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## The Beacon, June 23, 2010

Florida International University

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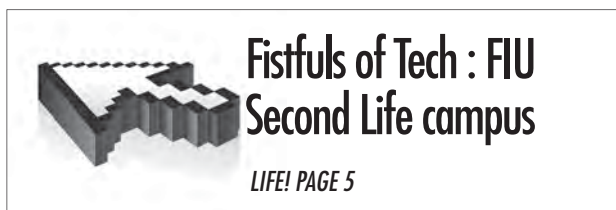
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Coaches Thomas and McClendon step up

SPORTS, PAGE 3



Fistfuls of Tech : FIU Second Life campus

LIFE! PAGE 5



Beacon Editorial: Tuition increase a necessary evil

OPINION, PAGE 7

## GRAND OPENING



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

The new Chili's Too restaurant in the Graham Center is set to open to the public today. For more coverage on the grand-opening, be sure to pick up next week's issue of *The Beacon*.

## University to raise tuition by fifteen percent

**GABRIEL ARRARÁS**  
News Director

Now that FIU's budget appropriations have been finalized and approved by the state of Florida, University President Mark Rosenberg can breathe a sigh of relief, noting that FIU is in a "much better position" than where he thought it would be.

Students however, may not share Rosenberg's feeling of relief. Confirmed at a University budget forum on June 2 was a proposed tuition increase of 15 percent.

"We are proposing to our

Board of Trustees a 15 percent tuition increase; 8 percent that has actually been statutorily mandated by the legislature, and we are coming in for the other 7 percent," said Rosenberg.

President Rosenberg also noted that in all likelihood, he will be making the same recommendation to the BOT next year as well.

"While I don't like that and I know that you don't either, the end result is that we have a responsibility to maintain the high quality that we

**TUITION, page 2**

## FIU opens virtual Second Life campus

**RUSSELL QUINOA**  
Contributing Writer

Second Life, a virtual world where residents interact with each other through avatars, has brought mixed reviews from teachers and students at FIU and across state schools.

Second Life is a seven-year-old virtual world created by Linden Lab, in which avatars lease "islands" for real-life purposes -- to sell products, conduct classes, do research, hold conferences, and even recruit for admissions. Second Life is being used as a platform for education at many state universities across Florida, including FIU, UCF and UF.

There are over one hundred regions of the virtual world used for educational purposes covering subjects such as chemistry and English. There are several teachers at FIU that are implementing it into their coursework. Instructors in Second Life favor it as a learning tool that will be teaching how to play in a freeform way.

Ronald Lee, a professor for Decision Sciences and Information Systems in the College of Business Administration, has said, "Working in teams is the missing link in e-learning, and Second Life may be able to provide it. Also, much of the project work that takes place in face-to-face business school courses involves collaborating in

groups—an important learning aspect that is difficult to replicate in the online versions of these courses."

Luis Gomez, adjunct music professor for FIU's School of Music believes his course on Second Life "will allow students to gain command of music terminology, historical context of the lives of the most important composers in the history of music and virtual playing dexterity by students with the wide variety of instruments of the symphony."

Several complaints from students regarding problems with the speed of the platform have left mixed opinions on Second Life across the state.

"The idea of video games as school is cool," said Dave Adams, 18, undecided major at FIU.

While Clair Gibson, 19, Accounting at UCF said, "I hated every moment on it, it ran so slowly and it froze often."

Business Administration student at UCF, Austin Suarez, 20, said about using Second Life, "The idea is way above its time but the end product isn't there yet. It feels like you have to take a semester just to learn it, you're taking an English class but you spend all your time mastering computers."

New educational institutions have emerged, operating exclusively within Second Life, taking advantage of the platform to deliver content to a worldwide audience at low cost.

## FIU leads other Florida state universities in PECO funding

**GABRIEL ARRARÁS**  
News Director

FIU has been awarded with \$34 million dollars in Public Education Capital Outlay and debt service trust fund money for the 2010-2011 school year.

The final PECO budget, which was approved by Florida Governor Charlie Crist on May 28, will allocate more than \$308 million to 11 different universities within the Florida State University System.

FIU received the most PECO funds in the state with \$34 million, followed by University of Central Florida and University of Florida which both received \$32 million. Also among top PECO fund earners was Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University with \$30 million.

The remaining funds will be spread out among Florida State University, University of South Florida, Florida Atlantic University, University of West Florida, Florida Gulf Coast University, New College of Florida and University of North Florida.

According to University President Mark Rosenberg, this past year FIU received the lowest amount of PECO funding the University has seen in about a

decade, reigning in only about \$10 million. This year the University expected to receive even less.

"We started out the legislation sessions thinking we would only get around 3.9 million dollars and we ended up with 34 million; that is unbelievable," Rosenberg said.

The \$34 million in PECO funding will go to a variety of university projects including new buildings and maintenance for already established buildings on campus.

The largest amount appropriated from the \$34 million will be going to the creation of a Student Support Services Building, which will become the new home to the offices of undergraduate admissions, the enrollment processing center, financial aid, university registrar, enrollment information services, transfer services, undergraduate advising and student financials. A total of \$17,646,976 has been apportioned for the construction of this building.

"We've always bragged about the one-stop service you get at this University. One stop in this building, one stop in the next building, one stop in that building," Rosenberg joked. "We're going to try and get it all together now."

\$3.5 million of the PECO funds

will be set aside for the construction of an FIU Neuroscience Center which would "meet critical needs in the areas of diagnosis, treatment, research and education for chronic diseases such as Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease," according to a University press release.

