

1-10-2011

The Beacon, January 10, 2011

Florida International University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper

Recommended Citation

Florida International University, "The Beacon, January 10, 2011" (2011). *The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon)*. 684.
https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper/684

This work is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections and University Archives at FIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon) by an authorized administrator of FIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact dcc@fiu.edu.



MEXICO

Border city has record drug killings in '10

The embattled border city of Ciudad Juarez had its bloodiest year ever with 3,111 people killed in drug violence, an official said Saturday.



CHILE

Magnitude-7.1 quake shakes Chile

A magnitude-7.1 earthquake shook southern Chile, prompting tens of thousands to flee the coast for higher ground amid fears it could generate a tsunami.



RUSSIA

500 seamen stranded in icebound ships

A Russian icebreaker labored Monday through howling winds and heavy snow as it tried to reach icebound ships in the Sea of Okhotsk where more than 500 seamen are trapped.

University smoking ban in full effect

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
News Director

Students returning to the University for the Spring semester will be greeted by signs ringing in the start of a new year with a tobacco and smoke free campus.

The signs, which encourage visitors, faculty and students to “breathe easy,” are part of the University’s measures to ensure that word of the new Tobacco and Smoke Free Campus initiative gets out.

The initiative, approved by the University Board of Trustees during a Sept. 24 meeting, bans the use of all tobacco related products on University campuses effective Jan 1, 2011, making FIU the first institution in South Florida to be completely smoke free.

This initiative also makes FIU the second University in the state of Florida to implement a smoke-free policy. The University of Florida was the first to go smoke free in July, 2010.

“This initiative is also intended to foster greater respect for one another, improve the health of the FIU family

and align with FIU’s growing commitment to environmental sustainability,” said Vice President of Student Affairs Rosa Jones in an email to the University community.

With this new policy, smoking will be banned on all campus recreational areas, dorms, parking lots, garages and inside parked cars on campus.

During the initial six-month period of the smoke free campus initiative, the policy will be enforced socially. Those found smoking will be asked to stop and palm cards with pertinent information on why the University has gone tobacco and smoke free will be offered for distribution.

“Anyone violating the policy should be reminded of the regulation and asked to dispose of the product in a courteous manner,” said Jones.

According to Jones, continuing violations after the initial six-month period will result in judicial conduct action following the University Student Code of Conduct; however, punishment for continuous violations has not been clearly defined.

The University recognizes



BEN GUZMAN/THE BEACON

that some people may need assistance with managing their dependance on cigarettes and other tobacco products and as such, they are using the initial six-month period of the policy as a transition period where:

“employees and supervisors will be educated on how to provide support to their colleagues, consult with those who continue to smoke on campus and direct

SMOKING, page 2

Wittels charged with rape in Bahamas

JOEL DELGADO
Sports Director

FIU infielder Garrett Wittels, along with a group of friends, were arrested and charged in the Bahamas with the rape of two 17-year-old girls last week, according to *The Miami Herald*.

Wittels and two others, Jonathan Oberti and Robert Rothschild, were charged with raping the girls. They have admitted to having sex with the girls but contest that it was consensual.

The three men involved with the incident, which took place at the Atlantis Resort and Casino, were released on \$10,000 bond on Dec. 23 following a court hearing. A preliminary is set for April 18.

“Anyone can accuse anyone of anything at any time,” Michael Wittels, Garrett’s father, told *The Miami Herald* Monday morning. “He’s not doing well, obviously. He’s blown away. He’s devastated that someone would accuse him of this.”

FIU Athletics currently has no comment as they try to find out more on the incident, which has only recently been brought to their attention.

In addition to Wittels, Oberti and Rothschild, Steven Tromberg and David Shapiro were also arrested on Dec. 20 after a father of one the girls called the police after they returned to their own hotel room.

All the men are from Miami. Tromberg and Shapiro were released after police questioning and returned to Miami-Dade County shortly thereafter.

Michael Wittels went on to say that the men had met the two girls at the casino and that the girls had followed all of them to a private party willingly.

In the Bahamas, the legal drinking age is 18 and the age of legal consent for sex is 16. The rape charges come from the girls having been drinking and the belief is that they may have been too impaired to be able to consent to having sexual

WITTELS, page 4

Min Yao stepping down from position

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Asst. News Director

After serving as the University’s Vice President of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer for four years, Dr. Min Yao will be leaving FIU for a similar position at the University of California, San Diego.

The decision to leave the University, according to Dr. Yao, stemmed from a desire to be closer to family and friends in the California region.

“I’ve personally enjoyed the support and work I’ve done with the FIU community, but my wife and I are West coast people, although I have enjoyed Miami. This move is mostly driven by my family connections over there,” said Dr. Yao.

Since taking office in 2007, Yao has steered FIU to a leading position among Florida public universities in regards to information technology.

Through his leadership FIU became the first Florida public university to implement a consolidated email system for all faculty and staff on MS Exchange 2007 email platform and MS Exchange 2010 email system with unified messaging.

The University was also the first to partner with Google to deliver student email service—an endeavor that Dr. Yao credits to student support.

“Students were not using the previous email system because they had little storage. At the time we negotiated with Google and Microsoft, and after working together with student government, we went with Google which still offers email service to us free of charge and advertisement,” said Dr. Yao on the email service, which saves \$1.5 million every year.

Aside from these accomplishments, Yao considers the University’s integration of all passwords into one, his greatest achievement and primary goal.

“When I first came on board, that was the number one concern from faculty, who would come to me confused with six or seven passwords written on note paper. And after years, we’ve integrated all of them into one,” stated Dr. Yao.

In a memorandum released by Douglas Wartzok, provost and executive vice president, he attributed the University’s “integrated voice and email system, smart phone access to an enterprise information system for

YAO, page 2



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

FIU infielder Garrett Wittels [above] was arrested and charged with rape in the Bahamas during the winter break.

NEWS FLASH

As press secretary steps down, White House hires new chief of staff

Politics Daily has confirmed White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs will step down next week, but he will remain active as a member of President Obama’s inner circle as the 2012 re-election campaign ramps up. Gibbs, 39, plans to hop on the paid speaking circuit, giving him a chance to make more money.

In similar news, President Barack Obama is hiring William Daley to be his chief of staff, a veteran political manager with Wall Street ties to direct an operation now steaming toward re-election.

Dead bird mystery deepens

It isn’t easy being a bird. Thousands of black-birds, confused by fireworks, crashed into homes, cars, and each other in central Arkansas on New Year’s Eve. Then 300 miles to the south in Louisiana, power lines likely killed about 450 birds, littering a highway near Baton Rouge.

It’s almost certainly a coincidence the events happened within days of each other, Louisiana’s state wildlife veterinarian Jim LaCour said Tuesday. To add to the mystery, 50-100 jackdaws, a bird species in the crow family, fell dead in central Sweden late Tuesday night. Mass bird deaths aren’t uncommon. The U.S. Geological Service’s website listed about 90 mass deaths of birds and other wildlife from June through Dec. 12.

Jobless claims rise, but positive trend intact

More Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week, but not enough to reverse a downward trend that suggests employers will accelerate hiring in the coming months. Applications remain slightly above the lowest level in two years.

The Labor Department said that applications rose by 18,000 to a seasonally adjusted 409,000 in the week ending Jan. 1. Even with the gains, the number of people applying for benefits was the threshold that signaled modest job growth. Still, economists say applications need to fall consistently to 375,000 or below to substantially bring down the unemployment rate.

– Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

Wartzok announces Robert Grillo as interim chief information officer

YAO, page 1

faculty and students, free downloads of MS Office and anti virus software for students, and wireless access in all 210 general purpose classrooms,” to Dr. Yao’s leadership of more than 200 IT professionals.

As he leaves his position at the end of January, Dr. Yao expressed conflicted emotions over his departure from the FIU community.

“After 4 years, I have worked with faculty and staff to make our University a leading establishment among Florida universities. And I owe thanks

to the school, and will definitely leave here with mixed feelings,” said Yao.

Wartzok announced the selection of Robert Grillo, assistant vice president for the division of information technology as the interim CIO and vice president.

“Working with Dr. Yao has been a great experience. He brought leadership that helped the University technologically advance,” said Grillo of his experience working with Dr. Yao.

Grillo has been serving his latest position for the past three years, and is primarily responsible for managing PantherSoft, the University’s Call

Center and Field Team, and Software Licensing/Hardware Repair units.

On Jan. 31, Grillo will take over for Dr. Yao and plans to work towards the five year plan set forth by the department’s division. The upcoming interim CIO is optimistic about his new role in the department and a continuation of the work ethic set forth by Yao and his position.

“I am looking forward to the challenges and experiences ahead. For me, it’s a great opportunity to help the University continue advancing in its technological endeavors,” said Grillo.

BREAKFAST IN THE PARK



LINDA LEE/THE BEACON

Artist Enrique Martinez Celaya lectures at the Frost Art Museum at their event Breakfast in the Park as a part of the Art Basel Miami Beach. Celaya is an artist of diverse backgrounds; he has degrees in Applied Physics and Quantum Electronics. He is also an established author and poet.

THE BEACON

E-BOARD AND PRODUCTION STAFF

<u>EDITOR IN CHIEF</u> JORGE VALENS	<u>ASST. OPINION EDITOR</u> NEDA GHOMESHI
<u>BBC MANAGING EDITOR</u> PHILIPPE BUTEAU	<u>PHOTO EDITOR</u> ESRA ERDOGAN
<u>PRODUCTION MANAGER/COPY CHIEF</u> CHRIS TOWERS	<u>BBC PHOTO EDITOR</u> ELIZABETH BRUNA PINEDA
<u>NEWS DIRECTOR</u> GABRIEL ARRARÁS	<u>COPY EDITORS</u> JOHN MELECIO, GISELLE RODRIGUEZ, DANIELA PEDROZA
<u>ASST. NEWS DIRECTORS</u> ALEXANDRA CAMEJO LIANAMAR DÁVILA SANABRIA	<u>PAGE DESIGNERS</u> LAURA ALONSO, MICHAEL COSTA, KAYLIN KONCHAK
<u>SPORTS DIRECTOR</u> JOEL DELGADO	<u>RECRUITMENT DIRECTOR</u> VICTORIA LYNCH
<u>ASST. SPORTS DIRECTORS</u> RICO ALBARRACIN IGOR MELLO	<u>BUSINESS MANAGER</u> SAMANTHA GARCIA
<u>LIFE! EDITOR</u> ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ	<u>DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA</u> ROBERT JAROSS
<u>ASST. LIFE EDITOR</u> ALBA TOWERS	<u>ASST. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA</u> ALFRED SOTO
<u>OPINION EDITOR</u> JASMYN ELLIOTT	



CONTACT INFORMATION

Modesto Maidique Campus:
GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 348-2709
news@fiusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus
WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 919-4722
bbc@fiusm.com

Fax:
(305) 348-2712

Editor-in-Chief:
(305) 348-1580
jorge.valens@fiusm.com

Advertising:
(305) 348-6994
advertising@fiusm.com

The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by student government.

Help to be offered for those wanting to quit smoking

SMOKING, page 1

them to specific available sources,” according to a letter to the University community from Jaffus Hardrick, vice president of the Division of Human Resources.

University Health Services and the Division of Human Resources will also be offering “brown bag sessions” to educate the University community on how to manage or stop dependency on tobacco products.

“We’re not telling people that you have to quit your tobacco habit, we’re just saying that when you’re on campus you cannot use tobacco products,” Mariella Gabaroni, assis-

tant director of University Health Services and chair of the Smoke-Free Tobacco-Free Steering Committee told Student Media during an interview in late October. “However, if you do want to quit, we have sessions and programs available so that you can manage that habit.”

Since October the University has launched one-on-one consultations, a page on the UHS website and sporadic University-wide emails to alert the University community of the policy and ensure that those who want help with their smoking habits can get it.

Smoke-Free Tobacco-Free Official Panthers Partners, or STOPP, has also met with the deans of

several schools and colleges in order to spread information about the new policy.

“Now that the regulation has passed, we want to give them information about all of the services offered by [UHS] and also how we can get this information to their students,” said Daniel Estape, a member of STOPP and a public health masters student, in an interview with Student Media in October.

According to the American Nonsmokers’ Rights Foundation, FIU has joined more than 400 U.S. colleges and universities that have banned the use of tobacco products.

To learn more about the resources and assistance available, visit: <http://tobacco-free.fiu.edu>

University and State Farm join forces to support literacy

MIRIAM ARIAS
Staff Writer

The University and State Farm have joined forces to support literacy education at the College of Business through a \$200,000 grant which will to improving its financial literacy lab.

“This is a unique four-year partnership between State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co. and Florida International University to support financial literacy education,” said Jose Soto, public affairs specialist for State Farm.

In addition, a one-year \$20,000 grant will go to support various University initiatives to provide mentorship, scholarships and leadership training for students.

The grants will be recognized with the renaming of the Capital Markets Lab to the State Farm Financial Literacy Lab. This lab is directed at enabling students to learn about capital market activities

as well as resources used by members of local businesses.

The relationship between State Farm and the University will go beyond a monetary contribution, with State Farm associates mentoring and ultimately working together with students in order to promote financial literacy projects benefiting young adults and families all over South Florida.

“We are very excited to be a part of the FIU community. The sponsorship of the State Farm Financial Literacy Lab represents an investment in the lives and futures of our young adults,” said State Farm Operations Vice President and Chair of the State Farm Education Initiative in Florida, Cheryl Herrin.

Over the past 22 years, State Farm and its employees have contributed to the growth of the University through financial support for a wide range of programs including: BBC in Bloom, the Student Leadership Summit and Upward

Bound.

FIU’s Upward Bound is a program for low income first generation high school students and those who enroll are presented with teen auto safety, auto insurance and financial literacy workshops.

“Part of our mission at State Farm is to help people realize their dreams. Much of that begins with the basic financial skills which many teens and young adults need to develop,” said Jim Thompson, State Farm senior vice president and head of the company’s Florida activities.

According to Soto, State Farm chose to award their grants to FIU because of the University’s accomplishments in serving a diverse community of over 40,000 students and 160,000 alumni.

“This partnership is an investment in the future of financial literacy and education, reflecting our dedication to promote diversity,” said Soto.

New courses being offered

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
News Director

As part of the University’s Global Learning for Global Citizenship initiative, eleven global learning foundations courses will be offered in Spring 2011.

Starting this academic year, first time freshman will be required to take two global learning courses prior to graduation, according to Stephanie Doscher, associate director of the Office of Global Learning Initiatives. One of the two global learning foundations courses will be part of the University Core Curriculum and the other will be a upper division global learning course as part of their major’s

plan of study.

During the Fall 2010 semester, the University launched the first phase of this new global learning graduation requirement. This requirement will apply to all incoming students beginning in Fall 2011.

