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AFRICA

Gunmen escape federal prison

About 800 inmates escaped a federal prison holding Muslim extremists in northern Nigeria during a sunset attack by gunmen believed to be members of a radical sect.

ASIA

Activist lawyer released from prison

Linyi City police prepared Wednesday for the release from a four year term in prison of a blind, self-taught activist lawyer, Chen Guangcheng, arrested for his documentation of forced abortions.

PLANET EARTH

Two asteroids skirt planet

An asteroid passed close to Earth on Wednesday morning, and another will do likewise later in the day. The double encounter is an unusual event, according to NASA.

ARE YOU READY...

Home opener full of extras for students

MATTHEW MACKLE
Contributing Writer

The excitement surrounding this Saturday's football game presents an opportunity for the FIU Athletics Department to not only spark some fierce school spirit, but, as the game falls on Sept. 11, to honor those who were affected by the 2001 disaster and show admiration for the nation's First Responders in the Police and Fire Departments, as well as the military.

Starting at 3 p.m., First Responders will be in front of the FIU Stadium with their rescue vehicles and will be available to answer questions and take photos. There will also be a K-9 unit, a marine patrol boat, Humvees, motorcycles, and a rescue helicopter.

"They are here as a tribute to First

Responders and the military. We want to pay respect to people who put their life on the line" explained Heather Wight, assistant athletic director of marketing for FIU Athletics.

The game will also be preceded by the rolling-out of an American flag as large as the field. This will be performed by students and First Responders.

Before kickoff, the Golden Dazzlers, along with Roary the Panther, will be in parking lot 6 getting people excited for the game. Everyone is invited to this tailgate, which will feature music, giveaways and other activities.

The Athletics Department has also

been working closely with the new FIU Marching Band to produce an especially inspiring event. The band has been working on a new playlist and practicing more than 12 hours a day before the start of the semester.

"I'm really excited about this. We've been practicing extra hard, every day of the week from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.," explained Omar Bham, captain of the new 120-person band.

The marching band and Panther Rage have also been working together to create some brand new cheers, and the clubs hope to create some new traditions this Saturday.

Additionally, the Athletic Department has developed a new incentive for students to

WHAT TO KNOW FOR THE GAME

Game Information:

- Time: 08:00 p.m.
- When: 09/11/2010
- First 5000 students get shirts

FESTIVITIES, page 3



2008 Record: 3-8
T-6th place in the Sun Belt Conference

VS



2008 Record: 9-4
T-4th place in the Big East Conference

Garcia brings distinct leadership

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
News Director

Dr. Delia Garcia applied to work at FIU in 1979 as a coordinator for a bilingual education program and 31 years later she was named Interim Dean of the College of Education.

The appointment, effective June 14, was made after the previous interim dean, Marie McDemmond, stepped down due to personal reasons.

"Dr. McDemmond provided both stability and direction for the College and I have full confidence that Dr. Garcia will similarly provide leadership with distinction," stated University Provost Douglas Wartzok in an email to the University community.

Garcia is currently chairperson and associate professor of the department of Leadership and Professional Studies in the College of Education. She is also the director of the Urban Education graduate program and has served as director of numerous family literacy projects that serve the needs of local schools in the area of family literacy in the South Florida community.

Family literacy and urban teacher education are two areas that Garcia has focused on throughout her career, receiving over \$11 million in federal, state and foundation grants for these issues.

"That has always been my main area of research expertise, the whole notion of family literacy," said Garcia in an interview with Student Media.

Garcia has sought out funding for several different family literacy programs that have been funded through the United States Department of Education, the Barbara Bush Foundation, the Florida State Department of Education and the Volunteer USA Foundation.

"I've spanned the gamut of both federal, state, and

GARCIA, page 2

FIU students start first ever Quidditch club on campus

MATTHEW MACKLE
Contributing Writer

Snitches, beaters, seekers and keepers; the world of Harry Potter has teleported itself into real life through the imagination and enthusiasm of its fans, with the organization of a fictional sport called Quidditch.

The University has formed the first ever Quidditch club on campus. This will be the principal element of the Harry Potter Alliance, which is also being developed for the first time this semester.

This is not a brand new concept. Many schools all over the country, including the University of Florida and the University of Central Florida have active teams.

The teams compete throughout the season with the hope of competing in the Quidditch World Cup, sponsored by The International Quidditch Association, a nonprofit company.

This year's World Cup will be held in New York City, and the FIU Quidditch team hopes to win it.

Fictionally, Quidditch is played by students who fly swiftly through the stadium on enchanted brooms, bashing against each other trying to score goals while spectators sneakily



MATTHEW MACKLE/THE BEACON

Harry Samuel DuVal III, a "chaser" (right), runs down the field after the Quaffle. Quidditch is unique in that it is a co-ed full-contact sport.

cast harmful spells on them to favor the team they're rooting for.

In real life, non-magic people or "muggles" look forward to a time when flying on brooms is a reality, but, until that time, some adjustments

to the sport must be made.

For example, there is an important element to the game known by fans as the "snitch" which is a flying golden ball that moves speedily through the stadium, and if caught, wins the game for the

team who caught it.

The adaptation of this is an athletic runner dressed in gold.

"We incorporate the Snitch element by using what is called a Snitch Runner-- a person who is basically a creative runner. A person that not only is fast but has the stamina to be running around for long periods of time, therefore being just as difficult to catch as a real snitch in the Harry Potter world," explained Prutha Patel, vice president of the club and head of team Gryffindor.

The brooms remain a solid element in the real life sport and players must hold one between their legs for the duration of the game.

The brooms are of regulation weight and size and are made by Alivan's, an online store that specializes in Harry Potter replications.

FIU Recreational Services has bought the brooms as well as jerseys for the team.

The team developed after Patel, Saul Perez and Chelsey Smith, met on Facebook about a year ago and created a page for the FIU Quidditch Club.

Over the summer, the page began receiving substantial interest from FIU students who wanted to see the club develop.

QUIDDITCH, page 2

Student Government to host student engagement series

VINCENT FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

Helena Ramirez, president of the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus has announced through a press release that SGC-MMC will begin holding a multitude of student engagement forums that will allow students to voice their opinions in a safe environment relating to three issues: academics, campus safety and student services.

“Student affairs, academics, and campus safety are the main topics of interest on campus. Students want to know what is being done and the administration wants to hear their opinions,” said SGC-MMC Press Secretary Dean Williams.

According to the press release, the student engagement series will begin on Sept. 30 and continue in three parts throughout the rest of the fall semester. After the student engagement series begins, Ramirez will create a number of executive orders that will be specifically designed to address issues that occur during the events of the student engagement series.

“As an integral aspect of the engagement series, SGC-MMC is doing what it can to ensure that the respective university administrators are in attendance at the relative engagement town hall meetings,” said Ramirez.

Ramirez went on to explain that the University administrator’s attendance would be solely for ensuring that student

services get proper reinforcement.

