIU alumnus Sergio Barahona, part of the problem with the economy was brought on by the people themselves who counted on non-ex-

istent capital as investment.

Now, areas hit hard like South Florida have to hang on.

"Some of these people are in economic troubles now, and this includes many of my friends at FIU," Barahona said. "They took the money available, used the government backing for these unstable bonds. They took on unprecedented risks by keeping these mortgages in their own portfolio instead of selling them out to the market, and basically ignored the red flags."

Red flags can be avoided when handling personal financ-

es during such a risky time.

Before this economic crisis is over, there has to be tens of billions of dollars in consolidation, or merging, from banks, economic institutions and mortgage lenders that were the main players in this housing crisis driving our economy.

This may even include mid-size banks that we have come to trust in our communities in South Florida such as troubled Wachovia or Bank United.

Many of us are leaving the University and entering the real world during a precarious economic time. Despite the shaky atmosphere of our economy, this can work well to our advantage.

If we use the proper tools and make sound financial decisions, we can adapt to these unstable times by not living beyond our means.

"Live the life you can afford," said Natalia Camargo, a junior majoring in business. "The days of credit leniency are long gone."

2008 ELECTION UPDATE

VEEP PICKS

Barack Obama selected Sen. Joseph Biden. Biden was clearly chosen to allay concerns that Sen. Obama does not have the experience to handle turbulent times in foreign affairs. Such a carefully calculated pick adds some legitimacy to the Democratic ticket, though it is at the expense of Obama's campaign call of "change we can believe in," through adding a Washington insider to his ticket, albeit a fiery orator.

Sen. John McCain's pick was quite more shocking: Alaska governor Sarah Palin. The logic behind Palin's job offer seem to be both the obvious diversity factor, attempting to gain the votes of females still reeling over the defeat of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton. Palin balances McCain's bid for the office to those right-wing voters weary of the senator's soft stances important to the conservative base such as immigration, at the expense of McCain's ability to criticize his opponent's experience by picking a running mate whose longest term as an executive was of the mayor of a small suburban town.

THE CONVENTIONS

The Democratic National Convention, which ended on Aug. 28, focused on extravagance, with the stage that Obama used to accept his nomination being built by the same designer who has done sets for Britney Spears. Many commentators such as *New York Times*' Maureen Dowd have noted a lack of unity among a divided party over the delegate debacles that decided the party's primary.

On the Republican front, the first day of the convention was largely toned down due to the impending Hurricane Gustav heading toward New Orleans. The GOP focused on providing relief to the gulf coast state that was gutted by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, in order to avoid the political faux pas of celebrating during a potential national tragedy. The convention already had less fanfare than the Democrats' by design, a move intended to perpetuate McCain's portrayal of Obama as too much of a "celebrity."

-Eric Feldman
Opinion Editor

LOOK FOR ELECTION UPDATES EVERY FRIDAY

Have something to say about the pending presidency?

Contact us at eric.feldman@fiusm.com and we'll give you 300 words to share your opinion with the FIU community. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

Fraternity takes care of business

KASSANDRA POOL
Staff Writer

Wearing black and silver, Delta Sigma Pi takes pride in their accomplishments as young leaders throughout the University.

Founded nationally in 1907 at New York University, the fraternity is over 100 years old with 260 chapters and over 220,000 members internationally. The FIU Xi Omega chapter was established in 2004.

This past spring, the organization was awarded the Student Organizations Council "Rising Star Award" among 170 clubs.

The organization focuses on hosting professional events as well as participating in several leadership development activities, volunteering for community service projects and promoting brotherhood through their social activities.

Currently, with 25 members and 80 alumni, the co-ed business fraternity will be recruiting new members beginning on Sep. 5 - 15.

Each member lives by three principles: professionalism, brotherhood and giving back to the community.

Through these principles members have the opportunity to meet and network with professionals and other students with similar career goals.

For member Andrea Lee, a sophomore double majoring in finance and management information systems, becoming a member has been a memorable experience thus far.

"It is a great feeling when you are surrounded by people with ambitions similar to your own as well as those who can offer advice on how you can make your dreams of success come true," she said.

