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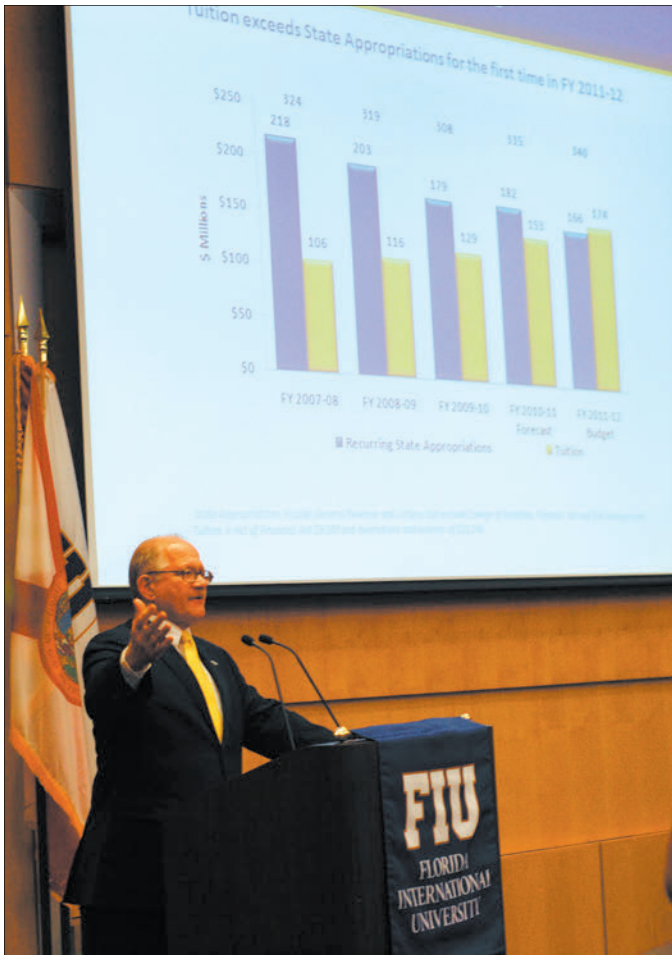
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UNIVERSITY BUDGET

This year's budget bleak as increases are rare



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

Mark Rosenberg, University president, during a budget town hall on May 19 explains the University's 2011-2012 budget.

PHILIPPE BUTEAU News Director

For the first time in University history students are putting more money into the University than the state. Although it's an event with both internal and external sources, its outcomes will affect the University from top to bottom.

For the third time in three years the University requested a seven percent tuition increase – with an additional eight percent from the Board of Trustees – bringing a total tuition increase to 15 percent. In-state students are now paying about \$174 per credit.

“We don't like that,” said Mark Rosenberg, the University president during a budget town hall.

This year, students will contribute a total of \$174 million from their tuition compared to \$157 million from the state. In 2007, tuition was \$106 million.

As bad as the news is for students, money woes are felt on both sides with decreases being the norm throughout the University's 2011-2012 budget.

Students are paying more because the state is providing less money, a statewide, even nationwide, issue. The University received \$157 million from the state down by \$71 million, about 33 percent, when it last received \$228 million.

A huge loss in money for Public Education Capital Outlay, a state program that provides money to public schools for building construction and upkeep, is another item written in red on the University's budget.

Last year the University received the most PECO money out of all the 11 schools in the State University System with \$34 million. That number is much different this year at \$7.6 million.

But because of earlier money from PECO, two new buildings will be completed within the next 18 months.

General revenue, or how much money the University makes, also went down from last year by \$11 million. Combined with the loss of \$14 million from the federal stimulus, the University saw a loss of \$25 million in total from its 2011-2012 budget. Despite a \$25 million loss, because of the combined tuition increases and enrollment growth, the University received an increase in revenue of about \$21 million.

Since 2007, an additional 7,000 to 8,000 students have been admitted – from more than 38,000 in 2007-2008 to more than 42,000 in 2010-2011.

All these extra students contributing so much more over the years means student services, such as advisers and other support staff, will improve,

according to Rosenberg.

Back in the May town hall, the president said the \$174 per credit tuition students are paying, including about an extra \$26 per credit, is “an investment to ensure a quality education.”

Since 2008-2009, the University put \$84 million into three areas it considers “high priority.” Those are student instructional support, research and graduate education and compliance and support.

The University has hired 80 new advisers, added 18 more advisers, added eight more public safety officers, hired 44 new academic support staff and 15 non-academic support staff.

“Where else in the country is this happening?” Rosenberg asked. “I don't know of any place.”

Rosenberg said in the meeting that adding those additional people will help the University's retention and graduation rates which are critical to the state legislature as to how much money it provides to universities.

The above numbers are signs of a trend going forward. If the state continues giving universities around the same amount of money, or less as the years go by, universities will look to students to offset the loss.

See page 2 for a detailed graph.

STUDENT PROGRAMMING COUNCIL

New semester brings WOW

ALFREDO APARICIO Life! Editor

A fresh year means a brand new Week of Welcome, full of exciting events which will satisfy new peers while shocking and surprising returning students.

“Planning WOW for fall has been an interesting experience for [the Student Programming Council],” said Lukas Calafell, SPC president. “Although Week of Welcome is expected, we face new challenges and opportunities each year.”

The planning for WOW took the effort of all those involved with SPC, from the executive board to directors. Most of the events for WOW have occurred before, such as

the comedy show, the movie and the pit event, but every year these are uniquely and creatively programmed.

The kickoff will take place on Aug. 23, in the GC Pit from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participating students will be able to create and customize their own license plates while enjoying pizza and other SPC giveaways.

“We believe present students familiar with our events continue to attend and enjoy them because we continue to work hard to make each event a unique experience for these students,” Calafell said. “We try to mix things up and come up with new things that can be done

WOW, page 12

FOOTBALL

FIU can benefit from Miami scandal

The University of Miami has become ground zero for one of the biggest scandals made public in NCAA history.

While this may be the final blow to a dying dynasty, it may provide FIU just what it was looking for – an opportunity to snatch the spotlight away from the almighty Hurricanes.

UM is under investigation for student athletes allegedly taking benefits from a booster-turned-convict, Nevin Shapiro. The school is likely going to have many sanctions placed against it that could result in the loss of scholarships,

bowl game appearances or worse: the death penalty, when the NCAA bans a school from competing in a sport for at least one year and considered the worst possible punishment.

For FIU, this will have many implications, no matter what sanctions are placed on the UM. This is FIU's chance to become a more prominent presence in not only South Florida football, but nationally as well.

For the past few seasons, there has been a shift in the works. While Miami has not met the expectations of their fanatical fan base, FIU has built a strong foundation for its future under Mario Cristobal, who, ironically, was a Hurricane assistant coach in the midst of the Shapiro scandal that spanned nearly a decade. While the Hurricanes have been posting



BEACON FILE PHOTO

FIU and Miami have met twice on the football field. Now the Hurricanes program is in trouble of NCAA sanctions.

sub-par records and failing to win even a conference title since moving to the ACC, the Golden Panthers are starting to make a

name for themselves with a conference championship and thrilling bowl win.

SCANDAL, page 7

COMING UP | Life!

Check out the new music column, Radiate Reviews, as they evaluate the new Jay-Z and Kanye West collaboration album, “Watch the Throne.”

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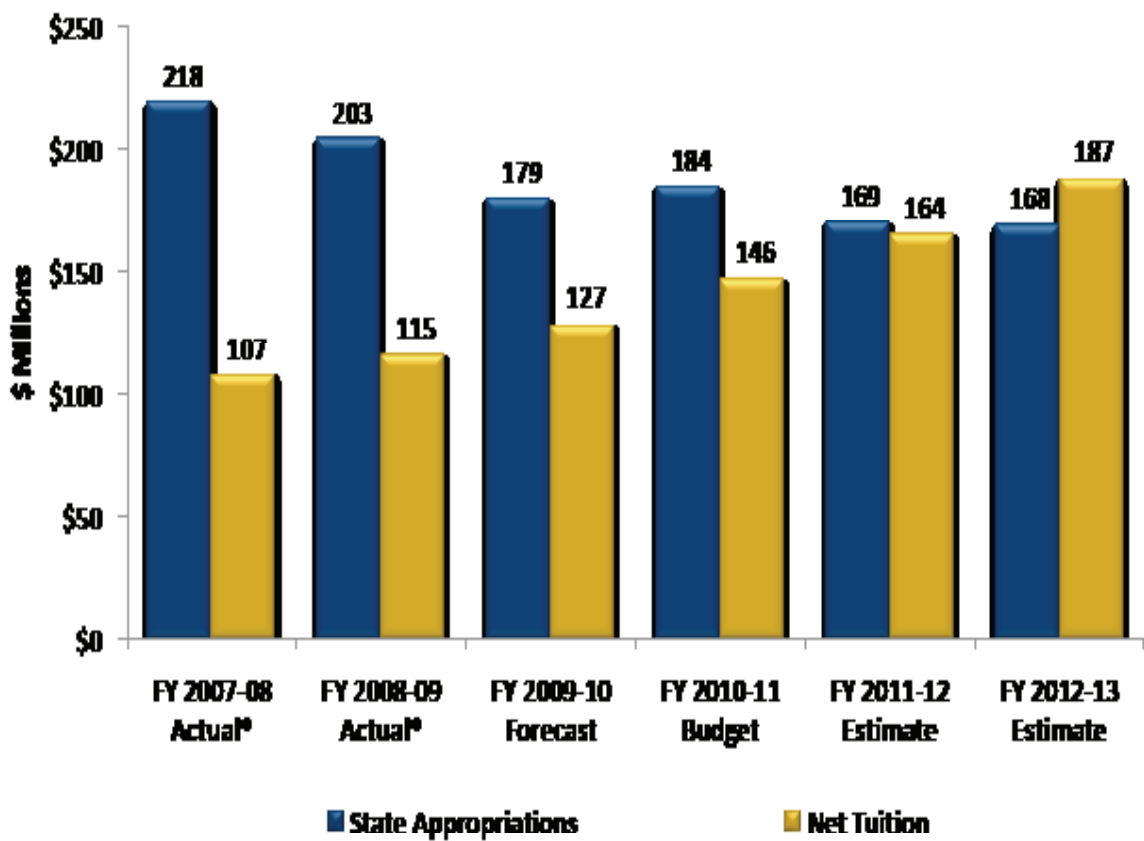
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DETAILED ANALYSIS

State Money vs. Student Money



Scott positive on jobs despite Fla. losses

**BILL KACZOR
BRENDAN FARRINGTON**
Associated Press

Gov. Rick Scott said on Aug. 19 the state is doing the right things to create jobs despite an employment report showing 22,100 jobs were lost in July, the first monthly job loss since he took office in January.