Among the eleven courses offered this Spring are five signature courses specifically developed for the Global Learning for Global Citizenship initiative. They include: Global Supply Chains and Logistics (IDS 3163), International Nutrition, Public Health and Economic Development (IDS 3189), Our Coastal Environment From the Bay to the World (IDS 3214), How We Know What

We Know (IDS 3309) and Artistic Expression in a Global Society (IDS 3336).

The six other courses being offered in the Spring are existing UCC courses that have been revised to include global learning components. These include: World Ethnographies (ANT 3212), Introduction to East Asia (ASN 3410), Intercultural/Interracial Communication (COM 3461), Introduction to Labor Studies (LBS 3001), Religion: Analysis and Interpretation (REL 2011) and Studies in World Religions (REL 3308).

All global learning courses are reviewed and approved by members of the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committees.

WINTER WONDERLAND



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

The Children’s Creative Learning Center hosting their annual Winter Festival on Dec 3. The Center invites a group of 20 children from the Everglades Migrant Child Development Program to play in snow, games and music.

BORN LEADERS AREN'T ACTUALLY BORN THAT WAY.

We like to think they're a product of their environment. Spend time in the U.S. Coast Guard and you'll see why. Through the College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative, you earn a monthly salary of up to \$2,200 and have your last two years of tuition, fees and books paid for. You can also receive 30 days' annual paid vacation and a guaranteed job after graduation. Learn more and become more, visit gocoastguard.com/cspi or call 1-877-NOW-USCG to speak with a Coast Guard Recruiter.

COAST GUARD
BORN READY
877.NOW.USCG | GOCOASTGUARD.COM/CSPI

LOOKING BACK

PICTURE PERFECT ENDING

FIU wins first bowl game

IGOR MELLO
Asst. Sports Director

With students gone for winter break, FIU football made history. Not only did they clinch a bowl berth and a winning season for the first time in school history, they conquered a bowl opponent in stunning fashion.

On Dec. 26 Mario Cristobal's Golden Panthers overcame the Toledo Rockets (8-5, 7-1 MAC) 34-32 with a 34-yard field goal by Jack Griffin as time expired. But there was more than just Griffin's kick that sealed the victory for FIU (7-6, 6-2 Sun Belt).

Cristobal's team shaved a 24-7 deficit sparked by an 89-yard kickoff return by none other than all-purpose specialist, T.Y. Hilton. Hilton's kick return led the way for a 24-point run by the Golden Panthers to give them a comfortable 31-24 lead with 3:18 remaining in the fourth quarter.

The Rockets then made a comeback of their own.

Toledo quarterback Terrance Owens led the Rockets to a 9-play 62-yard drive capped by a 14-yard quarterback scramble from Owens himself which cut FIU's lead to one. Instead of electing to kick an extra



CARLOS OSORIO/AP IMAGES

Brad Serini [center] holds the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl trophy as the Golden Panthers won their first bowl game in their first postseason appearance on Dec. 26 in Detroit's Ford Field.

point to tie the game and which would have possibly taken the game to overtime, Toledo coach Tim Beckman opted to go for two.

Owens completed a pass to Eric Page for the two-point conversion, giving the Rockets a 32-31 lead with 1:14 remaining.

A 22-yard return by Greg Ellingson on a squib kick gave the Golden Panthers excellent field position at their own 48-yard line. But after getting sacked once and rushed to throw an incomplete pass, Wesley Carroll and FIU were down to their last down.

Fourth and 17.

Like numerous of times throughout the season when the game was on the line in the fourth quarter, the man wearing the number four jersey made a play.

Carroll, who had Hilton lined up on the left side, completed a

short 8-yard pass to Jacob Younger to the inside right side. A stumbling Younger tossed it backwards to Hilton, who recovered the lateral pass at the FIU 45-yard line. Hilton still needed 13 yards to get a first as tailback Darriet Perry crept up from the backfield to right side to become Hilton's lead blocker.

Hilton worked his way near the right sideline and as he neared the first down marker, the Sun Belt Conference player of the year tight-roped the last four yards to give FIU a first down by inches.

That conversion paved the way for FIU's first bowl victory.

According to Cristobal, the name of that fourth down play is, "Boise" which was named after Boise State's frantic hook-and-lateral play in their 2007 upset against Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl.

According to Hilton, who was

named the player of the game, FIU runs that play every practice.

Hilton only caught three passes for 32 yards and a touchdown, but that 17-yard reception on a fourth down and the 89-yard kick return were monumental towards FIU's historical victory.

MEN'S HOOPS START CONFERENCE PLAY WITH FERGUSON

Four-star recruit Dominique Ferguson made his debut against FAMU on Dec. 22. His presence helped the Golden Panthers overcome a five-game losing streak that night as FIU defeated the Rattlers 87-82.

Ferguson was ruled ineligible for the first ten games.

Since his return, the 6-9, 210-pound freshman out of Indianap-

RECAP, page 5

FIU sports reaches turning point in 2010

Prior to the conclusion of the first bowl game in Golden Panther history, Jack Griffin would not have been one of the names expected to leave a lasting image that may have defined an entire year for athletics and provide the sweetest ending in the history FIU's young football program.

But when Griffin, a sophomore kicker, nailed the game-winning field goal as time expired to help lift the Golden Panthers to a thrilling bowl game victory over the Toledo Rockets in Detroit, he did just that, putting the exclamation point on what was a monumental year.

If one didn't know any better, they would think that moment was an exciting conclusion ripped from a typical Disney-produced sports movie. The Golden Panthers had to overcome a lot of adversity and heartbreak, including the death of teammate Kendall Berry whom they honored throughout much of this season, to reach a point of victory and exhilaration in what is one of the biggest turnarounds in collegiate athletics.

Mario Cristobal and his troops, predicted early on to finished buried somewhere near the middle-of-the-pack in the Sun Belt Conference, marched to a conference championship with some key performances and wins against teams there were expected to lose against.

But football was not the only program that basked in the lime-light over the past 12 months.

Earlier in 2010, Garrett Wittels captured the attention of the country as he inched closer and closer to shattering the NCAA hit streak record which has stood for over two decades. And as an added bonus, the Panthers rode a wave of momentum in the conference tournament and captured the Sun Belt crown.

And while they went a quick two-and-out during the Coral Gables regional, it was still the team's first regional berth since 2001.

LOOK BACK, page 5

GARRETT WITTELS

NCAA will let FIU field Wittels incident

WITTELS, page 1

intercourse that night. The girls have alleged that they do not remember what had happened that night.

Police ruled out that date-rape drugs were involved with the case when authorities reported on Dec. 27 that blood tests from the two girls revealed that they had only been drinking.

Bahamian attorney Wayne Munroe is representing all five friends in the case and told *The Miami Herald* that is "easy" to be arrested on the accusation of rape in the Bahamas and added that many of those charges should have not been filed in the

first place.

As a result, according to Monroe, there is a very high acquittal rate for rape charges in the Bahamas.

The athletic department was caught off guard by the accusations and was still looking to find any possible information on the incident when it came to light.

"We will continue to gather any possible information as it becomes available," FIU Athletic Director Pete Garcia said.

The NCAA has said that the University would handle any sanctions or suspensions involving Wittels and the baseball team. It is still unclear

“Anyone can accuse anyone of anything at any time. He’s not doing well, obviously... He’s devastated that someone would accuse him of this.”

Michael Wittels
Garrett Wittels' Father

what type of action the University plans to take concerning Wittels' availability to play this upcoming season.