Beginning Sept. 30, the SGA will hold the first of three parts to the engagement series. This first engagement will focus solely on issues related to Academics, and will take place in GC 140 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. SGA has also confirmed that the University’s Provost, Douglas Wartzok, will attend the meetings.

The second installment of the engagement series will take place on Oct. 21. This installment will focus on issues related to campus safety, and will be held in GC 150 from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. SGA hopes Public Safety Chief, Bill King, will attend these meetings so he can hear students opinions.

SGA intends to hold the third install-

ment of the series on Nov. 9. This final installment will include advice and information about Student Services. It will be held in GC 243, from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

SGA also plans to add up to four or five more focus groups coming in spring, including subjects that cover tuition and fees, parking and transportation and others in efforts to ensure that the school is doing everything it can to make sure their student’s opinions are heard.

“The student engagement series will provide a safe, friendly environment in which students will discuss issues of most concern to them, which is the element that I am excited about; the personal interaction with members of the student body,” said Ramirez.

Quidditch club approved by recreational services

QUIDDITCH, page 1

“The whole process after that just flew by,” Smith described.

Soon after, the Harry Potter Association was approved by the Council for Student Organizations and the Quidditch Club was approved by FIU Recreational Services.

The bulk of the advertising and scheduling is being done through Facebook.

“We’ve been mass-inviting everyone we know on Facebook to our meetings and practices. Unfortunately, we were only just approved for advertising as a club on Tuesday of this week. So, we were unable to do any physical advertising for the first meeting and practice, although word-of-mouth has done us wonders,” said Smith.

Acting as adviser for the club, FIU English Professor

Kenneth Claus shares a tremendous enthusiasm for the idea.

“Most people have buried

Most People have buried their inner child by age 22. [Quidditch] will be a great way to have some good old-fashioned fun.

Kenneth Claus, Professor, English Department

their inner child by age 22. [Quidditch] will be a great way to have some good old-fashioned fun,” said Claus.

He also spoke about the importance of the books themselves, saying “Harry Potter is a gateway into reading for many young people; some will read Harry Potter and nothing

else.” In his English classes, Claus incorporates Harry Potter into some of the literary analyses.

The Harry Potter Association had their first meeting last Thursday, where students were assigned to the “houses” in which the books divide the students based on their personalities and specific interests.

Instead of a magical “sorting hat” to do the work for them, the club used a specialized questionnaire that included questions such as “what would you do if someone called you a mudblood?”

Anyone interested in joining either the Quidditch team or the Harry Potter Association should contact any of the officers, or the FIU Quidditch team on Facebook.

2.8 million dollar Title V grant to support University

GARCIA, page 1

foundation funding as it relates to family literacy,” she said.

According to Garcia, the evolution of the term “family literacy” is an important fact. During 1980, the federal government began a major movement to really acknowledge parents in the education of their children.

“They began to earmark a lot of money at the federal level into how to work with families, how to work with parents,” said Garcia. “What happened was an evolution from the term of parental involvement to more family literacy initiatives.”

Some of these family literacy initiatives carry funds that are primarily earmarked to assist Hispanic parents and English language learning parents to become more involved in the educational process of their children.

“We would go to their schools and provide them twice a week with classes in the evening, [helping] them become a true advocate for their children,” said Garcia. “You’re giving parents the skills and empowering them to take on an active role in their child’s education.”

Families Learning at School and Home, or FLASH, is a Academic Excellence Program from the College of Education, funded through the U.S. Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs. It was developed by Garcia with the goal of training linguistically and culturally diverse parents or caregivers in the areas of literacy and school involvement. The program currently serves over 35 schools in Miami-Dade County, working with over 3,000 families.

“I have a very strong commitment to the process of bilingual education, and the needs of English language learning students because of my own experience,” Garcia said. “I was a student who came to this country without knowing the language so I underwent the experience of what it is to be in a classroom where you don’t understand anything that is being thrown at you because of just the language.”

We have great faculty who are really doing incredible jobs as it relates to teaching and service ... We have faculty that have received University wide awards as it relates to teaching, service and membership

students while providing support as they undergo the graduate process. The other part of the grant has funding to encourage graduate students to publish with faculty.

“We have an opportunity then to build that level of collaboration between faculty and graduate students so that they can engage in research opportunities together, and start to make professional presentations and manuscripts to publish in Journals,” said Garcia.


In addition, there is also an opportunity to select 11 administrators from Miami-Dade County Schools to pursue a doctorate in educational administration and supervision. Individuals need to meet certain criteria which includes being Hispanic-American and coming from a low performance school.


Garcia was grateful and taken by surprise when Provost Wartzok asked her to step into the role of interim dean for the College of Education. Among her immediate goals for the position is to highlight the work of faculty in the College of Education.

“We have great faculty who are really doing incredible jobs as it relates to teaching and service,” said Garcia. “Whether it is writing an award winning book or publishing articles in top tier journals; we have faculty that have received University wide awards as it relates to teaching, service and mentorship.”

She also believes that the College of Education has been a leader in the area of community engagement.

“[We are] in a very unique role as we are very much aligned with President Rosenberg’s hit the ground vision as it relates to community engagement.”





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RUTGERS VS. FIU; SEPT. 3, 8 P.M.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

The Golden Panthers open the season at home for the first time since their inaugural season and will look for their first win against a BCS team.

Team looks for redemption against Rutgers

IGOR MELLO
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers defensive unit will finally get a chance to debut its new schemes on Rutgers (1-0) tomorrow. Although there may be a level of uncertainty on FIU's side, the players and the coaches do believe that the defense has improved from last season.

One thing is for sure, Mario Cristobal's team is eager for the season to start. This will be FIU's first season opener at home as a NCAA Division-I school and their first home opener since its inaugural season in 2002.

"We're anxious but we're making sure we're not over-anxious," said Cristobal, who has utilized his bye week for

another scrimmage. "You can never really simulate that three and a half hour battle that you have on Saturdays."

FIU will look to avenge Rutgers, a BCS school that has won four consecutive bowl games. The Golden Panthers had their third best defensive performance overall last season against the Scarlet Knights, allowing only 394 yards on defense. FIU trailed 23-0 before scoring two touchdowns in the last seven minutes of the fourth quarter to make it a close affair, losing 23-15.

While it was one of their best defensive performances of the season, giving up 394 yards isn't saying much defensively. In fact, FIU gave up an average of over 492 yards on defense, last in the

Sun Belt Conference.

They will have to stop a Rutgers running game that went wild last week against Norfolk State, rushing for 268 yards. Joe Martinek accounted for bulk of the load, gaining 109 yards. Rutgers shut out Norfolk State 31-0.

"They establish the run well. And it helps open up some things for them in the passing game," Cristobal said.