According to Senior Vice President Prerna Sood, their goal this year is to expose Delta Sigma Pi to the FIU business community and to become the link between the professional world and business students.

DELTA SIGMA PI, page 6

UNDERDOG NO MORE

Dodgeball makes a triumphant comeback

CHRISTIN ERAZO
Staff Writer

For college students, childhood recess is no more. Gone are the games of tag and hide and seek, but one of these playground games is making a comeback at FIU: dodgeball.

Stride Gum and FIU's Recreation Center encourage students to "Grab Life by the Dodgeball" and participate in the first ever Stride Gum Dodgeball Tournament taking place on Wednesday, Sep. 17, 2008 at 6 p.m. FIU students and alumni, including members of the Rec Center, have the opportunity to compete in teams of six to win prizes totaling \$1,000. Stride Gum will also be giving out free gum along with other giveaways during the event.

"Dodgeball is just a fun game. Unfortunately, after middle school, everyone pretty much stops playing it, so it's just a little reminder of my childhood. Nothing feels better than getting a solid hit on your opponent," said Senior Chris Leighton.

From a nationwide pool of 199 colleges and universities, FIU, along with 19 other schools, was chosen by Campus

Entertainment, an organization that works to "move brands to the center stage of student life," as stated by the Campus Entertainment network Web site. FIU was chosen based on its reputation with intramural programs, enrollment and academics. Due to past dodgeball programs and the University's prospect to grow, Campus Entertainment

Campus Entertainment and Stride jointly agreed that this sporting event would be the most popular, easily marketable, and even preferred.

Rosie Porreca,
Graduate assistant of intramural sports

saw a worthy candidate in FIU. Dodgeball has recently made a jump to the mainstream after it was featured in the 2004 feature film *Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story* starring Vince Vaughn and Ben Stiller. Seeing the immense popularity and attention the movie received, dodgeball seemed like the obvious sport of choice for a tournament.

"Campus Entertainment and Stride jointly agreed that this sporting event would be the most popular, easily marketable and even preferred," said graduate assistant of intramural sports Rosie Porreca. "It's an event that typically isn't and, until recently, hasn't been offered to the college

community in the campus rec setting, even though it is an event many have said they want to see more of. It's also a chance for everyone on campus to get involved."

Those interested in participating in the tournament are asked to submit their roster entries by Wednesday, Sep. 10 at 6 p.m. to the Recreation Center (RC 103) at University Park.

The tournament will consist of 20 groups competing for three cash prizes; the first place team will receive \$600, second place team \$300 and third place \$100. The tournament consists of open leagues, so men and women can play on the same team. It is also free to join, so eligible parties are urged to participate.

"I'm sure there will be truly hilarious moments and some jaw dropping ones," said Porreca. "It all just depends on who comes out and what kinds of match-ups occur."

Senior Angie DuQuesne is excited to participate with some friends from her nursing program.

"My favorite aspect about dodgeball is the teamwork and the good laughs we can have while playing," she said.

Lead your party to victory on the Campaign trail

The 2008 election year already holds historical significance for various reasons. For the first time in history we are almost assured that one of the candidates on the winning ticket will be something other than a Caucasian male.

With all the attention on the recent conventions and vice presidential nominees, a slew of predictions has flooded the media.

Luckily, the brilliant team at THUP Games has created a program that promises to revolutionize the art of campaign prediction. *Campaign*, an online, turn-based tactical game, takes the genre in an interesting direction by using the '08 election as their premise and pits the two candidates against each other in a race for national dominance.

There are two modes of play available, a single player campaign and an online multiplayer

option.

At the start of the single player game, players can choose between the easy or hard difficulty settings. Then, you must choose your candidate, Sen. Barack Obama or Sen. John McCain, and form a campaign staff. Each of the members

you have to choose from have different special abilities that allow you to customize your plan of attack.

Once you have your staff members selected, the goal of the game is simple - capture territory to earn

money which you then use to perform your party member's special abilities.

Multiplayer rules are the same but an alternate "Bring It" is available in which you play against either candidate - not necessarily the opposing one - that may allow the game to begin sooner. You can also create a password protected match so you can play a match against a

friend.