Wittels, who finished last season with a 56-game hitting streak, is two games shy of tying the NCAA hit streak record of 58 games that was set by Robin

Ventura in 1987.

The baseball season begins for the Golden Panthers on Feb. 18 when they face Southeastern Louisiana in a three-game series at home. If available, Wittels would have the opportunity to break the current record at home.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Golden Panthers dealt seventh consecutive loss after buzzer beater

RICO ALBARRACIN
Asst. Sports Director

With 2.9 seconds remaining in the game and FIU leading Arkansas State 61-59, the Panthers were trying to prevent the shot that would lose them the game; The three-point shot.

But they were unable to stop the shot, as the Red Wolves pulled off a dramatic 62-61 victory on Jan. 5.

"We were trying to avoid any possible score at all cost," Rakia Rodgers said. "We should have been up by a lot more at that point. If it's a game where a 3 pointer is going to win the game, of course you don't want to give up a 3 pointer. That's where we erred."

The Panthers lost their seventh consecutive game on Jan 5. and have now lost nine of their last 10, having struggled out of the gate in conference play.

A key to the losing streak has been their inability to out-rebound their opponents.

Rodgers, who had a career high 26 points, spoke

about what the Panthers are working on in practice.

"We do a lot of work on rebounding and boxing out nowadays," Rodgers said. "Rebounding is an important aspect of the game. You're not gonna do well if you're constantly being out-rebounded by other teams."

Rodgers got started on the right foot, as she scored 12 of the Panthers first 14 points, keeping FIU close in the game. When asked about the hot start, she said it was all about Coach Russo's offense.

"It was the offense. Our coach uses an offense that utilizes our strengths," Rodgers said.

"We were running the offense well. Rakia was hot," Jerica Coley said. "In her position, she scored. She kept moving around. She kept us in the game."

While Rodgers kept FIU (5-11, 0-2 SBC) in the game, Jane Morrill was doing the same for the Red Wolves (9-7, 2-1 SBC) as she scored 10 points from off the bench in the first 11 minutes.

Both teams battled back and forth to gain a lead, as the Panthers gained their first lead of the game with a Coley layup for a 24-22 lead. The offense struggled for the rest of the half, as ASU went on a 7-2 run to finish the half with a 29-26 lead.

The Panthers came out in the second half firing, as both Rodgers and Fanni Hutlassa hit 3 point shots to go along with Finda Mansare's layup for a 34-32 lead.

The midpoint of the half saw the Panthers with a 47-40 lead, with control on the defensive side.

Some mis-communication on the offensive side of the ball led to the Red Wolves getting back into the game and even taking a 52-51 lead with a pair of Breanna Ellison free-throws.

Back and forth the teams went, as the Panthers held on to a 57-54. Both teams managed to score off jump shots to make it 59-56.

With 45 seconds to go, the Red Wolves Quinishia McDowell hit a three to tie

the game at 59. On the other end, Rodgers hit a jumper from the top of the key as the shot clock hit zero to give the Panthers a 61-59 lead with 15 seconds left.

The Red Wolves ran down the floor and put up two shots that were blocked by Maja Krajacic, as the referees called a jump ball which awarded the ball to ASU under their basket.

The Panthers double teamed Sherina Scott but left Jane Morrill open for a rainbow three pointer with 0.5 seconds to go. FIU could only inbound the ball as they fell 62-61.

"We didn't want to let them get the three," Coley said. "We doubled number 22 (Scott) and we made sure not to let her get the ball. We left Morrill open and she beat us."

Along with Rodgers 26 points and two steals, Coley chipped in 20 points of her own with two assists.

The Panthers will look to stop their current losing streak as they will host South Alabama on Jan. 8.

Ferguson adds immediate spark on offense

RECAP, page 4

olis has averaged 10 points and four rebounds in his first four games. Isiah Thomas' team is 3-1 since his debut.

The Golden Panthers also began their conference schedule on the road against Louisiana-Monroe on Jan. 2. FIU trailed most of the game until, Ferguson nailed consecutive three-pointers in a span of 40 seconds to cut FIU's deficit to four points.

Ferguson's three-pointers paved the way for Jeremy Allen's floater with 48 seconds remaining to give the Golden Panthers a 73-72 lead. Allen's game-winning shot gave FIU their first lead of the night and their first conference victory of the season.

WOMEN'S HOOPS FALLS IN THE SUN AND FUN CLASSIC

The winter break was not kind to the Golden Panthers women's hoops team. Cindy Russo's team has currently lost nine out of its last ten games and is sitting on a seven-game losing streak.

FIU played host to the Sun and Fun Classic on Dec. 29-30 as they fell short to (eventual Sun and Fun champions) Marquette 73-67 and to Georgia 70-65. During the tournament freshman Jerica Coley led the Golden Panthers with 18 points against Marquette and 20 points against the Georgia Bulldogs. Coley's performance coming off the bench gave her All-Tournament team honors.

The Golden Panthers opened up conference play with the debut of forward Elisa Carey, who had knee-surgery during the off-season and missed the first 14 games of the season.

Carey's 10-point effort was not enough as Louisiana-Monroe up-ended FIU 56-42 on Jan. 2.

New year filled with many questions, but also potential

LOOK BACK, page 4

CAPTURING THE SPOTLIGHT

What 2010 gave the Golden Panthers in a number of different areas was something tangible to point to in terms of success. The former talk of "moral victories" have come to an end. The lowered expectations have also made an exit as barriers were being broken.

The steady rise of national attention reached a new high as a new decade was ushered in. The Little Caesars Pizza Bowl, the first postseason appearance for the Golden Panthers, was aired on ESPN and was the featured event of the evening after a Sunday Night Football game was postponed for the night.

ESPN was also all over Wittels's run at history and will likely be around again in 2011 when he steps up to the plate to try and break Robin Ventura's long-standing record.

And with Isiah Thomas at the helm of the men's basketball program, buzz seems to be the norm as rumors swirled during the summer whether or not he would be able to take a second job as a consultant for the Knicks.

It is a rare sight when the Golden Panthers basketball was the epicenter of national coverage in the dead summer months, even when the speculation surrounding the situation brought a somewhat critical reception from fans and analysts.

Regardless, the Golden Panthers had seen more national attention this year alone than ever before. And for the first time, most of that coverage was that of success rather than of embarrassment.

QUESTIONS AND PROMISE

Heading into a brand new year, the expectations will be raised and many questions have begun to already circulate in what could be a perplexing year for FIU athletics.

What will come of Wittels after he was reports of being charged with rape in the Bahamas surfaced in the waning days of 2010 will undoubtedly wind up being one of the most followed storylines in the coming months around campus.

His status on the playing field, as well as his own future off of it, remains murky and unclear.


On the gridiron, whispers and murmurs have made their way to the surface that standout receiver T.Y. Hilton may throw his hat into the NFL Draft and forgo his senior season at FIU. Despite the depth at the wide receiver position, losing Hilton would be a big loss for a team looking to repeat as conference champions this upcoming season.

But despite the question marks, there is still much promise as men's basketball continues to show improvements with the addition of new talent brought in by Thomas.


Mario Cristobal and his coaching staff appear to be remaining intact and are hitting the recruiting trail hard in hopes of reeling in another signature signing class this season to complement his returning starters for next season.

If one thing is certain, however, it is that 2010 will likely be considered the turning point in the years to come and the beginning of something special.

