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FUTBOL PROMOTING FOOTBALL



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Joseph Dawkins, defender for the men's soccer team (center), and the rest of the team promote the Golden Panthers football team's game against the Knights of the University Central Florida during a pep rally held in the Graham Center pit.

SEPTEMBER 11

9/11 events bring together University

JILL BOUCHER
Contributing Writer

The week-long series of events remembering 9/11 throughout the University brought many speakers and artistic performances for all to enjoy.

The Office of Global Learning put on the memorial for the University community.

Arianna Caroli, a world-traveler and artist, displayed her artwork on the exterior of the Frost Art Museum. With an admiration of the American flag,

Caroli began photographing the flag a few years before 9/11, not knowing how powerful her photographs would soon be.

Caroli spoke in a more personal atmosphere on Thursday, Sept. 8. She presented photos and paintings from her world travels and spoke fondly of the children she has met on her journeys throughout the world.

Images were from her travels within the past four years in Asia, India, Italy and beyond.

"What's important is not the final

portrait, but it's the process," said Caroli. "Art is a universal language."

The hour was filled with personal stories of Caroli. She always related her experiences back to movement, strength and resilience, words commonly associated with 9/11.

To speak about current issues surrounding Muslim-Americans, former Assistant State Attorney Asad Ba-Yunus met with a full house in the Frost Art Museum.

COMMEMORATION, page 2

STUDENT GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

SGC-MMC senate fills vacant seats

ANGELISE PETRILLO
Contributing Writer

The senate of the Student Government Council at the Modesto Maidique Campus appointed five senators at their first meeting in their newly renovated senate chambers.

There were at least 12 people running for each of the

seats up for grabs.

After long deliberation and much consideration – the Business and Housing seats each had runoff votes – the positions were filled and the new senators took their seats as SGC-MMC senators.

The new senators have already begun working to represent their student body

and are expected to start making progress in their positions immediately.

Senator Adnan Samma, who will represent Housing students as their second senator along with Carlos Rodriguez, plans to make the necessary changes and improvements to the current living conditions of the University's on-campus

living.

"There is currently a deficiency in the awareness and solution of problematic issues for residents," said Samma, during his presentation to the senate. "I plan to create a way for residents to voice their concerns and for housing to

NEW SENATORS, page 2

FOOTBALL

Hype builds as game nears

You could not have asked for a better script. Central Florida, coming off of a 30-3 bashing of Boston College last week, and FIU, who just defeated its first school ever from a BCS automatic qualifying conference, are on a collision course for Saturday night when UCF travels the 240 miles south for the match-up.

The "Battle of the Turnpike," as the UCF players have dubbed it, is shaping up to break the attendance record for an FIU football game set at the Rutgers game last season at 19,872. The only problem is how friendly this crowd will be, as numerous people have said that UCF will bring a lot of fans down to "The Cage."

COMMENTARY



BRANDON WISE

When the fans of another school are willing to buy season tickets from FIU to see one game, it goes a long way in showing the fandom that UCF has created around their program in the last 20 years.

It will be an embarrassment to this school if the Knights outnumber the Golden Panthers in the stands. However, the scoreboard has nothing to do with how both schools attend the game. The Golden Panthers will have to play nearly perfect football this weekend if they hope to come out on top.

The hype of this game has been building since the schedule was released and fueled even more this past month, with fans on both sides going at it on social media websites. Now, the players have even begun to give each other some bulletin board material.

Jeff Godfrey, quarterback for UCF and Miami native, has had a lot to say about coming back home to Miami and specifically about FIU when he talked to the *Orlando Sentinel*.

"They had a pretty good game over Louisville," Godfrey said of FIU's game over the Cardinals. "They played great. T.Y. Hilton, he had a great game. Broke their school record. He's just a phenomenal player. But I think our defense will go out there and shut them out."

This is not the first time that opponents have doubted T.Y. and the rest of the offense this season. It seems like every time someone says something about Hilton, the senior takes it personally and makes sure they remember exactly why they should have kept their mouth shut. Hilton will likely see double coverage again this week, but he will find the key of those handcuffs a couple of times yet again.