Also included in the PECO funding was a smaller apportionment of \$1.6 million for the creation of a four-story astronomy observation platform that will be known as the Stocker AstroScience Center.

There were however, some capabilities that were left off the final appropriations act by Gov. Crist. Among these was some general infrastructure support that President Rosenberg stressed as not being "mission critical," and that the University will make up for it next year.

Also left out of the final appropriations act was funding for a project related to the Miami-Dade County Health Department that would have created a new public health building at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

"We have done better than most

**PECO, page 2**



# WHAT YOU'VE MISSED

## Summer A

### Renovations come to Graham Center

Among the changes, the old carpet of GC’s eating area has been replaced by tiles, while new tables and chairs have been installed. The construction procedure lasted seven days, and increased the capacity of seated persons in 30%. Also, these additions include new power outlets for laptops, as well as different number of seats per table.

### College of Arts and Sciences is awarded grant

The College of Arts and Sciences has been chosen to receive a grant of \$1 million from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute which will benefit the implementation of modeling instruction in the biology and chemistry programs.

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute is a non-profit organization, initiated by the Texas entrepreneur and aviator, dedicated to promoting scientific research and education.

The organization provides grants through a competition among research universities every four years. For this occasion, 50 universities from 30 states were selected out of 165 applicants to receive financial support for their undergraduate science programs.

### Wartzok named permanent University Provost

University President Mark Rosenberg has declared the search for Provost of the University over; officially announcing Douglas Wartzok as University Provost on a permanent basis.

In an e-mail to the University community Rosenberg praised Wartzok for what he called a “strong and determined hand” in getting FIU through the Reaffirmation of Accreditation of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools as well as initiating FIU’s new strategic planning process, Worlds Ahead.

– For more on these stories and others, check out our continued coverage at FIUSM.com.



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# Budget challenges ahead

## TUITION, page 1

are committed to, and that requires some investment.”

The 8 percent tuition increase mandated by the legislature is largely due to a State University System that has seen over \$500 million in state budget reductions since 2007-2008.

“We are operating with a budget that is 60 million dollars less in appropriations than what we were receiving in 2007 and 2008,” Rosenberg said. “The reality is, you’ve felt that, and we’ve had some unfortunate losses.”

While FIU has lost \$60 million in appropriations over the last three years, the University will actually see a budget increase this year. The University is set to receive \$15 million in incremental revenue that has been appropriated by the state and is being directed at a number of statutorily mandated obligations.

Most of the incremental revenue will impact faculty and staff salaries by offering to cover health insurance costs and increases in retirement costs that would normally be covered by the University.

“Frankly, I’m very grateful for that, because otherwise [faculty] would have seen a net decline

in their take home pay,” Rosenberg said. “If you look at the patterns throughout the country, particularly in public institutions, states seem to be offloading a lot of their benefits back onto the shoulders of the fulltime faculty and staff.”

One of the major points of interest at the budget forum was the University’s plans to mitigate the budget cutbacks. One said plan is to increase enrollment numbers by 2000 students a year over the next ten years.

“The revenue that comes in from those 2000 students will enable us to have some efforts to maintain quality, maintain student to faculty ratios, to improve student council ratios, and hopefully in the process increase our graduation rates,” said Rosenberg.

“New students provide more than just tuition; they go to support our housing and all of our other auxiliary enterprises as well. So there is value in the headcount,” said University Vice President and Provost, Douglas Wartzok.

Stressed by the University President was the need to follow FIU’s plan to focus on critical investments in three different categories: student infrastructure support, research in grad-

uate education and compliance support. Part of this includes efforts to improve the student to advisor ratio from roughly 800 students per advisor, to about 350 students per advisor.

“We recognize that it is not a good ratio at all, and it is one that we want to improve on,” Wartzok said.

“We’ve hired or will hire about 106 new faculty members and I don’t think you can find any University outside of Florida that is doing that this year, or the next,” Rosenberg said.

About 67 of those new hires will come in as replacements for exiting faculty.

Rosenberg also stressed that the real challenge will be the 2011-2012 budget year because of an expected shortfall in state funding. The University is projecting a \$15 million budget reduction coming out of its instructional research budget; however, that is expected to be offset by about \$18 million the University believes will come from enrollment growth and tuition increases.

“If we are going to stay the course to hire the counselors we need, to hire the additional faculty that we know you need, we are still going to have a 5 million budget deficit for 2011-2012,” said Rosenberg.

# Private fundraising emphasized

## PECO, page 1

universities in the system, and we can thank our legislative delegation for that,” Rosenberg said.

While FIU came out ahead in PECO funding, President Rosenberg stressed the importance of private fundraising.

“We’ve set up a very high goal of fifty million dollars this year,” Rosenberg said. “We are getting close, and we do feel that

we will hit our target.”

This \$50 million goal will serve as a launching point for a more ambitious goal yet to come, a \$750 million fundraising campaign that the University’s Foundation Board is working on in order to take FIU to the next level.

Rosenberg told onlookers at the budget forum that the University plans on coming to each faculty and staff member, asking them to think long and hard about

how they can make a statement about FIU and the importance of what the University is doing.

“We think this is critical because it is going to be difficult to go to our board members and the community to ante up in a record \$750 million campaign unless I can say with certitude that yes, our faculty and our staff are doing what they can to help this University move forward,” Rosenberg said.

## THE BEACON



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# t The Tale of TWO

## Turtle Thomas and Beth McClendon yield similar results with different pasts

When Turtle Thomas and Beth McClendon were hired to coach their respective teams in the summer of 2007, it seemed like two different approaches were being made to fill the coaching voids in the baseball and softball programs.