Rutgers quarterback Tom Savage, who has the most starts of any quarterback in the Big East Conference despite being only a sophomore, threw for 148 yards passing along with a touchdown against Norfolk State. One of Savage's targets, Muhamed Sanu and has raised some concern for Cristobal.

"Sanu presents some problems, especially in the wildcat package. He's effective because people always focus on his run," Cristobal said. "You watch him last year and he can throw the football too."

QUARTERBACK QUESTION

Although Wesley Carroll may be FIU's starting quarterback for the contest, Cristobal may opt to use Wayne Younger and utilize a two-quarterback system for Saturday. If that happens, Younger has experience against Rutgers, giving him another crack at defeating the Scarlet Knights. Last season he came in for Paul McCall, who was injured for a

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Fans to have a chance to win prizes

FESTIVITIES, page 1

attend campus sporting events. Panther Points, sponsored by Brickell Motors, is a system in which students can be rewarded for their cheers with prizes such as HDTVs, laptops, iPods and more. Students need to show up before the event at the Panther Points tent and have their student ID scanned to add points to their account.

The top 100 points leaders will be eligible for a raffle at the Dec. 4 football game. Fiusports.com has all the info on Panther Points, as well as a leaderboard showing the points leaders, and the specific events where Panther Points will be available.

Rutgers' football team is over 100 years old and if the Golden Panthers win, they will likely gain countrywide respect. "Rutgers is a high-profile opponent ... on Saturday we will gain a national audience" said Heather Wight. "I am hugely excited. We have a chance to make a big upset."

The game will be broadcast on ESPN Plus. For those hoping to watch the game at home, be informed that the game will be shown on a four hour time delay. The only way to get the full experience is to be there in person, cheering on the Golden Panthers.

The Athletics Department expects the game to sell out fast so anyone interested in tickets should go quickly to fiusports.com. They are offering free tickets to all the other FIU football home games to people who buy a \$40 ticket for Saturday.

Cristobal deserves ample time to build a winning program

For most Football Bowl Subdivision teams who play in the Bowl Championship Series, head coaches are never really comfortable on the job. They live on a warm seat that begins to boil as the years pass and the expectations grow.

The result of this is an unwritten 4-year plan that exists in which head coaches are expected to deliver as their formula for success comes to fruition in their fourth season or even before. This recently happened to Mike Shula at Alabama (2003-06) and Ty Willingham at Notre Dame (2002-04). There are also instances where a leap of faith is taken and coaches are given a fifth year to hit or miss, a situation that saw Charlie Weiss

and Mike Sanford fired from their posts after 2009 at Notre Dame and UNLV, respectively.

There are a few exceptions, which include veteran coaches who have already won several conference titles and had teams in BCS championship contention who are given a longer leash and the benefit of the doubt, but most of the time, it is a situation where coaches have to win within five seasons.

And that shouldn't apply to FIU head coach Mario Cristobal. Not that he shouldn't be expected to turn the Golden Panthers into a winner, but that he must win big within five seasons. For one, a building program like FIU should not operate under the pressure

cooker of a BCS program. But most importantly, Cristobal has already come close to doing everything that leads to winning. And that comes last.

MAKING MOVES

Part of the reason Cristobal should be on an extended timetable as opposed to his coaching counterparts is the dire situation he inherited at FIU. Besides the NCAA imposing a death penalty on Southern Methodist in 1986, FIU might have been found itself in one of the worst situations of any Division-I team, ever.

Although the results have yet to come in the form of winning, the situation off the field and around the team has improved drastically. When Cristobal took over before the 2007 season, the Golden Panthers

had to give back nine scholarships due to infractions in meeting the NCAA's Academic Progress Rate's requirements. The scholarship situation limited FIU's ability to fill out its roster accordingly and was a shot to the team's depth. The program also was expected to recruit players to come play at an institution without its own playing facility or field house.

Entering the 2010 campaign, the Golden Panthers have an 18,000-seat stadium in place (built in 2008), and although it is not fully constructed, it's an acceptable college football building. In addition, The R. Kirk London Field-house weight room is a 14,000 square foot premises with ample room and equipment for a team to reach its potential.

In addition, Cristobal has

responded to better facilities with consistently solid recruiting classes. While these classes do not upset the order of power among Bowl Championship Conference schools among the top 50 in the country, they have all been among the top four in the Sun Belt Conference, according to rivals.com. And despite hopeful but realistic possibilities of jumping into a more competitive conference such as Conference USA in the near future, FIU cannot make that jump without first winning the SBC.

Academically, when the annual APR scores were released this summer, the football team continued to improve its standing with a 951 2008-09 APR, above the 925 minimum requirement. The team's multi-year score is now up to

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COMMENTARY



JONATHAN RAMOS

Team keeping quiet on starting quarterback

FOOTBALL, page 3

few plays while completing two out of three passes for twenty-one yards. For now, he has kept the starting quarterback privately.

“We just want to keep it to ourselves. We have a plan in place. We have our game plan ready to roll. In terms of announcing that publicly, it’s something we have chosen not to do that at the moment,” said Cristobal, who has also admitted that his players are already aware of who the starter is.

The Golden Panthers will have to eliminate mistakes and control the time of possession if they want to overcome Rutgers.

GRIFFIN NAMED KICKER

Although he hasn’t publicly announced a starter at quarterback, Mario Cristobal has announced Jack Griffin as the starting place kicker. “

As of right now for field goals we’re going to use Jack Griffin. Even though we are starting with Jack [Griffin] today, all of those guys have done really well,” Cristobal said.

While he has named Griffin the starter for the opener, he has not yet put him in charge of kickoff duties yet.

FAUCHER A GO

According to Cristobal, tight end Jonathan Faucher will be ready to play this Saturday. Faucher has been limited for most of the fall training camp. “He’s ready for as many plays as he needs,” Cristobal said. Cristobal has praised Faucher’s athletic abilities so much that he has even considered playing him on defense. “As much as he is on the offensive side of the ball,” he said. “He’s such a good athlete that we even thought about using him on defense.”



MEL EVANS/AP IMAGES

Rutgers QB Tom Savage [right] tallied 185 yards vs. FIU in 2009.

Cristobal following Schiano’s example

CRISTOBAL, page 3

906, with the team avoiding severe penalties due to improvements.

With improvements in NCAA requirements, academics, facilities, and recruiting, Cristobal has basically put the program in position to contend for a conference title every season. Disappointment and anger from fans for last season’s disaster has brought about short-sighted whispers about Cristobal’s job security. For the next few years, that should not be in consideration barring an unforeseen debacle.

THE RUTGERS BLUEPRINT

As an assistant coach at Rutgers from 2001-2003 under Greg Schiano, Cristobal went through three seasons in a similar rebuilding process. The Scarlet Knights went 8-27 in Schiano’s first three seasons at the helm.

FIU’s record after three year’s with Cristobal in charge: 9-27.

Granted, success in the Big East Conference is different than winning in the SBC, but Schiano has since made five bowl games, winning four of them on a Rutgers team that has risen to respectability.