Last season, UCF faced off against one of the best receivers in the nation, A.J. Green. The Knights held Green, who is now in the NFL, to eight catches for 77 yards in a dog fight that UCF won 10-6.

Now, these are two different types of receivers with different characteristics.

COLUMN, page 3

COMING UP | Sports

Check out the Sept. 19 issue for a recap and analysis of the football game against the Knights of the University of Central Florida.

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NEWS FLASH

FIU

Appointment of new dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication

University Provost Douglass Wartzok announced the appointment of Raul Reis as the new dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, whose tenure is set to begin Dec. 1, 2011.

Reis, currently a professor of journalism and mass communication at California State University, Long Beach, began his academic and professional career in his native Brazil where he obtained his bachelor’s degree from Universidade Federal do Para and worked as a reporter, writer and assistant editor for several newspapers. He received his master’s degree from Kansas State University and PhD in Communication and Society from the University of Oregon.

As chair of the department of Journalism and Mass Communication at California State, he led “curricular changes that created cutting-edge, innovative, convergent mass media programs resulting in the department becoming one of the most respected and sought after mass media programs in Southern California,” according to Wartzok.

The search and screen committee, chaired by Arts and Sciences Dean Kenneth Furton, had identified three final candidates before recommending Reis.

NATIONAL

SAT reading scores fall to lowest level on record

SAT reading scores for the high school class of 2011 were the lowest on record, and combined reading and math scores fell to their lowest point since 1995.

The College Board, which released the scores Wednesday, said the results reflect the record size and diversity of the pool of test-takers. As more students aim for college and take the exam, it tends to drag down average scores.

Meanwhile, other tests taken by more representative groups of high school students have shown reading skills holding steadier. And in the context of the 800-point test, the three-point decline in reading scores to 497 may seem little more than a blip.

Still, it’s just the second time in the last two decades reading scores have fallen as much in a single year. And reading scores are now notably lower than as recently as 2005, when the average was 508.

Average math scores for the class of 2011 fell one point to 514 and scores on the critical reading section fell two points to 489.

– Compiled by Melissa Caceres

Sept. 11 anniversary honored through lectures, ceremonies

COMMEMORATION, page 1

He addressed common misconceptions surrounding Muslim-Americans and why they seem to be a prime target since 9/11.

The theme of his lecture was Islamophobia, an irrational prejudice against Islam and the Muslims who practice it.

“We’re soldiers who have given [our] lives in this war,” said Ba-Yunus, while an image of a military official was projected for the room to see. “We’re integrated in every part of society.”

To begin the night, he showed a number of Muslim-Americans who were government officials, police officers and firefighters to show the commonalities between ethnicities and not the alleged differences.

The hour-long lecture concluded with a question and answer section, where students could ask Yunus anything relating to Islamophobia.

The week concluded on Sept. 11 at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center at the Modesto Maidique Campus. People congregated with an afternoon of oneness and unity while celebrating Sufism.

Nathan Katz, chairman of the

Department of Religious Studies, welcomed the crowd and stressed how uplifting the show would be.

He went on to remind the audience how lucky they were to live in Miami while there was terrible somberness in New York City.

“On such a sunny, beautiful Florida afternoon, we celebrate a great tragedy not only in American history but global history, too.”

Katz then welcomed Peter Rogan, a New York based actor, and the Amir Vahab Ensemble, the first performers of the evening.

Rogan began the show with a brief overview of what Sufi is and what it means.

“The word Sufi means filtered, pure, clean, cleansed. The primary message of Sufi is love,” said Rogan. “There are not much difference between the religions. We all believe in equality.”

Sufi is traditionally an Islamic tradition. With such hatred directed towards those of Islamic decent since 9/11, it was beneficial to show such a different, more positive, side of this ethnicity.

Acts varied between musical productions to poetry readings. During many musical acts, the Amir

“

We’re soldiers who have given [our] lives in this war. We’re integrated in every part of society.

Asad Ba-Yunus,
Former Assistant State Attorney

”

Vahab Ensemble recited lines of Persian readings.

The instruments used were as unique as the beaded scarfs the artists wore.

Round cloth-like drums made a deep, soothing sound, and instruments such as the wood flute were played.

With each performance came a story. Each story had a similar message: unity.

