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Report shows a rise in foreign graduate students

PATRIK SIMMONS
Contributing Writer

Graduate institutions across the nation have continued to encounter a fluctuating change in foreign graduate student applications and offers of admission throughout the decade.

According to a report conducted by the Council of Graduate Schools, which surveyed 493 U.S. graduate institutions, foreign student admission applications increased 11 percent between 2010 and 2011, compared to a 28 percent decrease between 2003 and 2004. The highest increase in applications was in 2011 since a 12 percent boost in 2006.

The University has also seen a similar change in foreign graduate student admission offers and applications. According to Louis Farnsworth, director of Academic Support Services at University Graduate School, offers of admission increased by 14 percent from Fall 2010 to Fall 2011. Similarly, there has been a 32 percent increase in applica-

tions from foreign students wishing to complete their graduate studies at the University.

"Recruitment of international graduate students occurs primarily at the program level. UGS provides funding support and administers programs, which assist the various programs in their recruitment efforts," he explained. "For example, UGS provides matching funds to programs for faculty who are traveling overseas to recruit students at conferences or graduate school fairs."

The report, which was conducted by Nathan E. Bell, the director of Research and Policy Analysis at CGS, states that "international students currently comprise about 15.5 percent of all graduate students in the United States."

The majority of foreign student applications are from China, which encountered a 21 percent increase in the number of applications sent to the US between 2010 and 2011. The Middle East and Turkey follow, with a 16

DANCE, DANCE



SHAWN STEVENS/THE BEACON

Biology major Julie Vanegas [left] and Higher Education major Vanessa Franco [right] dance in the Graham Center Pit, on Mon. Sept. 19 to promote the annual Dance Marathon. Since its implementation in 1997, the fundraiser has raised over \$600,000 for the Miami Children's Hospital Foundation.

percent increase in foreign student applications to US graduate schools. India and South Korea also experienced an increase, with an eight-percent increase and a twopercent increase, respectively.

At the University level, China, India, Jamaica and Colombia are the top four countries with the greatest representation in foreign graduate student

recruitment, according to Farnsworth.

Offers of admission from US graduate schools to foreign students, on the other hand, experienced an increase as well, as stated in the report. There was an 11 percent increase in offers of admission between 2010 and 2011. And although that is a preliminary number, it was the highest increase in admission

offers since 2006, similar to the increase of applications from 2006 and 2011.

Like the decrease in foreign student applications between 2003 and 2004, there was also an 18 percent decrease in offers of admission during the same time.

Between 2010 and 2011, there was a 23 percent increase in offers of admission to China,

compared to a 15 percent increase between 2009 and 2010. Parallel to the increase of applications to U.S. graduate schools from the Middle East and Turkey, there was a 16 percent increase in offers of admission between 2010 and 2011. India also experienced an eight percent increase in offers of admis-

FOREIGN GRADS, page 2

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Associate dean studies effect of arsenic in water, food

ANGEL VALLEJOS
Contributing Writer

Rice feeds nearly half the world's population. It also accumulates enough arsenic that, when digested, can cause negative health effects.

However, in one of the many labs of Academic Health Center 1, Dr. Barry Rosen, associate dean of basic research and graduate programs, quietly studies the effects of arsenic and various other metals on organisms and the steps they take to detoxify themselves.

Rosen, also a professor of cellular biology and pharma-

cology, has been conducting research on the effects arsenic for over 30 years but hasn't grown tired of his work.

"I still love it as much, if not more than when I first started," said Rosen to Student Media.

His research has allowed him to travel to many places including China with his team of scientists that are spread out throughout the country and in some parts of the world.

Rosen's interest in researching the effects of arsenic is rather simple as he notes the prevalence of arsenic in our environment and in some cases our drinking water makes it an interesting point of

research for scientists.

An example Rosen states are the countries of Bangladesh and India, which have over 125 million people combined, that are exposed to arsenic in their drinking water.

The people who are being exposed to these drinking waters don't die from a direct result of arsenic poisoning. To die of arsenic poisoning one must be exposed to massive amounts of arsenic.

However, arsenic is a carcinogen and which means long term exposure can cause cancer.

Some forms of cancer the people of Bangladesh and India

"I still love it[arsenic research] as much, if not more than when I first started."

Dr. Barry Rosen,
associate dean of basic
research and graduate programs

have, as a result of arsenic exposure, include skin and kidney cancer.

But don't breathe a sigh of relief thinking we are safe in the

US. There are places in America where water supplies contamination of arsenic surpasses the Envi-

RESEARCH, page 3

COMING UP | Sports

Check out the Sept. 23 issue for the movie column "Reel to Reel" in the Life! section for this year's fall film preview.

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US stocks slide as Greek debt worries continue to grow

Chinese solar equipment factory Jinko Solar plunged 23 percent after it was forced to shut down one of its factories because of protests by local residents who claimed it was polluting the air and water.

Despite data, international recruitment not a top priority

“Recruitment is mainly focused on U.S. students. The majority of our recruitment budget is spent on recruitment efforts in the U.S. with promotion to the tri-county area (Broward, Dade and West Palm Beach) being at the top of the list,” Farnsworth said.

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NEWS FLASH

FIU

College of Law grads achieve top bar pass rate in Florida

The Florida Board of Bar Examiners has released the results of the July 2011 Bar Exam and FIU Law graduates have achieved the top bar passage rate among Florida’s eleven law schools. The FIU Law bar passage rate of 89.6 percent substantially exceeded the statewide average of 80.1 percent.

“On behalf of our Faculty, Administration and Staff, I congratulate our recent graduates for their outstanding accomplishment. FIU has consistently ranked at or near the top in Bar passage. Today’s results are a continued tribut-e to the hard work and dedication of our students and the skills of our faculty.” said Dean R. Alexander Acosta

The 3rd District Court of Appeal will be holding the official swearing-in ceremony for Florida Bar inductees on Monday, October 3, 2011.

NATIONAL

2 more named in deadly Reno air crash

The names of two more victims in the nation’s deadliest air racing disaster have been released.

Washoe County medical officials say 53-year-old Regina Bynum, of San Angelo, Texas and 47-year-old Sharon Stewart, of Reno, were among the 10 people who died as a result of Friday’s air show crash.

Officials have yet to identify three of the dead. Pilot Jimmy Leeward was among those killed.

Authorities say 70 people were treated at area hospitals.

Saint Mary’s Regional Medical Center says one patient remains in critical condition and five are in serious condition at the hospital in Reno.

Renown Regional Medical Center says it still has 11 patients, three of them in critical condition.

– Compiled by Melissa Caceres

Lab researchers propose creating genetically-modified rice products

RESEARCH, page 1

ronmental Protection Agency’s maximum allowable limit.

“This is a serious problem all over the world not just India and Bangladesh even in the United States it’s a problem,” Rosen said.

According to the EPA, some of the sources of arsenic in drinking water are natural deposits, and runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.

Sometimes though, the answer lies in most hardware stores. There are many lawn care products that carry arsenic and other herbicides and when it rains the arsenic washes off into lakes and rivers.

In some cases arsenic and the other herbicides are then washed into the sewers by rain, where they end up in the ocean and contaminate fish and other marine life as well as the water.

To counteract this problem, Rosen’s lab has proposed creating genetically modified rice to discriminate against metal-loids such as arsenic.

In a nutshell what this means is that altering the genetic composition of rice to not allow it to store arsenic can make it better for consumption.

Rosen decided on genetically modifying rice because rice feeds three billion people in Asia, about half of the total population of the world.

However, arsenic in rice is also a problem in the US.