Scott said Florida's economy is also based on the national economy and that isn't getting better and will continue to have problems because of federal tax rates, spending and overregulation.

"There's two sides. The positive side is we've had 64,300 jobs this year, about 9,000 a month. That's a positive," Scott said in an interview with the AP's editors and reporters. "The negative is in July we lost jobs and even worse than that, we still have 900,000 people out of work."

More than half of the jobs lost were due to state- and local-government cutbacks, leaving the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate unchanged from June's 10.7 percent revised rate.

The state's job loss figure is the second-highest nationally behind Illinois, which lost 24,000 positions.

Scott said Florida is still in a better position to create jobs since he's taken office. He said his agency head appointees are all business-oriented, he is seeking to phase out the business tax and eliminate state regulations he says are barriers to doing business here. And he said expanding economies in Central and South America along with the expansion of the Panama Canal will put Florida in the position of being a shipping capital.

"We're going to be the state that's going to be the job winner. It's logical for us to win," Scott said.

Go to fiusm.com for full story.

HOUSING & RESIDENTIAL LIFE

Enrollment growth completely fills housing



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

On the first day of Resident hall move-in, students moved into Lakeview South with the help of their parents.

JONATHAN SIMMONS
Contributing Writer

An unprecedented demand for on-campus housing for the Fall 2011 semester has resulted in the University's residence halls being filled to capacity.

The University stopped accepting applications for on-campus housing in mid-June, with a wait-list of then 500 students, according to James Wassenaar, executive director of student affairs.

Sophomore Kevin Smith has on-campus housing but he will still have to commute to class – his classes are the Modesto Maidique Campus, while his room is at the Biscayne Bay Campus's Bay Vista residence hall.

"I had to come [to BBC]," he said, "because everything at [MMC] is full."

Wassenaar said the housing crunch has most severely affected students at MMC, where residence halls were filled by June. But demand has also increased greatly at BBC.

The high demand, he said, likely results from both higher enrollment at BBC and the fact scarce housing at MMC is pushing students

like Smith to request housing at BBC.

When the fall semester begins on Aug. 22, the Housing Office will begin compiling a contact list of students who still need housing and would prefer to be on campus. Details will be posted this coming week on the Housing Office's Web site at housing.fiu.edu.

The Housing Office can also be contacted through its Facebook page, at [facebook.com/FIUHousing](https://www.facebook.com/FIUHousing).

University administration is planning to dramatically expand on-campus housing to deal with increased enrollment and demand.

Wassenaar said plans are under way to add 600 to 700 bed spaces at MMC in 2013 and another 600 by 2015. The University is also undertaking a demand analysis study to determine construction plans for BBC. With the plan currently under consideration, Wassenaar said, "...we'd be looking at 400 to 600 beds [at BBC], somewhere in the neighborhood of 2015-2016."

HOUSING, page 15



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HOUSING BY THE NUMBERS

Beds: 300 at BBC; 3,000 at MMC*

Future Housing Plans:

- 600 to 700 bed spaces at MMC in 2013; another 600 by 2015
- 400 to 600 beds at BBC, by 2015-2016.

*vary depending on how rooms are arranged.

WHAT YOU MISSED DURING THE SUMMER

NEWS



University establishes FIU One Card

The University has started a partnership with Wells Fargo to establish the “FIU One Card,” which will link numerous school services with a free bank checking account.

The partnership began on October 28, 2010 and developed the idea now known as the “FIU One Card” idea.

Jeffrey Krablin, assistant vice president of Business Services and Nancy Cadavid, marketing manager of Business Services, said this partnership is becoming quite common. The University is not the first in the State University System that partnered with Wells Fargo. The University of Florida also has a partnership with the company with its Gator One card.

LIFE!



Actors step into victims' lives by wearing their shoes on stage

“When you walk in to the room, you’ll see a line of shoes and a row of seats with a projection of a girl walking in the background,” said Victoria Collado, a senior theater major. “When the show starts, the actors come in and put on the shoes, symbolizing these actors are taking the place of the people who cannot speak right now. They are stepping into the victims’ lives.”

The University theater students,

hoping to shed some light on human trafficking, took their talents abroad this July to share their performance of “Body and Sold,” a narrative, stage-read performance, directed by Phillip Church, associate professor of the Department of Theatre, about eight young victims who found themselves tangled in the destructive web of human trafficking.

Teaming up with Southampton Solent

and Kingston University in London, the students hosted their production on July 6 and July 8 at the International Youth Arts Festival in England.

The festival, which ran for its third year, showcased over 200 productions and 2,000 performers between July 1 and July 18. The free performances were hosted on July 6 at SSU and on July 8 at Kingston University at 8 p.m. for \$5.

OPINION

Tuition hike an undesired student burden

University students can expect to pay about 15 percent more in tuition starting in Fall 2011. As state legislators further reduce funding, the University is relying more than ever on student tuition. Starting this fall, students will be the majority shareholders of the University.

I am not happy with next semester’s tuition bill, but the bright side is we are keeping our University operating at full capacity for another year.

For the next academic year, the University has formulated a milestone budget plan. University President Mark Rosenberg said in a town hall meeting held on May 19, 2011, “For the first time in history, the greater portion of the University’s operating budget will come from tuition.” Budget cuts will cost the University almost \$16 million in the next academic year. While this is an astonishing cut to the University’s budget, it is unfair that the burden should have to fall on the students.

A 15 percent increase can cost an average

full time student about \$150 to \$200 per semester, if not more. The imminent tuition boost will obviously not be a welcome expense to any student’s wallet, and in an economy where financial aid is being reduced, salaries slashed, and simple part time jobs are becoming increasingly hard to come by, many may see themselves having to put forth extra effort just to stay in school, including myself.

Jeannie Castro, a biology major, claims the tuition increase is “Outrageous! I already work two jobs to stay in school and the tuition hike will make my budget even tighter. “ Further increases in tuition will make obtaining a degree almost impossible for many students and it is unfortunate that many continue to struggle.

I am glad there has yet to be any political unrest in the U.S. because of tuition hikes, but it will not be long before higher tuition, higher gas prices and even higher food prices make a college education simply unaffordable.

AT THE BAY



Students enjoy a night swim session as part of the BBC’s “Summer Splash” event hosted by the Student Programming Council. The evening’s entertainment also included dancing, food, and giveaways.

SPORTS

Mario Cristobal signs a five-year extension

Mario Cristobal is staying home, at least for another five years.

The head coach has signed a five-year extension worth \$453,183 (base salary) per year to stay at FIU through the 2016 season. He’ll also receive a \$50,000 annual retentive bonus for staying with the program. The incentives in Cristobal’s new deal can make him the highest paid coach in

the Sun Belt Conference. Cristobal is currently second to North Texas’ Dan McCarney, who has a base salary of \$475,000.

“We believe we have one of the best coaches in college football and that our program will continue to rise to even greater heights under his leadership,” Executive Director of Sports and Entertainment Pete Garcia said.

Garcia, like Cristobal, received a five-year extension in April.

Cristobal will enter his fifth season as the coach, after resurrecting a program that did not win a game a year before he arrived. Cristobal has brought FIU into the mainstream, taking over a team that was hit with sanctions that caused them to forfeit all games from 2003-2005.



NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Florida VA employees accused of selling drugs

More than a dozen veterans and employees of a Veterans Affairs medical center in South Florida were charged with selling oxycodone and other drugs around the facility, authorities said Thursday.

Six VA employees, including a pharmacist, nursing assistants and a pharmacy technician, were among the 17 arrested in an undercover investigation of the West Palm Beach Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. More arrests are expected, according to the Palm Beach County state attorney’s office.

Roughly 6,000 oxycodone pills, more than \$200,000 in cash and two vehicles were seized. Nineteen were charged in the bust, authorities said.

NATIONAL

Sacrifices needed from governors to avert flood

Months of historic flooding along the Missouri River have governors pledging to join forces to prevent future disasters. But achieving that goal will likely require unpopular sacrifices.

Flood experts say serious, long-term disaster prevention requires a new approach to controlling the nation’s longest river.

But many of the options, such as allowing the river to expand naturally, could have serious consequences for the eight states along the river, including less water for boating and fishing, severely limited barge traffic and reduced hydropower generation.

WORLD

Al-Qaida claims Algerian bombing

Al-Qaida’s North African offshoot has claimed responsibility for a suicide car bombing at an Algerian police station that injured at least 29 people.

A statement posted Thursday on Al-Qaida affiliated militant websites said al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb targeted the police station in the city of Tizi Ouzou on Sunday.

Algeria’s official APS news agency had reported that a suicide bomber crashed a small truck into the police station, and that 15 officers and 14 civilians were injured. Nearby buildings saw doors ripped off and windows broken.

Algeria has seen a wave of scattered attacks in the past several weeks.

– Compiled by Melissa Caceres

PELL GRANTS

Deal protects Pell Grant funding

LAUREN ROVIRA
Staff Writer

Students on Pell Grants cheered on Aug. 2 as the federal grant program was spared by the debt-limit deal, but not without significant sacrifices in other areas of education funding.

President Barack Obama signed the Budget Control Act of 2011 that would give \$17 billion to the Pell Grant.

The money would be taken from the loan subsidies for graduate students that were cut as a part of the bill.

“Protecting the maximum award was a priority,” said Steve Sauls, vice president for governmental relations at the University.

“We’ve taken a lead and reached out to other universities,” he said.

Sauls said he appreciates how University students got involved.

Recently, there had been talk about changing what the requirements for Pell Grants were and changing the maximum amount.

The talks led to a deal that provides a sumptuous amount for the maintenance of the Pell program as it is, but remains \$1.3 billion short of the amount necessary to cover the total.

“This gap closure means that for at least the next two years, the program will remain primarily intact,” Patrick O’Keefe, president of the Student Government Council at the Modesto Maidique Campus. “This could change in the fall with

the bi-partisan commission, but as long as we continue to be vocal, it is doubtful that the program will be cut severely.”