Gameplay is pretty much exactly what you would expect from this genre. You move your units throughout the grid capturing spaces. Once every space in a given territory has been captured by your party, the territory belongs to you and the opposing party cannot move on those spaces as long as you are in possession of it. Acquired territories are represented by the color associated with your party.

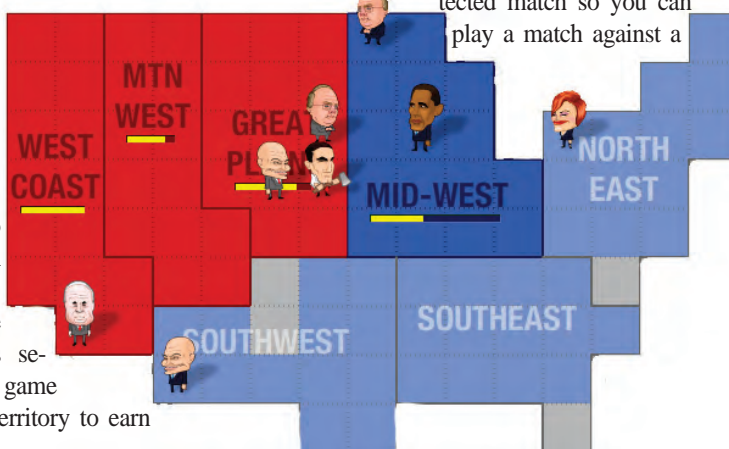
Campaign does a great job intertwining the tactics genre with the political theme. There are a lot of clever metaphors here - mud-slinging attacks, hatchet men and attack ads to name a few. Even the music is straight out of the newsroom.

Everything adds up to make an incredibly entertaining, completely free gaming experience. Join in your party's campaign efforts and help America predict the victor at <http://www.campaigngame.us/index.php>.

COMMENTARY



F.R.E.E.
ASHLYN TOLEDO



Business brotherhood begins recruitment

DELTA SIGMA PI, page 5

With this goal in mind, the group has set up a series of events throughout the month of September to attract and inform business students about Delta Sigma Pi.

Their first recruitment event will take place this Friday at 8 p.m. in Dolphin Mall at T.G.I.F. Friday's where interested students will have the opportunity to meet the brothers of the organization.

On Tuesday Sep. 9, the group will be hosting an informational session featuring professional speakers from national companies such as Ameriprise and Allstate in Graham Center 325 at 8 p.m.

Concluding the presentation, attendees will have the opportunity to once again meet the brothers and learn how to get involved.

Students interested in becoming a member of the organization must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 and currently be a busi-

ness major in the University.

Both undergraduates and graduates students are welcome to join.

For more information, students should e-mail deltasigrecruit@gmail.com.

Other events include a game night at Dave and Busters at Dolphin Mall that will be held on Sep. 12 at 8 p.m.

Their last event is titled "How to Survive in the Corporate World" with professional speakers from the Atlantic Coast Group and Enterprise on Sep. 15 at 8 p.m. in GC 325.

Whether it be to improve your public speaking skills or meeting professional speakers from Fortune 500 companies, the organization is steadily growing and will be celebrating its fifth year on campus this February.

"In Delta Sigma Pi you are more than just a member of a fraternity, you are a member of a family," Lee said.



Web site helps users find fall looks for less

CLAUDIA SANTANA
Staff Writer

Carrie Bradshaw, the main character from "Sex and the City" once said, "I like my money right where I can see it, hanging in my closet."

Although the idea of a packed closet might seem alluring, college students living on scholarships and loan money often cannot afford this luxury.

"Since I am on a teacher's salary, I always try to shop at discount stores like Loehmann's and Marshalls when I am on a tight budget. You can find so many cute things for cheap [prices] if you really look," said Pamela Marti, a senior majoring in special education who also works as a substitute teacher.

With fall quickly approaching, it might be financially difficult to keep up with new trends while getting rid of old ones.

This is why users of *StyleFeeder.com* have put together a list of ways to adapt your summer wardrobe and wallet for the upcoming season. The Web site is an online community where budding fashionistas sign up, rate items and, once enough items are rated and the site has a feel for the individual's personal style, items are recommended to the user.