Thomas was a well-regarded veteran assistant, while McClendon was a young pitching coach who starred on the diamond at the University of Florida as recently as last decade.

Thomas had a pedigree that included 30 years of experience as an assistant at powerhouse programs such as Miami (FL) and LSU, and a sparkling reputation as a recruiter. He made 14 appearances at the College World Series in his career. Meanwhile McClendon spent just five seasons at Houston coaching a pitching staff that led the Cougars to a couple of Conference USA titles.

Ironically, it's hard to point out any differences in their accomplishments at FIU since they took over in 2007 though. The recent rise of their respective teams and many of the details in between are synonymous.

In the 2010 season, Thomas' baseball team made the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2002. McClendon's softball team made their first NCAA tournament appearance since 2003.

Both teams featured the Sun Belt Conference freshmen of the year in Jabari Henry and Brie Rojas.

Both teams had outstanding individual seasons from sophomore stars in Garrett Wittels and Ashley McClain, who garnered SBC player of the year honors.

And heading into next season, both teams will have to replace a pair of senior aces in Scott Rembisz and Kasey Barret.

### RECRUITING

The departures of Rembisz and Barret shouldn't stroke a nerve in Golden Panther followers hopes of a deep postseason run next season, or the one after. You see, Thomas and McClendon have both made

their marks in the SBC as outstanding recruiters who have built two of the best young cores in their sports for the next few seasons.

At the softball complex, junior Jennifer Gniadek is prepared to take Barret's place as the ace of the staff, while juniors like R.J Fondon and Aaron Arboleya showed enough promise in 2009 to potentially replace Rembisz.

But the reinforcements are on the way.

McClendon reeled in Mariah Dawson as part of her 2010 signing class, a standout pitcher who rewrote the state of Washington's strikeout record.

Thomas, not to be outdone, has snatched the signatures of some of the most heralded high school pitching prospects in the country in Mike Ellis and Andres Perez-Lobo.

Unfortunately for Thomas, he will likely lose some of his recruits to major league baseball organizations, as he saw Manny Machado and Kellin Deglan, the two best prospects of his 2011 class, go in the first round of the MLB first year player draft. However, that likely won't deter the team from contention with the pieces that are already in place.

In Kayla Burri, Jessy Alfonso, Rudy Flores, Mike Martinez and more, the stars will be aligning on FIU's diamonds next season.

### SIMILARITIES

Thomas and McClendon will be fighting for the same conference crown every season, and pulling for recruits against state powerhouses like UF, Miami, and Florida State as well. The two could also be receiving interest from more established programs in the coming off seasons too.

About the only notable difference in the results they have provided up to now at FIU is their backgrounds, with Thomas' reputation as a hitting wiz and McClendon being a respected pitching teacher.

Those differences, for as long as these two coaches are here, will only be in the background. Next season, McClendon and Thomas could share another similarity: College World Series.

### COMMENTARY



JONATHAN RAMOS



Looking to make a

SPLASH

Horner replaces Zaharia as FIU swimming coach

IGOR MELLO  
Contributing Writer

The Randy Horner era is set to begin July 1. His mission is to turn around a struggling swimming and diving program. Horner was hired in late May, and will become the second swimming and diving coach in FIU history, replacing Noemi Lung-Zaharia, who served seven seasons as coach. “I am thrilled with the opportunity to coach at FIU,” said Horner, according to fiusports.com. “This is a program that has incredible potential and I look forward to the challenges ahead...I want to bring success to this program and put FIU swimming and diving among the nation’s elite.” Horner was unavailable for comment

with *The Beacon*. He will have the chance to turn the swimming and diving team around after finishing second-to-last in the Sun Belt Conference the past two seasons. Horner served three seasons at University of New Orleans as the men’s and women’s coach, where his men’s team broke all 18 school records in swimming on both the men’s and women’s squad. Despite rewriting the record books at UNO, his teams finished fifth, just slightly ahead of FIU in the overall Sun Belt Conference standings. According to CollegeSwimming.com, Horner’s first men’s recruiting class at UNO was ranked 18 in the nation. Horner will have a chance to begin recruiting on July 1, where he will officially begin to serve his duties as head coach.



SPORTS REPLAY

Local tennis prospect comes to FIU; Rembisz signed with Marlins

TENNIS

FIU tennis has added Gulliver Prep prospect Sarah McLean to its signing class, as announced by tennis coach Melissa Applebaum on Jun. 14. McLean led Gulliver Prep to a 10-2 record last season, in addition to winning the 2010 FSHAA Class 2A Individual Girls’ Singles Championship. McLean also won the 2A Individual Girls’ Double state title with teammate Gabriella Navia. Thjose performances helped her gain recognition as a 1st team All-Dade performer by the Miami Herald. The Golden Panthers ended the 2010 season with a loss at the Sun Belt Conference Tournament’s second round to North Texas, 4-3.

BASEBALL

Former FIU standout Scott Rembisz has signed a contract as an undrafted free agent with the Florida Marlins, according to BaseballAmerica.com. Rembisz, the only Golden Panther from the 2010 team to sign with a Major League organization, will initially suit up for the team’s Gulf Coast rookie team. Rembisz, who played at FIU for two seasons, was instrumental in the team’s run at a Sun Belt Conference championship



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Scott Rembisz [center] signs with Florida Marlins organization after collegiate career.

last season, closing out the title clinching victory vs. Troy on May 30. FIU incoming freshman Chelsea Zgrabik was named to the 2010-11 USA Softball Junior Women’s National Team, as announced by the Amateur Softball Association of America on June 15.