“We’re about on pace, similarly to the situation at Rutgers,” Cristobal said of the comparison. “On a timeline scale, it’s almost identical. Obviously, they’re a little ahead as far as win and loss schedule.”

It’s not about putting unwarranted faith in Cristobal, it’s about letting his vision play out in a realistic time frame, especially when all the aspect of success except actual wins are in place.

VOLLEYBALL

Golden Panthers continue rivalry with UM

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers will be on the road once again, but this time distance will not be a factor.

In fact, the team will not even have to exceed the city limits.

Instead of a long bus trip or a plane ride, FIU (2-4) will be playing a three-game set at the University of Miami (7-1) for the Hurricane Invitational, culminating in a match against their cross-town rivals on Sept. 11 in Coral Gables.

No one is happier for the break from hotels and unfamiliar territory than Head Coach Danijela Tomic, who is grateful for the opportunity to focus more on improving her team in practice without the distraction of travel plans.

“We are looking forward to this weekend. We’re not playing here at home but it’s close,” Tomic said. “It’s nice to be able to jump in a car and drive just nine miles.”

Tomic has emphasized that there will be a great

need for patience when dealing with a team that is still trying to gain a crash course in experience.

So far the new-look team has struggled to maintain consistency, beginning the season with a sub par record after winning the Sun Belt Conference last season.

“I’m disappointed because I didn’t feel like we competed the best we could,” Tomic said of the team’s trip to Iowa last week. The Golden Panthers dropped two of three matches in the Iowa State Challenge from Sept. 3-4.

“We did some things better from our first week of play. We just have to be more patient,” Tomic added.

Natalia Valentin has elevated her game, emerging as a force for the Golden Panthers both on the offensive and even more on the defensive end of things. She currently leads the team in assists with 209 and is second in digs with 56.

Meanwhile, it has been freshmen Una Trkulja and Jessica Gehrke who have been providing the bulk of the offense for FIU. Trkulja has tallied

a team-high 68 kills while Gehrke is tied with Andrea Lakovic with 56.

There is no love lost between FIU and UM when it comes to volleyball. And in recent history the Golden Panthers have had the upper hand with two victories against the Hurricanes in 2009, including a close win in the first round in the NCAA Tournament to send them packing.

“They don’t like losing to us and I don’t like losing to them,” Valentin said. “But if we think about that we are going to lose our focus on the game.”

But with those wins a distant memory and a roster filled with players who have not had a taste of a rivalry it will be a significant challenge to defeat a UM team that has started the season on a strong note, including a win over defending Sun Belt tournament champion Middle Tennessee.

But before the Golden Panthers face the Hurricanes, they have to face Bethune-Cookman on Sept. 10 and San Francisco just hours before playing UM to close out the invitational.

MEN’S BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK

Thomas starts with stretch at home

JOEY CRUZ
Asst. Sports Director

Thomas and the men’s basketball new schedule is released

The Golden Panthers will put a turbulent offseason behind them in the comforts of the U.S Century Bank Arena as they play their first five games of the 2010-11 season at home.

Unlike last season, the Golden Panthers open with less of a bang, however, playing against in-state teams below the Division-I level such as Florida Memorial and Barry University, followed by contests vs. Florida State, Utah Valley and Chattanooga.

The season opener against Florida Memorial will be on Nov. 12. FIU defeated the Lions 88-82.

“Florida State is definitely the biggest Florida school we’re going to play,” Forward Marvin Roberts said. “We were pretty close to beating them last season and we have gotten better.”

Last year, the Golden Panthers opened the season at the Coaches vs. Cancer Tournament against defending national champion North Carolina and lost their first three

games.

This season, the Golden Panthers lone regular season tournament action will come in the form of the Global Sports Shoot-Out Tournament, which will host FIU, Louisville, Chattanooga, Marshall and Jackson State on Nov. 27.

This is a more balanced tournament than last season’s Coaches vs. Cancer tournament, which hosted North Carolina, Murray State, FIU and James Madison. The lopsided tournament allowed North Carolina to an easy 88-72-win in 2009.

FIU will play 16 straight conference games, half of which are at home.

Out of 18 conference games last season, the Panthers lost 15, including their first found loss in the Sun Belt conference tournament to Denver.

“Our attitude this season is all about winning,” Roberts said. In order for FIU to have a chance at competing in their conference, they must win within the SBC. Fortunately FIU has the luxury of playing more games at home than on the road this season: 15 in total, unlike last season where the Panthers only played 11 home games and were put on long road game stretches.

ROBERTS SHAPES UP

FIU brings back a slew of roatation players from last season, including Phil Gary Jr., Stephon Weaver, Martavius Kee, and last season’s leading scorer Marvin Roberts. Roberts led the Panthers by scoring 15.6 points per game while shooting 41 percent from the field. Roberts was constantly battling minor nagging injuries last season, but played through almost all of them. This offseason he encountered some of those same injuries. Roberts has come back this offseason 12 pounds lighter and feeling better than ever.

“I’m lighter, quicker and more agile,” Roberts said. “Injuries shouldn’t bother me this season.”Last season, most of the ball possession at the end of the game was controlled by Roberts, pulling a big load on his back to score.

“I think I’ll still be the guy,” Roberts said “I’ll have a lot more help this season.”

This drew him many double teams and forced him to take difficult shots due to the lack of scoring from all other players on the team. Last season FIU shot a measly 41 percent from the field and 28 percent from 3-point range.

FIU MEN’S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
Nov. 12	Florida Memorial
Nov. 15	Barry
Nov. 18	Florida State
Nov. 20	Utah Valley
Nov. 27	Chattanooga
Nov. 29	Marshall*
Dec. 1	Louisville*
Dec. 4	Jackson State*
Dec. 12	Bowling Green*
Dec. 18	Sam Houston State
Dec. 22	Florida A&M
Dec. 28	Utah Valley*
Jan. 2	ULM*
Jan. 6	Arkansas State
Jan. 8	South Alabma
Jan. 13	North Texas*
Jan. 15	Denver*
Jan. 20	UALR
Jan. 22	South Alabama*
Jan. 27	Western Kentucky
Jan. 29	Middle Tennessee
Feb. 3	Troy*
Feb. 5	Florida Atlantic*
Feb 10	Louisiana
Feb. 12	Middle Tennessee*
Feb. 19	Florida Atlantic
Feb. 24	Western Kentucky*
Feb. 26	Troy

FALL FOR THE ARTS

Arsht Center Festival infuses culture into Downtown



COURTESY OF THE ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER

TATHIANA M. PANDIANI
Contributing Writer

To mark the beginning of Fall, the Adrienne Arsht Center is going to become the center of Miami's Art Community.