The top ten list, compiled by members of the site, is a mix of retro looks with cold weather necessities.

1. Because of Miami's intolerable heat this summer, even the idea of a jacket can make you sweat. However, the day will come when jackets will be needed again, and it might come

sooner than you think.

To look cool while keeping warm, wear a structured jacket - something that Audrey Hepburn would have worn.

2. For a funky look, pair boots with tights. This winter look can be made more casual by wearing it with summer looks, like dresses or bright tights. Use some restraint, or this fashion-forward look can quickly leave you looking like an Olsen twin - the one that looks homeless.

3. If you wish you were born in the 70s, you are not alone. Good news - the 70's are back. Re-create the style by wearing wide-leg jeans, platforms or both.

4. For a classic look for school or work, stick to neutral colors. Black, white and grey are easy colors to shop for, and they can be mixed and matched while still looking business casual. It does not have to be boring, however. Accessorize with bright colors, like purple, blue or red.

5. Skinny jeans do not have to be put away just yet. Form-fitting clothes are coming back. Don't shove loose tops to the back of the closet, save them for next summer.

6. Even though the weather in Miami rarely stays below sixty degrees, it does not limit our use of this fun accessory - scarves. Stores are stocking up on brightly-patterned, light scarves - and they can be found for fewer than five dollars.

No matter what the size of your wallet or closet is, by mixing and matching previous seasons with new Fall trends, you can be fashionable without breaking your budget.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

FRIDAY • SEPTEMBER 5

WHAT: Muslim Student Association General Meeting
WHERE: GC 305
WHEN: 1:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: Japan Club General Meeting
WHERE: GC 343
WHEN: 5:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: Accounting Association general meeting
WHERE: GC 150
WHEN: 6:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: Jonas Brothers
WHERE: Cruzan Amphitheater
WHEN: 7:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$50

WHAT: Free Fridays at the Wolfsonian
WHERE: The Wolfsonian-FIU
WHEN: 9:00 a.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

SATURDAY • SEPTEMBER 6

WHAT: Brazilian Music Festival
WHERE: Hard Rock Live
WHEN: 7:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$30

WHAT: Classic Albums live presents: The Beatles "abbey Road"
WHERE: Paradise Live, Hollywood Fl
WHEN: 6:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$25

WHAT: Soja/The Suppervillian
WHERE: Culture Room
WHEN: 7:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$20

WHAT: Zumba
WHERE: Gracies Grill
WHEN: 11:00 a.m.
HOW MUCH: TBA

WHAT: Yoga at Vue
WHERE: Hotel Victor
WHEN: 10:00 a.m.
HOW MUCH: \$20

SUNDAY • SEPTEMBER 7

WHAT: Miami Dolphins vs. New York Jets
WHERE: Dolphin Stadium
WHEN: 5:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Varies

WHAT: XIII International Ballet of Miami
WHERE: In Motion Dance Theater
WHEN: 7:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$40

WHAT: Brazilian Independence Day celebration
WHERE: Boteco Resturant
WHEN: 7:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Varies

WHAT: Free Sundays at Vizcaya
WHERE: Vizcaya Museum and Gardens
WHEN: 10:00 a.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

Golden Panthers to play in FIU tournament next week

VOLLEYBALL, page 8

year, she started cheering from the bench, and now she does it on the court. They make my job easier," Tomic explained.

Outside hitter Yarimar Rosa was recently named Sun Belt Player of the week in addition to Preseason conference Player of the Year and was named to the preseason all conference team.

Olga Vergun, who was also named to the Preseason all conference team, along with Rosa, make up the best outside hitter team in the conference, according to Tomic.

With the maturation of the returners and some key additions, coach Tomic expects a strong season, but she is not overlooking the challenges faced going through a season. According to Tomic, confidence and continuous high energy on the court is key to winning, which she expects. "We go into every match expecting to win...we have no major weaknesses, we have things to work on, but just small things"

FIU hosts the FIU tournament September 12-13.

The teams involved are UCF, Penn, FIU and Oral Roberts.