In places like Louisiana and Texas, where rice is grown, most of those fields were cotton fields and arsenic was used as a defoliant to allow them to grow the next crop.

Rosen points out that even though cotton is no

Rosen proposes the only way to truly get rid of arsenic in our foods supply is by using bioremediation, when living organisms are being used to clean up the environment.

Arsenic does have useful purposes, however. Rosen

that would cure Syphilis.

Some chemotherapeutic drugs that are used for the treatment of leukemia such as Trisenox are made using arsenic trioxide.

Despite arsenic being bad for people’s health it also helps combat several

“

This is a serious problem all over the world, not just India and Bangladesh, even in the United States it’s a problem.

Dr. Barry Rosen, associate dean of basic research and graduate programs

”

longer grown there, the arsenic that remains still contaminates the rice.

There is really no way around this problem as Rosen notes whole foods won’t help much. Arsenic is already everywhere and can even be found in seafood.

pointed out arsenic has been used for medicinal purposes for over 1,000 years.

To illustrate this fact Rosen cited one particular individual, Paul Ehrlic, who won the Nobel Prize in 1908 for using arsenic as a component for a medication

diseases. However, long term exposure to any of these medicines can still cause some form of cancer sometime down the road.

Rosen’s research highlights how human actions have worsened the environment in which we live.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 23, Issue 18 of *The Beacon*, the article titled “Freedom Run” in the Life! section, it is Sept 10 that has been officially declared “P. A. R. K. Project Day” in the City of Doral. Not Sept. 11.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.



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FOOTBALL



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

The Golden Panthers received 11 votes in the USA Today Coaches' Poll and four votes in the AP Top 25 Poll.

FIU gets votes in USA Today, AP polls

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

It was once a distant dream that the Golden Panthers would ever have a 3-0 record in a schedule that featured a Big East school and a Central Florida team that received top 25 votes. That dream was realized when they beat UCF 17-10.

Another dream is closer to becoming reality, as FIU is now receiving votes in the latest Associated Press Top 25 Poll.

The Golden Panthers are voted 41st in the nation, according to the AP poll. It is the first time in school history that the football

program has achieved this feat.

It may be difficult for FIU to advance in the polls because they have already played their two toughest opponents.

The last time a Sun Belt team got votes in the AP poll was in 2009 when Middle Tennessee got some.

The seven of their nine games remaining for the Golden Panthers are against SBC opponents, and the two non-conference games are on the road at Akron, who is 0-3, and the homecoming game in two weeks versus Duke, who is 1-2.

FIU will look to keep their undefeated record alive against Louisiana on Sept. 24.

MONDAY PRACTICE UPDATE

Life without T.Y. Hilton will come inevitably next season after he graduates. But the Golden Panthers are not worried about that right now; their focus is on his right hamstring that he pulled in the second quarter of Saturday's game against UCF.

He was on the field at the first practice after the win on Monday, but the coaches are still trying to take it easy on him this week.

"We're taking it easy, obviously, and we will check up more probably in the middle

FOOTBALL, page 5

With big win, team proves they are for real

Before the season began, the biggest question facing this fledging Golden Panther program, looking to take major steps forward after last season, was whether they could handle the pressure.



JOEL DELGADO

Those doubts were washed away when the time expired in the fourth quarter and Knights' fans were filing out of the stadium, dejected and in complete shock.

FIU had done the improbable: beating a strong UCF team that was knocking on the door of the top 25. That is, until the Golden Panthers burst that bubble in their biggest home win in program history.

Even after the impressive win at Louisville, doubts remained. Can they win without the stellar play of T.Y. Hilton? Can they beat a defense that had not allowed an offensive touchdown in 12 quarters coming into the game? Can they beat a Knights' team that outscored their first two opponents by a 92-3 margin?

They answered all those questions with a resounding "yes."

STATEMENT WIN

With Hilton going down with an injury near the end of the first half with FIU still trailing, it became apparent that someone needed to take a stand and fill the gap left behind by their Heisman candidate.

And while the offense still struggled against a stingy Knights' defense, FIU's own defense rose to the occasion and helped unlock that grind.

They made the Knights pay for their few miscues and proved to be all they needed.

This game was a big test for defensive coordinator Todd Orlando and this Golden Panther defense, and they aced it. For most of the game, especially in the second half, dual-threat quarterback Jeffrey Godfrey was rendered useless and was unable to make the big

COMMENTARY, page 5

VOLLEYBALL

Bjelica named tourney MVP, helps FIU defeat UCF

EDUARDO ALMAGUER
Staff Writer

On Saturday night, the Panthers toppled the Knights in a thriller that stunned the crowd.

Even with UCF drawing first blood, the Panthers staged a dramatic comeback that led to a momentous win for the team.

However, this was not the match that took place on a football field.

It was the match that took place on a volleyball court.

FIU (8-3, 0-0 SBC) overcame an 11-14 deficit in the fifth set against UCF (9-3, 0-0 C-USA) and jerked the rug from underneath the Knights, winning the match 3-2 (23-25, 25-27, 26-24, 25-21, 17-15) and becoming the UCF Challenge champions. With

the win, the Panthers extend their season-high winning streak to five on Sept. 17.

Junior Jovana Bjelica's outstanding performance in the UCF Challenge earned her tournament MVP.

"Jovana has been a go to player for us from the beginning of this season. She came through with big hits, big digs, big serves and big blocks when we needed them," said Head Coach Danijela Tomic. "She knows that it's her role this year and she's embraced it."

Senior Sabrina Gonzalez and junior Marija Prsa also received All-Tournament honors for their exceptional performance.

The first set did not bode well for the Panthers. After falling behind 1-2 on an error by

Bjelica, FIU did not build enough momentum to help them vault the Knights on the scoreboard. Despite an attempt at a comeback, the Knights won the first set by a narrow score of 25-23.

The second set seemed promising for the Panthers, as they managed to keep the Knights at arms length all the way until the end of the match.

FIU, however, collapsed at the end and allowed a 24-21 lead to slip through their fingers. The Knights pillaged the Panther defense to win 27-25 and take a two-set lead.

"Offensively we were not doing well and our hitters got frustrated and impatient," said Tomic of the first two sets. "The whole team seemed out of rhythm."

FIU returned in the third set

and battled viciously with the Knights to knot the score 24-24. UCF committed a serving error and gave the Panthers a one-point lead. Bjelica, en route to her fifth double-double of the season, slammed down an authoritative kill to give the team the set victory.

Down by five in the fourth set, Gonzalez, Prsa and Bjelica carried the team with five unanswered points to tie the score 20-20. The Panthers seized the lead and never let it go, winning 25-21 on the heels of a Prsa kill.

For the third time this season, FIU was headed to a five-set game.

In a tense nail biter, both FIU and UCF scratched and clawed to try to gain the lead. The teams had 11 tie scores to begin the match.

With the score 10-10, the Knights mounted a 4-1 run to take a 14-11 lead. The Knights were poised to win.

The Panthers' heartbeat, however, refused to flat line.

After tying the score at 14-14, Prsa scored a kill and the Knights committed an attack error to give FIU a huge win.

"This was a huge win for us because it showed the team that we have what it takes to be champions," said Tomic. "To be able to save four match points and come back from 11-14 in the fifth tells a lot about the character that this team is developing."

The team will ride this wave of momentum heading into Denton, Texas as they face North Texas and Denver this weekend to begin the Sun Belt Conference play.

MEN'S SOCCER

FIU outshoots Georgia State, but drops road match

ANDRES LEON
Staff Writer

After coming off a win against North Florida on Friday night, Coach Munga Eketebi felt confident that his team could pull off the crucial away win.