SOFTBALL

Zgrabik was one of 17 players selected to the team. The team will play at the III Pan American Softball Championship on Aug. 6-15 in Bogota, Colombia. If the team succeeds there, it can qualify for the International Softball Federation IX Jr. Women’s World Championship in December of 2011 in Cape Town, South Africa.

Compiled by Jonathan Ramos

ACADEMIC PROGRESS RATE

FIU falls under NCAA standards

JONATHAN RAMOS  
Sports Director

The NCAA released its annual Academic Progress Rate report on June 4, and found FIU to have the seven teams sanctioned, joining Southeastern Louisiana with the most in Division I. The report also demonstrates, however, that FIU has shown steady improvement with some of its teams. The APR scores are calculated on a four-year rolling period, with a perfect score being 1000 and the minimum to stay clear of penalties at 925. For the Golden Panthers, the great news came in the form of the four programs who achieved perfect scores for the 2008-09 year, which included women’s tennis, women’s golf, women’s volleyball and men’s cross country. There was also positive news for the Golden Panthers when every team except for women’s basketball, women’s cross country, men’s track, and men’s soccer met the required score of 925 in 2008-09. However, since APR penalizes for scores over a four year period, and the four aforementioned teams did not meet the required minimum score, there were some penalties in order for FIU. Of the seven teams facing issues, only the baseball team received a significant loss, when despite its 2008-09 score of 975, still owns a multi-year score of 890. Baseball will be limited to 18 hours of countable activity per week, according to the NCAA. Among the other penalties, men’s soccer, men’s indoor and outdoor track, women’s indoor and outdoor track and women’s cross country were given a small percentage of scholarship losses.



# Students to create solar-powered home for design contest

**ADRIAN ESPINOSA**  
Staff Writer

The Paul Cejas Architecture building was buzzing with conversation.

Walking inside of the almost empty studio, the FIU decathlon team was fiercely discussing some of the finer details of their project. Made up of graduate and undergraduate students from many disciplines, the group is engaged in a competition being held by the U.S. Department of Energy to build a cost and energy efficient home, run entirely on the sun's energy.

The Department of Energy is on the lookout for new innovations and techniques that are oriented towards a greener future.

The nation's energy trend is currently shifting to end dependency on oil and other standard energy sources. Through the competition they are choosing the house that best demonstrates the potential of efficient living. The FIU decathlon team is not only in a global contest, but they are part of the worldwide ecologically mindful community who are coming out with new ideas to clean the planet.

The house must be visually attractive and must be designed

so that it can be assembled and disassembled quickly, the reason for that being the house must be assembled somewhere on the Modesto Maidique campus, then transported some 1,000 or so miles to the National Mall for a series of ten contests. Once there, it will be placed alongside the twenty other houses being showcased from all over the world. Each house follows the same guidelines but must be built for the environment where the teams are from.

The competition is a somewhat exclusive one, with only 20 worldwide teams participating and a thorough choosing process that screens drafts sent in by applicant schools. FIU was notified of their qualification at the end of the 2010 spring semester and has been hard at work detailing their prospective design.

"I've never been part of an actual design and built project before, I'm really excited to be part of this globally known competition." Says Susana Neira, who is currently a Graduate student working on her Master's in Architecture.

The house that they have been working on is a direct adaptation to the Miami climate and uses a very intricate system of louvers and water pipes and other varied

## THE BEAUTIFUL GAME



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

Sophomores Fiorella Lopez and Kristine Fernandez, Psychology and English majors, watch France vs. Mexico on June 17th. Students gather daily in GC to watch the World Cup 2010.

methods to control the temperature. The open-air house is a square structure with a living area surrounding a central mechanical console, which holds many of the house's essential machines.

The PerFORM[D]ance House, as it's called, is a reference to the home's ability to respond to changes in its energy needs in order for it to run as efficiently as possible. The energy is all accumulated from the solar panels on the roof and then rationed out among the houses appliances.

Any unused energy is saved in the mechanical room where a series of large batteries hold the

electricity. Eventually the energy saved would be transferred to other hypothetical house who are lacking in energy. The house has to work under very demanding rules and because of this the subtle regulation of energy uses very unconventional and innovative methods. From the tile floors to the glass windows and the white exterior paint, the house is meticulously designed to revolutionize every aspect of contemporary living.

"I feel this project will highly publish the new ideas and options for South Florida private home owners, it will showcase what a

single family home can provide beyond the standard while still being affordable." Said Andy Madonna the project manager, graduating in 2011 with a master's in Architecture.

The entire house is meant to work as an individual unit without needing to be linked to a larger grid system. This enables the house to be completely self-sufficient while at the same time providing it's dwellers with a comfortable and inexpensive lifestyle.

Most importantly it must

**GREEN, page 6**

## FISTFULS OF TECH

# Second Life campus a waste of university effort, funds

The University's goal of creating a seamless digital classroom is admirable, but a Second Life campus is completely unnecessary.

### COLUMNIST



JORGE VALENS

Second Life is a massively popular multiplayer online role-playing game (MMORPG) that started in 2003. The idea of the game is as the name implies; it allows you to live a second life online. It's a digital world, with digital people and a digital economy, which is fueled by real life currency.

Want to meet up at a digital coffee shop with your digital friends? Do it. Want to be a digital real estate agent and sell large chunks of fake land for real money? Yes you can!

FIU debuted their Second Life campus, which resembles a smaller, crappier, Modesto Maidique Campus, on YouTube earlier this year.