THIS WEEKEND IN FIU SPORTS

SEPTEMBER

5

Cross Country/Track and Field vs. Atlantic (TBA)
Miami, FL

SEPTEMBER

6

Football vs. Iowa (noon)
Iowa City, Iowa

SEPTEMBER

7

Mens Soccer vs. Missouri-Kansas City (noon)
University Park

Home games in bold

Editor's Note: For live updates and game notes from the FIU vs. Iowa football game, Sept. 6, from Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City, long on to FIUSM.com at noon, and tune in to Panther Spots Talk live Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m. for up to date Golden Panther sports news on Radiate FM, 88.1/95.3/96.9

FANTASY FIVE FOOTBALL COLUMN

Mid-to-late round picks can win your league

JONATHAN ALPERT
Staff Writer

With the NFL season coming to a head, Fantasy Football is now a big priority in people's lives.

Not taking anything away from the student's schoolwork (yeah, right), Fantasy Football is a great way to familiarize your self with NFL teams and players you wouldn't normally follow.

This week is very draft heavy, and most followers of fantasy football know who to draft in the first few rounds.

I'm not going to tell you where to draft Tom Brady, or Reggie Wayne, I'm going to try and help you win your league, which is done between rounds 5 and 16.

FIVE PLAYERS TO WATCH

Kevin Smith: Running back, Detroit

Even though I like staying away from rookies, Kevin Smith is a no brainer. At UCF, he averaged over 30 carries a game, and has looked good in the preseason.

He is a workhorse, and will be the starting running back in Detroit. In a point per reception league where you go wide receiver in the early rounds, Kevin Smith is a good mid-late round sleep-

er and will be a serviceable number two running back. (Look to draft between round 3 and 7).

DeSean Jackson: wide Receiver, Philadelphia

Rookie wide receivers are usually kryptonite in fantasy football, but Jackson has moved up depth chart with the Kevin Curtis Injury, and Reggie Brown has not developed as the number one the eagles thought he would become.

He was a highlight reel machine in college at California, and looks to do the same in the NFL.

He can also help on special teams, and he can help in leagues that special-teams in to consideration a little more. (Rounds 10-12)

Pierre Thomas: Running Back, New Orleans

Reggie Bush cant carry the load on offense by himself (see 2007), and Deuce McAllister is coming off ACL and Micro fracture surgery on his knee.

There is no precedent for 29-year-old running backs coming off multiple knee surgeries succeeding in the NFL. Thomas has shown his talent in the preseason, running in between the tackles, and catching the ball out of the backfield. Watch out for

him in the late rounds, and in 10 team leagues, pick him off waivers.

Patrick Crayton- Wide Receiver, Dallas

Crayton has been in the cowboys offensive system for 3 offseasons, and looks to step in terry Glenn's shoes as the number 2 receiver opposite Terrell Owens.

The cowboys wide receiving corps is banged up now, but look for Crayton to build on last year, where he showed glimpses of a solid number two receiver in the NFL. (Rounds 8-10)

Randy McMichael: Tight end, St. Louis

Dolphin fans are quivering when reading this, but the truth is, new offensive coordinator Al Saunders has a reputation of relying heavily on tight ends.

In Washington, he made Chris Cooley into a pro bowler, and in Kansas City he used Tony Gonzalez to his full potential. Randy McMichael is very athletic, and will be used over the middle of field with Tory Holt and Steven Jackson attracting most of the attention from the defense.

Catch the Fantasy Five column every Friday in The Beacon and Thursday's at 12:50 on Radiate FM

Women's soccer looks to pick up first win against FSU

AUDRINA BIGOS
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers are rebounding from two upsetting losses against the University of Miami and the University of Buffalo over Memorial Day weekend.

Beginning the season 0-3 is not what players and coaches hoped for, however, the Golden Panthers are pinpointing key elements that need improvement in order to conquer their upcoming opponents.

"When playing at high tempos, you get exposed if you're not jelling and fluid," said second year head coach Thomas Chestnutt, "we need to match the tempo of our opponents early and then slow down the game a little when needed."

These elements will be crucial as the Golden Panthers travel to Tallahassee on Sept. 5 to play against 2007 National runner-up, Florida State.

Until then, the girls will be practicing and mending mistakes made in their big matches in Miami.