The theme of the night was the oneness of the world, nature and the people on earth. The performers put 9/11 into a global perspective.

Appointments made for Housing and colleges of Business, Nursing

NEW SENATORS, page 1

resolve these issues.”

Samma also “intends to make the student body more united through more on-campus housing activities, which will be available for both on-campus and commuter students.” He went

on to say that he “plans to promote community awareness for issues residents are experiencing and plans on fixing them in a timely manner.”

The new College of Business senator Tatiana Medina brings with her experience from the community college level.

Medina recently transferred to the University from Hillsborough Community College and brings concepts and two years of senatorial experience from HCC to SGC-MMC.

Medina attended many state conferences addressing new opportunities for students she formerly represented and she stated that she “plans to bring these opportunities with her to the University.”

She also wants to “promote on-campus groups and activities within the College of Business to students who are unaware of the opportunities the University has to offer, for example promoting more

student clubs and organizations for business majors at orientation.”

Senator Karen Iglesia, the new senator for the College of Public Health & Social Work, is a graduate student who has “had the privilege to participate in many events promoting public health awareness within the University community and within other communities, such as founding a public health group and volunteering at a women’s abuse center, which focuses on physically and mentally abused women in New York.”

Iglesia plans to create more opportunities for students within the public health field, as well as promote awareness for public health at the University.

Senator Stephanie Guzman, representing the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, “intends to bring the goals of SGA and the goals of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences


together by representing the needs of the students and meeting with the Dean of her college.” Guzman plans on “expanding this relationship by promoting student activities and events which could benefit students within her college.”

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences received a new senator after a current one changed her major.

Janis Verwey changed from her former position as senator for RSCPH.

Verwey changed her major from public health to nursing and felt that she “would better represent the students by being constantly involved with the environment she will be studying in and surrounded by on a day to day basis.” She intends to continue working with and for the students, making every opportunity for success possible.

The next SGC-MMC Senate meeting will be on Monday, Sept. 19.



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“BATTLE OF THE TURNPIKE”

Knights’ quarterback says defense will “shut out” FIU

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

Coming off their first ever win against a BCS opponent in Louisville was a great accomplishment, but that is already yesterday’s news as the team quickly switched their attention to the next opponent, the University of Central Florida.

The two schools have never played each other before and the rivalry has already begun building amongst fans of both teams while each team goes into the game undefeated. The players have been excited as well, since the Knights have 27 players who graduated from high schools in the south Florida area.

“You can’t ignore it, it’s there, but I do believe that when that ball is kicked off and you start playing the game it does become a faceless opponent,” said head coach Mario Cristobal.

The two biggest names at each school, wide receiver T.Y. Hilton of FIU and quarterback Jeff Godfrey of UCF, know each other very well. Godfrey played at Miami Central while Hilton was at Northwestern, and they even played on the FIU field for some home games.

“He’s a great kid and he’s very talented,” said Hilton on Godfrey.

Godfrey was named Conference USA freshman of the year last season when he threw for 13 touchdowns and ran for 10 on the season while leading the Knights to a victory in the Liberty Bowl against University of Georgia. This year he has already ran in for five and rushed for 115 yards while also throwing for 287 yards, but zero touchdowns.

Cristobal was quick to bring to attention that even though he has no passing touchdowns, he was 20-25 last week, so he can definitely beat you on the ground as well as through the air.

Hilton had words fired at him last week before the Louisville game from cornerback Andrew Johnson when he said on Twitter that he was going to lock him down, 201 yards and two touchdowns later, it was Hilton who got the last laugh.

This week Godfrey went after the entire offense, telling the Orlando Sentinel that his Knights defense was going to shut out FIU.

“This is Division 1 football; this isn’t the WWF,” Cristobal said on the comments. “They have real good football players, we have real good football players, and we’re fortunate to

FOOTBALL, page 4

T.Y. cannot carry offense alone against Knights’ defense

COLUMN, page 1

Green was a possession receiver who wanted to beat the defensive backs with his height and jumping ability. Hilton wants to get down field as quick as possible and beat the defense by getting behind it. While Green had some success against it last year, I think that Hilton will be able to get through and post at least 100 yards and a

touchdown.

