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TEXTBOOKS

Bookstore rentals save students over \$700,000 in fall

DIANE ARIAS
Staff Writer
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It saves to rent.

The University's Barnes and Nobles college bookstore announced recently that it has saved students \$775,091 in book rentals during the fall of 2011.

The bookstore is bringing these savings to students by renting the textbooks at half price of the new book price.

However, despite the savings made available, students are not renting books more than they are buying them.

According to the general manager of the bookstore, Meaghan Connolly, students may be buying books more than renting them because only half of the titles at the bookstore are available as rentals.

Students who need a code for their courses cannot rent out the code because it is usable only once a semester.

As for consumable titles, they cannot be reused again for the next semester.

The titles that are customized for the University, like

the MAC 1105 book and certain English books, cannot be used around the country for the bookstore's other locations. This means they cannot rent these customized texts at the University's bookstore.

"We use a database of rental titles that we can use if they're not going to be re-rented at our stores at other stores around the country," said Connolly.

The option of renting textbooks was made available at the University in the spring of 2007.

Patricia Price, chair of the Textbook Affordability Committee in the University's Faculty Senate, thinks that book rentals and e-books, electronic versions of textbooks, are drawing students away from traditional textbooks.

Though she also believes that the traditional textbook will not be completely done away with.

"Some students like the physicality [of books] and like to hold on to books at the end of the semester," said Price.

In regard to saving

SNOW PROBLEMS



ALEXANDRA SARDI/THE BEACON

Usman Khan, a junior majoring in physics, attempted eXtreme snowboarding at the Winter Wonderland event hosted on the GC Lawn by SPC for Week of Welcome.

money, Price said, "Renting textbooks saves a lot of money. Anything that saves money is great. If an upper-division student needs a case book, for example, it may be valuable in the future, which would be the only downside [to renting]."

Nicole Fernandez, graduate student in the School of Education Curriculum and Instruction in social studies said, "I'll rent it if it is available to rent. The only thing is that you can't write in it that much. I like writing in my

books. Sometimes I don't rent my books because it depends if I think I'm going to like the book or not."

Lucas Au-yung-raide, junior in international business and management said, "Sometimes book rentals are actually more expensive because, if you think about it, you can buy a book, return it used and get more money back and you get more value overall versus just renting it. Some books [are fairly priced] but with some rentals, you're like, 'This is

ridiculous, I might as well just buy used online from a store that has it used for half the price you rent it."

When asked how renting has worked out for him, Au-yung said, "Right now, for some books it has worked out for me, and there are other books that I got completely ripped off, I feel."

David Frisch, junior, English literature major said, "I always liked them [book rentals]. Instead of spending \$80 dollars on a textbook, I can sit there and spend \$20

and rent it and then give it back. When used isn't available, rent is a viable option. If I can't find a book here, I'll usually try and find one of the alternative book stores."

When asked if they use any other resources to attain books, Frisch said, "I've used amazon.com to order books. Overnight shipping helps when I'm in a tight spot."

Au-yung-raide said, "I'll go online and then I'll check on chegg, neebo or on any other site."

WEEK OF WELCOME

Seminar targets importance of activism in universities



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Eric Arneson, director of Campus Life, moderates activism seminar "What are you waiting for?"

MELHOR LEONOR
Contributing Writer
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Whether peaceful or violent, civic displays of objection surfaced globally in the past year as protesters brought their causes to the public eye. Local displays such as Occupy FIU are bringing a national sense of protest to our campus.

On Thursday, Jan. 12, as part of the Week of Welcome activities, The Department of Campus Life held the Student Activism seminar, where a panel of University staff and students discussed the power and purpose of protesting under the slogan "What Are You Fighting For?"

The program began with an introduction from each of the panel members.

Dr. Dawn Addy, director of the Center for Labor Research and Studies began by providing a historical perspective on student activism, also adding on her personal experience with activism.

Director for the Center for Service and Leadership and panel member, Beverly Dalrymple, emphasized on the importance of activism and on the avenues through which students can have their voices heard.

"There are many ways in which you can work on policy change. Petitioning, lobbying, volunteering, boycotting, buycotting and social entrepreneurship," Dalrymple said. "We would like to offer our department as a resource for that. We focus on civic engagement and creating

SEE WOW, PAGE 2

COMING UP | Life!

Check out Monday's issue for our annual Spring Arts Preview on the University's semester art season.

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Certain low-skilled worker visas extended to Haiti

Haiti is now eligible for a visa program that allows U.S. employers to bring certain low-skilled, temporary workers into this country. U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services announced Tuesday that Haiti was among more than 55 countries eligible for the H-2A and H-2B visas.