The foundation has been firmly set. Now it is time for the athletic administration to




BUY YOUR TEXTBOOKS ONLINE
and \$AVE MONEY!



**LARGE SELECTION
OF NEW & USED
TEXTBOOKS!
LOW PRICES!**

**TAKE AN
ADDITIONAL
\$5 OFF*
WHEN YOU
SPEND \$30**

**USE COUPON
CODE: SAVE5**



phatcampus.com

Terms and conditions: *Just enter coupon code Save5 at checkout. Offer expires 1/31/2011. Order total, excluding shipping charges and taxes, must be \$30 or greater. This offer is valid only for a one-time purchase and cannot be combined with any other promotion or discount. Offer revocable without notice.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Golden Panthers hang on to defeat Arkansas State

JONATHAN RAMOS
Senior Staff Writer

After gaining a 54-41 lead with 15:12 cleft in the second half against Askansas State, FIU seemed on its way to cruising to their second conference victory in a row to open Sun Belt play.

All of that was erased when the game was tied at 61-61 with under seven minutes remaining, cleaning the slate for a dramatic finish. And Marvin Roberts was ready to meet the challenge.

The senior forward scored eight points down the stretch after ASU tied it, including six clutch free throws and an alley-opp dunk from Phil Gary Jr. to help FIU (7-7, 2-0 SBC) seal a 75-70 win on Jan. 6 at the U.S Century Bank Arena.

“I like the way we’re playing. Good things are happening for us,” FIU head coach Isiah Thomas said. “We were losing some close games early, but now were starting to win these close games, and that’s a good thing.”

Roberts’ emergence down the stretch was key for the Golden Panthers victory.

“I think it was big for him and it was big for our team,” Thomas said. “I’ve always told him that if he wants to be a go-to player, a go-to player is a guy that at the end of the game doesn’t turn the ball over, he can create his own shot, and when he gets fouled, can go to the foul line and make a free throw.”

Roberts enetered the game shooting 32 percent from the floor and 68 percent from the foul line, averaging over five points less per game than he did in 2009-10. But he found his rhythm at an opportune time for FIU, and Thomas is pleased with his contri-

butions throughout the season, despite the early shortcomings in offensive efficiency.

“Marvin has been a rock for us. He’s been our leader, he’s been the guy that keeps bringing everybody together,” Thomas said. “He’s probably had to make the biggest adjustment into his game because he’s basically playing with three new players out on the floor. Dominique [Ferguson] takes up some room, Eric [Frederick] takes up some room, and now you got Jeremy [Allen] starting to emerge. We have a couple of guys right who are shooting the ball well playing well and Marvin has done a good job of sacrificing.”

Roberts added that he has “been trying to boost my confidence every game” and he is becoming more comfortable sharing the load he carried last season.

Roberts finished the game with 17 points, 13 in the second half, including 9-of-10 shooting from the line.

Frederick tied for the team lead in scoring with 17, and Ferguson had his best game since he became eligible to play four games ago, with 15 points and seven rebounds, both season bests.

“We learn something new about him every game,” Thomas said of Ferguson.

The Panthers did struggle to keep the Red Wolves off the glass, however, specifically Martavius Adams, who snatched 14 boards en route to 20 points on the night. ASU was able to win the battle on the glass 43-31 after FIU was only trailing by one in that department to end the first half. For the Panthers, who remain one of the worst rebounding teams in the SBC, it remains a concern.

“We got to do a better job on the boards,” Thomas said. “That’s one of the areas of the



KRISTII CAMARA/THE BEACON

Treymane Russell [right] stepped in for Phil Gary, who ran into second half foul trouble.

game tonight that was concerning. I thought we did a good job tonight, our guards accepted the challenge and did a good job of shutting down the 3-point shot because they’re a good 3-point shooting team but inside we were vulnerable.”

Added Frederick: “We need to do a better job as a team when it comes to rebounding situations. We need to box out better and be

able to pull down these rebounds.”

The win was significant for FIU in more ways than beginning conference play with consecutive victories, however.

The team tied its win total from last season.

“We knew last year was what it was. This year I just hope we win one more,” Thomas laughed. “I hope we don’t stop right here.”

PREPARE TODAY
TO LEAD FOR A
LIFETIME.

What do you need to succeed in today's climate? You need to **START STRONG**™. In Army ROTC, you'll do just that. While attending college, you'll gain strength, character, and unmatched leadership skills to lead the most well-trained individuals in any field. And when you graduate and complete Army ROTC, you can be commissioned as a U.S. Army Officer. Plus, to help pay for your education, you can earn a full-tuition, merit-based scholarship. ROTC will give you strength for a lifetime of success. There's strong. Then there's Army Strong.

For more information, visit goarmy.com/rotc/startstrong.

ARMY ROTC

LEADERSHIP
EXCELLENCE

ARMY STRONG.™

U.S. ARMY

© 2009. Paid for by the United States Army. All rights reserved.

WEEK OF WELCOME

Week of Welcome seeks to excite students with fun

KATHY PAZ
Staff Writer

It's been quite the chilly start to the winter season. Temperatures dropped to record lows in many areas of South Florida in the last month, but this wasn't a problem for us Golden Panthers.

We've been in something of a hibernation mode since December, taking comfort in having more time to sleep and spending longer nights prowling the streets with friends and family. However, the alarm clock had to ring at some point. Though it's time to wake up and start getting back into the usual hustle and bustle that is the life of a college student, fret not, SPC's Spring 2011 Week of Welcome events are here to help ease your transition from vacation mode to school mode.

Kicking things off on Jan. 10, is "NBC's Stand Up for Diversity Tour" featuring Kevin Shea and Erik Rivera. This comedy show will take place in the GC Ballrooms

at 6:00 p.m.

Going into its seventh year, the NBC show provides comedians of diverse backgrounds with a platform on which to launch their careers. Kevin Shea, originally born in Korea, is a graduate of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He discovered the world of stand-up comedy after moving to San Francisco, California and developed a style that has been described as "laid back and fresh." Shea has made numerous television appearances including shows on "Comedy Central," "Jimmy Kimmel Live" and "Down and Dirty" on HBO.

Known as the boy next-door type, Erik Rivera is one of the rising comedy stars of New York. The recipient of the Diamonds in the Rough Award at The Latino Laugh Festival in Hollywood, Rivera has appeared in both television and film ("My Brother" and "Stand Up"). He has also starred in the comedy series, "Stand Up 360."

Furthermore, he has made appear-

ances on "Comedy Central," "The Montel Williams Show," "Tyra" and "MTV Tr3s Top Trece Iconos."

On Jan. 12, SPC will host an event called Jump Into the New Year. From 12:00-3:00 p.m. in the GC Lawn, students can choose to embrace their inner daredevil by taking part in bungee jumping or their inner artist by making tie dye shirts. Plus, there will also be free food.

Panthers are encouraged to bring their own shirts to the event. "The bungee jumping is one of those apparatuses that has you in a harness on a trampoline, so you can jump around and do flips," describes SPC Vice President of Programming, Stephanie Suarez.

As the week comes to a close, Friday brings you a double dose of SPC activities. The Week of Welcome Pit Event commences at 11:00 a.m. in the GC Pit. It's going to be featuring something called Boogie Bodies.

"Boogie Bodies is an interactive video

where green screen technology puts your head on a dancer's body in your very own music video," Suarez says.

Later on in the evening, SPC Movie Night makes a return with screenings of the highly acclaimed film, "The Social Network." It will be shown at 5:00 p.m. and again at 8:00 p.m.