"The FIU Online Second Life Campus extends the boundaries out of the traditional classroom and into an immersive learning experience," touts the narrator

during the video.

FIU's Second Life Campus, much like Second Life itself, makes Pacman look like James Cameron's Avatar. There is really nothing "immersive" about it. The graphics are dated, the game itself has peaked, and game development technology has left Second Life behind.

The video itself features a lot of really ridiculous and funny moments. The digital FIU student wanders around the campus, getting in to different adventures that either take place in a piano recital room to assemble a set of drums, or underwater next to a chest filled with buried treasure.

However, the point of no return for me was when the video featured the digital student sitting at a digital computer station, logged on to what looked like the FIU Online's homepage.

Seriously?

You are sitting down in front of a computer to watch your digital avatar sit down in front of a computer? I have never been more disappointed in the Internet in my life.

The Second Life Campus currently

offers three courses: two sections of Music Appreciation (MUH 1011), and one section of Contemporary International Problems (INR 3081). Considering the way Second Life works, I don't understand how appreciating music or tackling complex international issues can be better on Second Life.

What's next? An FIU Campus on World of Warcraft? Granted, Second Life has over 100 regions in which education organizations have set up shop and it may be working for them.

FIU needs to focus their resources on tools and resources students in the real world use for online learning. not on a digital land and those looking for a second life online.

The current Blackboard system is dated, often times problematic, and it really lacks any semblance of an "immersive learning experience."

The software looks like it was designed around the time Windows '95 was king. The menu sequences are long and exhaustive, forcing students to click various folders and sub-folders to get where they need to go.

The University's move to beta test Moodle, a new service, during the summer is commendable, but time and student feedback will tell if it's a major improvement over the old system.

The Internet is transitioning from something we use on our computers to the computer itself. Instead of sinking resources in to Second Life, which has passed its prime, I urge the University to take a lead to create.

HTML5 is a powerful and rising tool in online development. If Blackboard isn't working out, and Moodle doesn't work either, then FIU Online needs to take a chance. Get some experts in house and create a viable HTML5-based online learning tool.

Make it browser and operating system neutral so that it works on every conceivable device and, the important part, tailor it to a student's needs.

Not only would creating an new online learning tool benefit the students but it would allow FIU to build a reputation in web development.

*Fistfuls of Tech is a weekly tech column.*



# Eco-friendly home event

from GREEN, page 5

be sustainable, a term put simply by Sussanne Shiffer, the Project Manual Coordinator. “Sustainability means that the structure leaves no ecological or carbon footprint on the planet.” When the house is sent over for judging to Washington D.C. it will go through a series of ten competitions to prove its proficiency in certain areas. Between energy balancing, and home entertainment, hot water and market appeal, these competitions scrutinize

every aspect of home living. The intense analysis is meant to ensure overall practicality of the house so that it can be something to mass-produce in the coming years when global green conscious living becomes a reality. Within the coming semesters FIU can hope to see the PerFORM[D]ance house on campus before it’s shipped off to the Nation’s capital. Until then the team will be hard at work to perfect their house, hoping to make it a staple in this eco-friendly generation.

# FIU Theater Kicks Off Alternative Theater Fest with “Top Girls”

MARIA MURRIEL  
Staff Writer

As the days of June start to get into the 20s and the heat grows truly unbearable, FIU’s theater students get into a summer-induced performance frenzy. This year, the results of their creative outbursts will beget the Alternative Theater Summer Festival 2010. Since 2006, the ATSF’s mark has been one major play for the summer, with previous years’ selections including productions the like of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” and the hilarious “Reefer Madness.” This year, however, faculty directors Phillip Church and Marina Pareja have extended the FIU community’s Alternative Theater experience to three major plays. “This is a big move forward,” Church told News@FIU. The ATSF team has been hard at work in all sorts of theater productions, including an event staged by an FIU alumnus in a college across the pond. Besides their presence in England’s Solent University of Southampton, Church directs his student actors in humanitarian events around the Miami area. After performing in Coral Gables for the National Day of Observance for Human Trafficking this past January, ATSF has begun planning an event in the benefit of Haiti later this year. Among their numerous projects, Church and Pareja have supervised this year’s Summer Festival, the first where students get the opportunity to not only perform, but also design and direct not one, but three major plays. First, “Top Girls,” followed by “A Bicycle Country” and “Prodigal: The Execution of William Spencer.” According to Church, all plays are of a different style

and genre than one another, designed to showcase the “versatility of [the] young actors at work.” Starting on Wednesday, June 23, the ATSF will premiere “Top Girls,” a “true celebration of feminine charm” directed by FIU theater student Shani Bernard. The play, running for one week only, promises to deliver an insightful perspective on a successful working woman’s reflection of her life away from home and the things she sacrificed for her success; consulting dinner guests from the past, of course. Church described it as a “funny and poignant” look into several women’s attempts to shatter the glass ceiling throughout history. “Top Girls,” written by English dramatist Caryl Churchill in the 1980s, is a quintessential display of themes that are persistent in the author’s works: sexual politics, abuse of power and postmodern feminist issues. It was recently performed in New York during the theater season and it’s been a piece lauded by critics since its creation. The FIU “Top Girls” cast, then, has big shoes to fill. Though, with all their experience and the international renown they are building for themselves, a spectacular performance should come to them as a breeze. Director Bernard, along with her cast and crew, has been rehearsing for the past week in preparation to the big premiere, which will no doubt be a sterling success. “Top Girls” will run at DM 150 from Wednesday, June 23, to Sunday, June 27. Shows start at 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and at 5 p.m. on Sunday evening. The doors will open an hour prior to the show every day, and tickets are \$10 at the box office.