But FIU (3-3-2) traveled to Atlanta only to fall to Georgia State (5-1-1) in a 3-2 contest on Sept. 18.

"We need to take advantage of our opportunities and finish the ball in the back of the net. Outshooting your opponent and not winning is unacceptable," said Coach Eketebi.

FIU out shot the opposition 24-10 with freshmen Quentin Albrecht and Arnthor Kristinsson leading the team in shots taken.

Albrecht led FIU with seven shots and four on target,

while Kristinsson recorded five shots and three on target.

The GSU Panthers took an early 2-0 lead after defender Peter Vania and forward Ayokunle Lumpkin found the back of the net. In the fourth minute of play, Vania capitalized off a ricochet and chipped the ball into the top right corner.

Early in the second half, Lumpkin received a long cross from midfielder Scott Evan and buried the goal in the 50' minute of play.

The Golden Panthers did not find the net until the 70' minute, when Kristinsson stroked off a deflection to make it a 2-1 match.

The Georgia State Panthers answered right back. Off a tough angle, Yasser Majluf found the back of the net for the third goal of the night for Georgia State.

FIU stayed alive after Lucas Di Croce found Quentin Albrecht, who was able to score his fourth goal of the season. The freshman forward leads FIU in goals and shots this season.

"We out shot our opponents again and made silly mistakes on defense. We should have won this, we need to finish better," said Eketebi.

FIU will go on to play Marshall to mark the beginning of Conference-USA play on Sept. 23. The Thundering Herd was predicted to finish last in the conference and FIU looks to begin their campaign for a spot in the tournament on a good note.

"These conference games are like a whole different season, every win matters more," said Eketebi.

Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Nicolas Chase [above, #8] battles for the ball during a home game at FIU Soccer Stadium.

Hilton's status still unclear after injury suffered vs. UCF

FOOTBALL, page 4

of the week to see where he's at with that, but we are very optimistic that he's going to be ready to go," said head coach Mario Cristobal.

Even if Hilton was unable to go for this week's game at home against Louisiana-Lafayette, Wayne Times, the next leading receiver with 15 catches for 135 yards on the season thus far, is ready to fill Hilton's shoes.

"I'm always ready, especially ready when my team needs me," said Times. "I know my team will need me more if he's not here to step up and make big plays and try to fill his shoes and more."

There is still no official word on whether or not Ohio State transfer James Louis is going to be able to come in this season, and Cristobal said it is in the "review" stage right now. The same goes for running back Daquan Hargrett from West Virginia.

The team had a relatively light practice today that lasted just one hour. After having



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

T.Y. Hilton [above] injured his hamstring attempting to make a catch in Saturday's upset win over UCF at FIU Stadium.

two straight games of playing big out of conference opponents, the attitude of taking one game at a time has not changed amongst the players in preparation for the Ragin' Cajuns.

"Louisville and UCF were just games to get us more out there, but the only thing that really matters is to win the conference," said Isame Faciane.

Faciane was recently named defensive player of the week in the Sun Belt for his 51-yard fumble recovery that made the difference in the 17-10 victory over the Golden Knights. His

only other statistic from the game was one lone tackle.

This was the second week in a row that a Golden Panther won this award, as last week linebacker Winston Fraser got

it for his interception that he ran back for a touchdown and 11 tackles against Louisville.

"It's good stuff, to me it's really important that every single week we have an opportunity to represent our conference," Cristobal said. "You take it in, you tuck it in your back pocket and you go forward, there's really no time to take a deep breath and take it all in."

In news outside of FIU, recently Syracuse University and the University of Pittsburgh made it official that they will be moving from the Big East to the ACC. This happened before to the Big East when Miami, Boston College and Virginia Tech went to the ACC.

"You see all this movement, and it's kind of a way of arranging a playoff system," said Cristobal. "I think one day the NCAA will come to terms with something like that, right now we're the only sport that's not completely settled on the football field. I'm sure there's going to be more and more shaking up going on, but right now the only thing were concerned about is Louisiana."

Team identity is more clear after three impressive victories

COMMENTARY, page 4

play for the Knights.

After three games, the Golden Panthers have handily defeated a conference opponent, beaten a BCS team on the road and shocked a rising state power at home. And for the first time ever, the program is receiving votes in the AP poll and the USA Today poll.

This team's stock has never been higher. And there is no indication that this team is anywhere close to reaching the ceiling.

HERE ON OUT

Just how far can this team go? It's easy to get carried away.

With the hardest part of their schedule now

in the rearview mirror, the Golden Panthers remain unscathed. Undefeated.

There is no one left in this schedule that the Golden Panthers cannot beat. Let that statement sink in.

With two creampuff out-of-conference opponents left in Duke and Akron, teams that this FIU team should defeat, the most daunting games left are Sun Belt opponents Troy and Arkansas State.

The Trojans, previously the Sun Belt's dominating power before the meteoric rise of FIU in the past 12 months, would love nothing more than to come to the Sunshine State and regain their status as a top tier team in the Sun Belt.

As for Arkansas State, they have been a team that has never lived up to its expectations

season-after-season, stuck in a perpetual state of mediocrity. But with arguably the best quarterback in the conference in Ryan Aplin and home field advantage, the Red Wolves definitely have several things going for them in their meeting with the Golden Panthers later on this season.

But even these two teams have shown considerable weakness in their first few games so far this season, especially the Trojans on defense, where they have allowed 922 yards of total offense against their first two opponents.

STILL EARLY

Let's get some things straight: It is too early to talk about an undefeated season. And it is definitely way too early to talk about this team somehow, maybe, possibly finding its way into

a BCS bowl game.

But the win has many people excited about the team's prospects and rightfully so.

After three games, the picture of this team's identity is beginning to become clear. Led by Wesley Carroll and T.Y. Hilton, this mature and explosive offense that can serve up highlights like IHOP serves pancakes.

The defense is aggressive and filled with playmakers that swarm the football from the backfield to the defensive line.

It's a unit that has done what no FIU defense before it was able to do: hold its first three opponents to less than 20 points. They are the reason why this team is off to its best start in history.

And they are the reason why picking against FIU is no longer the smart thing to do.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Oregon native Volz hits game-winning PK in road win

ANTHONY GUIVAS
Staff Writer

With the Golden Panthers coming off the heels of their third straight loss at the hands of Oregon State, a win on Sunday was a must.

So with FIU being only two days removed from the program’s worst loss since 1999, the Panthers looked to leave Oregon with a victory. And the Panthers did just that as they defeated the Oregon Ducks 2-1, improving to 3-5 on the year.

“We came out with a good game, we battled hard and it was a good team win today,” said Coach Thomas Chestnutt. “A good win and a great rebound from Friday night.”

FIU and the Ducks took to the pitch at exactly 11 a.m. pacific time, and it was apparent that FIU was not going to let this game slip away.

The Panthers and Ducks both battled back and forth for the majority of the first half, but eventually the Panthers broke through and scored their first goal of the day in the 21’ minute of regulation.

Chelsea Leiva dribbled through the middle and made a terrific pass to her left that found freshman Ashleigh Shim, who delivered a great shot, putting FIU on the board with a 1-0 lead. The goal was Ashleigh’s first goal of her career.

Defense played a very prominent role in this game as the Panthers and Ducks battled back and forth leaving very little margin for error. Thankfully, FIU’s goalkeeper Kaitlyn Savage was on her A game, as she continuously kept the Oregon Ducks off the board. Kaitlyn stopped five total shots.

The first half ended with FIU up 1-0 but still under heavy duress, as the Ducks’ offense was continually pressing.

After a 15 minute break the Panthers and Ducks took the pitch once again and continued their seesaw affair.