On Sept. 12, the Adrienne Arsht Center will be hosting Fall for the Arts, a collaboration between the Adrienne Arsht Center, The Miami Herald, El Nuevo Herald, and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

"Many of us at the Center had been talking about organizing an event like this for a couple of years, and this September, many missions and goals all lined up at the same time—making this year a great time to implement it," said Andrew Goldberg, vice-president of marketing at the Arsht Center.

It will be an opportunity for all of Miami

to come together and celebrate the rich diversity of Miami's arts community.

"The Adrienne Arsht Center's mission is to serve as Miami's new 'town square' and Fall for the Arts is meant to represent this vision coming to life – bringing together thousands of residents from all over South Florida to celebrate the diverse and dynamic Miami arts community," said Suzette Espinosa Fuentes, the Public Relations Director at the center.

Fall for the Arts will serve as a collector of the synergy of so many arts and service organizations coming together and, it's organizers hope, ultimately create a great collective energy to kick off the start of the arts season.

Students can expect a full day of opportunities to learn more about the local arts

community, get involved, volunteer, and buy tickets to more than 50 shows.

FIU will be a big part of the event, with the College of Architecture and the Arts having a table at the event.

Partnering with the Adrienne Arsht Center is an opportunity to present the many talented students and faculty at the school. CARTA's participation will showcase the creative endeavors of students and faculty.

Due to the downtown location, FIU's presence will be extended to new audiences and fellow arts and cultural organizations.

"The college's faculty and staff operate in a dynamic environment where interdisciplinary collaboration is encouraged and where such connections spur creativity and knowledge," explained Brian Schriener, dean of the College of Architecture and the Arts.

"We will represent FIU with pride and deliver the message that the Arts & Culture at FIU are 'Worlds Ahead.'"

At this table, stop by to take a printed calendar of concerts, theatre shows, art exhibits, and design lectures taking place at the University this semester.

There will also be opportunities for visitors to speak with students about these productions and purchase tickets.

FIU's museums will also be present at the event. The Frost will have a table presenting information regarding the publications and events happening this Fall.

Exhibition and program information as well as membership and University info will be available.

FESTIVAL, page 6

FISTFULS OF TECH

Ping disappoints as Apple's social media experience

Ping is such a pleasant word.
Say it, I dare you not to smile.

However, one thing that Ping isn't is a viable social media experience, at least not yet.

COLUMNIST



JORGE VALENS

The service is pretty simple. When you activate Ping inside your iTunes program, it allows you to follow your friends and other artists, and you can comment on their purchasing activity and which artists they "like."

Aside from that, it lets you keep up-to-date with your favorite artist's concert schedule and also gives you a customized top ten list of songs and albums that is sourced from purchase history of everyone you follow.

"Ping is for social music discovery," said Apple CEO Steve Jobs at the Sept. 1 iPod launch event.

Keeping in mind that the social service

is still young and having used it for a few days, it's safe to say that Ping isn't letting me discover a damn thing.

Ping is so superficial; it almost seems like Apple tried real hard to incorporate features from other services but didn't find a way to link them together and make them usable.

For example, Jobs touted Ping's ability to create friend groups and let the user determine whom they want to follow. What's missing though is how to find friends in the first place.

Ping only lets you search for users by name. Most social media sites offer you services that will scrub your online address book or your list of Facebook friends or Twitter followers to find friends off the bat.

It's little features like this that make it easier for users to acclimate to another service and justify staying there. Either help me find my friends and build up my list or I'm gone.

Ping was rumored to have Facebook Connect at launch, however this feature was

a no-show. Not having integration with Facebook is a major fault of Apple's new service as it could have had one-click access to 500 million users at launch and, again, made the service easier to migrate to.

I am not upset at the fact that Apple created a social media service, I am upset because I know they could've done better. Especially with services like Last.fm around as an example.

Last.fm began in 2002 and is more of an accurate definition of what "social music discovery" is.

The site integrates with your MP3 player and computer media player and tracks what you listen to and shares it with friends. It also listens to the music and generates suggestions based on what you listen to.

Services like Last.fm and even Pandora offer a more personal experience for discovering music online. It's custom-tailored to you, and people like that.

Launching a social media service at a time when three or four giants dominate the

market is hard. But Apple has the resources and the know how to do it and decided to take the easy route.

Right now, Apple needs to take a step back and take a look at the bigger picture and ask itself: how can Ping stay relevant?

They need to give users an excuse to use this service, something more than just exclusive Lady Gaga videos and a concert date.

Once they figure that out they also need to make it easy for users to migrate over because if you only follow one friend, it can be pretty lame.

Apple always talks about the effort they put in to their products, and in the grander sense I agree that they do. But Ping runs contrary to their mantra of quality first.

It's a half-assed attempt at social media that merely exists as a vessel to peddle online music sales.

Fistfuls of Tech is a weekly technology column.

Discount tickets offered at festival

FESTIVAL, page 5

As Carol Damian, director and chief curator at the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum highlighted, “[Fall for the Arts] is part of a community art event and we want to participate with all the other cultural institutions. It brings us recognition within the group that will include every major institution in South Florida.”

The Wolfsonian Museum will participate with two-for-one admission passes, tickets for purchase and membership brochures.

The upcoming season includes the exhibition, *Speed Limits*, which asks critical questions about the impact of speed on our daily lives, as well as *Very Wolfsonian Weekend*, an event celebrating the museum’s 15th birthday.

Be sure to pass by their table to pick up a student membership packet and more information.

If students are interested in volunteering throughout the day, they may be eligible to earn “service learning hours,” which can count toward coursework.

During the day, student group discounts will be offered by the Arsht Center for *Pandemonium* – a new show from STOMP -- as well as for most Broadway shows.

Plus, for each Broadway production there are free student group pre-shows, where students have the opportunity to learn more about the show and meet cast members.

Another fun element is an epicurean adventure.

Thirteenth street will be shut down with a parade of gourmet food vendors, hosted by Burger Beast, offering a delicious array of food for purchase – culinary treats from burgers to tacos to ice cream.

In addition, Fall for the Arts will feature two outdoor performance stages with music and dance performances running all day long.

Grammy Award-winning Latino funk band OZOMATLI is headlining the festival.

The performances will be varied, including break-dancing, folkloric dance and music from Peru, local Miami reggae Jahfe, and New Orleans’ number one funk ambassadors, Rebirth Brass Band.

Overall, it is a fun, exciting and different way to spend a Sunday in Downtown Miami and explore new art.



COURTESY OF THE ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER

Fashion event boosts retail sales

JANET CAREAGA
Staff Writer

Chatter, cocktails, laughs, and fashion. No, it’s not a girl’s night in; it’s Fashion’s Night Out.

Major cities around the world are buzzing with excitement about the second annual global initiative, Fashion’s Night Out. This year’s event takes place tonight, Sept. 10 from 6 to 11 p.m. at participating retailers.

The event is meant to be a celebration of fashion and help the retail industry. There will be goodies for shoppers but no Fashion’s Night Out discounts because the event is made to celebrate fashion in its true form: regular price.