## THE BEACON REVIEWS: KNIGHT AND DAY

# Cruise’s new film full of old tricks

STEVEN MESA  
Staff Writer

In their new movie *Knight and Day*, Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz reunite once again with even longer screen time together than the last movie they were in, which was *Vanilla Sky* in 2001. The life of June Havens (Diaz) is turned upside down when he meets Roy Miller (Cruise), a rogue secret agent who is holding a self-powered super battery that could run the power of a small town. After June and Roy both realize that they need each other in order to survive, they begin to go on the run and travel to different places around the world from The Alps to Spain with Roy’s former colleagues (Peter Sarsgaard and Viola Davis) and a weapons dealer (Jordi Molla)

on their tail. Tom Cruise is playing a character that could have been a rip-off of his *Mission Impossible* character, Ethan Hunt. At the same time, he does not take his character too seriously as Cruise tries to have as much fun as he can have with this role. Cameron Diaz, on the other hand, is playing the role of the dumb blonde that she has played several times in other movies such as *The Sweetest Thing* and *What Happens in Vegas*. Midway through the movie and after nearly escaping death several times, Roy tells June not to leave the hotel they are staying in and she does the opposite by following him to a secret rendezvous. The chemistry between Cruise and Diaz is interesting to see as the movie progresses, but it gets more and more obvious that the movie will have a happy ending for the couple. The story of the film takes a backseat to Diaz and Cruise because most of the movie’s structure borrows certain elements from other films whether it is the couple-on-the-run (*North By Northwest*) or the renegade spy chased by his former employers (The *Bourne* films). There is also a scene in the film where June visits the residence of an old couple (Celia Watson and Dale Dye) that reveals a back-story for Roy that ruins Roy’s mysterious aspect. However, the action and fight sequences are well choreographed especially in the scenes where Roy takes on a plane full of assassins and the couple is chased by bad guys in the middle of the

Running of the Bulls event in Spain. The most frustrating thing about watching this film is that the majority of the action sequences that occur in the movie have already been exposed for a great length of time through the film’s promotional campaign. Based on that, anyone who plans to see *Knight and Day* or has an interest in this film should avoid seeing the film’s trailer and/or any further television sneak peeks. *Knight and Day* has a solid start within the first twenty minutes and vivid action sequences, but it has a predictable storyline that borrows certain elements from other spy movies. Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz share an interesting chemistry, but they individually do not bring anything new to the table.



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THE BEACON | Editorial

Tuition hikes, though unpopular, are necessary for University operations

At a recent University budget forum, President Mark Rosenberg broke the news that he will propose a 15% tuition increase to the University Board of Trustees for the 2010-2011 school year, a move he is likely to propose in the following years as well.

The Florida State University System, which has seen over \$500 million in state budget reductions since 2007, has mandated that all state universities raise their tuition by eight percent.

Left to the discretion of state universities is the option of increasing their tuition by up to another seven percent, a move which all state universities are expected to take in order to increase revenue at a time where most universities are facing budget cuts.

In that regard, FIU is no exception. The University has lost about \$60 million in state funding over the last three years which has left us all experiencing what President Rosenberg calls “unfortunate losses.”

While the 15% tuition increase will be hard on most students who are already facing high tuition fees, *The Beacon* sees no other option for the University to increase its revenue in order to bridge the gap in the budget, while maintaining the “World’s Ahead” state of mind.

FIU has continued to expand year after year, regardless of the budget cuts it has faced; because of this, the University is now forced to pass the burden onto its students. The Beacon reluctantly accepts this as a necessary evil. However, we would like to see substantial planning by the Administration to put the increased revenue to good use, as well as finding a way to mitigate the budget cuts which are affecting all of us. Fortunately, the Administration is a step ahead of us.

*The Beacon* would like to see the increased revenue from tuition being put towards hiring more faculty and student advisors. Currently the student to advisor ratio is roughly 800 students per advisor, a ratio that University Provost Douglas Wartzok recognizes as “not good at all.”

A major goal set by President Rosenberg during the budget forum was to increase University enrollment rates by up to 2,000 students over next ten years. This move will help the University bring in more revenue from tuition as well as housing. It will also highlight FIU’s auxiliary enterprises, improve student council ratios and possibly even increase the school’s graduation rates. However, this move will likely present problems since the University already faces limited parking and class size issues.

Another area that *The Beacon* feels there needs to be more emphasis put on is that of private fundraising. With most Americans facing a difficult year financially, the idea of private fundraising is easier said than done. According to President Rosenberg, FIU’s major donors are probably looking at a 30 percent decline in their net worth. Regardless, the University should strive to find ways to make people believe in the work that is taking place here.

With that in mind, the University has already set a modest goal of raising \$50 million in private funds and is currently \$10 million away from reaching it. This relatively small goal will set the stage for a \$750 million private fundraising campaign which will be worked on by FIU’s Foundation board.

Much like President Rosenberg, *The Beacon* agrees that the majority of our funding cannot come from state appropriations or from the backs of students, it has to come by reaching out to our community, our graduates, and asking them to support us.

Facebook: Our new Big Brother?

ANNIE PEREZ  
Contributing Writer

A brawl over complicated privacy settings has Facebook’s chief executive, Mark Zuckerberg, in the hot seat. As he vows to make privacy settings easier to use, I plead that Facebook users act as moles and investigate on their own.

The problem lies in that most contracts are too long and phrased in eloquent terms that the average person does not understand. The privacy policy is just as difficult to read through; it might as well be a homework assignment. The ease of speeding through the website has most users clicking yes to anything in the way of arriving at their Facebook addiction.