The rest of the offense will have to pick up the slack after not showing up against Louisville. The rushing attack that dominated against lowly North Texas, 208 total as a team, ran into a roadblock at Papa John’s Cardinal Stadium, going for only 45 yards on 26 attempts.

For the offense to be successful, the running

game has to be working better. The offensive line will have to handle a defense that is ranked in the top 10 in nearly every statistical category in the nation. However, that can only mean so much since their first game was against an FCS opponent, Charleston Southern.

But, the way that UCF handled Boston College’s offense is worrisome.

GAMEDAY PREDICTIONS



Igor Mello

UCF 17, FIU 13:

Both defensive units will shine but the Golden Knights defense, ranked top 10 in the nation, will suffocate FIU’s offensive line.



Joel Delgado

UCF 34, FIU 28:

While T.Y. Hilton has been electric and the team has performed well after two games, toppling a rising power in UCF will be a tall order.



Rico Albarracin

UCF 31, FIU 17:

UCF will limit Hilton, putting pressure on Wesley Carroll to win. Ultimately, it will not be enough to overcome the Knights’ stingy defense.



Brandon Wise

FIU 28, UCF 24:

With all the doubt that people have coming into this game, T.Y. and the Golden Panthers find a way to get another win this week.

VOLLEYBALL

Golden Panthers travel upstate for UCF Challenge

EDUARDO ALMAGUER
Staff Writer

After every point the Panthers score in the middle of a game, the team quickly huddles up in the middle of the court, cheers loudly and gets ready for the next serve.

These constant short bursts of energy help boost the team spirit and keep the crowd on their toes waiting for the very next point their home team scores.

Surprisingly enough, however, the players themselves point out that energy is some-

thing the team desperately needs to work on. It is possibly their biggest priority heading into the UCF Challenge this weekend where FIU (6-3, 0-0 SBC) faces off against Jacksonville (7-5, conference) and either University of Central Florida (8-3, 0-0 C-USA) or University of Texas at El Paso (6-2, 0-0 WAC).

Andrea Lakovic, captain of the seniors and usually the most vocal in practice, knows that time to work on the team’s energy is waning.

“Our [Sun Belt Conference] season starts

next week,” said Lakovic. “We have to work on our energy now instead of in November.”

“We need to show more energy on the court. That would really help us to not be stressed out,” said junior Rachel Fernandez.

Head Coach Danijela Tomic was pleased at the fact that her team is aware that this is an issue. She knows that the they can be very energetic during certain points in the game, but many times and almost exclusively after taking a 2-0 lead in a match, their energy just flat lines.

After taking the lead 2-0 on Friday night

against Tulane, the Panthers allowed them to come back and push the match to five sets. On Sunday, against a team that was 0-7 going into the game, the team easily took a 2-0-match lead. In the third set, however, they played the majority of the game from behind until a late dramatic run gave them the win.

So how do you fix energy on the court?

“Communication,” said Tomic bluntly. “Talking to each other when things are not

VOLLEYBALL, page 4

Record crowd expected for first ever game vs. UCF

FOOTBALL, page 3

Junior Marija Prsa has already set her sights, as well as the teams, on their goal. "We need to really kill those two teams, 3-0, and play our game not theirs," added Prsa.

Compared to the next highest wide out with recep-

"We don't feel that we force anything. If the defense is giving us a seam down the middle like they did in Louisville then that's what we're going to take," said Carroll. "Taking what the defense gives you is what most good offenses do, and we feel that if we can continue to do that and eliminate turnovers, we will

This week's game is expected to bring a record crowd to FIU stadium filled with fans of both sides. With only a four hour drive on the turnpike away, it isn't a stretch to say that this could turn into another in-state rivalry for the Golden Panthers and the Golden Knights.

Golden Panthers hope to capitalize on opportunities

However, to do so the Panthers will have to step up their game and finally add a “W” to their win column. But before that can occur, the Panthers will have to visit a potent Oregon State team who carries a 4-2-1 record and has continually been top 25 in the country. So with that in mind the Panthers expect Oregon State to come

In FIU's first game of the season against Stetson, they outshot their opponent 22 to eight in a loss, then

"We have a great set of players and we just need to bond together and get stronger as a unit. Each game goes on because it's all about the team," Chestnutt said.