The Wolfsonian-FIU is throwing a joint event with the Emilio Pucci store to celebrate the launch of the coffee book, *Pucci*.

Last year in New York City and other fashion capitals around the world, designers, celebrities, movie stars, models and fashion editors held unique and exciting fashion inspired events and performances in stores open late to the public.

In 2009, retailers saw a surge of new shoppers and increased sales for Fashion’s Night Out and shoppers enjoyed the street-party atmosphere while providing the fashion industry a much-needed lift.

The 2010 edition of what is being called the biggest fashion party in history promises to be just as grand, splurge inspiring and full of even more stylish surprises.

Fashion’s Night Out was created by the fashion industry and Vogue magazine and each participating city puts their own spin on the event to remind shoppers what the fashion industry is all about and why they love it.

In Miami, the biggest events will be held at the Village of Merrick, the Bal Harbour Shops, and Aventura Mall.

Hundreds of stores are participating and hosting in-store events while partnering with local charities or cultural organizations to donate proceeds to these causes.

FIU’s Wolfsonian Museum will

have its own part in Fashion’s Night Out as well. The Emilio Pucci Boutique at the Bal Harbour Shops will be celebrating the launch of Pucci from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and 15 percent of the all the proceeds will benefit The Wolfsonian.

Aventura Mall will be having their own fashion show, cocktail reception, fashion previews, contests, promotions, and more. Some of the participating stores include: 7 for All Mankind, Macy’s, Nordstrom, Banana Republic, Guess, Michael Kors, and BCBGMaxAzria

“We are one of the main fashion designers out there,” said BCBG of Aventura Assistant Store Manager Carrie Schaffer about participating in the event. “It is especially important for our store to participate because we are such a big name in fashion.”

BCBG along with dozens of other stores in Aventura Mall will be providing champagne, gifts for purchases over a certain amount, extended store hours, and special preview emails to those customers on their email mailing list.

“Our New York stores do it and Miami compares to any other fashion capital,” said Milica Vilkovich of Betsey Johnson at Aventura Mall. “We’re involved with it because it is good for fashion.”

To build the hype and spread the word on news and events leading to Fashion’s Night Out, they have their own Twitter page as well to trend the topic.

One of the biggest preview events was Fashion’s Night Out: The Show fall preview fashion show on Sept. 7 at Lincoln Center in New York City.

Alessandra Ambrosio, Gisele Bündchen, and Naomi Campbell are just a few of more than 150 top models who appeared in the show hosted by Vogue Editor-at-Large Andre Leon Talley and Model Hanneli Mustaparta. It was webcast live for those who could not make it to the sold-out show in NYC.

Everyone is invited to the fashion party tonight but for those who cannot make it out or those who can’t get enough, CBS will be airing a Fashion’s Night Out primetime special on Sept. 14 at 10 p.m.

The special will be hosted by Emmy-award winner Neil Patrick Harris and take an in-depth look at Fashion’s Night Out, interviewing celebrities like Justin Timberlake, designers like Oscar de la Renta and Diane Von Furstenberg, and going behind the scenes at the fashion shows and store events.

Top fashion icons, the fashion industry’s most promising new talent and well-known names from movies, music and modeling will be among those to be featured in the special.

Any *fashionista* should not make the mistake of missing out on the Fashion’s Night Out events, whether it be out in the stores or in the comfort of the living room. Fashion history will be made tonight and it everyone can be a part of it.



COURTESY OF AP IMAGES

Designer Betsey Johnson at her spring 2010 fashion show during in last year’s Fashion Week in New York.

THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY, SEPT. 10

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON



Friday night movies presented by SPC-MMC.
WHEN: 5 and 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 140

JAPAN CLUB

First meeting of the semester.
WHEN: 5 - 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 305

FIU VOLLEYBALL

Vs. Bethune-Cookman at the Hurricane Invitational.
WHEN: 12:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BankUnited Center, Coral Gables

The Da Vinci Code: Lecture and Movie
Introductory lecture by Dr. Felice Lifshitz. Refreshments will be served.
WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: DM 370

LEADERSHIP GALA

Attire: cocktail/semi-formal
WHEN: 7 - 11 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 243

FIU SOCCER



Vs. Wisconsin.
WHEN: 7 - 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: FIU Soccer Stadium

SATURDAY, SEPT. 11

FIU FOOTBALL



Panthers host Rutgers Scarlet Knights in the season opener.
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free with Panther ID
WHERE: FIU Stadium

FIU VOLLEYBALL



@ Hurricane Invitational:
Vs. San Francisco
WHEN: 12:30 p.m.

Vs. Miami
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: BankUnited Center, Coral Gables

First Aid, CPR and AED certification
Provided by the Rec Center.

WHEN: 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
WHERE: Rec Center
CONTACT: eryl@fiu.edu

VICTIMIZATION EDUCATION TRAINING

For those interested in educating their peers. For more info, contact: WORD0001@fiu.edu
WHEN: 5 a.m. - 9 p.m.
WHERE: UHSC 230

BEACH DAY

Join International Students Club for a day in SoBe.
WHEN: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$4 fee for carpooling
CONTACT: isc.fiu@gmail.com

SUNDAY, SEPT. 12

FALL FOR THE ARTS



Come celebrate the kick-off of the arts season!
WHEN: 12 - 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Adrienne Arsht Center, 1300 Biscayne Blvd.

JUSTIN KRAMON @ BOOKS & BOOKS

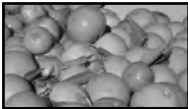


Meet the author of *Finny*.
WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: 265 Aragon Ave.

FIU SOCCER

Vs. Georgia State.
WHEN: 1 - 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free with Panther ID
WHERE: FIU Soccer Stadium

LINCOLN ROAD FARMERS MARKET



WHEN: 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Lincoln Road, between Washington and Meridian Aves.

Write to calendar@fiusm.com to have your event featured!

Online fees pricey and discouraging

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ
Contributing Writer

Online classes continue to grow in popularity and the University continues to mistakenly charge for them.

In recent years thousands of students have opted to take their classes online instead of showing up on campus.

According to Deanne Butchey, FIU's Assistant Dean, over 44,000 students have enrolled in online classes at FIU since the university adopted the online class style in 2001.

FIU currently charges a fee of \$199 on top of regular tuition to take a class online instead of in a classroom on campus.

Furthering your education through the web is a convenient alternative for countless reasons but such a large fee isn't necessary.

With a selection of over 100 mostly undergraduate classes, it can be enticing to lighten the commute to campus or never have to worry about being late to class.

Yet the fee is likely to discourage many students from taking the plunge into a web

based learning experience.

At nearly \$200 the fee appears exaggerated and comparing it to other state campuses only reinforces this. Universities such as FSU and UM have no extra cost for choosing to take a class online instead of on campus while UF charges about \$100 and MDC only \$55.