The Golden Panther's last win over cross-town rival, the Hurricanes, was in 2001. The University of Miami had an immediate advantage with an all-time 3-6-1 over the Panthers.

The final score of the Aug. 29 contest at Cobb Stadium in Coral Gables was not indicative of how close the match actually was. The Golden Panthers put up a fight after coming out with a 3-1 loss in the season opener against Florida Gulf Coast.

"Competition was a little bit stronger, more athletic, and more technical than

what we played last weekend," said head coach Thomas Chestnutt.

The Golden Panthers kept the Hurricanes scoreless throughout almost the entire first



half until Miami scored in the 41st minute when Julianne Ricker knocked in a rebound off a shot by Paulette Chambers.

"There is a rule in soccer to not let the other team score within the first and last five minutes of a half," said junior Marina Pappas, "and we broke it by letting them [the Hurricanes] in with only four minutes left until halftime."

The late score in the first half sent the Golden Panthers into halftime trailing 1-0 with a handful of crucial goalie saves and numerous failed attempts.

"The momentum of the game was taken out of us and given to Miami going into the second half," Chestnutt said.

This momentum change was a key factor in an early score from Miami in the second half.

Hurricanes freshman, Brittney Steinbruch, tallied their second goal, which was deflected by a Golden Panther defender and shot into the back of the net

The Golden Panthers Deana Ross responded in the 86th minute to bring the lead down to 2-1.

However, the Hurricanes were able to waste the final four minutes off the clock in their favor, sending FIU into the game against Buffalo with two losses under their belt.

"The girls were pumped up and ready going into Sunday's game against Buffalo in the Miami sun," Chestnutt said.

Even with home-field advantage, the Golden Panthers could not seal the win against the University of Buffalo on Sunday at University Park.

There were several close shots, including one by sophomore Cassandra Sorzano who nearly gave the Golden Panthers the lead in the 42nd minute. She dribbled into the box, beating two Buffalo defenders before taking a shot that was deflected.

Leaving the first half scoreless, the Bulls jumped on FIU with two early second half goals by Lindsey Bailey in the 48th and 61st minute.

Senior defender Kia Rigsby was injured in the 60th minute of play and forced out of bounds, which cause confusion on the field and resulted in the Bulls second score.

Although the scoreboard read 2-0 Bulls, the Golden Panthers outshot the University of Buffalo 25-8.

The Golden Panthers will travel to Tallahassee Sept. 5 to take on the Seminoles before heading to Jacksonville to take on North Florida on Sept. 7.

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LOOKING AHEAD

FIU faces another road challenge in Iowa after opening loss

LUCA MESSINA
Asst. Sports Director

With their first game behind them, the FIU Golden Panthers (0-1) are set to travel again to the Midwest, this time to face the Iowa Hawkeyes (1-0), a team that was 6-6 last season and is 1-0 after trouncing the University of Maine 46-3 last weekend at home.

FIU's new spread offense did not result in an improvement against Kansas but offensive coordinator Bill Legg hopes that a second attempt will prove successful.

The offensive general has experience against the Hawkeyes as he was the co-coordinator for the Purdue Boilermakers last season when they defeated Iowa 31-6.

In that contest, the Boilermakers accumulated 431 yards of offense, 315 of which were throws. Including last season's victory, Purdue was 2-3 against Iowa while Legg held his post.

Junior Paul McCall is likely to start again with sophomore Wayne Younger, also in the rotation. McCall finished last week 10-for-28 with 73 yards and two interceptions.

If he cannot substantially help generate some sort of offensive movement, it could be an easy afternoon for the Hawkeyes.

The offense managed just 139 total yards as senior A'mod Ned led the way on the ground with 12 carries for 42 yards.

Other than Ned, no Golden Panther produced substantial yardage.

OFFENSE

FIU defense struggled last week with talented Kansas quarterback Todd Reesing.

This week, the unit will be facing a team that has another quality quarterback, Jake Christensen. Last week, the junior finished 9-for-15 for 122 yards with a touchdown and an interception.

The running game for Iowa seemed unclear at the start of the

season before Shonn Green began the season making a statement. Green rushed 22 times for 109 yards and a touchdown.