"This semester we will be having them in DM 100 due to the renovations of GC 140. But we still have great movies planned: 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Pt.1,' 'Tron Legacy,' 'Tangled' and 'Grown Ups,'" explains Suarez.

Not at the Modesto Maidque campus to experience the Week of Welcome events? SPC at BBC has got you covered.

On Jan. 11, they will be hosting a Logo Launch Party in Panther Square featuring Alakazam the Human Knot. The event starts at noon and will also include free food and giveaways. Alakazam the Human



LINDA LEE/THE BEACON

Students enjoy an outdoor game during a Week of Welcome event in the fall.

WoW, page 9

Six girls...one chance to be a superstar.

talent

THE CASTING CALL

A promotional image for 'The Talent Show: The Casting Call'. It features six young women in glamorous, sequined and patterned outfits. Two are standing in the back row, and four are in various poses in the front row, including one kneeling. The background is a soft, purple and pink gradient with starburst effects.

NEW SERIES
Premieres Tuesday Jan 11th
on www.thetalentshow.com

COVERGIRL *Secret* PANTENE Venus. Olay

ON THE PROWL

Lost loves are more important than sexual history

When getting to know a new romantic interest, asking about high school and college sweethearts is far more important than asking how many people they’ve bedded.

In the social networking age, contacting an old flame just to say ‘hi’ is now easier and more dangerous than ever. It seems so innocent at first, no hidden romantic motives in sight. All of a sudden you’re under attack by those old feelings you thought you’d shaken. Soon enough, obsessive thinking about the lost love takes over.

I visited and re-visited this situation numerous times after the two-year relationship with my high school sweetheart ended.

Sayings like “out of sight, out of mind” and “absence makes the heart grow fonder” are only myths, according to California developmental psychologist Nancy Kalish.

For the past 17 years, Kalish has taught and researched how people change or stay the

same over their lifespan based on research in 42 countries with over 4,000 couples.

Her research focuses on how youth form identities based on shared environments. During these impressionable years, they form identities and define what love means to them together. The most common reasons these couples separate are they were too young, moved away or their parents disapproved.

To her surprise, Kalish found that most successful reunions later in life occur when a couple grew up in the same way, dated for one or more years, lived in the same town, went to school together and knew each other’s families.

My story with Luke, as I’ll call him, started the fall of my senior year of high school. While I had just finished applying to all out-of-state colleges, he was breezing through his junior year. From the beginning, we knew separation due to distance was on the horizon because, to make things worse, my parents were also moving away after my graduation. A month before the end of my freshmen year of college, we saw no apparent solution to our heartache and called it quits.

The strong emotional memories formed during adolescence can be encoded in the sensory areas of the brain, according to Kalish. When an old friend or ex-lover shows up again in our lives, these memories are aroused with the sight, smell, touch or voice of that person. But these memories do not prevent later bonds from occurring that are just as strong or even stronger.

Only a few months after the breakup, I met my next boyfriend. Although I had no desire to be in a relationship with Luke, my inability to let go of my lost love prevented me from forming a deeper connection with Jake, whose heart I accidentally stomped on throughout my sophomore year.

Rekindled lovers reported to Kalish that reunions are comfortable and familiar; there is a very high level of trust, friendship and passion. In essence, they are rekindling close friendships and in an adult romance this is vital to a lasting relationship. Most people don’t long for their lost loves. Seventy percent of Kalish’s 1,600 participants who had never tried a reunion did not want one largely due to not getting along with their first loves.

This left over thirty percent whom she believes look back due to unfinished business. Their romances ended for situational reasons, not by choice, and they always

wondered what might have been.

Don’t think this only happens with psycho ex-girlfriends. Kalish also found it took women “two to three years” or shorter to get over their lost loves while men wrote “over ten years,” often adding “I never got over her.”

Luke and I are in two totally different places in life, physically and mentally, now-days. We have nothing in common besides fond memories of what used to be - at least, I hope they’re fond.

I’ll always have feelings for him, it’s a part of who I am that will never go away and I’m okay with that now. It doesn’t mean I ever intend to act upon them or that I believe it would solve or prove anything by doing so.

Not every relationship can be labeled and some love never dies. Each love that touches our heart stays with us.

If you don’t want to be second best, make sure your significant other isn’t still longing for an old flame five years or more after the breakup.

Check Kalish’s website, www.lostlovers.com, for advice and other couples’ stories.

On the Prowl is a bi-weekly column on dating. Look for it every other Monday.

COLUMNIST



LIANAMAR
DÁVILA
SANABRIA

JINGLE BELLS



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

The Children’s Creative Learning Center held its annual Winter Festival on Dec 3. The festival also celebrated the center’s 35th Anniversary.

LC gives advice on packing in her new style book

STYLE, page 8

jewelry, hats and optional outfit choices, but I can’t do that.

When going on a trip for two days, I pack for two weeks. My rationale is I need options. Being the temperamental creature I am, I need to know that once I open my suitcase to pick something out, I have plenty of items to choose from. What I picked out to wear while I was packing was reflective of my mood at the time. What I want to wear while I’m on vacation is determined by my mood not by how well I

packed my suitcase. If that means I have to pack a 50 lb suitcase when I could have just used a carry-on, then I’m obviously just a ridiculous person.

Aside from clothes, she shares the best hair and makeup looks for both daytime and nighttime. Her and co-star Whitney Port brought the 60s back by adorning their hair with tiny little braids along the front and she describes how to easily mimic the style. I’m a big fan of the glamorous chignon (an up-do hairstyle).

I like her makeup philosophy and how simple


it is. She always looks put together but not over done. It’s actually hard to point out the difference between the day and night makeup looks and that’s something every girl should practice.

The advice in her book is really relatable and it may be hard to picture LC as a writer but it’s worth a read-through at the bookstore.


Fashion Finds is a weekly column on style. You can look for it every Monday. Reviewers are not compensated for favorable or positive reviews.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2011


WELCOME BBQ

Stop by the Campus Life & Orientation table during the Welcome BBQ for some giveaways.
WHEN: 12:30 - 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC Panther Square

2011 PEER ADVISOR ANNOUCEMENT
WHEN: 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC Pit, BBC Panther Square


NBC STAND-UP FOR DIVERSITY TOUR

Student Programming Council Comedy Show feat. Kevin Shea and Erik Rivera.8
WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Ballrooms

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2011

THE 10th ANNUAL 2011 SYMPOSIA: CALL FOR PROPOSALS
The COERC 2011 Steering Committee encourages the presentation of symposia on timely topics.
WHEN: 8 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: ZEB

YOGA CLUB

Begin your day shiny and new with yoga . Including asana (poses), pranayama (breath control), and meditation.
WHEN: 8 a.m.-9 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: TBD

ASK ME TABLES
WHEN: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Various Locations at BBC

SPC:ALAKAZAM-THE HUMAN KNOT

Al Millar is Alakazam, the Humant Knot and his show will bend your mind!
WHEN: 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC Panther Square

CAMPUS LIFE DAY
Learn about getting involved with different councils and positions with FIU Campus Life.
WHEN: 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Betty Chapman Plaza

2011 KAUFFMAN PROFESSORS PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION
WHEN: 3 - 4:30 pm
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: College of Business Complex: Special Events Center

ASK ME TABLES
WHEN: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Various Locations at BBC

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE AUDITIONS
WHEN: 12 p.m.-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Pit

BLUE AND GOLD BREAKFAST
Stop by the Campus Life & Orientation table during the Blue and Gold Breakfast for some giveaways.
WHEN: 9 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC PANTHER SQUARE

PANTHER POWER PEP RALLY
WHEN: 9:30 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC Panther Square

Hypnotist to perform at BBC Spring Week of Welcome event

WoW, page 7

Knot’s career highlights include holding the Guinness World Record for “Fastest time to pass through a tennis racket 3 times” and being the runner up of “Australia’s Got Talent” in 2007.