University President Mark Rosenberg’s trip on behalf of Pell Grant to Washington, D.C., the efforts of SGA and the

“It definitely feels good knowing that there is temporary protection for Pell, but it is just that, temporary protection. More work is to be done and we need to continue being active in Washington, D.C.”

Patrick O’ Keefe,
SGC-MMC President & University Trustee
Student Government Association

students of various universities across the nation rescued the Pell Grant, but at the expense of subsidized loans for graduate students.

Philip Bolton, electronic thesis/dissertation coordinator at the Graduate School office, and a soon to be masters in fine arts student at the University, recalls his experience

in graduate school while he was receiving his masters in library science.

“During my grad studies, the government covered 100 percent of my tuition,” Bolton said. “I haven’t kept up with exactly what the new budget deal includes, but it can’t be good. If

it’s reducing the amount of subsidized loans [the federal government] will disperse, so be it - could be worse.”

Others, like Ivannya Arostegui, a graduate student in religious studies, had their graduate studies paid for by their institutions.

Arostegui said she received neither Pell Grants

nor loans, but a teaching assistant-ship instead. Her department paid for her tuition and she received stipends every semester.

Still, the situation could be more dire for students who are not so fortunate to have someone else pay for their studies paid.

“It can definitely be a heavy blow. Although I have been planning to work during grad school, this surely puts more pressure on me to do so,” said Jason Oliver, an entering graduate student in finance. “I would not want to be unwise and sit around while debt accrues. Of course getting my studies done is most important.”

For the time being, Pell Grants have been secured at the expense of graduate students. O’Keefe does not yet know what the victory for Pell is but to secure it, he said, requires staying active in the nation’s capitol.

“It definitely feels good knowing that there is temporary protection for Pell, but it is just that, temporary protection. More work is to be done and we need to continue being active in

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<u>OPINION EDITOR</u> NEDA GHOMESHI	



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
alexandra.camejo@fiusm.com

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

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FOOTBALL

STAYING FOCUSED

Cristobal on Miami scandal: “Focus is here right now”

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

The band playing in the background of tonight’s practice was a subtle reminder that the season is just around the corner and the time remaining for the Golden Panthers to prepare for their first game against North Texas on Sept. 1 is dwindling.

That’s why head coach Mario Cristobal held a closed door scrimmage Aug. 16, so that he can open up the whole playbook for the players to test out.

Cristobal said that the scrimmage would move players up and down spots on the depth chart, but he did not specify on who exactly would get changed.

He did say that some freshmen like Denzel Perine, Richard Leonard, and players like Jordan Hunt, offensive lineman Shae Smith, running back Shane Coleman and wide receiver Dominique Rhymes, or as Cristobal likes to call him “Busta Rhymes”, have

impressed him.

CRISTOBAL VAGUE ON MIAMI SCANDAL

All of this happened amongst the shocking details of allegations facing the football and basketball programs of FIU’s cross-town neighbors at the University of Miami.

Cristobal was an assistant coach at UM during the period that Nevin Shapiro said everything occurred. His focus, however, is on practice and getting the team ready for the season opener.

“The way two-a-days work, you’re so jammed up with what’s going on so your focus is here right now,” Cristobal said. “By the time you get home you read a little bit on it, but really you’re focused [elsewhere].”

HICKMAN’S CHANGE

Speaking of change, Greg Hickman wasn’t a defensive end in last year’s fall camp. In fact, in high school he was mostly used as a line-backer and he carried that



SERGIO NASER/THE BEACON

Mario Cristobal [above] has been getting his team ready for the season opener against North Texas on Sept. 1.

role heading into fall camp at FIU last year. But before last year’s camp was over, he got changed to defensive

end and has been there ever since.

“It’s going pretty good because I can do the same

things. I can drop back in certain coverages and certain calls,” said Hickman. “Me, Isame [Faciene], Tourek [Williams] and Josh Forney were roommates over the summer so we did a lot of studying and going over the playbook and talking about moves we can do on the offense, and that we can’t wait for the game.”

Tonight started out with the team doing board drills, Hickman’s favorite drill in practice. It consists of two players going at each other with each one trying to see who can push around the most.

Hickman, who is 6’1” and 270 pounds, went up against 6’4”, 330-pound lineman Jordan White. Although Hickman did not win this battle, he says that he still won the end part and he never gave up.

After getting all the players hyped up on the board drill, practice went on as usual with the team working on different drills and any kind of situational play that can be thought of

so that nothing will come as a surprise to the team when the season starts.

PERKINS PLAYING CATCH UP

Although JUCO transfer Demarkus Perkins has had a good camp so far and Crisotbal likes what he sees out of him, missing the first two weeks of camp has hurt him conditioning wise.

This became noticeable when the team started running sprints and Perkins began to look gassed, telling senior Chuck Grace that he felt like he couldn’t go anymore.

Luckily for Perkins, this was the end of the sprints, and thus the end of practice as well.

“He’s a very talented individual that we have to get in shape,” said Cristobal. “We have a lot of catching up to do but we expect to get him in the rotation.”

Perkins was once again unavailable for comment. There was no practice on Aug. 18 or 19 as the team gets some needed rest.

BASEBALL

Thomas gets contract extension and fills gaps with new recruits

JOEL DELGADO
Sports Director

A serene silence normally envelops FIU Baseball Stadium during the long, scorching summer months after the regular season comes to a close.

But despite the quiet and lack of visible activity at the facility, things remain busy under the surface for the fledging Golden Panthers baseball program as they prepare for the upcoming season still more than five months away.

Head coach Turtle Thomas and his staff has remained active throughout the past few months and over the past two weeks, a number of announcements have come out as a result that will affect the program in both the short and long term.

One of the first things that the coaching staff sought to address were some of the gaps that resulted from the graduation of catcher Jose Behar, who was drafted in the MLB Draft by the Florida Marlins, and the departure of Garrett Wittels after signing with the St. Louis Cardinals

organization.

“We definitely had some holes to fill, particularly at shortstop,” Thomas said of the needs the Golden Panthers were hoping to address with their latest recruiting class.

FIU was able to snag Julius Gaines, a short stop from Luella, Georgia who was considering joining the Boston Red Sox after being drafted by them in the 32nd round of the MLB Amateur Draft. In the end, Gaines decided to stick

BASEBALL, page 6

VOLLEYBALL

Lakovic, Gonzalez expected to play big roles in new season

EDUARDO ALMAGUER
Contributing Writer

A devastating loss can make an offseason feel like an eternity.

After being eliminated in the semifinals of the Sun Belt Tournament by Western Kentucky in heart-breaking fashion last year, the Golden Panthers are not deterred.

They are hungry for another shot at the championship, and they believe they have the team to get them there.

“The dynamic is different. We’re a lot more in sync with each other,” said Sabrina Gonzalez, 2010 SBC Academic Honor Roll player. “We know each other’s flaws and strengths, and I feel we’re a closer group of girls because we’ve had a year of bonding and interaction.”

The Panthers rolled to a 20-11 (SBC 12-4) record in 2010 with the help of fantastic season players such as middle blocker Andrea

Lakovic, a First Team All-Sun Belt Conference player in 2010, who led the team with 346 kills and a .351 hitting percentage.

Setter Natalia Valentin, arguably the best at her position in school history, led the team with 1,270 assists after breaking the school record the previous year in the same category.

These performances carried the team to their third-straight year in which they won 20 or more games and their sixth-straight winning season.

There’s a big gap, however, at the setter position this year, with Valentin settling in as a student assistant coach. Head Coach Danijela Tomic hinted that junior Renele Forde has an edge to fill in the position, but that it’s still up for grabs.

“It’s still a competition,” said Tomic. “We believe you have to earn your spot in practice. Until

VOLLEYBALL, page 6

2012 RECRUITING CLASS HIGHLIGHTS

Aramis Garcia	Julius Gaines	Jose Lazaro	John Costa
<i>Position:</i> Catcher	<i>Position:</i> Short Stop	<i>Position:</i> Pitcher	<i>Position:</i> Pitcher
<i>High school:</i> Pines Charter (FL)	<i>High school:</i> Luella High (GA)	<i>High school:</i> North Broward Prep (FL)	<i>High school:</i> Summit Christian (FL)
<i>Senior Year:</i> Team MVP, All-County First Team	<i>Senior Year:</i> N/A... Junior: .363 BA, 30 RBI, 46 R	<i>Senior Year:</i> 7-0, 2.52 ERA, 101 strikeouts	<i>Senior Year:</i> 9-1, 2.52 ERA, 97 strikeouts

Expectations high for team looking for redemption

VOLLEYBALL, page 5

the games start, you never know.”

NEW SYSTEM

Along with a closely-knit group, the Golden Panthers are bringing into play a new captain system. Instead of designating one player to take charge of the entire team, Tomic decided to assign a captain to represent each respective graduating class.

“We have the core leadership group,” Tomic said.

Lakovic will be the senior captain. Forde, tabbed “Most Improved” at the FIU Annual Athletic Awards Banquet on Apr. 17, 2011, will lead the juniors. Setter Jessica Egan will lead the sophomores and middle blocker Carli Silvia will represent the freshmen.

Lakovic and Gonzalez are the only seniors on this year’s squad. While the presence of former Golden Panthers Valentin and Ines Medved will be missed on the court, Lakovic and Gonzalez have no problem stepping up to the task.

“As a senior, I need to motivate others and work on myself and my skill level,” said Gonzalez. “I want to make sure everyone around me gives 110 percent.”

Lakovic added: “I like to lead by example. I am not very vocal so I like to show the other players what they should do.”

LEARNING THE ROPES

Lakovic and Gonzalez are in charge of getting a fresh, young group of players up to speed. There will be a total of five freshmen on the team this year. Tomic, however, said she’s pleased with the youthful group.

“I’m very, very happy with our freshmen,” Tomic said enthusiastically. “Big difference from last year. They’re all doing really well.”

Gonzalez agrees.

“Other than my freshman class, they’re one of the best freshmen class I’ve seen in a while,” said Gonzalez with a smile. “We’re all on the same page.”

Jovana Bjelica, outside hitter and member of the 2011 Sun Belt Conference Commissioner’s List, believes that although the freshmen are ahead of the curve, they can learn something while watching her practice.