This modern-day issue presents problems as to whether your agreement can actually be accepted. It’s similar to the invalidity a contract assumes when signed by an inebriated individual.

However, because most people are not inebriated on the internet, the terms of agreement by signing with Facebook should be viewed just like any other valid contract.

We must become responsible for our actions. Just as we protect ourselves by reading a lease before signing, we must apply the same real world concept to Internet contracts.

The dissatisfaction of users followed the introduction of the Instant Personalization feature and Facebook Platform, which allowed outside websites to access your information and link to your page. Its introduction to Facebook was quick and visually benign. It simply linked pictures on profiles to accompany likes and interests.

“Facebook is trustworthy if users take the time to customize their privacy settings. Facebook has proven to be quickly responsive to all complaints.”

What many did not know is that it also linked behavioral marketing analysis practices to profiles. This works like Pandora, where one song is chosen and an entire radio station is created. Although, instead of music, it targets you with advertisements.

Though many were upset about this, I enjoy having ads that target my interests. For example, if I like diving, it is more beneficial to receive an ad about a cruise in the Bahamas instead of an ad about a hunting safari. Zuckerberg claimed that his intentions for creating this system were not financially influenced. Instead, it was an attempt to make the website more personal for the individual.

The former complained that privacy policy was being changed without consent and the fact that personal information was being used to target advertisements had people in a frenzy, questioning how trustworthy Facebook really is.

What else is being shared with the World Wide Web? These worries prompted the new and improved privacy settings, which allow easy opting out of Facebook platform. Still, thousands of users worry as to whether or not they can trust the website with their information.

One forum proposes to have government retain power over the regulation of Facebook’s privacy policy. This idea is preposterous. I hate to think that people have become so socially irresponsible that we must rely on our government to restore peace on the Internet.

On top of that, this company belongs to someone. An outsider coming in and taking it away is not the American way.

The U.S. Department of Commerce and the European Union have already set out guidelines. If these guidelines have not been followed, then I distrust the U.S. Department of Commerce for letting things slip under the radar just as much as angry Facebook users distrust the site.

Facebook is trustworthy if users take the time to customize their privacy settings. Facebook has proven to be quickly responsive to all complaints in the past and today.

With almost half a billion users, Facebook’s privacy policy changed more than once since the site took flight. It’s our responsibility to be safe online. Signing up for a Facebook account is a choice, which must be taken seriously and with consideration to the privacy policy and terms of agreement. Use at your own risk.

Gulf spill is just collateral damage

MARIA BORRAJERO  
Contributing Writer

On April 20, 2010 there was a massive explosion aboard the drilling rig “Deepwater Horizon”. Since then, more than 200,000 gallons oil are spewing onto the Gulf of Mexico per day, affecting the beaches and the fishing industry and much more from Louisiana to Florida.

Even though accidents like these happen, I still believe that we need to keep drilling here for oil. Needless to say the oil spill is affecting the environment and the marine life. The U.S. is also mourning the death of 11 innocent oil rig workers.

The company responsible for this colossal oil spill is British Petroleum (BP), which provides customers with fuel, energy, and petrochemicals products for everyday items. They also make \$239 billion a year; almost as much as the US spends to have

Saudi Arabia import oil to the United States.

Saudi Arabia isn’t our only source of foreign oil: Canada, Mexico and another 15 countries make up 95% of our daily United States crude oil. We should continue to drill for oil because the United States needs to become more self-reliant. We shouldn’t rely on foreign countries for resources we already have. The money we pay other countries for their oil can be used to drill for oil right here in the United States, and develop newer and safer drilling techniques and technologies. This will help prevent future spills and deaths.

The risks and the consequences of drilling are worth the increased revenue. With the money we spend on foreign oil, we can better our defense programs, improve education, work on health care, and elevate our economic standing. If we were to stop drilling for oil our

revenue will drop dramatically and result in us only depending more on foreign oil.

Oil spills such as this one may cause some beaches to be closed down for a period of months, even years. This may have major effects on tourism in certain areas. For instance, I had reserved a beach house in Siesta Key, Sarasota located off the Gulf of Mexico. It is now on standby until further notice because of the oil spill. I feel that even though oil spills might affect vacations with my family we can always find alternatives.

I know that in time the situation will get better. I accept that accidents like these happen because, in the long run, the United States will become self-reliant. We as Americans need to make sacrifices for the good of the nation. We must accept that these sacrifices are only temporary and they will benefit the country in a positive way in the

future.

If we give money to many countries to provide us with resources that we already have at home, our nation suffers. By continuing to drill (and expanding the scope of our drilling) for oil the United States will save money and rebuild its economy.

I live by a quote I once read by world champion racer Mario Andretti: “Circumstances may cause interruptions and delays, but never lose sight of your goal.” We all make mistakes but we learn from them and this helps us to perfect ourselves and make the best out of our actions in the future. Oil spills may occur and they may affect people and the environment in some ways. The positive outlook on this is that we will become completely independent if we drill here in the United States and this independence will benefit the people and the economy of the nation as a whole.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“I’m ashamed of what happened in the White House yesterday. I think it is a tragedy of the first proportion that a private corporation can be subjected to what I would characterize as a shakedown – in this case a \$20 billion shakedown.”

Rep. Joe Barton (R-Texas)  
Apology to BP over victims fund

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials, send them to [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com)

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SGC-BBC

## Senator-at-large appointed

**BECCA GRIESEMER**  
Contributing Writer

A new senator-at-large, a position usually filled by student voters, has been appointed by the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus.