He has also had the pleasure of performing for various celebrities including Sting, Bruce Springsteen and Woody Harrelson.

If you missed the opportunity to see Sailesh the Hypnotist at MMC’s fall Week of Welcome events

or just can’t get enough, you’re in luck. SPC BBC will be hosting Sailesh at the Mary Ann Wolfe theater Jan. 13.

Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and the show is expected to start half an hour after that.

With over one million hits on YouTube and praises from MTV Europe and the Bamboozle Festival, Sailesh combines the art of hypnosis with comedy

As always, all events are free to FIU students with a valid Panther ID. Be on the lookout for special

SPC giveaways including shirts and brand new high-lighter pens.

Why should you come out to these events? According to Stephanie Suarez, “not only are they going to be amazingly fantastic and fun, [but] they’re free to students... you can come on over to our events, meet other students, hang out and get free stuff too. It’s a win-win situation!”

For more information on SPC and their Week of Welcome activities, be sure to look up and “like” their page on Facebook.

Discipline misapplied in retreat incident

JASMYN ELLIOTT
Opinion Editor

At the end of the Fall 2010 Semester, The Beacon ended its run with a surprising and disappointing report involving wrongdoing on part of the Student Government Council of Modesto Maidique Campus.

Proof that several interns, former SGC-MMC Vice President Nick Autiello and former SGC-MMC Intern Coordinator Laura Farinas engaged in and supported underage drinking during a September 2010 retreat surfaced.

Oddly enough, it is not the underage drinking that I am mainly upset with. Although I don't agree with this behavior in the least, it would be ignorant of me to say that this is shocking to hear of college students engaging in underage drinking. It is the time, place and manner that upset me.

The retreat is a place where interns can have a chance to enhance their student government experience by relating to

the officials on a social level and, in a sense, bond with them.

With that being said, the officials, the vice president and intern coordinator especially, are still responsible for setting the correct example, especially when it comes to conduct. In my eyes, providing underage students with alcohol is not the way to go in setting a positive example as to how officials should conduct themselves. Autiello and Farinas didn't have to be saints, but they should have still obeyed the law.

It would be silly for these interns to believe that government, student or otherwise, are perfect, but the standards of professionalism and appropriateness must be significantly low to them at this point. If this didn't disillusion them, then what followed next in terms of addressing and correcting the matter may have.

Requesting for all officials that witnessed and reported the conduct to resign in light of this situation was a lazy, unfair,

“Requesting for all officials that witnessed and reported the conduct to resign in light of this situation was a lazy, unfair, one-size-fits-all solution to a much more complex problem.”

one-size-fits-all solution to a much more complex problem.

In reality, Autiello and Farinas were the ones deeply involved with giving alcohol to the underage interns; ergo they definitely needed to be disciplined. However, the other officials were threatened with the prospect of docked pay and a trip to Student Conflict and Resolution for simply walking away.

I would hope that these individuals would have been rewarded for reporting the incident and leaving the situation to avoid involvement, not punished for creating a “liability” issue that didn't exist. Instead, they were a part of this “one guilty all guilty”

approach that created more problems than it solved.

I am happy to see that these individuals have mostly stood their ground and continue to serve as SGC-MMC senators and didn't give into the pressure to give up their positions to present a façade of discipline that barely existed.

Autiello and Farinas have since resigned, it is a brand new year and a brand new semester.

Even so, I can only hope that SGC-MMC takes this as an example and demands more of their officials and their employees in the future. I also hope that they learn how to truly punish wrongdoing instead of trying to cover it up.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Wittels rape trial exposes ignorance, misinformation

After the holidays, the University saw a shocking report that exposed ignorant attitudes towards the topic of sexual assault.

On Dec. 27 2010, news broke that Garrett Wittels, one of the University's most well-known student athletes and the owner of the second-longest hitting streak in NCAA history, was arrested while on vacation in the Bahamas and charged, along with two of his friends, with the rape of two 17-year-old girls.

The guilt or innocence of those involved will not be determined for months, as a preliminary hearing in front of Magistrate Derence Rolle-Davis is not set to occur until April 18. This will be an ongoing story that will likely dominate University-related headlines as Wittels' streak was to be covered by sports giant ESPN in the first series of the season, and his eligibility for the upcoming season remains in question.

It is not for *The Beacon* to discuss the details of the case and come to any prediction regarding its outcome, nor is it our place to question the moral character of anyone involved. Contributing to the verdict of the court of public opinion is not something we are interested in taking part of, and will not be the basis of this discussion.

It is apparent throughout the discussion of this trial just how much ignorance there seems to be about rape, sexual assault and the concept of consent. Just in briefly reading through the comments on the *Miami Herald's* first story on this case, a number of embarrassing and uninformed opinions regarding the case specifically and broader generalizations regarding ideas of sexual assault and consent stand out.

Statements range from the relatively mild like, “Young women must stop putting themselves in situations to be dishonored,” to the flatly offensive, such as, “In some jurisdictions, impairment (drunk) negates the ability to consent. So we have rape. Ladies can have their cake and eat it too...”

The relative anonymity of the Internet lends itself to these kinds of statements, but they are indicative of a broader ignorance regarding sexual assault in the general populace.

A statement such as, “Sounds like the girls were looking for a fling... Morning regret does not equate to rape,” is common when it comes to alcohol-related sexual assault cases. There seems to be a general idea that the definition of rape is very narrow, involving the shadowy figure using force to subdue someone.

But, as Erika Nerette, assistant director of the University's Victim Advocacy Center, said in the Nov. 30 2010 issue of *The Beacon*, “The majority of rapes are not by strangers jumping out of the bushes like we sometimes see on TV, that's actually the least common.”

In the case of Wittels and his friends, it is clear that alcohol played a major role, as it often does in cases involving college-age victims. As the *Miami Herald* comments show, many people are simply uneducated about the role alcohol can play in sexual assault. It is not just something that leads to bad decisions.

Under Florida law, a person who is incapacitated due to alcohol or any other drug is rendered incapable of giving consent to sex.

Oftentimes, a “drunken hook-up” is something downplayed in media; for example, the film *Observe and Report* came under fire specifically for depicting this. However, in real life situations, especially in college, this ignorance is not something that can be overlooked.

Ignorance when it comes to the law is not an excuse. It is up to students to educate themselves with the resources available. Sexual assault is always an issue amongst college-aged adults, and education is one way to help avoid it.

ECON WITH NEDA

Social security source is quickly depleting

The weak Social Security system in the United States is a failure; it is already running a temporary deficit.

COLUMNIST



NEDA GHOMESHI

There will be too many retirees and not enough contributors.

Social Security is a simple concept: those employed are forced to contribute to a government managed fund. This fund provides for a subsistence living at retirement. In the U.S., retirees past the age of 67 receive Social Security.

However, there is a catch. The money we invest today is paid to those already retired. This colossal endeavor can only work if the money deposited into the fund is more or, at a minimum, equal to the money distributed to qualified retirees.

Unfortunately, that has not been the case for several years. As a result, a deficit has been in the making. For starters, it is predicted that the Social Security fund will only last until 2037. That is only 26 years away, long before many current contributors are classified as retirees.