With just two minutes in the second half, FIU had a striking ball cross, which headed towards the direction of an Oregon defender who accidentally touched the ball with her hands.

These turn of events led the referee to call a penalty kick in favor of FIU. Oregon home-town girl Joanna Volz took to the penalty box and delivered a fantastic strike, putting FIU on the board once again. giving FIU a 2-0.

Oregon quickly regrouped and became much more aggressive as they tried to even things up quickly. Finally, the Ducks executed a great play in the 63rd minute, which had Oregon’s Mo Fitzgerald pass the ball to Julie Armstrong, who then drove it home putting the game 2-1 with 27 minutes remaining.

But FIU did not shrivel up and let Oregon’s aggressiveness take full momentum. The Panthers’ defense stayed strong, keeping the Ducks at bay long enough for the clock to count down, finally ending the Panthers’ horrendous three game losing streak.

“I’m proud with the way the girls fought and battled and found a way to get their mental state back to a good place ... it bodes well for us going forward,” Chestnutt said.

One stat that really stood out was the fact that FIU only had 11 total shots compared to the Ducks’ 17. That was eye opening, as the Panthers usually take many shots without being able to finish, but today they made each of their shots count.



SERGIO NASER/THE BEACON

Joanna Volz [above] hit the game winning penalty kick in the second half at Oregon.

But aside from that stat, what stood out the most for Coach Chestnutt was the way the girls rebounded from a tough loss. “It shows that they have a lot of character, faith and fire, and that’s always good to see,” Chestnutt said. The Panthers will now visit UALR up in Little Rock, Ark. this upcoming Friday.

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HAUTE TOPIC

New York Fashion Week: spring and summer in review

The spirit of New York Fashion Week always draws me in closer than Paris, London or Milan. Although London was the first fashion capital to really launch street style into the forefront of fashion, young and more established American designers usually translate their inspiration into looks that can easily pass from runway to the street. Some may find the word accessible as a crude insult to any designer's work, but I consider it a compliment. This spring and summer's American style is very wearable, which is attractive to me when it comes to fashion.

There were scarcely any collections that I did not like this season, but a few really stood out as being fresh and functional.

Let us begin with the reigning king of NYFW: Marc Jacobs. Jacobs' spring/summer collection featured sharply-cut suits, structured skirts and sporty dresses, with a touch of otherworldliness. The utilitarian colors of beiges, browns, greens and greys were offset by phosphorescent materials. Most looks paired a strong skirt, jacket or pants with something that glimmers. Pops of red, blue and yellow stood out against the more natural colors.

Although the collection was not totally cohesive to me, the ethereal feel was very original and succeeded in presenting the pieces as wearable.

Transfer this collection into your wardrobe by pairing a boxy blazer and basic t-shirt with a structured skirt made of silk or acetate fabrics. If you're feeling more adventurous, try Jacobs' signature menswear-inspired shoes with mid-calf-length socks in a bright color.

Proenza Schouler has mastered the art of mixing prints, something I always love to see but never dare to try without careful calculation. Their spring looks incorporated the tradition of print on print, but this time more conservatively.

Most looks opted to match prints with solids. Almost all the garments featured a high waist and shorter skirt length. The short shorts and skirts were balanced out by high collars and strong shoulders.

Schouler's proportions were flattering because of the tight-fitting structured jackets and blouses paired with



flared skirts. Bright neon blue, yellow and orange paired up with strange tropical florals and deconstructed animal print.

To bring the vibe of this collection to an outfit, try pairing a patterned blouse with a brightly colored a-line skirt. If



you're scared of patterns, like me, stick with stripes or florals. They are basic enough to feel comfortable in.

Every season, Band of Outsiders is on my must-see list. The label - which is obviously influenced by French New Wave cinema - mixes feminine with

masculine, a look I think is daring, yet timeless.

Other than a little bit of blue, there were not many colors in this collection. Lack of color is unusual for spring styles, but true to Band of Outsiders' form. Long and short flowy dresses were accompanied by structured jackets. Have you noticed a pattern yet?

The look that stood out to me the most was a black pleated skirt with a plain t-shirt and zig-zagging suspenders. With their basic colors and easy silhouettes, this collection declares that spring and summer looks should not be complicated - I wholly agree.

If you would like to imitate the look of Band of Outsiders' spring and summer styles, wear longer dresses in white and beige with flat sandals.

The shoes in this collection were some of the most wearable I saw this season. Thick strapped sandals with industrial hardware in black and white would match with many of the looks of the warmer months.

3.1 Phillip Lim's collection screams spring to me. The looks featured muted candy-colored fabrics in menswear shapes. Low cut pants are tight while the tops are loose and comfortable.

At first, the idea of yellow, lavender and orange mixed together seems bad in theory, but the union actually look great together when they are not as pigmented and color-blocked like they were at Lim.

This collection embodies the ease of spring looks, similar to those of Band of Outsiders' collection. The simple construction of the tops look flattering on the models, but I believe they would look great on many figures.

To recreate this style, pair a muted tank top with peach-colored pants in polyester material.

Defined waists, bright primary colors and structured jackets are in for spring. Although these collections will not be in stores for a while and take even longer to trickle into fast fashion chains, looking for some of the more basic pieces like the jacket or an a-line skirt can allow you to go through several test runs before spring.

One benefit of warm winters in Miami? Getting a head start in fashion by wearing looks inspired by the next season.

Haute Topic is a weekly fashion column. Look for it every Wednesday.

Poets and hip-hop artists rhyme for Palestine

HOLLY MCCOACH
Contributing Writer

Beginning in 1948, the ongoing fight for recognition has been something that most Palestinians can identify with. After many years, the battle has developed into a complicated situation, with many people fighting to have their side of the story told. However, the underlying reason for the conflict is still the same: Palestinians want to be recognized as a state again, and

despite the Israeli force, they attempt to do so after many gruesome battles.

Many groups and countries around the world support the Palestinians, including the United Nations, Human Rights Council, Save the Children, Oxfam, China, Japan and Indonesia. Japan, at one point, had boycotts in order to prevent people from investing in Israel.

This upcoming Sept. 20, the United Nations General Assembly will hold a conference where they will vote on Pales-

tinian independence. If it is not vetoed, Palestine will be a state again; however, there is a high chance that it will be vetoed.

On campus, the pro-Palestinian group called Students for Justice of Palestine, with a new executive board this year, is looking forward to the first national SJP conference from Oct. 14-16 at Columbia University. The chapter at the University is relatively new even though many chapters exist throughout the state of Florida.

Aman Muqet, a graduate senator at the University, said that many Florida universities -- such as the University of Miami, Florida State University, University of Central Florida and Rollins College -- have established a SJP group at their institutions while chapters are also located nationwide.

Muqet, who hails from India, became heavily intrigued by the situation of the Palestinians when Skip Schiel, a photogra-

Movies at the Frost lawn tackle issues

MARCY R. DIAZ
Contributing Writer

Each year, an event takes place that shakes our world to the core. It shelves the differences, ends the bickering and ties a bond to all of human kind. The International Day of Peace is a community celebration of harmony and hope for a world without war.

Taking place across the Blue Parking garage on the very walls of the Patricia & Phillip Frost Museum, students are invited to bring just their blankets and chairs on Sept. 21 to an 8 p.m. screening of Tom Shadyac's documentary, "I AM."

This year marks the first time the Frost Museum hosts the admission-free event, in tune with the University's Global Learning Initiatives. Both want to provide every student with opportunities to achieve a broader understanding and love for the world, and with this documentary, they are hoping to do just that.

"The movie was chosen for its wonderful message of how one person's actions can influence the world," said Jessica Delgado, the Frost Museum's communications director. "We were looking for something that would unify the student body."