“The freshmen have better knowledge than the freshmen from last year,” said Bjelica. “I try to give them feedback on what to do.”

Along with the new captain system, the players decided to change their preseason regimen. Instead of waiting until the late summer to begin working out and getting into shape, the entire squad was working fervently during the spring, months ahead of the season.

“We worked hard individually



REBECCA VILLAFANE/THE BEACON

Golden Panthers hope to take advantage of hosting Sun Belt Conference tournament for first time since 2001.

on our worst qualities so we can come here in preseason and work on teamwork,” Bjelica said.

Gonzalez, who also spent the majority of the summer conditioning and working on her cardio, believes that there’s no stopping her.

“I’m in the best shape of my life,” she said.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS

The Golden Panthers open the season on the road against Fairfield,

Friday, Aug. 26 in the Cal Molten Classic in Berkeley, California.

They remain on the road for six straight games, ending their road trip in Murfreesboro, Tennessee for the Blue Raider Bash. They open at home on Friday, Sept 9 against Tulane.

After making it to the semifinals in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament last season, the team knows there’s a lot of pressure to perform.

The SBC Tournament is returning to FIU this fall for the

first time since 2001, making it critical for the team to exceed expectations.

“The [expectations] are huge from coaches, us, fans and everyone,” said Blejica.

Tomic remarked: “They started preparing for our season in July. There’s just a different attitude. We want to win.”

When asked about this season’s expectations, Gonzalez paused for a brief moment and answered: “We’re going to win the conference.”

New pitching coach among staff changes

BASEBALL, page 5

with FIU and play college ball, which gives the Golden Panthers a solid defensive short stop that may be able to contribute when he steps on to campus.

“Julius Gaines decided to not sign with Boston at the last moment and decided to come to school,” Thomas said. “That was really big.”

At catcher, Aramis Garcia is committed to continue his education at FIU after a high school career that drew the attention of many. Garcia, an All-County First Team selection by The Miami Herald and the Sun Sentinel who was drafted by the Cardinals, is a player that Thomas is glad to have wearing blue and gold next spring.

“Those were two very important positions that we were able to address,” Thomas said.

The Golden Panthers also added two pitchers in this recruiting class with John Costa and Jose Lazaro.

Costa was a standout with Summit Christian High School, posting a 9-1 record with a 2.52 ERA in his senior season while striking out 97 batters.

Lazaro, who hails from Puerto Rico and went to North Broward Prep, has been clocked at up to 93 miles per hour on his fastball and also has been recognized for his studies having graduated with a 4.30 GPA.

“John Costa is a nice looking pitcher who is going to do a nice job for us and Jose Lazaro is an outstanding student,” Thomas said of his new pitchers.

STAFF SHUFFLE

There has also been some reshuffling with the coaching staff, with Frank Damas being

promoted to recruiting coordinator and associate head coach.

Damas is entering his fourth season with FIU after working with Miami-Dade College’s baseball program from 2003 to 2008.

The team also hired Alan Burr as strength and conditioning coordinator and Tommy Kanganis as director of baseball operations.

And after losing former pitching coach Sean Allen to Sam Houston State, the team had to begin a search for a replacement and found Alabama director of baseball operations Drew French to take over in Allen’s role. His first official day will be the same day fall semester starts on Aug. 22.

CONTRACT EXTENSION

After the success that Thomas has had since taking the helm of the program in 2007, the university decided to extend his current contract, which expires in 2014, to 2016.

The contract ends at the same time as Executive Director of Sports and Entertainment Pete Garcia and football coach Mario Cristobal, which could make 2016 an interesting year for FIU athletics should all three decide to stay until their contracts end.

Thomas is pleased that the university decided to keep him on board for two extra years and gives credit to his players and assistants for how far the program has come and where he believes it will eventually go.

“Hopefully [we can win] a super regional and make it to a College World Series,” Thomas said of the team’s goals from now until 2016. “We have some great series set up over the next few years against top teams in the country. They are very competitive teams and we need competitive players to face them.”



I AM
FIU

TRAIL OF THE TORCH
THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2011
7 P.M.
MMC HOUSING QUAD



VIP EVENT PASS

Scandal could alter college football landscape

Many lessons to be learned from mishaps in Miami

SCANDAL, page 1

Despite the meager nine miles that separate the cross-town schools, they could not have been farther apart in terms of talent and success on the field just a few years ago. But now, the gap has essentially been reduced or, perhaps after the NCAA is finished with UM, completely erased.

This is an opportunity for the Golden Panthers to capitalize on the mistakes in judgment and oversight that Miami has made. In the coming days, many of the Hurricane recruits may wipe their hands clean faster than you can say “Donna Shalala.” The kids that want to stay close to home have an alternative just down the road.

If FIU could pull those athletes away from Miami and become the dominating force in South Florida recruiting, it would open a number of doors for the Golden Panthers. They would be ready to take

on big schools on the field and attract potential invites from expansion-hungry conferences.

But before any of this can happen, they have to take care of the task at hand. First of all, taking care of business on the field must be the top priority. No matter what is going on across town in Coral Gables, recruits will want to come here once they see that FIU is an established winner; not just a one year wonder.

ONLY GAME IN TOWN

FIU wants the glamour of ESPN cameras and a packed “cage” on Saturdays. Miami may have had that in the past, but in the wake of the accusations made, those days are over and FIU could step in and become the talk of the town. It could be the first step in the process to help build FIU’s fan base to what Cristobal envisioned when he first arrived.

Pending possible punishments, the

quality of football here this season may be higher than it will be in Miami. At the end of the day, fans want to watch good football. FIU might be the only team in town that people can come to watch, or at least with better talent. It almost seems like a dream scenario for FIU. This could become the break that they were looking for because new fans will start showing up just for college football in Miami. I have a hunch that attendance records would be broken this year, although it won’t be difficult to break them, now it may just be that much easier.

PROCEED WITH CAUTION

With more success comes more fans, this may result in more boosters trying to get their hands on the programs.

Unlike Miami, the athletic department has to be very careful as to who their athletes are associating with. Players do not need to even be in contact with people

like Nevin Shapiro.

Coaches can only control their players to a certain extent. Student athletes have to be the ones that decide whether it is the right or wrong thing to accept these benefits.

Players are not as defenseless as we have made them out to be; they can think for themselves. It is not the coach’s responsibility to follow these kids off the field everywhere they go and tell them who they can or cannot hangout with.

FIU just needs to be careful after what has happened in our own past, coupled with all of the alleged compensating of student athletes by “boosters” or “friends of the program” at almost every major FBS program in the nation.

FIU has been able to keep a very clean program under Cristobal. Hopefully, that will continue to go hand in hand with the success that he has brought to the program.

PANTHER PULSE POLL

Entering his fifth season as head coach, how would you grade Mario Cristobal’s performance?



A 56 %

B 37 %

C 5%

D 0 %

F 2 %



FAST FACT

Mario Cristobal is the first Cuban American head coach in FBS history.

Fan Feedback

“For inheriting what he did and turning it around, he should get an A. But he still hasn’t beaten FAU... Beat those Owls, Mario!”

-Ed Irvin

“In four short years, he took a team that was irrelevant and turned them into a championship team with a bright future.”

-Jeff Fermin

Next Poll: Which FIU home game are you most excited for this season?

To vote and comment, go to facebook.com/FIUSMSports

WOMEN’S SOCCER

Chestnutt names team co-captains

ANTHONY GUIVAS
Contributing Writer

It was very apparent from day one that the Golden Panthers’ women’s soccer team had more talent than ever before. And with the season underway, that talent will be tested during a stretch of four games at home starting on Aug. 27.

As the team completed their final practices, Chestnutt and his staff put the final touches for the starting lineup. The coaching staff decided to name Kelly Ann Hutchinson, Victoria Miliucci and April Perry as their co-captains. It also seems apparent that many of the new recruits will be called up from the bench to start the season.

“We have eight freshmen. Six of them field

players that have potential to start and all six of those players are right there on the door of being a starter or getting playing time,” Chestnutt said.

“That’s fantastic... having good people coming off the bench.”

With the team bringing in a good blend of players both experienced and new, Chestnutt likes the chemistry he sees with his players.

“We pretty much spend 24 hours together all the time and we do a lot of team building activities,” said returning sophomore

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Freshman Survival Guide

Games to watch

Buying Books

Before you buy your books at the FIU Bookstore, check out these resources to get the most bang for your buck.

By: Esra Erdogan 7889
Wed. 08/24/11 11:00 a.m. 125
2

Amazon.com is a great resource for new and used books. If buying used, make sure to check seller ratings and shipping time. Ask your professor if an older edition would be adequate since they are much cheaper. Don't forget to check Amazon's e-book format; the Kindle app for your laptop is free and the books are sometimes cheaper. Chegg.com offers book rentals at low rates and free shipping both ways.

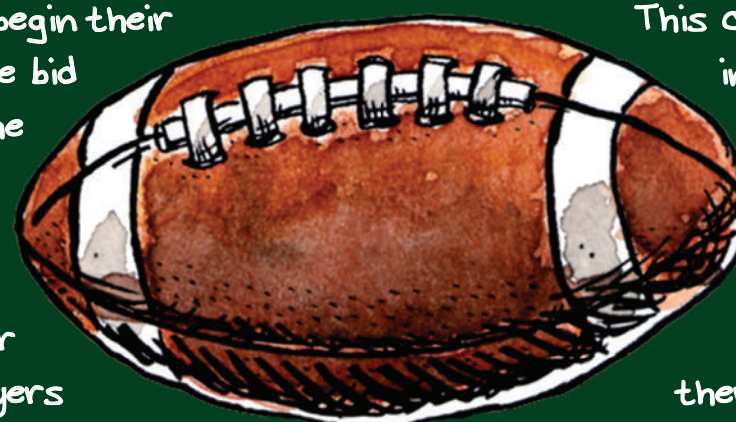
Total Savings: \$\$\$
Have a wonderful school year!

SEPT. 1
UNT
@ FIU 7 P.m.



SEPT. 17
UCF
@ FIU 6 P.m.

The Golden Panthers begin their back-to-back Sun Belt title bid against conference-foe the North Texas Mean Green. Although they had a weak season last year, their running back Lance Dunbar is one of the strongest players in the Sun Belt, rushing for 1,553 yards and finding the endzone 13 times.