To make matters worse, the lawmakers

continue to burden the system by reducing contributions without a commensurate adjustment in distributions; the latter is considered to be political suicide by many.

For example, in the recently passed

The Social Security trust fund is inadequately sourced. In order to salvage the almost demolished plan, we need to revamp the system.

tax law, payroll taxes were lowered from 6.2 percent to 4.2 percent for 2011. According to Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation, this will reduce Social Security's cash proceeds by \$112 billion. This kicking of the can attitude has continued for too long. It is time we face up to the

reality that we cannot continue to steal money from the Social Security system without facing a reduction in benefits.

To make matters worse, every year, the government borrows money from the Social Security trust. With that money, the government buys treasury bonds; essentially, the government is making a loan to itself with taxpayers money. This is nothing but a collection of IOUs that the future generation will have to pay. As a result, Social Security is merely a measure of how much money the government owes itself.

We need to face up to the realities that our nation is encountering. The Social Security trust fund is inadequately sourced. In order to salvage the almost demolished plan, we need to revamp the system.

The government needs to either increase Social Security withholding, reduce the distribution of Social Security or possibly take action on both fronts.

Without dramatic and quick action, this minimum Social Security net will soon be insolvent with many bitter memories.

Econ with Neda is an economics op-ed column that runs every other Monday.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

VERBATIM

Certainly the Constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn't. Nobody ever thought that that's what it meant. Nobody ever voted for that.

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia on the Fourteenth Amendment

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

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (450 words) in to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

Up to
90% off
used textbooks



Millions of used listings all backed
by our A-to-z guarantee

amazon.com/textbooks



BRAZIL

Floods leave at least 35 dead

Heavy rains that have pummeled major cities have caused the death of at least 35 people, and forced more than 30,000 people across the country out of their homes.



CUBA

Reshuffle made to govt. Cabinet

A reshuffle of Cuba's Cabinet relieved the minister in charge of construction and stripped a powerful vice president of a secondary role he held.



HAITI

Presidential runoff 'impossible' this month

A second-round vote to choose Haiti's president will not be possible until late February, after the constitutional end of current President Rene Preval's term.

SGC-BBC LECTURE SERIES

Dan Savage lecture focused on LGBT youth

LIANAMAR DÁVILA SANABRIA
Asst. News Director

Justin Aaberg. Billy Lucas. Cody Barker. Asher Brown. Seth Walsh. Raymond Chase.

After Rutgers University student recently jumped to his death from a New York City bridge he joined this growing list of youth gay suicides.

Seattle relationship and sex columnist Dan Savage will be at the University to discuss his "It Gets Better" campaign targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transexual kids and teens who hide their sexuality for fear of being bullied.

The Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council will be presenting the first out of a three-part lecture series on Jan. 12 in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom at 6:30 p.m. It is free for all students.

Recently Rutgers's Tyler Clementi became the newest addition after his college roommate violated his privacy by broadcasting online his sexual encounter with another boy.

Lucas, an Indiana teen, also committed suicide after enduring anti-gay bullying in school.

Gay youth are four times more likely than straight youth to commit suicide, according to a recent study, and nine out of 10 gay

kids report being bullied, according to ABC News.

"Hearing about these kids that have committed suicide, the reaction as a gay adult is always, 'God, I wish I could have talked to them for fifteen minutes or five minutes and told them it gets better,'" Savage told ABC News' Jeremy Hubbard.

Taunted for simply being themselves, these are the tragic examples of LGBT youth who have recently committed suicide believing life would not get better for them.

Without other openly gay adults and mentors in their lives, they can't imagine what their future may hold.

In response to a number of students taking their own lives after being bullied in school, Savage and his partner Terry initially created a YouTube video to inspire hope for young people facing harassment.

"I wish I could've talked to that kid for five minutes before he killed himself," Savage said. "I'd tell him that however bad it was in high school or middle school...it gets better."

His sole message. The "It Gets Better Project" was born to remind teenagers in the LGBT community they are not alone. It provides positive examples of gay adults living their lives and sharing the message that the despair and isolation they feel now eventually ends - if they can just get through their teen years.

Savage's first video currently has over 1.2 million views on YouTube. They sat down in front of a camera and told their stories about their horrific high school experiences and, more importantly, how they both survived, thrived and have gone on to live happy, healthy, joyful lives. In the video, Terry talks about enduring severe bullying as a teenager,

in an email sent to University faculty and staff.

"Certainly we could never find a candidate with the intimate understanding of the campus going back to its founding in 1977," Wartzok said.

As vice provost for BBC, Moll would like to "continue to beautify what is already beautiful" and strengthen the green initiative through the Adopt a Tree program.

The Adopt a Tree program is for homeowners residing in the Miami-Dade County area. They are given two trees a year but if they would like, may instead give their trees to BBC where they would be planted around campus.

Moll wants to plant more trees on campus to improve the ecology and environment. This is one of his goals for BBC.

In addition to this he wants to add more cultural events to increase community

GO TEAM!



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

Randy Horner, head coach of the women's swimming and diving team (male with hat), cheering on members of the swim team during a meet against Louisiana State University, Kansas University, and American University on Jan. 6.

recalling being beaten up, thrown against lockers and stuffed into bathroom stalls in his school.

"Sometimes in big urban centers and in media centers, we get the impression that things are universally great everywhere," said Savage who is the author of the internationally syndicated column Savage Love and the weekly podcast Savage Lovecast..

Two months later, the "It Gets Better Project" has turned into a worldwide movement, inspiring over 5,000 user-created videos and over 15 million views.

"It's been so overwhelming, [and] we want to create an archive that lives online forever, for each generation of gay kids coming up, so they can go there and they can see these stories," Savage said.

Interim tag dropped, Steven Moll now vice provost

NADRA MABROUK
Contributing Writer

A promoter and foundation of the Biscayne Bay Campus and its programs, Steven V. Moll has accepted the position of vice provost which University Provost and Executive Vice President Douglas Wartzok announced on Jan. 4.

Moll has served as interim vice provost for BBC since July 2009, after former vice provost Joseph West retired.

"He has worked hard to improve the physical plant, maintain course offerings, expand programs, enhance cross disciplinary activities, develop philanthropic support for the campus and engage community leaders," Wartzok said



MOLL

engagement and increase enrollment and courses offered at BBC.

In terms of enrollment and course offerings, Moll plans to provide more courses on BBC. This would result in more freshmen and sophomores living in the south Broward and north Miami-Dade area being able to complete their core curriculum at BBC, rather than making the trip to reach the Modesto Maidique Campus.

The 2010-2015 University Master Plan is composed every five years where the University is required to undergo a master planning project. They outline through the use of writing and pictures what the University already has and currently utilizes, then put down what they would like to have. Moll would like to work hard and plan strategically with Mark Rosenberg, University president, and his colleagues for realistic, financially conscious growth on the

campus.

Moll had been an important aspect of the School of Hospitality and Tourism since then, teaching courses in finance, operations management, accounting, management, and leadership.

By 1980, he was an assistant professor, eventually occupying the role of academic advisor to at the University for 17 years.

Moll attained the Excellence in Teaching award in 2001 and was recognized twice for his excellence in undergraduate advising. For five years, he chaired the University Commencement Committee.

In 2005, he served as director of the College of Business Administration at BBC until July 2009, when he became interim vice provost.

To describe what will occur for BBC, Moll said "the best is yet to come."