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A NEW HOPE

Student finds fresh aspirations after battle with drugs

HEATHER ARMAS
Contributing Writer

William “Billy” Sergio is not like anyone; his experiences have given him a unique perspective on life and music. Sergio is presently a junior business major, minoring in marketing and the bassist for the band, Seizurely. He was born in Santa Monica, California to an Italian father and Dominican mother. His father, who was known as the “King of Infomercials,” lost his company and money when Sergio was two years old. It was then that his family moved to Miami. The move to Miami was a way of getting away from the crazy world of Hollywood and a way to get closer to family since Sergio’s mom’s great aunt lived in Miami. At 21 years of age, Sergio has conquered demons that most people never learn to leave behind. “I have always been an impres-

sionable kid,” explained Sergio. “I grew up around television and movies that made hardcore drug use look okay.” With this mindset, Sergio tried cocaine for the first time at the age of 14. As his addiction got worse, he was kicked

At his worst, Sergio was spending \$200 on cocaine without a second thought. “My parents had and still have no idea about my additions. They knew something was wrong but never knew exactly what it was.” “At the time, I knew I was

to speak to anyone about it. As an only child, I was pretty content that they [my parents] wouldn’t badger me about talking about my problem.” At 17, Sergio bought himself a guitar; it was through music that he found a new light in life. He gave up his addiction almost immediately. “Music has always been my passion but with no self confidence, it was easier to turn to drugs than to pick up an instrument. Music is what truly saved my life and I have no problem letting people know that,” said Sergio. For two years, he went on to study under the bass player of the Bee Gees, Matt Bonelli, whom he credits for learning how to be a good bass player in such a short amount of time. He can also play the piano and the guitar but chooses to play the bass above all other instruments. “I chose electric bass because the strings were bigger and everyone plays guitar. Plus you cannot

pop and slap on a guitar,” Sergio said. Sergio’s list of influences include: George Clinton, Herbie Hancock, Chuck Mangione, Marcus Miller and many others. “I’m stuck in the seventies because I can’t bring myself to find music from today’s day and age that I like. Music today is horrible; even the Red Hot Chili Peppers sound washed up now.” Now, Sergio is a student at Miami Dade College with an associate degree in music. He is currently working on finishing his bachelor’s degree while also trying to get his band’s name out there. Seizurely, which is a Jazz/Funk/Fusion band, is gaining a following though playing gigs all over South Florida. “My most recent gig was at Black Point Marina. We will be playing there again on Sept. 21. Good music is music people can make love to,” said Sergio. “That’s something I hope people find in my music.”

“At the time, I knew I was dying and I was okay with that. I was 17 [and] the drugs were taking a heavy toll on me. I had nothing to look forward to; I was lost.”
William “Billy” Sergio
Junior, Business Major

out of Coral Gables Senior High School’s International Baccalaureate Magnet Program and started attending Southridge. The expulsion was looked upon as just a phase that he was going through.

dying and I was okay with that. I was 17 [and] the drugs were taking a heavy toll on me,” said Sergio. “I had nothing to look forward to; I was lost. My parents took me to therapy a few times but that did nothing; I didn’t want

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Coffee choices for every palate

Coffee is the lifeblood of many college students; it is how we get up in the morning and how we pull off “all-nighters” during the season of midterms and finals. There is not a day where I step foot on campus and do not see a small army of students and staff clutching their paper cups and travel mugs as though they were filled with liquid gold. As a student and a writer, I too have developed a “two cups per day” habit. Not only does the precious caffeine keep me alert, it also tastes delicious. Here are a few of my favorites coffee drinks that can be found right here on campus.

CAFÉ BUSTELO DULCE DE LECHE CAFÉ CON LECHE

Café Bustelo, located right next to Burger King in the Graham Center, consistently serves up amazing Cuban coffee and its cousins. I know anything involving dulce de leche sounds like a lot of sugar to have during the day and, to be honest, it is. In keeping with my current health kick, I get it made with skim milk.