Both Florida senators and six U.S. representatives from the state last month asked Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to extend the visas to Haiti. The Florida delegation said money sent home by Haitians with those visas was vital to the Caribbean country’s ongoing efforts.

NATIONAL

Family of dead al-Qaida operative promoted peace

Moeed Abdul Salam didn’t descend into radical Islam for lack of other options. He grew up in a well-off Texas household, attended a pricey boarding school and graduated from one of the state’s most respected universities.

But the most unlikely thing about his recruitment was his family: Two generations had spent years promoting interfaith harmony and combatting Muslim stereotypes in their hometown and even on national television.

Salam rejected his relatives’ moderate faith and comfortable life, choosing instead a path that led him to work for al-Qaida.

WORLD

Egypt’s military ruler warns of ‘grave dangers’

Egypt is facing unprecedented “grave dangers” but its military will protect it, military ruler Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi said in remarks published Wednesday which appeared aimed at rallying public opinion against protests planned for next week’s anniversary of the country’s uprising.

Tantawi’s comments also seemed to be a thinly veiled warning to the activists behind last year’s Jan. 25-Feb. 11 demonstrations that led to the toppling of authoritarian president Hosni Mubarak.

The activists are now calling on the military to step down immediately, and accuse the ruling generals of botching the transition to civilian rule, of killing at least 80 protesters since October, of torturing detainees and of hauling at least 12,000 civilians before military tribunals for trial.

– Compiled by Lauren Rovira

ELECTIONS

Florida awaits GOP primary

CURT ANDERSON
Associated Press

Property manager Nancy Leon knows all too well the effects of Florida’s dismal economy. People can’t pay their condominium association fees and fall behind on mortgages or rent. The condo property suffers.

Then it has to cut costs, which makes the place less attractive for new residents. A vicious cycle.

“People are really struggling. We see it every day,” says Leon, a 42-year-old Republican who voted for President Barack Obama in 2008 as a symbol of hope and change but now isn’t sure the Democrat should get another term. Yet, she’s not sold on Republican front-runner Mitt Romney or his rivals.

With the Florida Republican presidential primary looming on Jan. 31 and Obama coming to the state Thursday to announce a new economic initiative, this is the grim situation in a key campaign battleground: Ten percent unemployment.

Rampant home foreclosures. Nearly half the state’s homeowners owing more on their mortgages than their properties are worth.

Ten months before the election, Florida’s environment presents a stark challenge for Obama and an opportunity for the eventual Republican nominee in the nation’s largest state with a history of vacillating between choosing Republicans and Democrats in presidential contests.

Obama carried Florida in 2008 against Republican John McCain, 51 percent to 48 percent.

SPEAKING OUT



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

Occupy FIU organizer William Sanchez wears an ‘FIU 7’ shirt on Jan. 18. He and other members requested a formal meeting with President Rosenberg.

And, for now at least, Florida voters don’t seem to be abandoning Obama in droves.

A recent Quinnipiac University poll showed the president and Romney, the GOP front-runner, in a near-statistical tie in the state in a hypothetical head-to-head matchup.

Reflecting the stakes for the fall even though the GOP hasn’t settled on a nominee, Republicans and Democrats alike have been busy testing lines of argument on the economy.

In a recent appearance in West Palm Beach, Romney mentioned almost nothing about Florida-specific issues such as offshore oil drilling and U.S.-Cuba relations, focusing instead on criticizing Obama and promoting his own economic plans. Campaign mailers sent to Florida Republicans echoed the strategy.

“Our economy has fallen flat. Who’s

to blame?” asks one mailer. Another proclaims that Romney is the strongest to lead the country out of economic turmoil, arguing this: “With conservative leadership, America can be first in the world in job creation again.”

Romney is in a strong position heading into Saturday’s primary in South Carolina after back-to-back victories in Iowa and New Hampshire.

Entrance and exit polls from both states showed that voters overwhelmingly bought Romney’s argument that he is the strongest Republican to take on Obama in the fall on voters’ No. 1 issue: the economy.

Romney’s rivals — former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Texas Rep. Ron Paul — trailed on those measures and are fighting to keep their bids alive through the Florida primary.

Students, faculty talk expression

WOW, PAGE 1

active citizens.”

The third member of the panel was Alexander Casas, chief of police at the FIU Police Department, who emphasized the importance of protesting and being socially active while also complying with university policy.