The fees could be in place to recoup the cost of converting a class to web based format, teacher training and course development, or even regain from previous budget cuts.

With class sizes up to twice as large as on-campus classes, most grading done automatically and no physical attendance on campus, it seems the university would be saving money using online classes after the initial conversion investment.

Other campuses have found ways to deal with their costs while maintaining a lower or nonexistent online class fee. FIU's budget management should revise their strategies if they want the online class trend to keep growing, such as using the newly implemented "Tech

Fee" for these purposes.

Those who pass on the online learning trend won't have to deal with the lack of face time with teachers, flimsy

Universities such as FSU and UM have no extra cost for choosing to take a class online instead of on campus while UF charges about \$100 and MDC only \$55.

structure that online classes offer, and lack of interaction with other students.

Yet, it seems counter intuitive that a learning system with less structure and interaction would actually cost the student more.

Still, it is easy to see why taking at least some classes online is convenient and bene-

ficial to students.

With tuition as high as it's ever been it seems unfair to place the burden so heavily on students who may have no other choice than to take their classes online due to schedule conflicts or class availability.

Every university student knows how frustrating it can be when necessary classes are full or not available until next semester, or even next year.

The registration process used by FIU further impedes students without early registration. Students may attempt to register for a class at the first available opportunity only to discover the class is full, and find the online version to be their only other option.

Online class fees, as they are now, can put distance learning students at a financial disadvantage and deter students from attempting an online class entirely.

FIU's budget management should find other ways to make up their online costs, as the fee isn't justified, unnecessary, and causing the University harm by missing an opportunity to help deal with overcrowding.

SAY WHAT?

Is parking at FIU adequate? Has Parking Garage 5 made parking easier for you?



"I don't move my car during the week because parking is terrible. I leave it at my dorm.

I guess [PG 5] has [helped], but we need more. They should make

a garage for dorms. FIU has not done enough for parking."

-Alvin Gresham, Freshman, Dietetics and Nutrition



"When I first started in '05, [parking] was fantastic. The past year parking was horrible. There were not as many students back then.

With PG 5, parking is the same as it was with the lot before. I think every garage should have been made taller. I don't want them to rush building parking and have structural issues like before with the Red Garage."

-Crystal Shaefer, Junior



"I have to drive around a half hour to find parking, especially in the Blue and Gold garages. I just figured out today that the Panther Garage is most of the time empty in the evenings.

I heard they opened up a lot of things in PG 5. PG 5 should not have included classrooms or restaurants, but instead, parking spaces."

-Elizabeth Mejia Freshman, Business

-Compiled by Christopher Diaz and Jasmyn Elliott.

NEW SECURITY HOLE DISCOVERED



JASMYN ELLIOTT/THE BEACON

PUBLIC REASON

A radio show gathering opinions and promoting discussion every Tuesday and Thursday at 1 p.m. on Radiate FM, 95.3 in Miami, 88.1 in Homestead, 96.9 in North Miami and streaming live on FIUSM.com.

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

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Got a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts in to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 240 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.



Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Gathering Opinions,
Promoting Discussion

96.9 FM, 88.1 FM, 96.9 FM and streaming live on FIUSM.com

UNITED STATES

Minister set on 9/11 Quran burn

Terry Jones, pastor of a church in Gainesville that supports anti-Islam philosophy, said on Sept. 8 he was determined to burn copies of the Quran on Sept. 11.

UNITED STATES

US ranked 5th in charity index

In a first of its kind survey ranking 153 nations on the willingness of their citizens to donate time and money to charity, the United States tied for fifth.

BAHAMAS

Remains found in shark’s belly

Bahamian police said on Sept. 7 they are trying to identify human remains found in the stomach of a tiger shark caught off the Exuma islands.

SCHOOL OF HOSPITALTY AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT

Wine & Food Festival to be held in Tianjin, China

JACQUES ROZIER
Contributing Writer

The relationship between the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management and China continues to grow as the country will host a Wine & Food Festival on September 18.

The event, traditionally held in Miami for several days, will be a one-day event in Tianjin, China to benefit HTM’s China Program.

Tianjin is a port city located approximately an hour and a half southeast of Beijing and is the third largest city in China. The festival will take place in the Italian Style Town, a district of Tianjin.

HTM and the Tianjin University of Commerce already share a joint program called the Marriott Tianjin University FIU Hospitality and Tourism Management China Program.

“It is Dean Remington’s vision to offer our students in Tianjin, China a similar experience to our Miami students in

running a festival,” said Mohammad Qureshi, assistant dean of facilities and administration for HTM, in an interview with *The Beacon*.

According to Joan Remington, interim dean of HTM, if this event is successful, HTM will move the venue to a waterfront location: similar to the South Beach Wine and Food Festival. The proceeds from the festival will benefit the students at TUCFIU.

The Chinese government was interested in training Chinese nationals in western hospitality management in response to their selection as the host city for the 2008 Olympics. The Chinese government had already allotted funds to Tianjin for education purposes. Jinlin Xhao, currently director of Graduate Programs, took Joseph West, then dean of HTM, to speak at a conference in China. Wang Wen Jun, assistant dean for HTM’s

China Program, was present at the conference and learned of the University from West.

Later on, David Grossman, the University’s Director of China Programs, and Lu Peng met with Chinese officials about their interest in western hospitality. They later returned to the University and presented a proposal on creating a school in China

to West and Remington, then assistant dean of academics.

West and Remington viewed the proposal before West traveled to Tianjin and

meet with their officials, according to Remington.

“China is very [subjective] and it’s very relationship oriented,” Remington told *The Beacon*. She said these two factors were key in forming a bond between West and Tianjin’s vice mayor.

In the end, Tianjin chose the University’s program as a close match to the goals they wanted to accomplish. The partnership formed the TUCFIU, which is the University’s first school in China. Xhao, working for Aramark at the time, trained 7000 Chinese nationals for the 2008 Olympics, 500 of which were students of TUCFIU.

The school is the only foreign hospitality management education sanctioned by the Chinese Ministry of Education. It is a self-supporting program,

meaning no Florida funds supply their school, but its accreditation comes from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Remington noted that the campus is indicative of the strong commitment between the University and Tianjin.

The campus is a permanent 450,000 square foot facility with dorms, classrooms, kitchen, wine labs, an auditorium, two 100-seat computer labs and more. The first class entered in the fall of 2006 with less than 40 students.

The sponsors for the 2010 China Wine & Food Festival Tianjin are various international and Chinese national companies, including the Tourism Bureau of Tianjin.

The Westin Hotel will be the headquarters for the event. Diageo, out of London, Torres Wines, Tsingtao Beer and other local restaurants will be on hand. Electrolux, a Swedish appliance manufacturer, will be designing a model kitchen for the event as well.

For more information on the China Wine & Food Festival Tianjin, visit chinawineandfoodfest.com.