This could be the start of a new in-state rivalry. Central Florida will head south to face FIU in the first of a four-game in-state series. UCF could be a tough test for the Golden Panthers. FIU will need all the support they can get to pull off one of the biggest upsets in school history.



Don't Forget!

- Switch out your old PantherCARD at the new FIU One Card office in PG 100 at MMC or WUC 143 at BBC.
- Add and Drop deadline: Aug. 29.
- Tuition Payment deadline: Aug. 30
 - The processing time for holds is two-three weeks.
 - You won't receive your financial aid by the payment deadline.
 - Late fees are \$100.
 - Bright Future Scholarship recipients: Fill out your FAFSA by Aug. 30

Financial Aid Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Did we miss anything? Tweet @FIUSM with tips for incoming freshman #survivalguide

Meal Deals



Meal Pass

Get at least 10% off on every purchase.

Jamba Juice and Pollo Tropical

THE NAME GAME: Submit your name to be raffled for a free smoothie or TropicChop.

Moe's Southwestern Grill

MOE'S MONDAYS: Any burrito, chips and a drink for \$5.99

Sushi Maki

BOGO SUSHI: Buy one, get one free an hour before closing time.

HOUSING TIPS

- Sign a roommate agreement so no one slacks on cleaning and taking care of the room, even if you're friends with your roommates.
- Get to know your Residence Assistant so they're willing to help you when you need it, like with roommate conflicts.
- Fire drills happen, but so do real fires. You will never know if it's a real fire so treat it as if it were.
- If your roommate is breaking the rules or the law, go to your RA or Residence Life Coordinator. You may be guilty by association.
- Be responsible for your room key because they are expensive to replace.

Where to park?

Panther Garage: Best chance to spot. Just a shuttle ride away from GC.

PG5: Before 11 a.m., parking is usually available.

Red: Next to PG5 and less likely to be crowded, but get there before 11 a.m. to guarantee a spot.

Blue & Gold: Best location for early birds.

Parking Lots: Look for lots around campus if you can't find a spot.



Keep in mind the first weeks are crazy, so plan accordingly!



MY BIG FAT GREEK BBQ



PHOTOS COURTESY OF iRockCollege.COM

The sisters of Sigma Lambda Gamma, Zeta Phi Beta and the brothers of Sigma Lambda Beta [left] enjoy the Greek Welcome BBQ at last year's Week of Welcome. The brothers of Tau Kappa Epsilon [above] show their Greek pride at the GC Ballroom Lawns during the BBQ.

Annual barbecue introduces incoming students to the Greek way of life, free food and entertainment

SANDY ZAPATA
Staff Writer

The first week of the academic school year is always filled with plenty of events to enjoy, especially for incoming freshman who are just starting to get

the layout of the college social life.

One of these events, the Greek Welcome BBQ, created by the Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic Council, will take place on Aug. 23 at 7 p.m. in the Graham Center

Ballroom Lawns.

Both these councils set up this "meet and greet" as a way to welcome back returning undergraduates and alumni members of their council as well as to introduce Greek life to new students.

Over time, the event grew to incorporate the other two councils on campus, the National Pan-Hellenic Council and the Multicultural Greek Council.

Alexis Fulks, who has been the Campus Life

Assistant Director for the past two years and is also the Greek Advisor for IFC and PC, said, "Being Greek is a lifelong commitment and not just intended for your four years as an undergraduate. Because FIU is a commuter school, it solidifies the relationships you have with people in your fraternity."

Fulks, who is an alumna and has been a member of Alpha Xi Delta since 2002, believes that the media exemplifies Greek life in a negative way and some freshmen and even returning students may have that idea embedded in them when they return to class.

The Greek barbecue is one way for new students to see the people, parties, and festive mood associated with Greek life.

With four distinct councils, who have an array of sororities and fraternities to choose from, the barbecue is made to involve and educate students, and it is a chance for all the organizations of each council to represent themselves and their philanthropy.

One of the main attractions of the barbecue is when the different organizations start strolling, which is a stepping or saluting line dance. While it may not be a planned part of the event, it gives each

organization an opportunity to strut their stuff.

Everyone comes dressed in their representative gear, from Greek shirts to Greek tikis and paddles. Because the venue is big enough, there is always room for any number of students to join in or watch.

Last year's barbecue brought at least 2,000 students. The count is based on tickets given to students for food and beverages, but it does not represent the total number of students who attended just to see what was going on.

This year's flyer is a barbecue sauce bottle with the details of the "Welcome BBQ" on the front and each council's recruitment dates on the back.

Campus Life also hopes to keep expanding the event through social media networks like twitter and facebook, whose event page alone already has over 600 confirmed guests attending the barbecue.

The event is being catered by "Shorty's Barbeque Restaurant," along with a resident DJ to set the festive mood.

"The best part of the Greek barbecue is the aftermath. To look back and recall all the good times and the different ways all the organizations had a chance to be represented," said Fulks.



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FENDI

eyeglasses

GUCCI

HAUTE TOPIC

THE UNOFFICIAL UNIFORM

Fashion resolutions for a new semester

You might think that a dedicated follower of fashion would apply their style philosophy to all aspects of their life. I am almost ashamed to admit that this is not necessarily true— at least

in my case.



ESRA ERDOGAN

For someone who spends as much time thinking about clothes and shoes as I do, it does not make sense that I put little to no effort into what I wear to school.

The few times that I have worn something out of the ordinary, I felt like other students had their eyes on me all day. I have seen how other girls are side-eyed when wearing five inch heels to a 2 p.m. class.

I must admit, it has

affected my decisions. No one wants to be subjected to that kind of scorn.

I have observed that FIU has a sort of unofficial dress code. Because of the hot and humid climate, most students opt for comfort. Somehow, I have let myself get caught in the uniform routine.

I cannot say that in the three years I have been at this school I have worn anything other than denim cutoffs and flat sandals. I do not know what it is about getting dressed for school that intimidates me, but I am willing to bet I am not the only one.

There has to be someone else out there who is frustrated with their default choices when it comes to getting dressed for school.

After thinking a lot about my dilemma, I have come to the realization that I need to stop thinking. The thing that makes fashion so fun is how contradictory it is.

“

I've observed that FIU has a sort of unofficial dress code. Because of the hot and humid climate, most students opt for comfort. Somehow, I've let myself get caught in the uniform routine.

”

I know I should not wear sweatpants to class, but I found myself admiring a pair from J.Crew that could be worn with a button down.

Walking around FIU in heels seems like a bad idea but sometimes a pair of platform sandals is all it takes to make an outfit perfect.

Wearing a hat seems a little much at first, but with the right style it could look effortless.

There are a few students around campus who under-

stand this contrarian idea in fashion and use it to their advantage; I admire them for it.

This semester, I am challenging myself with the task of wearing a little less black and gray and a lot more experimentation.

The first thing I need to get over is my irrational fear of wearing heels to school. I have quite a few pairs that hardly get enough wear, and there is no good reason for why they are just sitting in my

closet. My mother has a valid point when she asks why I even bought them in the first place. The second thing is exhaustion. My calculating nature ensures that I plan out outfits for at least the first few weeks, but after a while I grow frustrated with planning and end up relying on my uniform again.

The best solution to this is to stop being so calculating and pair unlikely things together. I know it sounds like a shot in the dark, but some of

my favorite ensembles have been born this way.

Once you have secured two items to base your outfit on, like a new top and an old favorite skirt, it becomes easier to personalize the outfit with accessories. Just make sure you are relaxed when you do this, otherwise it could look like a tornado just took a run through your bedroom.

For the next year, I will be documenting my experiences with fashion here in this column.

My style and tastes are constantly shifting and there is rarely a part of fashion that I shun, so expect a varied breadth of topics.

From my frustration with certain trends, to how to shop at bargain stores without looking desperate, all fashion subjects will be covered here. Hopefully you will get some inspiration on the way.

Haute Topic is a weekly fashion column.

WEEK OF WELCOME

MONDAY, AUG. 22

FALL 2011 WOW EVENTS



**KEEP UP WITH THE
CALENDAR FOR A FRESH
UPDATE OF EVENTS
HAPPENING AROUND FIU.**

SGA FIELD DAY

WHEN: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC Lawns

FREE COFFEE AND COOKIES



WHEN: 12 p.m.-3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: EC Lobby

YOGA



WHEN: 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC Recreation Center

WELCOME BACK BBQ



WHEN: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC WUC Panther Square

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES CENTER

Free food and drinks.
WHEN: 9 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC WUC 320 Panther Square

MASSAGE

WHEN: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free 10 min
WHERE: BBC Recreation Center

TUESDAY, AUG. 23

BLUE AND GOLD BREAKFAST

WHEN: 9 a.m.-11 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC Panther Square

SPC PIT EVENT



WHEN: 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC Pit

CSO CLUB FAIR



WHEN: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC Ballrooms

RESIDENCE HALL MMC "KNOCK KNOCK"

The "Knock! Knock!" program is an annual tradition sponsored by Housing and Residential Life where faculty and staff members from the FIU community welcome residents to the residence halls.
WHEN: 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC Housing Quad

CAREER CAFE-FEDERAL JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

CDO office is offering the Career Cafe to offer information on Federal Judicial Clerkships.

WHEN: 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free with Panther ID
WHERE: GL 100

SGA INTERN 101

WHEN: 4 p.m.-5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC 211

GREEK WELCOME BBQ

WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC Ballrooms and lawn

JLSA LUNCH AND LEARN

The "lunch and learn" program is taught by Rabbi Levi Friedman, of ChabadFIU. This semester we will be discussing legal topics from contracts to criminal law from a Jewish legal perspective, ALL while eating a delicious free lunch.

WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC RDB 1006

FALL 2011 FIU ONLINE STUDENT ORIENTATIONS (ONLINE SESSION)

WHEN: 2 p.m.-4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: ONLINE

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Panther Pit Tailgate



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Scholarship Programs
SAA Traditions**

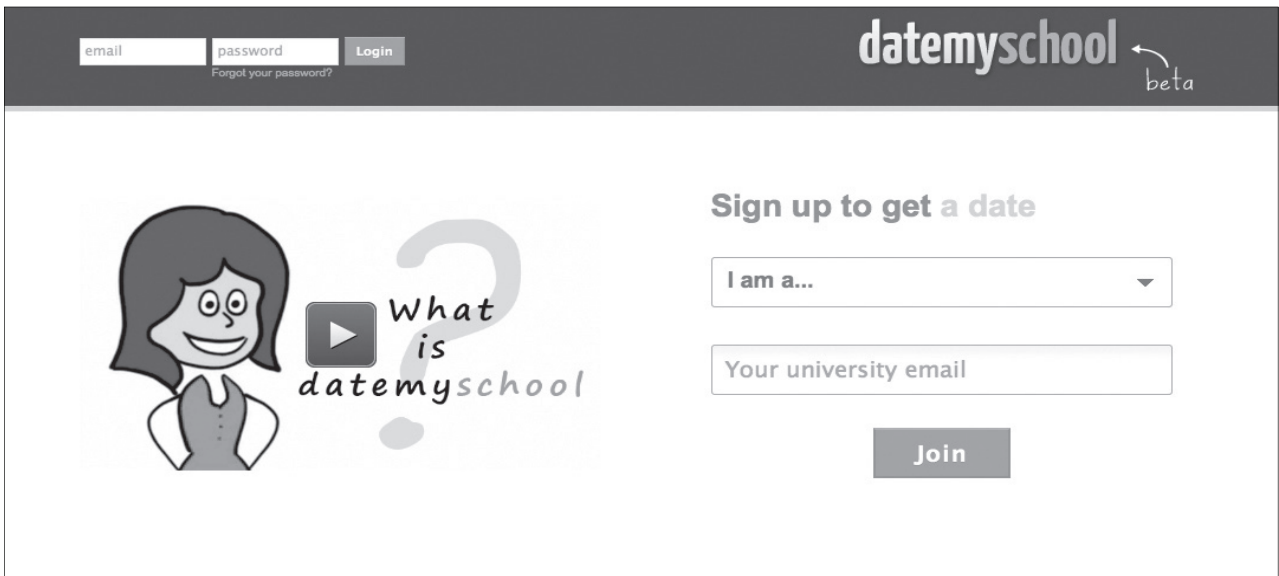


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New dating site eases cyber romance fears



SYLVIA SIMIONI
Contributing Writer

Today’s generation of college students are divided between those who believe there is still a social stigma attached to online dating and those who increasingly embrace it as an adopted norm of our “busy bee” society.

“Well, I suppose it’s still taboo for older generations,” said Freshman Biology major Vanessa Penna. “If I ever met someone online, I wouldn’t feel comfortable telling my

mom where I met them. I’d probably lie and tell her I met them at school.”

With the intent of eradicating the perils of online dating by allowing members to search for other users who attend the colleges in their vicinity at their discretion, a couple of Columbia University business graduate students, Balazs Alexa and Jean Meyer, created DateMySchool.com, a free online dating website.

The beauty of DateMySchool is that members are not searchable on Google,

thus alleviating fears of embarrassment previously associated with having an online dating account. Users can also limit who can access their profiles within the site, so if they prefer to remain anonymous to a certain course or even an entire campus, they can.

The real kicker is its exclusivity.

Students interested in creating an account must register with an active university email address. Not only does this guarantee the high security that doubters of

virtual courtship demand, but it also ensures members will find people who share similar academic interests and partake in the same collegiate lifestyle.

“Because DMS members attend the same school or a school nearby and place the same priority on education and careers, members understand, trust and relate to one another in a way that they cannot on other dating sites that filter users through their zip codes,” stated DateMySchool’s Director of Public Relations, Melanie Wallner.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MELANIE WALLNER

DateMySchool arranges meeting a potential date by delving into a university’s infrastructure. It enables students to filter their searches based on whether a member attends the College of Arts and Sciences or the College of Engineering and Computing, whether they are looking for Women’s Studies or Public Administration majors, or whether they come from a Roman Catholic or Baha’i background.

Some University students are impressed by the site’s innovative process.

“It’s a pretty convenient website,” said Rachel Betancourt, a sophomore psychology major. “Personally, I don’t think I’d be into long distance relationships [but] meeting people in the area would be pretty cool; the only difference is that you’re dealing exclusively with college kids.”

Carlos Martinez, a computer science junior, said, “I think it’s a good alternative for people who don’t have the time for traditional dating, but then again, who does?”

DateMySchool caters to all types of universities, especially to a public state institution like FIU that has over

40,000 students, an inordinate amount of departments and other various campuses mottled around the South Florida area.

According to Martinez, these conditions make it difficult to meet people and foster connections.

“Here’s the thing,” said Wallner, “FIU students have a ton on their plate. They’ve got the Panthers’ game to watch, this 20-page paper to bust out, that club meeting to plan—with so much to do on campus, students don’t always have the time to meet new people, especially because they’re busy going to the parties that only reintroduce them to the people they already know.”

Betancourt added, “The distinct appeal that separates DateMySchool from other dating sites like OkCupid and Zoosk lies within its estimated success in bringing college students exactly what they want, right in the comfort of their own school. It is one solution that aptly meets students’ criteria of what they look for, not only in a partner, but also in an online dating platform.”

DateMySchool officially launched at the University on Wednesday, Aug. 17th.

Hypnotist Sailesh comes back to shock University



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Sailesh [above] surprises students with his skills during last fall’s Week of Welcome.

WOW, page 1

at these events like new giveaways for students each year, which adds to the overall experience.”

On Aug. 23, WOW continues with the SPC Comedy Show featuring Dan Ahdoot in the GC Ballrooms at 6 p.m. Ahdoot was a finalist for NBC’s “Last Comic Standing” and winner of the 2003 Philadelphia Comedy Competition.

“With this event, we were able to book Ahdoot in advance this past February at the National Association for Campus Activ-

ities National Convention,” explained Calafell. “We think these events, such as the comedy show, are enjoyable in itself. We just make sure that current students experience something different every year.”

The SPC Hypnotist Show will feature Sailesh. Dubbed “the World’s Best Hypnotist,” Sailesh will once again entrance the audience on Aug. 25 in the GC Ballrooms at 9 p.m.

“We [SPC] continue to book Sailesh every fall for WOW because he’s always received well by the students and it helps

build a tradition,” said Calafell. “We felt good about these two performers [Sailesh and Ahdoot] and decided that they would contribute to making this Week of Welcome memorable and enjoyable.”

Week of Welcome ends on Friday, Aug. 25, with the SPC Friday Night Movie featuring this summer’s box office hit, “Fast Five,” at GC 140 at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. The event will include free popcorn and drinks.

“These events are necessary for incoming students because it shows them FIU has the best interest of the students

in mind,” said Calafell. “Aside from providing excellent academic programs, the University also supports a Campus Life department with excellent councils who provide these educational and fun experiences for new students.”

SPC also hopes new students will realize being a Panther does involves hard work, commitment and dedication, but it also allows room for fun.

“This week is about exposing new students to the University with a college experience that is truly ‘Worlds Ahead!’” said Calafell.

Sudoku

				4			9	
	4	1	8					6
		7	5	9	1	2		
	2				9	3	1	7
7	5		2					9
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		5			6			
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1						8		

Go online at <http://www.pdfpad.com/soduku/> for the answer key to this Sudoku puzzle.

ECON WITH NEDA

Perry's asinine comments a result of faulty perception

On August 15, 2011, Governor Rick Perry of Texas not only insulted Ben Bernanke, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, he also illustrated to this country that he does not comprehend economics well enough to be considered a viable candidate in the 2012 presidential race.



NEDA GHOMESHI

"Printing more money to play politics at this particular time in American history is almost treacherous, or treasonous, in my opinion," Perry said.

Essentially, the Republican presidential candidate is accusing Bernanke of treason, if Bernanke adopted another round of so-called quantitative easing.

Since Perry believes that the implementation of quantitative easing should result in treason charges, it is evident that he does not understand the financial strategy and the definition of treason.

Quantitative easing is a complex issue. It is the unorthodox financial strategy of

pumping money into an economy and working to lower interest rates. Treason is the offense of acting to overthrow one's government or to harm or kill its sovereign.

Although a positive outcome is not guaranteed, Perry's inference that quantitative easing should result in treason charges is unwarranted, unjustified and concerning since he aspires to be the next President of the United States. An understanding of viable economic solutions to help the economy prosper should be a necessity for any presidential candidate.

In an interview conducted by ABC News, Perry was asked if he thought that the Federal Reserve was playing politics to try to help President Barack Obama. He replied, "If they print more money between now and this election, I would suggest that's exactly what's going on."

Perry's response exemplifies his inaccurate interpretation of the Federal Reserve's purpose, focus and goal - to create a safer, more flexible, and more stable monetary and financial system.

"Perry's inference that quantitative easing should result in treason charges is unwarranted, unjustified and concerning since he aspires to be the next President of the United States."

Over the years, Mr. Bernanke has done as much as the Federal Reserve should do to get the economy moving again. Back in 2008, with quantitative easing, Bernanke prevented the economy from catastrophe far worse than the severe downturn it did experience. According to *The New York Times*, "Most economists credit quantitative easing with preventing a global depression." Perry's lack of knowledge of the 2008 economic crisis further supports that he is incapable of running this nation.

Aside from obvious disapproval from Democrats, Republicans such as Karl Rove, strategist for former Republican President

George W. Bush, and Tony Fratto, former deputy press secretary to George W. Bush, described the statements as inappropriate and unpresidential. Rove said, "You don't accuse the chairman of the Federal Reserve of being a traitor to his country."

Clearly, Perry is unhappy with Bernanke's policies; however, accusing the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board of treason and questioning his integrity to this nation is inexcusable, unacceptable and not a tactful approach to winning the presidential race.

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

Credit card use requires education

KATRINA BRUNO
Staff Writer

Minimum wage jobs, student loans and personal expenses are making daily finances nearly unbearable for college students, including myself. According to collegedata.com, 57.6 percent of undergraduate students at this University depend on financial aid for assistance to make their way through college.

I am aware that credit cards can be extremely helpful for students if used responsibly. However, I do believe the lack of education on how to properly maintain one's finances has left many students feeling stressed and helpless when it comes to overcoming their debt.

The required First Year Experience courses at our University should focus on educating students on financial responsibility. The University should also give more recognition to the needs of our students by offering free workshops that educate students about the pitfalls and benefits of having a credit card. This would help students feel more financially independent, secure and confident as they go through their college years.