In a 76-minute timespan, students will witness the voyage of Shadyac and his small camera team as they find the answer to an unaddressed question: "What is wrong with the world today?"

Their journey will lead them to the doorstep of some of the world's leading influences to view their opinion on the matter. The most famous of whom are Bishop Desmond Tutu, Dr. Howard Zinn, Noam Chomsky and Lynne McTaggart.

Although Shadyac is mostly known for his comedic genius, with films like "Ace Ventura" and "The Nutty Professor," the 52-year-old director puts himself in front

OPERATION PEDRO PAN



KRISTIN HERNANDEZ/THE BEACON

Faculty, staff and the Pedro Pan children came together last Sept. 12 on the second floor of the Steven and Dorothea Green Library in the Modesto Maidique campus to enjoy the Pedro Pan collection, loan to them by Barry University. The collection included photos, newspaper clippings, passports, plane tickets and more of "Operation Pedro Pan."

of the camera this time around and delivers a message with a drive more powerful than humor.

In an exclusive interview with Movie City New's Chris Poland, professional blogger to the Internet series Hot Button, Shadyac revealed what he wanted audiences to experience when they saw his film.

"I want to start a conversation within our world, one that's not happening,"

explained Shadyac. "I hope people can see that every day on television we're talking about problems that arrive from a perspective, and I want to talk about the perspective and begin people to open up into changing that perspective."

Shadyac further explained how the media has just a few general perspectives of what the world is and should be. He stated that "as humans and overall spiritual beings, we must begin to question

what we have been taught to accept as fact. We begin by asking what is wrong with our world, and by the end, find what is right with it."

The movie's screening also is a must see, to say the least, especially on the International Day of Peace, a day that ties so closely to the message of world unity. So bring a blanket, come to the Frost Museum at around 8 p.m. and bring someone to share the moment with.

Student actor's love for acting continues to grow

KATRINA BRUNO
Staff Writer

Laid back, amicable and hardworking are three words that could easily describe senior theatre major Victoria Collado.

Although spending most of her childhood dancing and playing the piano, Collado attended a Brito Miami Private, a small school whose main focus on sports overshadowed the arts.

With the motto, "When you love it, you are able to do it," Collado is an inspiration to everyone, proving how hard work and passion can help make any dream come true.

Just July, Collado took her talents overseas to the performance of "Body and Sold," directed by Associate Professor Phillip Church at Southampton Solent University in England.

When she returned, Collado began to work as event coordinator on her next project, the Sound and Soundstage production, new this

year to the Alternative Theater Festival.

The production was a hybrid of on-stage acting performances and short films written and directed by FIU theatre students. In addition, Collado also directed one of the stage productions, "It All Almost Makes Sense Now."

"I had no idea what theatre was," explained Collado. "I just said, 'I want to do it. I like art and I really want to do it.'"

When she graduated back in 2007, Collado did not know where she was headed, but she knew one thing: she wanted to act.

"I auditioned for many schools, but because of my lack of theatre training, I was not accepted," remembered Collado. "I was not a thespian or practicing actress before coming here [FIU]."

Although Collado did not audition during her first semester at the University because she was scared, she finally tried out that spring and made it into the program. "I often worried that I would

not be accepted to the theatre program," she added.

During their first year, theatre students do not jump straight into acting, as the program trains their students on all aspects of theatre, from set design to wardrobe, to hair and make-up assistance.

Her first assignment for the department was to be the house manager, where she ripped tickets and showed the audience to their seats. From her humble beginnings, Collado has been involved in six different FIU productions, ranging from "Lie of the Minds" to "Ruby Rise."

Collado's first major step in her acting career came when she was cast as Sonia in "Sonia Flew," which was made possible by the support she had from her friends and classmates.

"That was scary, but my class was very supportive. They would say, 'Go out there and represent us. We are backing you up 100 percent, you can do this,'" said Collado.

One of her favorite roles

was Ms. Gardener in "Pride and Prejudice." The role is responsible for helping the main characters, Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy, start a relationship, a part she found to be very rewarding.

"I've learned that theatre is not about the fame or entertainment, it's about expressing what everyone feels about a certain topic," Collado said.

She expects to graduate from FIU this spring and is doing so with high honors in the Department of Theatre and high hopes for the future.

"I'm looking at graduate schools like New York and Yale University to keep working on my acting skills," explained Collado.

If that does not work out right away, she is hoping to keep saving money and moving somewhere to work in small theatre productions.

"One of my greatest achievements is that I stuck to it. I proved to myself that I could do it, and I feel like I can do it well," explained Collado.



SERGIO NASER/THE BEACON

Victoria Collado during Theatre's Sound and Soundstage.

RADIATE REVIEWS

St. Vincent's "Strange Mercy" shows depth and maturity

Darkness is no strange subject for Annie Clark, who is also known as St. Vincent. The Texas native, whose third effort is titled "Strange Mercy," is well-regarded for her affinity towards gloomy lyrics intertwined with deeply layered arrangements that create a caustic wall of sound that overwhelms the senses.

COLUMNIST



CARLOS SUCRE-PARRA

This new album presents a more sophisticated approach to her arrangements while taking advantage of sharper and self-conscious lyrics on Clark's part, presenting a far more intimate look at the persona behind the former Polyphonic Spree member.

"Chloe in the Afternoon," the first track in the album, pays homage to the French New Wave film directed by Eric Rohmer. From the very first guitar riff, there is an immediate schism between the movie and Clark's own vision as a darker, more sensual and emotionally raw image appears.

It is an image of lust surrounded by a fog of pure sentimental hurt ("No kisses... no real needs... find my heels/heal my hurt"). The aggressive guitar and drums are reminiscent of Steve Albini and Big Black; they partake in a tug-of-war between emotions and carnal desires.

It is this constant catharsis that becomes a central part of the album. Despite an unavoidable feeling of contempt, "Cheerleader" denotes the growing pains of relationships, their inevitable disappointments, the frustrating nature of social interactions, dishonesty in the face of a stark reality and maintaining a semblance of normalcy.

Clark intricately creates delicate melodies in which she lets her most basic thoughts flow. In doing so, she releases her anger through the lyrics and shows



PHOTO COURTESY OF ILOVESTVINCENT.COM

Annie Clark, also known as St. Vincent, continues her tradition of delicate melodies coupled with strong and poetic lyrics.

the emptiness of the feigned relationships while seeking a final end to everything as a final rejection - a gateway to freedom.

A pervasive sense of sarcasm is present in her dialogues in tracks such as "Northern Lights" ("If you say it is, then I guess it is... It's a champagne year full of sober months").

While the song contrasts the sweet nature of her voice, she utilizes her guitar as the most clear giveaway of her feelings, emanating wailing sounds laden with reverb, offering a stark nature that maintains the listener intrigued, leading them to empathize with her through the sonic representation of massive destruction.

Despite the negative undertones of the aforementioned tracks, one cannot

say that the album in itself is full of sheer drama and negativity, but instead, it shows a great level of depth and maturity, perhaps a loss of naiveté, as Clark finds herself in the need to adapt to such adverse situations.

Title track "Strange Mercy" demonstrates a certain case for her need to adapt in such situations as she finds the need to lie in order to make someone happy ("Oh little one I'd tell you good news that I don't believe/ if it would help you sleep").

This tender perversion is what makes the album title fit so well; it is in this somber realization on the blemished, roughed up world full of letdowns and half-truths where lying becomes a necessity to make someone else happy.

The stripping of instrumentation in later songs such as "Champagne Year" helps reflect this sentiment as it generates a sparse ambient soundscape where Clark's vocals stand out in comparison to the previous cuts.