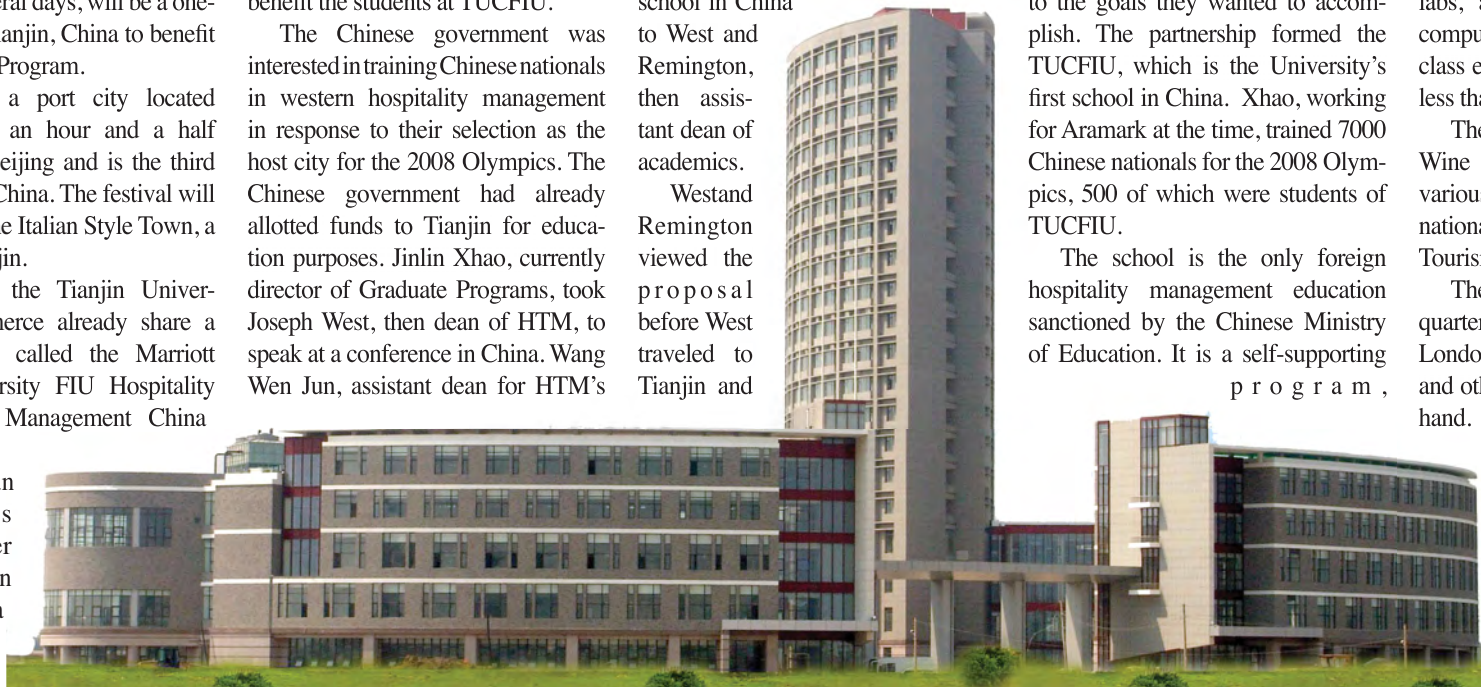


ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF DALE GOMEZ

The University’s Tianjin Center in Tianjin, China will host its own Wine & Food Festival

BLEEKER MEETS BISCAYNE

When in pursuit of weekend thrills, North as good as South

There’s always plenty to do in South Florida, but on a long weekend the possibilities to have fun, get some sun and a of course get a little crazy are endless.

It was Labor Day weekend and I planned out an unforgettable escape with or without the rain. Friday night finally came and on the agenda for the night was the always deliciously enticing Miami Spice Convention followed by some spoken word at Literary Café. Both the restaurant and venue were of course, in North Miami.



SANDY ZAPATA

Sra. Martinez is located at 4000 NE 2nd Ave., Miami. Let me try and explain the beauty and savings that Miami Spice Convention brings to local restaurants.

It is a monthly convention that offers different restaurants all throughout Miami to open their doors to a wider array of food lovers with three course meals on a \$22 lunch and \$35 dinner budget. The pricing is heftier than Taco Bell or McDonald’s, but save up those extra bucks and savor some of Miami’s best restaurants, especially in North Miami.

Sra. Martinez was an amazing experience. I got all dolled up, got the girls together and heels ready to strut. The décor and atmosphere was Midtown Manhattan all the way. With outside seating and a two-floor seating plan inside, this was definitely a girl’s night kind of Friday.

After the delicious coconut chili calamari and torrijas for dinner, we were off to chill, have some drinks and listen to soul enchanting spoken word at Literary Café and Poetry Lounge, located at 933 NE 125 St., in North Miami.

Fridays are called Jazzy Fridays where local and special guest musicians perform as well as spoken word artists from around and out of town. For a girl’s night and opener to a crazy weekend this is just what I needed. With a \$5 cover and free appetizers before 8:30 p.m., the girls and I had our share of laughs with the hilarious and raunchy pieces performed as well as feel good and flirtatious dancing to the grooves of the jazz musicians who played that night. Not a bad way to start off the rainy weekend.

Unlike the hectic traffic, overpriced parking, drunk locals and tourists that South Beach always has to offer, North Miami is just as good, if not better. 16th

and Collins is the perfect spot for just that.

Still keeping the driving to a minimum because of the cop frenzy that usually occurs during these long holiday weekends, the girls and I headed out to Miami Prime, located at 16395 Biscayne Blvd, in North Miami Beach. Now I’m not going to lie, I hate paying a \$20 cover fee plus not having drink or bottle specials inside crowded clubs, but I was willing to pregame before hand and lose out on my \$20 for this weekend.

Here is my club disclaimer to all college students: prices for drinks in any club are always over-priced and watered down. This only applies to those who are legal to drink of course.

Miami Prime Grill is a sports bar by day so the club and dancing was kind of hard in a tight space equipped to eat and watch a game. The theme for the night was all white attire and dress to impress. Here’s another disclaimer: never wear white to any bar - someone is bound to spill a drink on you and mess up your outfit.

So even though the weekend was longer than most and the parties were endless, don’t forget that on every long holiday weekend, South Miami is overcrowded, overpriced, and North Miami is a better alternative with as much chaos and recklessness to take advantage of.

Bleeker Meets Biscayne is a bi-weekly column published every other Friday. The columnist pays her own way and receives no special treatment.

BBC BUS TO FIU VS RUTGERS FOOTBALL GAME

Depart to Stadium

- Time: 4 p.m. & 5 p.m.
- When: 09/11/10
- Where: BBC Library

Leave from Stadium

- Time: 20 minutes after game ends
- Where: FIU Stadium

Students can sign up in Housing or Campus Life.