The "play today, pay tomorrow" philosophy is an appealing trap for students to fall into. Since I turned 21 in February, I have received an influx of offers from credit card companies. Some of the offers are

attractive, adding rewards points, air miles and cash-back bonuses to the ability to pay instantly for different items. With ease, I have spent more than what I have in my bank account during the six month period I have had my credit card.

Sallie Mae, a national financial organization that services and collects student loans, released "How Undergraduate Students Use Credit Cards: Sallie Mae's National Study of Usage Rates." According to the study, "91 percent of undergraduates have at least one credit card, up from 76 percent in the same study conducted in 2004. The average number of cards has grown to 4.6, with half of college students having four or more cards." The study also determined that the average undergraduate student carries \$3,173 in credit card debt.

Whether the culprit is fiscal irresponsibility or a need to pay for tuition, books and other necessities, the issue of controlling one's finances and keeping out of debt is something that should be taught to students.

College is a great time to make important financial decisions and establish a credit history, but it is also a time where most students swipe their way into a colossal amount of debt. However, I do believe that with a little guidance and education, students may begin to regain control of their finances while learning to make fiscally smarter decisions in the future.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Difficult economic times should not affect academic plans

As another school year begins, returning students and freshmen alike must contend with a continued atmosphere of gloom: stubbornly poor job prospects, talk of a returning or "double-dip" recession, and concerns about an "education bubble" in which college degrees are suspected of costing far more than their worth.

Amid this cynical and hopeless environment, it is easy to feel pessimistic, overwhelmed, and even self-doubting about one's own educational path. But

the best thing anyone could do in response to these concerns is learn from them.

All this should spur students to think carefully about what classes they're taking and why, determine whether their major is truly what they see themselves doing, and honestly investigate whether what they have in mind for a career fits the right balance of desirability and feasibility.

Amid all the skepticism about the value of higher education, and the low rate of employment even for graduates, people with

college degrees still maintain a comparative edge in employment and salary over those that don't.

It certainly doesn't mean students should be careless about their plan of study and believe any degree will suit them. But it's no cause for gloom and doom either. Be cautious, prudent, vigilant, and most of all patient. All that will come in handy long after you've graduated.

-Romney Manassa,
FIU Alumnus



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Modern technology affects interaction

PAOLO RAMOS
Staff Writer

The combination of my experiences with my first year in college and my time working at Cracker Barrel Restaurant for the past seven months have revealed an interesting and potentially problematic phenomenon: the distraction that technology provides from social interaction. In this digital age, it is far too easy to be pulled into the world of cyberspace where every mundane interest can be satisfied with basic skills of the Internet.

This phenomenon is occurring not only among college aged individuals, but by those who have barely left preschool. Concern must be taken as the youth of the population begins to grow in this digital age.

The problem is not the technology itself. In fact, the array of digital technology that has flourished in recent years, including smartphones, e-readers and gaming consoles, have greatly improved our way of living, are used to keep us organized, can broaden our intellectual horizons and entertain us without much effort. They also bring about a significant shortfall in the form of distraction. In both academic and social environments, technology has found ways to draw our attention from what is around us into the virtual world.

A Harvard University study revealed that up to 10 percent of Internet users suffer from web addiction, a problem that is especially prevalent among teenagers. A similar study conducted at Yale University showed that 13 percent of males teens and 17 percent of females teens are on the Internet for 20 hours or more per week. This statistic is unnerving, especially when you consider the challenges posed to the typical college student in the United States. With inflating tuition costs, budget cuts and a bleak job outlook after graduation, the last thing that any student needs is another obstacle to overcome.

It can be ascertained that most students at the University are familiar with the disclaimer about cell phones and even laptops at the beginning of each semester, though they are rarely taken seriously. The mutual apathy that exists between students and professors regarding technology has caused a disconnect in the learning process. From personal experience, only a select few professors have explicitly banned or regulated the use of laptops in the classroom.

Where laptops are allowed, rarely have I ever seen a student focusing solely on class-related material. In an article from *The New York Times*, professors from top universities such as Yale and Harvard have cited the problematic inclusion of the internet in the classroom and the ever-increasing challenge to keep students engaged in the teaching process.

Gadgets, the easy access to entertainment and commerce that technology provides have minimized the sphere of social and physical activity of most of the population, and for college students that includes studying time. Smartphones, laptops and tablets are common fare for the majority of the University population.

From an observer’s point of view, it can appear like these devices have enhanced education, but when you see the content on the screen, that initial assumption is immediately dismissed. Students are wasting too much time using social networking sites, texting and excessive self-promotion.

It can be said that modern technology has the potential to create a vacuum, which draws the minds of the population of the world into a completely new realm. Though we are far from being completely divorced from reality, we may arrive at that point as avenues for satisfaction continue to open up for each and every person using technology. If most of the adult society has reality already slipping through its fingers, today’s average student will be living in a disillusioned state of reality.

It is integral now more than ever to keep a firm grip on what is concrete and tangible, and not get lost in translation amidst the pomp and circumstance that is modern technology.

Data mining puts privacy in jeopardy

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

Every day, people give away their privacy in return for the use of the latest gadgets and conveniences, often without even knowing it.

Data mining is a relatively new marketing tactic made possible by the vast infiltration of electronics in our lives. Little do people know, or maybe they do know but just do not care, that many electronics we use on a daily basis are recording our activities and purchases and storing them into databases indefinitely. Sacrificing privacy for shopping convenience and a personalized web page is not worth it.

Electronics and applications from cell phones to desktop browsers have been logging information about your habits for some time. The biggest culprits guilty of using data mining tactics are major credit card companies, who blatantly sell information about the purchases you make. This information is used to create profiles about people that are sold to third-party advertisers for targeted marketing, or advertisements catered towards the likes and dislikes of individuals. This has great potential for abuse.

While it may not be such a big deal to some that the rich and powerful have access to their shopping, web browsing and location habits, it is only the begin-

ning of the infringement of our privacy for the monetary gain of companies such as Facebook, Apple and MasterCard. All of the separate profiles generated by different data mining crusades could one day come together into one national database owned by the government. This would mean our government would own and operate a database full of any personal information you post on the web and any information they can deduce from your purchasing habits.

There is a difference between buying something and being sold something.

nuisance, and the freedoms we experience in our free market will start to dwindle. In order for the prices of virtually all goods and services to remain competitive, the choice of where and how to spend money must remain with the consumer. Otherwise, we will see less variety in goods and higher prices because direct marketing will stifle consumer choice in the favor of the sellers.

Everyone signs away a piece of their privacy each time they accept a new end-user license agreement or create a

Sacrificing privacy for shopping convenience and a personalized web page is not worth it.

Developers are continuously perfecting and expanding targeted marketing technologies with no intention of stopping. Direct marketing tactics are meant to increase the likelihood of a hard sell.

A future where merchandise retailers come to you offering all the products you habitually buy can be made possible by these technologies. As a rather selective shopper that likes to do his research before buying, I have a problem with that because it drastically reduces my choices.

When data mining and targeted marketing techniques penetrate too deep into our lives it will become a

social networking page, and as of now the invasion of privacy only affects the surface of our lives, but that is still substantial.

The real concern is how far these techniques will go in the future and how they will affect our daily lives. Privacy is more important to me than any piece of hardware or software, and the potential disregard for my privacy by those who only wish to profit from me is disturbing.

For more on EULA’s, reference the article, “Software Licensing Puts Users at a Disadvantage,” published on Jan. 26, 2011, available on fiusm.com.

Campus health services of high quality

YANSSEL GARCIA
Contributing Writer

When it comes to getting medical checkups and prescriptions, the University Health Services Complex should be the first place that every student goes to. The UHSC provides quick service, cheaper prices on prescription and over-the-counter drugs and other services that students should take advantage of.

According to Dr. Oscar Loynaz, the director of the UHSC, in the last year, 9,583 students have gone to the clinic, 3,975 have ordered prescriptions, and 7,468 have visited the wellness center. Although these numbers seem large, the University has over 44,000 students, of which only around 27 percent have visited the clinic.

Carmen Victoria Framil, a nurse practitioner, mentioned some of the services that are provided by the student health fee. “[The student health fee] covers discounted medication, discounted lab work, stress management, free HIV testing, and wellness services.”

The UHSC consists of more than a clinic. Considering that only 3,975 prescriptions were given out in the last year, and only 1,432 over-the-counter drugs were sold, it appears that not many students are aware of the campus pharmacy. Using the pharmacy that we have on campus has several advantages. According to Dr. Loynaz, “pricing is generally better than what you can find elsewhere.”

If the prescription that a student needs is not avail-

able, the pharmacy will order it and have it by the next day, a convenience that should be used.

Students should exploit these conveniences, especially since we are paying for them.

There is also the advantage of being able to get a prescription drug and place the dues in your student account. For example, if a student has a dire need for a prescription, the student may take the prescription from the university pharmacy and ask to have it placed on their my.FIU.edu account.

I once visited the UHSC

because of an allergic reaction. I was tended to immediately and was given a prescription and instructions on what to do. Walk-in patients are welcome and tended to post-haste. Considering the perks of using the health services provided on campus, students should always think of visiting the clinic prior to going elsewhere.

The clinic may be able to treat any ailments that the student may have, and in the case that it cannot, the clinic can send the student to someone who can. The pharmacy provides many conveniences that are not found elsewhere, and students should exploit these conveniences, especially since we are paying for them. Using the health services found on campus is faster and cheaper.

VERBATIM

“Scandal is not who so-and-so is dating; scandal is the fact that cholera is rampant because Nepalese U.N. soldiers dumped shit from their Porta-Potties into the river.”

-Olivia Wilde, actress

“I believe in democracy, civil liberties, and the rule of law. That makes me a liberal, and I’m proud of it.”

-Paul Krugman, economist

“Having access to abortion was viewed as the only way women could have full equality with men, who, until recently, couldn’t get pregnant.”

-Kathleen Parker, columnist for *The Washington Post*

GPE gets first fare increase since 2006; up 50 cents

GPE, page 16

how beneficial it will be for students to have access to the Internet throughout the trip.”

In addition to the new features that will be on the GPE the first day of the semester, the service will see its rate increase for the first time since 2006, to accommodate for the rise in gasoline prices.

“The increase for the fare was recently sought due to the increased in the contract pricing related to the fuel usage,” said Hernandez. “The cost of the shuttle is to help

cover the fuel usage.”