Even so, the richness of the drink is still present and the caramel is more than enough sweetness, no additional sugar necessary. On a “cheat day,” it pairs perfectly with tostada. At only about \$3 for a small, it is quite a bargain in comparison to my next on-campus pick. I just wish we could tip the staff again for their friendliness. Barnes and Noble Café Starbucks Caffe Vanilla Frappuccino Come on, you know I could not write a coffee review without mentioning at least one of the Starbucks flagships on campus. For the Frappuccino lovers, I know the Caramel variety is the go-to standard favorite. However, the Caffe Vanilla Frap is a cult favorite among those who frequent the second floor of the campus bookstore for their fix. This beverage gives you the mellow flavor of vanilla with the coffee kick, which makes it much more worth the \$4 for a tall cup than the glorified milkshake that is the Vanilla Bean Frap (delicious, but really, there’s Burger King for that).

JAVA CITY STRAWBERRY MOCHA

A campus secret for coffee lovers is Java City, located in the College of Business Complex. When I saw the Iced Straw-

berry Mocha on the menu, I was instantly curious. Thankfully, my curiosity rewarded me with a refreshing drink that makes chocolate-covered strawberries seem like child’s play. It is also a pretty quiet place, so you can get some studying done between sips. It might be out of the way, but the trip is worth its weight in coffee beans. **DUNKIN’ DONUTS FRESH BREWED COFFEE** Sometimes, coffee does not need any special syrups or creamers to taste amazing — that is what makes it a true winner. By far, Dunkin’ Donuts’ brewed coffee, which can be found at the PG5 Market Station, is the absolute best on campus. They never overheat their beans, so all that is left is a truly smooth finish. Like Starbucks, they will gladly sweeten it and add creamer for you. Maybe that is why there is always a line at 7:30 a.m. waiting for the gates to open. I hope you keep this short-list in mind when it comes time to grab your next “cup of Joe.” Cheers!

Food for Thought is a bi-weekly food column. Look for it every other Friday this Fall.

THE HIGH LOW



FIU vs. UCF game expected to be one of the biggest games of the year.



Miss Angola won the Miss Universe 2011 crown on Sept. 12. She was the first Angolan to do so.



Obama’s disapproval rating has hit a new high: 55%.



FIU rated 2.5 out of 5 stars on LGBT-Friendly Campus Climate.



State laws requiring teen drivers to get limited to full licenses do not prevent fatal car crashes, says Journal of the American Medical Association.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Housing senator’s idealistic plans show inexperience

ALEX SORONDO
Contributing Writer

Adnan Samma, housing senator, is charming, bright, multilingual and harrowingly ambitious in his goal to unite the entire housing community. He aspires to not only bridge the soft-spoken freshman rivalry between Lakeview South and Panther Hall, but eschew what he sees to be the overall reclusiveness of housing residents at the Modesto Maid-ique Campus.

Mannered and eloquent in his address to student senators at Monday’s council meeting, Samma earned his victory with the near-pained recounting of resident alienation. He lamented the reflexive cliquishness, the way that each building is inhabited by clusters of exclusive friend-groups, characterized by common majors or living on a common floor.

He looked flustered and earnest in explaining how the residents in

his building would come together and socialize at the hallway decorating contest, if they only knew about it.

Residents do not mingle with residents, there is no sense of community and consequently, as he sees it, there is no school spirit.

Unity is the core of his approach to the job. He is committed wholeheartedly to uniting not only the different floors of each building but buildings across the housing quad, shedding light on the residents’ eagerness to fraternize and challenge the recurrence of such toils as hallway vandalism and littering.

His victory came over another freshman candidate, a second-year resident and a third-year resident who worked with the Resident Hall Association, and could have served as senator with a versed understanding of residential life and the experiences to prompt empathy with those for whom he would be speaking.

The boundless optimism of inexperience leads, invariably, to promises that cannot possibly be fulfilled.

Having lived in Panther Hall, I can assure Mr. Samma that no initiative feasible to an R.H.A. that has sustained recent and radical budget cuts will keep residents from littering, tearing up posters or punching down “Exit” signs.

Having lived in Lakeview North, I can assure him that serious friendships are forged in dorms out of the same components by which they are forged in offices or playgrounds or prisons: common interests, sentiments and opinions. Having residents decorate a hallway together is not an experience that forges instant and undying bonds. This is not

Vietnam.