This, in turn, allows for a more cerebral interpretation of her message as she becomes more direct and recognizes the vicissitudes in the path one's life may take ("it's not a perfect plan/ but it's the one we've got"), as well as the need to adapt to such changes.

The listener will adapt, grow fond of the material and the shared knowledge offered by the record.

Radiare Reviews is a weekly music review column. Look for it every Wednesday this Fall.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2011



FIU FARMER'S MARKET
All are welcome to come support and join our mission for for a more health and Earth conscious diet, as well as, enjoy locally and organically grown produce. **WHEN:** 12-3 p.m.
WHERE: MMC Breezeway of the Green Library

MOVIE NIGHT: THE BONE COLLECTOR
Denzel Washington plays a quadriplegic homicide detective. He and his female partner track down a serial killer. **WHEN:** 8-10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC 283A



TEA TIME
The Math Club will be serving tea as a public gathering for the mathematics department. **WHEN:** 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Math Department

RANGER CHALLENGE GENERAL MEETING
WHEN: 7:30-8 a.m.
WHERE: MMC W10A

PUTNAM TRAINING (TEACHER)
The math club will be holding twice-a-week training sessions for the yearly Putnam examination held during December. The student training sessions will have one of the following formats, for varied types of training. **WHEN:** 3:30-4:30 p.m.
WHERE: MMC DM 409 A

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2011



SPC LECTURE SERIES
Chris Bosh is an American Professional Basketball player. His position is Power Forward. In high school, in Texas, he was known as "Mr. Basketball." Upon entering college he left to pursue a career in professional basketball. **WHEN:** 7:15 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free with student ID
WHERE: MMC SIPA 125

LATIN FEST 2011
Come and party with your favorite Latino Based Fraternity & the Brazilian Culture Club FOR FREE! Music by MiamiVideoKings: DJ Valentino & DJ Alex **WHEN:** 8-11:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC Ballroom East



LATIN AMERICA COFFEE HOUR
To discuss current and past events and issues in Latin America while in a relaxed setting. **WHEN:** 3:30-4:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Barnes & Noble Bookstore

MINORITY ASSOCIATION OF PREMEDICAL STUDENTS SECOND GENERAL MEETING
The University of Miami Miller School of Medicine SNMA will be attending. **WHEN:** 6-7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC 305

SPJ holds poetry event to raise awareness of Palestine

PALESTINE, page 7

pher, came to the Biscayne Bay Campus after the Gaza massacre in 2009; at the time, 1,400 people were killed. Muqet knew about the situation, but became intrigued after realizing how crucial it was.

"Schiel brought pictures from Gaza. I knew about the conference, but that was the turning point, I'd say," said Muqet.

Last Friday, Sept. 16, SPJ held their first event of the year, "Rhymes for Palestine," which brought insightful information to the crowd, as well as entertainment from poets and hip-hop artists from around the globe. The event was a call to the liberation of the Palestinian people. The event was small, but potent in its messages and effect.

Mnar Muhareb, the

SJP president, began by presenting the entertainment for the evening. The first artist was Khaki Mustafa, who considers himself more than a "rapper" or a "hip-hop artist" due to his lyrics of liberation, patriotism and love for his work. Despite never being to Palestine, he says he is still proud to be a Palestinian, which shows through his songs such as "Hip-hop," "The Art" and "Balady."

Another artist present was Remi Kanazi, a poet and author, who preaches the injustice of the Palestine people. Kanazi grew up in Massachusetts, something that he said was difficult at the time due to his Palestinian blood.

However, after writing for about five to six years, he has channeled his creative energy through

his poetry to places like Canada, the United Kingdom and the Middle East. Most of his poems are embedded in his book, "Poetic Injustice: Writings and Resistance and Palestine," a token dedicated to his grandmother.

Kanazi sent insightful messages to the crowd through quotes from his poems. "I always feel like a student in the presence of refugees" and "remembrance is part of action" are among his poems of injustice.

"I have received mostly positive feedback from various crowds," Kanazi said. "People are getting more active and more socially conscious today. Wherever you go, there will always be a negative response. But, through poetry, there always seems to be a disarming effect."

WRITE TO CALENDAR@FIUSM.COM TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED!

Patriot Act a protection against terror

**ANDRES FERNANDEZ-
MARTINEZ**
Contributing Writer

“Since the Sept. 11 attacks, Americans have lived in constant fear.” This is the opening sentence as well as the on-going theme to an article in the Sept. 16 edition of *The Beacon*, entitled “Security measures absolve our rights.” The writer, Jorge Mendez, seems to believe that since Sept. 11, 2001, Americans have locked themselves in their homes with their windows duct taped, venturing out to procure only the most essential of goods while Orwellian-style security forces patrol the streets in black matte uniforms and gas masks.

One of the things I found most odd about this article is the timing. The Patriot Act has not been an actively discussed issue by politicians, the media or even the general population for years. This is due in large part to the fact that most of the hyperbole, ludicrous accusations and slippery slope arguments used against it have not withstood the test of time. However, this did not stop Mendez from trying to revive a dead issue by exploiting

the 10th anniversary of the deaths of thousands of Americans.

“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,” a reference to the Patriot Act passed in 2002. Ignorant and inflammatory claims such as these are the kind of rhetoric that takes away from an informed public discourse. The government is not tracking our positions, and it is certainly not actively monitoring our phone calls.

The Patriot Act is not used in this way, nor was it ever intended to be. The Patriot Act was written to address the flaws in our security and justice systems, which made the Sept. 11 attacks possible. Before its passing, it was illegal to monitor email conversations that even touched a United States server, let alone a phone conversation involving someone in the U.S., which is why several of the Sept. 11 terrorists were able to communicate with those assisting them in Afghanistan without the U.S. being able to intercept and monitor the calls.

This was due to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act,

more commonly known as FISA. Written in 1978, this law and its provisions were severely out of date, especially considering the explosions in cell phone use and technology, and the advent of the Internet and email, which is why the passing of the Patriot Act was deemed necessary.

“**The government is not tracking our positions, and it is certainly not actively monitoring our phone calls.**”

Roving wiretapping, as outlined in the Patriot Act, is hardly a new tactic, although many would like to attribute its creation to it. Wiretapping was used as far back as the civil war, when former President Abraham Lincoln used the method to gain intelligence on Confederate movements. It was used again during World Wars 1 and 2. If it was not unconstitu-

tional then, there is no reason for it to be considered so now.

“We have let these cowards (terrorist organizations in the Middle East, I assume) dictate how we should run our society.” Apparently, Mendez believes that adjusting our national security strategies so that they effectively combat terror is allowing the terrorists run our society. On the contrary, I think that by taking these measures, we have been able to continue with our lives without a constant fear of attack.

The reality is that our national security was lacking in the years leading up to the attacks of Sept. 11 as a result of outdated mentalities and approaches. This made it necessary for the government to make significant reforms to national security policy such as the passing of the Patriot Act.

It does not mean that we have surrendered all of our rights and become a police state, and it certainly does not mean that we as Americans now live in fear. Instead, such policies have made it possible for us as Americans to live our lives without fear that something as horrific as the attacks on Sept. 11 would be repeated.

BEACON | Editorial

LGBT outreach lacking, improvement necessary

In the Sept. 12 issue of *The Beacon*, an article addressed the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender-Friendly Campus Climate Index. Based on a five star rating system conducted by Campus Pride, the University earned two and a half stars. *The Beacon* thinks that the University needs to take the necessary initiatives to improve its scores, essentially improving an LGBT student’s experience at the University.