Although Parking and Transportation mentions that the GPE upgrades came about with the students’ best interests in mind, not everyone agrees with these additional features.

“I am opposed [to these changes] as it brings the cost higher than public transportation, if you are only taking one bus,” said Melissa Wells, a freshman with an undecided major. “The upgrades, such as Wi-Fi, are those that students can separate for a single bus ride. With the amount of resources on campus, it is

ridiculous to think of not having [Internet] for one, maybe two bus rides as being incredibly detrimental.”

However, the addition of Internet to the GPE is not the only addition, there will also be surveillance cameras added to all of the buses, with the safety of passengers being a priority for Parking and Transportation, although safety has yet to become an issue with the GPE.

“As of this time, there have been no [safety issues], but the safety our students is our primary concern,” says Hernandez. “Our office thought that since we were entering into

a new contract for the next five years, it will be in the best interest of the University to include it from the beginning.”

To inform passengers of the upcoming changes, the Department of Parking and Transportation will have staff members during the first week of classes notifying students at each campus’s respective GPE stops, along with emails being sent out to the university community.

At the time of print, the Department of Parking and Transportation web site has yet to reflect the changes to the GPE.

With rising enrollment, prospective housing residents put on waiting list

HOUSING, page 2

The new structure would replace BBC’s Bay Vista complex, which houses approximately 300 students.

Despite the high demand, Wassenaar said the Housing Office has been “largely successful at accommodating students from outside Dade and Broward County.”

The University has off-campus housing locating service available to help students wait-listed find accommodations elsewhere.

The off-campus housing locator is a classifieds website, classifieds.fiu.edu, which allows students to search for properties by price range and number of rooms and includes a message board feature to help

students find roommates.

This semester’s housing crunch, partly a result of increased enrollment, is also partly a result of university housing’s high rate of return – 55 percent of students in residence halls, according to Wassenaar, renewed their contracts at the end of the year.

For renewing and new students alike the University undertakes efforts to make them feel at home on campus.

Freshman Pat Louis, who requested housing early and was placed at Bay Vista, said he liked the accommodations and had so far had a positive experience with the Housing Office and Residence Life.

Events such as the annual Knock Knock Program, in which faculty and staff members

meet with and welcome new student residents in the first week of classes, are designed to create a sense of community.

This year, Knock Knock will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 23 at BBC and Wednesday, Aug. 24 at MMC.

While wait-listed students are making a last-minute scramble to find housing before classes start, the word from many like Smith, who were placed in residence halls, is positive.

“The outside [of Bay Vista] is beautiful,” Smith said, though he said there were places where the interior showed its age. Asked what he would like to see in any future residence hall, Smith said, “Better Wi-Fi – the signal’s horrible!”

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TOURNAMENT/LEAGUE

SOFTBALL

FLAG FOOTBALL

3-ON-3 BASKETBALL

NFL PIGSKIN PICK'EM

HOT SHOTS TOURNAMENT

FREE THROW SHOOTOUT

DEADLINE/SEASON STARTS

AUG. 31/SEPT. 11

SEPT. 7/SEPT. 12

SEPT. 14/SEPT. 19

EVERY FRIDAY/SEPT. 11

WALK-UP ENTRIES/SEPT. 20

WALK-UP ENTRIES/SEPT. 21

THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE WINNER

FALL 2011 INTRAMURAL SPORTS

OFFICIALS & INSTRUCTIONAL CLINICS

OFFICIALS CLINICS

SOFTBALL: AUG. 30 - SEPT. 1

FLAG FOOTBALL: SEPT. 6 - SEPT. 8

VOLLEYBALL: SEPT. 27 - SEPT. 29

INDOOR SOCCER: OCT. 4 - SEPT. 6

TIME: 7:00PM-10:00PM

LOCATION: FIU RECREATION CENTER (RC 102)

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FALL 2011



Express shuttles get internet and security cameras

JONATHAN SZYDLO
BBC Managing Editor

The start of the new semester brings new features to the University's cross-town shuttle, but don't be surprised if you're a buck short when looking to take the Golden Panther Express

The Department of Parking and Transportation is adding new features to the Golden Panther Express, the University's inter-campus shuttle service, due to the renegotiation and renewal of the service's contract with American Coach.

The contract renegotiation's call for the addition of Wi-Fi Internet access and security cameras on all of the American Coach buses provided

to FIU for the GPE, along with a rate hike of 50 cents per one way trip, making the total cost of a round way trip \$5.00.

With the contract between FIU and American Coach being brought to the table this summer, Lissette Hernandez, associate director of the Department of Parking and Transportation, saw this as an ideal opportunity to request additional features to the GPE.

"We thought that this will be a perfect moment to request additional services since the contract was up for renewal," said Hernandez. "We understand the travel time it takes from one campus to the other and

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THE BIG MOVE



CRISTINA MIRALLES/THE BEACON

Rachel Knight [left] helps her sister, Rebekah Knight, sophomore, hospitality and tourism management, move into the Bay Vista dorms. Resident move ins began on Friday, Aug. 19. Turn to the story on pg. 15 for information on upcoming Bay Vista events.

SGC-BBC funds Wolfe University Center renovations

KATIE LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

The proposed budget from the Biscayne Bay Student Government Council was passed by the BBC Senate on Aug. 1, giving the Wolfe University Center \$70,000 for a new face-lift.

The project, funded through student's activities and services fees, will help create a new image for the WUC, beginning with re-tiling the three floors and painting the interior.

"Students have shown interest in a long-term vision for the Wolf Center," said Greg Olson, director of the WUC, who concedes that the project is still in very early stages. "In the immediate, it looks like we can get some tiling done, and painting."

The University-wide budget from activities and services fees reached nearly \$12.5 million this year. After money is allocated for services that

are beneficial to both campuses, the remaining money is divided with 74 percent going to the Modesto Maidique Campus and 26 percent going to the BBC, to be further divided by the respective SGC's administrations for campus-specific activities.

The SGC-BBC was able to secure \$70,000 for renovations from the money designed for campus-specific projects. Another \$20,000 from the University-wide budget is waiting for approval from the SGC-MMC senate before all budgets will be sent to the vice president of student affairs, Rosa Jones, for final approval.

In conjunction with the BBC specific funding, the WUC was allotted an additional \$30,000 by the University Wide Student Government Council and \$109,751 in residual funds from the SGC-MMC.

"Re-tiling of the WUC floors will benefit the students in having a cohesive student union center as well as

There is a lot we can do. It's a positive thing being done for the students.

Greg Olsen
Director of the WUC

fixing the concave floors on the second and third floors," said Denise Halpin, the president of the SGC-BBC, who has heavily lobbied for the projects funding and fruition.

As per the July 13, SGC-BBC meeting, the estimated budget for the re-tiling of the WUC is \$376,700.

The project cost breaks down as follows: \$190,000 in the demolition of the current flooring; \$100,000 in the laying of the tiles; \$18,700 in architect fees; \$68,000 in imported blue and gold tiles, which are not available in the United States, according Emilio

Collyer, vice president of SGC-BBC.

The money, once approved by the University, will set in motion a bidding process to hire someone to help create a long-term vision for the WUC. University CFO, Kenneth Jessel, plans to visit in late August to meet with Olson and SGA members and do a walk-through of the WUC.

"They are going to discuss what needs to be done so we can hire someone to help create a vision for the center," said Collyer, who mentioned that President Mark Rosenberg fully supports the renovation. "We will

start the tiling and painting this year, but we want to make sure we have a clear vision so everything is cohesive with future administrations."

"We are looking into having a five-to-10 year overall vision of the Wolfe Center," said Halpin. "That way we do not just fund pieces of the WUC but rather an overall student union center."

The last time major renovations occurred in the WUC was in 2007, when the SGA office was moved from the first floor into what was formerly the fitness center.

Other renovation ideas have included adding a statue of a panther and redesigning the WUC with updated features, but the visions will be streamlined after Jessel's visit and the hiring of an architect.

"There is a lot we can do," said Olson.

"It's a positive thing being done for the students."

Events and student services posted on campus boards

VANESSA CAROLINA RODRIGUEZ
Contributing Writer

With flyers announcing the latest events around campus or nearby off-campus housing, bulletin boards have long served their purpose as a low-cost public advertising space in the past.

"When I went to school in the 70s, bulletins were the main source of information for students to find out about upcoming events around campus. If you never checked the bulletin board, you never knew what was going on," said David Johnson, a 50-year-old business major who recently came back to FIU to get his master's degree.

Bulletin boards may have once been a major avenue for getting a message out to the campus community, but in today's fast paced society, many students on the go can be forgiven for missing the literal writings on the wall.

At Biscayne Bay Campus, there are three bulletin boards in the Wolfe Center that are designated to specifically provide information on off-campus housing, FIU events, and the community at large.

Senior John Garcia, a public relations major and self-employed student who buys and sells college textbooks, has his complaints though.

"The bulletins I have posted at the BBC boards have not done much for me. I have yet to receive a call from

an FIU student. I keep my business going thanks to different methods of advertising," he said.

Garcia hesitated to disclose private information about the different methods of advertising he uses, but did mention social media as an important advertising tool.

Local businesses like Aventura Xstorage, however, which has been around for more than ten years, seems satisfied with the turnout of FIU students that have contacted them since they first started advertising at the university.

"We started posting bulletins to advertise summer storage for college students about seven to eight years ago," said Rafael Lopez, an Aventura Xstorage employee. "But to be honest,

we get the most clientele from mouth-to-mouth advertising amongst [FIU] students."

Aventura Xstorage is content with the relationship they have established with FIU and its students, but they recognize that they had to build up a reputation within the student community.

"With the passing of time, we see how pleased customers refer us to their friends and fellow students," added Rafael.

Not all advertisers have the advantage of having time on their side to help promote their business. Others criticize the limit imposed when trying to post something to be advertised.

Those who want to place a posting on the bulletin boards are allowed to

post one page of advertisement that has been previously approved by the University before going up on the boards.

The limit on how many sheets one can put up can be one reason why some information goes unnoticed by students.

Marie Pierre, an off-campus housing advertiser said, "I do not recall hearing about a FIU student interested in the apartment before it recently went for rent".

Pierre is not the only poster with reservations towards the one page per post restrictions.

"The sheet limit is the reason why the boards have not really helped me in my business," said Garcia. "It's just not enough."