Freshman Jewel Hampton started his career strong with 9 carries for 68 yards and two touchdowns last week.

Paki O'Meara excelled during spring ball and had a decent showing last week with seven rushes for 23 yards and a touchdown. He also caught two passes for 27 yards.

The receiving game struggled last season but is more experienced this year with Andy Brodell, Trey Stross and tight ends Tony Moeaki and Brandon Myers.

The Iowa offensive line struggled to stay healthy and finished last in sacks in the Big Ten which, in essence, did not do the ground game much justice.

If the FIU linebackers can penetrate the offensive line, something they struggled with last week, they can contain the Hawkeye offense.

Overall, the offense is dangerous but, based on last season, has shown signs of vulnerability.

While they did managed to score 46 points in their opener, it was against an FCS team that clearly was not on the same level.

DEFENSE

The Hawkeye defense last season was average but particularly excelled at rushing defense, averaging just 122 yards a game against the unit which was third best in the Big Ten.

Overall, Iowa ranked fifth in total defense but this year the unit will rely on youngsters to produce results.

The linebackers led the team in tackles last season and of them, A.J. Edds, is returning.

Two players that FIU should be aware of are senior defensive tackles Mitch King and Matt Kroul.

Although the defense is not outstanding, they can expose the FIU offense. They clearly had their way with Maine and if Legg cannot figure out a way to manipulate

the unit with FIU's talent, there is danger of the Golden Panthers offense being shut down.

BOTTOM LINE

Although the program under-achieved last season, the main reason for the sub-par performance was the list of devastating injuries. Most of the players are returning with another year of experience and possess a lot of potential.

While the team has dealt with many off-the-field issues, such as 14 players having run-ins with the law, the Hawkeyes are a good team that could easily run away with this game, when it's all said and done.

FIU has got to rebound from last week's offensive drought and Legg's knowledge of Iowa could make the difference.

When it comes to players, senior Julian Reams has got to be a factor in the running game and cannot repeat the performance he had in the opener: four carries for a yard.

The receivers must have a stronger presence with numbers better than two receptions for 21 yards, which is what last week's leaders, junior Jeremy Dickens and senior Eric Kirchenberg, had.

Freshman T.Y. Hilton's confidence is high after returning a punt 74 yards for a touchdown in his first collegiate game in front of over 52,000 fans.

His blazing speed can certainly be an asset for FIU's anemic offense.

If the defense can slow down a potentially dangerous offense, and if the Golden Panthers employ their schemes properly, this game will be an interesting contest.



FERNANDO GARCIA/BEACON FILE PHOTO

GOLDEN RECEIVER: Greg Ellingson catches a punt against UM.

COACH'S CORNER: WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Tomic looking for 'passionate' players to coach

JONATHAN ALPERT
Staff Writer

"At 211 degrees, water is only hot, it doesn't boil. At 212, water boils, and creates steam to fuel the engine.

"All the players have 212 on their arm to remind them how to play, always at the highest level." Tomic said. "We play with a lot of

energy, were an exciting team."

The FIU women's volleyball team begins their young season 4-0 for the second time in school history (as of 9/3/08) under the guidance of head coach Danijela Tomic.

Tomic isn't the only one who thinks highly of her team, the squad has received 9 Top 25 votes after upsetting 19th ranked

Clemson to win the Big Orange Bash and taking care of business against Furman, Syracuse and Charleston Southern.

This is Tomic's 4th year at the helm of FIU Women's volleyball, her first where all of the athletes are her recruits.

"I look for passionate players. Bottom line is, some players aren't for me," she said. "It took

a few years to develop the [winning] culture I wanted here."

Tomic expounded that FIU's continued success relies heavily on maintaining focus. She doesn't let her squad bask in a win, or focus on a loss for too long.

"It's not hard to keep them grounded. We have a 24-hour rule...win or lose, you move on. The coaches always find some-

thing to do better, we can always improve."

Tomic has helped develop a core group of players to rely on to lead the squad. "Mariana [Drumeva, Sr] and Yari [Rosa, Jr] aren't vocal leaders.

Natalia [Valentin, So.] has emerged as the vocal leader. Last