The system rates campus gay-friendliness based on answers provided by students, faculty and staff. The climate score was comprised of the following subcategories - LGBT policy inclusion, support and institutional commitment, academic life, student life, housing, campus safety, and counseling and health.

One of the lowest scores the University earned deals directly with recruitment. *The Beacon* agrees that the University, in addition to bolstering support for on-campus groups that currently exist such as the Stonewall Pride Alliance, LGBT Advocacy Coalition, Stonewall 2 BBC and Delta Lambda Phi fraternity, should create more programs that further attract LGBT youth.

We commend the Women’s Studies department for their intuitive and proactive approach by creating a new certificate in Queer Studies, which will debut in Spring 2012. It is a step in the right direction to cultivating an environment of inclusiveness and diversity in sexual orientation.

The Faculty Senate wrote, “the Certificate in Queer Studies fills a particularly acute need both at the University and in Miami. The University of Florida at Gainesville offers an undergraduate Minor in Theories and Politics of Sexuality through their Center for Women’s Studies and Gender Research, but no such certificate or undergraduate program exists anywhere in South Florida.”

While we applaud the creation of this program, Queer/LGBT studies should not be limited to one department. *The Beacon* hopes that all liberal arts education programs take note.

One of the seven concepts addressed in the questionnaire pertains to the availability of scholarships to LGBT students and allies. According to Campus Pride, the University does not offer these student scholarships. However, other Florida universities such as the University of Florida do, which is one of the reasons why they earned a higher score than FIU.

The University received one and a half stars for public safety. The survey found that students were disappointed in the lack of training safety officers received. According to Giovanni Correale, Stonewall Alliance president, campus police are not educated on sexual orientation issues. Campus Safety was unavailable for comment. All on-campus officers should undergo the necessary training to assure all students, including LGBT students, are safe.

As enrollment continues to increase and the student population diversifies, *The Beacon* believes that the University must create programs and enact policies to promote safety and belonging amongst all students.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Resident life department needs reform

Residential Life is the least supervised and most isolated department at FIU. I think it is due to the inherent structure built on the need to satisfy appearances and juggle liabilities. It has become the department where the least amount of necessary information goes up the ladder of superiors. The current Housing and Residential Life department is now lacking in spirit, progression and dynamic.

This fall semester has seen already instances of a misguided Residential Life department and the skewed association the department has with its student employees. A rise in [Resident Assistant] duties, including additional night time building rounds, volunteer committee participation becoming mandatory, inability to take Summer B or C courses due to training, and planned mandatory Thursday all-staff meetings (for no specific goal as of yet) at [the Modesto Maidique Campus] which make it difficult, if not impossible, for the staff at Bay Vista Housing to attend classes on Tuesday or Thursdays.

Just bringing up the BVH staff experience last Spring semester alone showcases the lack of positive assertion and lack of open communication that Residential Life exhibits.

Regina Grimner a senior Hospitality Management major who was an RA at BVH last year shares her experience: “I have seen nothing but good intentions behind President Rosenberg’s interest in our students and our school in general. It is quite unfortunate however, that the Housing department would

make him appear like he doesn’t care, especially to new students living at [BVH]. It was during our Spring 2010 meeting with President Rosenberg that numerous issues with the living facility was brought to his attention. He showed nothing but genuine concern for the students and appointed various departments to ensure specific requests were met.”

“It was during that meeting that the issue of the poor wi-fi service within the building was brought to President Rosenberg’s attention. He asked the Housing department to take care of the issue immediately. A year later the BVH building still had the same terrible wi-fi signal. Finally, in Spring 2011, I brought the issue up again to our department ‘leaders’ who would have easily dismissed it had I not threatened to take the matter up with President Rosenberg. Two short weeks after my threat, we had a substantial wi-fi signal throughout the building. It took one year and a threat to report the department to the President for the Housing Department to install proper wi-fi at BVH. Had President Rosenberg’s name not been brought up, it would have been dusted under the mat like all the other issues students have been requesting at BVH for Jah knows how long.”

Of course most of this relates to the RA experience, the department’s most restless, attentive and affected employees. They are the 24-hour employees paid on a stipend, whose performance and relationship with their superiors maintains or strips away their earnings,

home and, occasionally, meal plans. If there is something wrong, or seems wrong, to RAs then it is indicative of a much larger problem in the Residential Life department. There should be a system set in place in order to allow RAs to communicate anonymously and wholeheartedly.

FIU has made it a point to establish a “World’s Ahead” attitude, but the current climate of silent smiles in Residential Life finds the housing quad unable to live up to it. The addition of two residential buildings (scheduled to break ground in 2013 and 2014, respectively) may be enough to change this. Alternatively it also may marginalize the problem even further as a distraction in the standstill department. A department that is perceived to function outwardly but, in reality, not inwardly is not just a lie, but an inevitability of failure.

Residential Life has some of the hardest working people on campus. Some who exhibit such genuine welcoming attitudes that it can represent the beginning of a great year for a resident. However, the direction that Residential Life is now taking is keeping great staff from participating and feeling a lifelong connection to FIU. Soon, it will be having the same effect on residents. The Residential Life department we envision should be one that challenges its notions every year, one who accepts liability and who can be more than just a friendly face.

-Daniel Flores,
Former Resident Assistant

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (500 words maximum) in to neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year. The Beacon reserves the right to edit for space, content and clarity.

Blue and Gold turns fashionable

HAYTHAM AL-RABEAH
Contributing Writer

Hot pink is out and has been replaced by blue and gold at the Student Programming Council's "Blue and Gold Fashion Show".

On Sept. 22, SPC presents the "Blue and Gold Fashion Show," at the Wolfe University Center Ballroom. Student-models will strut the University's colors on the cat walk at 7:30 p.m.

This year will be the very first "Blue and Gold Fashion Show," featuring 15 male and female models, selected from both the Modesto Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus, who will show off panther pride in a runway style show.

The show aims to present students with fashion ideas to incorporate into everyday life. From work and the gym, to FIU football games, the show will demonstrate various fashion scenarios on the runway.

"The goal of the show is to demonstrate acceptance among students, regardless of general appearance by presenting a diverse group of FIU student models showing off their school spirit in the form of fashion," said Catherine Vega, SPC president..

The fashion show, obviously centered around a blue and gold theme, seeks to encourage and promote the blue and gold spirit, the university's official colors, among those in attendance.

According to Vega, models will be sporting gold and blue attire, ranging from blue and gold formal wear to blue and gold school apparel. Students who are not modeling, however, are being asked

GET IT WHILE IT'S HOT



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Gonzalo Mejia, a junior hospitality tourism management student, prepares and carves into a whole rotisserie chicken as part of HTM's Advanced Food Production course on Sept 19.

by SPC to "dress to impress" in a semi-formal fashion. They're requesting that students in attendance avoid jeans, shorts, or t-shirts.

According to the SPC, beverages and hors d'oeuvres will be available starting at 7:30 p.m. during the reception. The fashion show itself commences at 8 p.m.,

when the models will take the stage.

Entertainment will be provided by Power Parties, a party company composed of some of South Florida's most sought after DJs and radio personalities, including the likes of DJ Laz from Power 96 and many others.

According to Vega, the idea is to

promote school spirit by encouraging students to get involved and have fun being themselves.

There have been other fashion shows, but this is the first "Blue and Gold" fashion show under Vega's presidency.

"In the end, [we] hope that students will feel proud to be a panther," said Vega.

Jenn Grinels shares her music with FIU students

JONATHAN SZYDLO
BBC Managing Editor

As part of Student Programming Council's Coffee House Series, SPC

presents Jenn Grinels as musical entertainment for Sept. 21 Java Vibes from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center's Panther Square.