Though Deyan Ivanov, a graduate student in International Relations, sought the position and was appointed in April, he neglected to run in the general election in March due to personal reasons.

“In March, I had different things happening in my life and I wasn’t able to spend the time to have a platform and everything,” Ivanov said.

His platform includes increasing the amount of classes offered at BBC to bring parity between the two campuses. BBC offers only two international relations courses during summer semester, while MMC offers nine, Ivanov said.

Christin “CiCi” Battle, SGC-BBC president, agrees with the importance of a larger class offering.

“Classes that are offered are a huge problem at this campus,” Battle said. “It’s not just in [International Relations], it’s in all majors that we offer here. I think it’s a great idea.”

Ivanov stressed that his aim is to increase the classes offered for all majors, not any specific one. He has spoken with the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences on the

subject and will continue to contact various school deans.

Additionally, he proposes that the two campuses should work together to reach goals, suggesting ideas such as video conferencing. Panther spirit should be a factor, Ivanov said.

“We should act like FIU, not two separate campuses,” Ivanov said.

The new senator promises to work with his fellow legislative members to identify student body needs and then offer solutions.

Ivanov plans to administer a survey for MMC to determine whether students would take more courses at BBC, should they become available.

Ivanov feels he is qualified to attack this issue among others as senator-at-large.

“I have been an International Relations student, and even before I became senator over here, I have seen things on campus that weren’t the way that they were supposed to be,” Ivanov said.

Ivanov added that his friends have spoken to him about certain issues that, as senator-at-large, he is trying to address.

“I have always been somebody that cares about the interest of the majority, the student body, versus my own interests, which is not what I’m here for,” Ivanov said.

Denise Halpin, SGC-BBC vice president, and Battle interviewed Ivanov before he was able to fully start for the position.



IVANOV

## MAKING FACES



ANA ANGEL/THE BEACON

Jamie Andrews, an employee of University Guest Relations, has a caricature of herself made during the South Florida Collegiate Programming Expo June 18 sponsored by the Office of Campus Life and Orientation.

The interview is but one step in the process of appointing a senator. After an application process, the SGC president and vice president hold interviews with the applicants, ending with the nomination of candidates they feel are most qualified.

“We thought that Deyan would be a great senator-at-large, but we of course did not put him in power,” Halpin said.

Battle and Halpin believe the senators

are a direct representation of the student body, of the different programs and majors, allowing them to cast votes on students’ behalf.

Ivanov said that as long as there is someone that is doing what needs to be done and represent the will of the student body, that is all that matters.

“It doesn’t matter how the position was acquired,” Ivanov said.

# Rec Center introduces physical consultations



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

Jessica Weissman, dietetic intern (left), measuring the waist-to-hip ratio of David Svenson, adjunct English professor and graduate student in creative writing (right).

**SANDY ZAPATA**  
Contributing Writer

The Recreation Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus will offer personalized plans to help students be healthy both physically and mentally.

With leeway from Warren Shaw, assistant director of the BBC Recreation Center, intern Jessica Weissman came up with the idea to have nutrition and body composition consultations because she says that for people who

are losing or gaining weight, it helps those people track their progress in the right way as well as health indicators for each individual.

Weissman, an intern at the BBC Rec Center, received her bachelor’s in Exercise Science from Florida Atlantic University in 2008 and is now a dietetics and nutrition graduate student.

The nutrition consultation is a personalized plan that Weissman plans to help students eat the right way and achieve their final goal.

She first started with a small survey that was given out from the front desk of the gym -- simple questions on the viability of a program like this. Many students said they would be interested in knowing more about their personal body weight and facts without having to pay an expensive medical or gym fee.

Within a few weeks she started to email those students interested in the program. She sent them out a blank three day nutrition diary where they would need to fill in their daily intake, which she later compared to the U.S. Department of Agriculture dietary guidelines to make sure they were meeting the requirements based on the initial body assessment done.

Students would have to come back on preferably a weekly basis because it’s a better way of tracking their weight loss or weight gain, depending on what the intention was.

“A third of adolescents are overweight and this is one way to make people conscious of not only the fitness aspect of going to the gym but also the health aspect,” Weissman said.

Shaw, who attended the university for his master’s degree in sports management, gave Weissman the freedom to run this program.

“A student’s college career does not have to be filled with junk food options and having a nutritionist on the site helps the students become aware of the options for their diet,” Shaw said.

Weisman has worked as a personal trainer for three years so she is aware of the different techniques that would help different individ-

uals complete their fitness goals. Men come into the gym knowing the different exercise routines that benefit them so throughout this program, her personal training expertise has mainly gone to women who aren’t aware of what fitness routine benefits them.

“The fact that this program is being offered and is free is a huge benefit to students,” Weissman said. “Most insurance companies charge for a nutrition consultation as well as having to be diagnosed with a certain condition in order to see a dietician.”

“This is valuable information that will help students be healthier in body and mind,” Shaw said.

Although she hopes to graduate in December, Weissman’s enjoyed her work. By fall 2010, she hopes that the Recreational Center will keep on running this helpful program to teach students the real facts about diet and exercise.

Weissman said she hopes Carlos Urriola, who will take Jessica’s place come Summer B, can continue to see the progression of the students who signed up just a few weeks ago.

Weissman said she would have loved to see the change of people who are coming back for their results but understands that she can’t.

“I know that the people who signed up for these consultations have seen results,” Weissman said. “I’m glad I was part of that.”

*For more information about the consultations, please contact the Recreation center at (305) 919-5678.*