He is proposing a series of highly-involved programs in which residents can meet and bond, primarily enticed with promises of free food. Yet, he says nothing of how there is no money for the food he promises or for the decorations of which he speaks.

The boundless optimism of inexperience leads, invariably, to promises that cannot possibly be fulfilled, which leads to a disappointed and disenchanting collection of residents with ever-diminishing interest in taking part of anything.

Before making promises that will involve the traversing

of endless financial obstacles, Samma needs to spend time in each dorm, speak to residents from all over the quad, and listen closely to his more seasoned peers while they wipe the stars from his eyes.

As I said, he is very bright, very articulate and very ambitious by nature. I have no doubt that his ambition will shift accordingly in the weeks to come, and will accommodate the weights of reality once they have been set on his shoulders. What makes his amateur appointment so disheartening is that, without a shred of experience, he will be wielding power with his practice swings.

Security measures absolve our rights

JORGE MENDEZ
Contributing Writer

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, Americans have lived in constant fear. Many are oblivious to the freedoms they have lost, and many violations of The Constitution have been made legal. Like Benjamin Franklin once said, “Those willing to give up liberty for security deserve neither and will lose both.”

An anxious and borderline panicked congress passed the Patriot Act. This act was sent to the congressional floor with no debate, and was passed even though many congressmen did not read it to a full analytic extent.

The Patriot Act violates the 4th Amendment by expanding the power of the government to search and spy on its own people without their consent or a warrant. It expands access to personal records by third-parties, and it gives the government unchecked power to rummage through citizen’s individual records, such as medical, Internet and financial records.

The extent to which we have given up our freedoms becomes gloomier when we put into perspective certain expenditures. The two wars in the Middle East have amounted to \$1.3 trillion. The United States spends nearly \$700 billion annually on defense – less than health care, but more than educa-

tion. We see our politicians scramble to cut funding for social programs, but stubbornly refuse to back down on anything related to security. That is morally wrong.

“Ask yourself, “Am I more free now than before 9/11? If so, at what cost?”

We have let these cowards, these so-called “martyrs” who do not represent Islam, who do not represent even the smallest speck of human love, ingenuity or courage dictate how we should run our society. We have let them win by becoming their proxy for the continuance of fear.

Fear has masked itself under the shadow of patriotism to slowly disintegrate the base of our society. Terror

has lived vicariously through the mass media that perpetuates it any chance it gets.

It has become normal to be afraid, to have little privacy, to have your calls, your texts, your emails, your credit cards and your position tracked. Ask yourself, “Am I more free now than before 9/11? If so, at what cost?”

We pay for the government and its actions with our taxes. We are paying for our own enslavement, and with that, we are blinding ourselves from a fulfilling existence. Ask yourself next time you walk down a New York City street if you are safer now, if you have not become prejudiced, if you have not ever questioned whether or not you should get on that plane, on that train, on that subway.

It is not about guns or scanners; it is our mannerisms and habits that mirror the fear in our hearts. There is no fulfillment in fear. Only in liberty and freedom can we find ourselves whole. Whether that is worth giving up is up for debate.

Until then, until we realize what kind of marginalization we have put ourselves in, we will have to wait and see how free we citizens of this country really are. Until then, do not forget the pain and do not forget your freedom, because after all, we are the lucky ones.

VERBATIM

“When you tell a lie, you steal someone’s right to the truth.”

- Khaled Hosseini, author

“Men are really good at making fun of other people and women are really good at making fun of themselves.”

- Amy Poehler, comedian

“It’s just better to be yourself than to try to be some version of what you think the other person wants.”

- Matt Damon, actor

“Often times when you face such an overwhelming challenge as global climate change, it can be somewhat daunting - it’s kind of like trying to lose weight, which I know something about.”

- Hilary Clinton, Secretary of State

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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DCC invaluable resource for medical research

LAURA GONZALEZ
Contributing Writer

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine's Division of Research & Information Data Coordinating Center opened new offices in the Biscayne Bay campus this past April.

"We are a branch of the school of medicine that does the research part," said Grettel Castro, a research analyst for the center. "We survey the area and collect the information for the [medical] students, so that they can interact with these families."