The Coffee House Series looks to provide students with a mid-day study break featuring cold lattes, a coffee house ambiance, and a cure for the Wednesday blues.

We want to provide students with a calm, relaxing, intimate experience," said Mitra Mollaie, vice president of SPC outreach.

SPC will be arranging Panther Square with high-top tables, bar stools, and a stage to give the feeling of java hot spot as Grinels strums her folky-blues styled repertoire for those interested in sipping on fresh brewed joe, or rushing to their next class alike.

"This should give students a calm and quiet break from class to enjoy a cup of coffee and a mellow group study space," said Catherine Vega, SPC president.

The Coffee House Series is set to be a monthly event with future sessions including open-mic poetry readings and musical sets as a means to provide students with a quiet break from the hustle and bustle of the work week grind.

Tianjin campus hosts study abroad HTM program

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Marriott Tianjin China Program."

Students who are interested in studying abroad pay in-state tuition during their semester abroad, including athletic fees; however, parking and health fees are omitted.

"We've never had to turn down any student who wanted to go," said Fagnan.

The program is not limited to Hospitality majors, in fact, past students from the schools of Public Relations, Political Science and Business have participated.

The Marriott Tianjin China Program counts as a minor for students outside of the School of Hospitality & Tourism Management, and these students, once a part of the program, register for any four courses of their liking.

Class choices offer all of the core classes on the hospitality track sheet, but elective courses are limited. The program, which lasts four months, is taught in English and students are not required to learn any of the Chinese dialects during their study abroad; however, many students chose to learn about the Chinese culture and languages before starting the program.

"The only obligation that the students have is to go through an informational interview," said Fagnan. "The student must be adventurous and love to travel."

According to Fagnan, the interview is fairly casual and functions to test the

student's awareness of what they are getting themselves into. Part of the interview focuses on the student's health and diet.

"The food menus in China have many difficult characters, so sometimes students may randomly choose food to eat and should be cautious if they have any allergies. The air in China is not the best. There was one student who participated in the program a previous semester who had asthma; He got sick because of the air and had to be hospitalized," said Fagnan.

The cost of the study abroad package is \$6,000. The package includes international transportation (round trip airfare and airport transfers in China), double-occupancy housing, health insurance, visa processing, a guided tour of Tianjin, and study abroad fees. FIU in-state tuition, books, food, and personal expenses are not included in the package.

Accommodations are provided on-campus at the FIU-TUC Center in the 20-story residence hall. Study Abroad students live on the sixth floor and are paired two to a room. Single rooms are available by request at an additional expense. Every room is equipped with a private bath, A/C, Internet access, and TV. Kitchens are not included.

"From the reports of previous students who participated in the program, they would love to do it again, and they are willing to advertise and recruit others to study abroad as well," said Fagnan.

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SGC-BBC pass ‘Panther Paws’ resolution

JONATHAN SIMMONS
Staff Writer

Two recent Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council resolutions have involved feet – the first, large, feline, and brightly colored; the second, human and hopefully, in the future, less sore than they have been in the past.

The first measure brought before the SGC-BBC senate last week concerned what the SGC is calling “panther paws” – large blue and gold paw prints which will soon, SGC-BBC members hope, be painted along 151 Street, stretching from the intersection with Biscayne Boulevard all the way to the campus – or, according to SGC-BBC clerk Larissa Adames, perhaps even up to the steps of the Bay Vista Residence Hall.

The idea for the “panther paws” isn’t new, and many universities have similar trails painted on local or campus roads and sidewalks. There are some on some of the roads on the MMC campus, for instance.

“Originally, five or 10 years ago” said Honors College Senator Pablo Haspel, who authored the resolution, “Paws were in place on the pavement on the way to campus.”

“Over the years, the road got re-paved,” and the paws disappeared.

The SGC-BBC Senate commissioned a poll in September and October of last year to determine student attitudes about an attempt to repaint the paws. The poll was small, with just 212 student participants, but the results were positive; 86% of those questioned believed that “panther paws” would “increase school pride and spirit.”

The SGC-BBC Senate resolution to repaint them, brought before the Senate on Sept. 12, passed unanimously and was signed by SGC-BBC President, Denise Halpin, on Sept. 19.

The Senate had in fact passed a similar resolution last year, but only did so late in the year, in March, when things were winding down for the summer and SGA members were unable to follow through on plans to get

the project approved by FIU’s Department of External Relations and the City of Miami and begin the painting process.

SGC-BBC has not yet calculated how much funding will be needed to complete the job or determined where the money will come from; those questions will wait until after the project is approved by the University and the city.

Senator Haspel is pushing for the project to move forward quickly this year, as the same bureaucratic hurdles that SGC encountered last year threaten to hold it back this year as well.

“I would really love to do it this semester,” Halpin said, but he emphasized that there were practical matter to consider that could dictate when the work would take place.

“Whoever is doing it would have to do it when there’s no traffic, like on a winter break,” he said. “I’m going to try to aim for winter break.”

The second measure brought before the SGC Senate on Sept. 12 would require an attempt to level out the BBC soccer field and require the construction of stands for spectators. The resolution was in part a response to complaints from members of the Biscayne Bay Campus Futbol Club that the field’s unevenness had been contributing to players’ soreness after practice, and was intended to require that potholes and other hazards be leveled to maintain a flat playing surface.

The resolution was passed unanimously in the Senate on Sept 12, but vetoed on Sept. 19 by President Halpin, who said that she intends to ultimately pass a resolution addressing the condition of the soccer field.

“I need to see more specific wording,” she said, than was present in the resolution passed by the Senate on the 12th. If the intention is to deal with potholes, said Halpin, then the resolution should contain the word “potholes.”

The resolution dealing with the condition of the soccer field is likely to be re-written and brought before the Senate, and ultimately President Halpin, again in the coming weeks.



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

SGC-BBC President Denise Halpin vetoed resolution for the renovations of the BBC soccer field’s potholes (above) and tarnished goals (left) due to the lack of specific language in the proposed resolution.

11 hospitality students spend semester in Tianjin, China

**DEBORAH SOUVERAIN AND
DEVON JOHNSON**
FIUSM Staff

The closest most FIU students get to China is the “Made in China” tags on their backs or pseudo Chinese restaurants that happen to be more American than Chinese; however, for 11 FIU students, China has become their home away from home.

Since 2006, FIU’s School of Hospitality & Tourism Management has held a study abroad program in Tianjin, China at The

Tianjin University of Commerce (TUC), the first university of China.

“This is actually my first time participating in a study abroad program, and so far, I’m loving it. China’s culture is completely different from ours back home, but in the three weeks we’ve been here, we’ve learned to appreciate it a lot,” said Astrid Garcia, junior hospitality management student.

A joint venture between FIU and TUC, The Marriott Tianjin China program was originally designed for Chinese students

who wanted to major in Hospitality via enrollment with FIU without having to leave their hometown and come to the US.

Once Chinese students complete their core curriculum courses during their first two years at TUC, if they choose to major in Hospitality, they are “transferred” to FIU. These students then complete their degree at the Marriott Tianjin China Program, FIU’s \$100 million, 450,000 sq. ft. facility conveniently on the campus of TUC.

Doors were opened to FIU students a

little over 5 years ago, allowing students to participate in the program in china.

According to Dawn Fagnan, the Enrollment Manager for the school of Hospitality & Tourism Management, the Fall 2011 group of FIU students heading to China is the largest group to go since 2007, where 12 students participated in the program.

“The program opened in 2006,” said Dawn Fagnan. “And there are over 700 Chinese students who are enrolled at the