Designed to be a resource for university students as well as the communities it serves, the Data Coordinating Center collects research from actual participating communities in order to better understand where improvement of health is needed most.

According to its recently released data analysis report, "The Community Benchmark Executive Summary – Northwest Miami-Dade," "the program's fundamental pivot is visitation to households by medical, nursing,

and social work students."

These students visit each home to determine racial and social characteristics, as well as the state of the community's health.

The report is an extensively detailed survey of the Northwest Miami-Dade community and consists of 156 basic questions designed to provide a snapshot of the condition of health there. Since the area has never been surveyed before, the report reflects only the baseline of the community.

But, researchers plan on continuing to study the community in order to better serve it.

"We aspire to inform future research, support programmatic activities designed to affect change, effectively translate findings into relevant public policy recommendations, and train the next generation of health care providers in the proper use of evidence-based medicine," said Patti Stauffer, the associate director for administration.

The next project the center will be working on is concentrated in Little Haiti.

MEDIA EXECS SPEAK



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Executives from leading media organizations make light of the moment after CEO of ImpreMedia, Monica Lozano, spoke as part of the SJMC's Hearst Distinguished Lecture Series on Sept. 14.

"The Little Haiti Benchmark study will provide valuable baseline information needed for the FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine to form an equitable partnership with the Little Haiti community," said Stauffer.

The Data Coordinating Center is located in Academic One, room 234, and can be reached at (305) 919-4062.

According to Stauffer, the center is important for its ability to "establish a

socially responsive program designed to close the gap in health disparities and provide short-, mid-, and long-term mitigation efforts, thus improving prevention strategies and the overall health status of local residents."

STRAIGHT UP



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Rose Pierre, a graduate who majored in curriculum and instruction gets her spine checked out by Dr. Melissa Cruz during University Health Services' Open House on Sep. 14.

'Writers on the Bay' takes a trip to Coral Gables shop

MELISSA BERNE
Contributing Writer

Avid fans of poetry, fiction and non-fiction can fuel their insatiable appetite for stories very soon. The Creative Writing Center's Writers on the Bay announces their series of readings for fall.

Although all readings usually take place at 8 p.m. in Academic One 194, the "Master's in Fine Arts Alumni" reading will take place at Books and Books in Coral Gables on Sept. 18 at 4 p.m.

"Books and Books is the cultural heartbeat of Miami literary life," said Debra Dean, coordinator of the Writers on the Bay Reading Series.

For students who have just acquired their MFA in the last year or for those still on their way to getting their MFA, this event is of particular interest.

They will get a chance to listen to readings by the MFA Alumni, who have written books. For some of the speakers, like Jen Bartman and Norma Watkins, it is their very first books.

Jen Bartman graduated from the M.F.A. program at FIU in 2008. Her first book of poetry, "Remote," was published in 2010. Before she relocated to Miami to teach at the FIU Department of English, she worked in book publishing in New York City.

Norma Watkins has a master's and doctorate in English, and an M.F.A. in creative writing. Her memoir, "The Last Resort: Taking the Mississippi Cure," was recently published. She teaches creative

writing at the College of the Redwoods in Fort Bragg, Calif.

Other speakers that will be attending include: Jennifer Ammon, an award recipient of the 2008 FIU Literary Awards Competition, who is writing her second book named "A Girl from Ohio." Cecilia Fernandez, a print and broadcasting reporter in both California and Florida, recently finished a memoir called "Leaving Little Havana," which was a finalist in the 2011 Bread Loaf Writers' Conference Literary Book Contest.

Michele Jessica Fievre has written several books in French. Her short stories and poetry in English have been in The Southeast Review, The Caribbean Writer, and Haiti Noir.

Nick Garnett, a former nonfiction editor of the University's journal, Gulf Stream, had his work selected to appear in the 2010 "Best of the Net" Anthology.

Diane Marshall has worked over 20 years in New York and Florida as a journalist. She earned an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from FIU, and has completed her first collection of short stories.

Molly McGreevy is working on her own collection of short stories, which all have to do with magical events that transform the character's day to day life.

The event is free and open to the public. All readings have a reception and a book signing after the reading series. Writer's on the Bay is supposed to be fun and engaging, especially for the students who are aspiring writers.