“Balancing every interest is the agreement we abide by,” Casas said. “We encourage students to exercise their right of free speech but we have to control the time, place and manner in order to maintain general university functions running.”

The floor was then open for an open forum discussion, where panel members and students engaged in discussion.

Senior Sean McMahon, majoring in international relations and political

science, aimed his question at the panel, alluding to the episode in University of California, Davis, where a video of law enforcement officers spraying sitting

presence,” Addy said. “As long as everyone is being treated in a respectful manner, there will be favorable response.”

Adding to the topic of

We encourage students to exercise their right of free speech but we have to control the time, place and manner in order to maintain general university functions running.

Alexander Casas,
Chief
FIU Police Department

students with pepper spray gained much attention on the web.

“Sometimes these episodes can be avoided. Often times it depends on how police and protesters respond to each other’s

public protests on campus, junior and psychology major Phoebe Clemons emphasized on the importance of leadership.

“I think that with any presence, it’s important for there to be leadership

in a mature and conscious way. It is the role of the leaders of the protest to protect those they are protesting along with as well as everyone that they are coming in contact with,” Clemons said.

The discussion concluded with a highlight on the many ways students can have their voices heard as well as with a word on the importance of involvement.

“There are so many ways to approach a problem, avenues that are already built into the system. However, there is also a time for protests. Protests are usually that last measure for when no one is listening,” Addy said.

“One of the major things with any movement is being there, to show up and to participate so that your voice can be heard.”

THE BEACON

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

MUST-WIN GAME

Wright a game-time decision for FAU

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Three points. That was the combined point margin that separated FIU from defeating rival Florida Atlantic in both meetings last season. The consequences: those two losses cost the Panthers an opportunity to claim a higher seeding in the Sun Belt Conference tournament. For the Owls, the wins propelled them to the conference regular season title.

When the Owls and Panthers get set to tip-off for their Jan. 21 matinee at U.S. Century Bank Arena, both teams will be in need for a conference victory to right their seasons. Last seasons' Sun Belt Conference Eastern Division champion Owls have gotten off to a slow start in conference play this season.

After playing a difficult non-conference schedule, which included games against Kansas, Miami and Washington, Florida Atlantic entered conference play with tough losses to Louisiana, Middle Tennessee and Arkansas-Little Rock. Florida Atlantic (6-12, 2-3 SBC) returns two key players from last season that played a major role in defeating the Panthers.

Greg Gantt and Raymond Taylor are the offensive catalyst for the Owls this season. Gantt leads Florida Atlantic with 13.7 points per game and

is one of the leaders the Owls have in field goal percentage amongst starters at 45 percent.

The 5-foot-6-inch point guard Taylor provides stability in the offense for Florida Atlantic as he averages just over nine points per game and dishes out over five assists per game, which leads the team.

On offense, the Owls are the worst in the conference, as they have a scoring average less than 55 points per game. In the paint, Kore White anchors FAU's defense with 24 blocks on the season. The Owls depend heavily on its defense as they lead the conference in points allowed with 50 points per game.

ALL 40 MINUTES

Basketball is a game of runs. For FIU (4-13, 1-4 SBC) this season, they have struggled to play a complete game. In all but one of the Panthers' wins, they have shot over 40 percent in both halves. In nine of their losses, they have shot under 40 percent in at least one half.

PUTTING IN WORK

Without the presence of guard DeJuan Wright in the lineup, fellow team captain Jeremy Allen has lifted his game to carry the Panthers offensive load. Since Wright went out of the lineup, Allen has scored over 10 points in all but one game and has been the leading scorer for the Panthers in three of those games.



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

The Panthers have not defeated the Owls in the last two years.

"We have to ride Jeremy. He's wearing down," head coach Isiah Thomas said after the Louisiana game. "Right now they are logging a lot of minutes and it is catching up with them."

DEPTH AT GUARD

The Panthers depth at guard has been hit once again as junior guard Tola Akomolafe has been

out of the lineup. It has been reported by the Miami Herald to be due to an "academic matter." The Panthers are still without the services of Wright, who is nursing a leg injury.

When asked if Wright is expected to return, coach Thomas stated, "It's a medical day-to-day. I'm hoping that he returns at some point in time this season."

FIU must beat Owls to inspire local rivalry

The rivalry continues on Jan. 21 at U.S. Century Bank arena when the FIU men's basketball team takes on the FAU Owls at 2 p.m.

It is the first of two games between the only two Florida schools in the Sun Belt conference.

Unfortunately, so far the rivalry expected from both schools has yet to happen. FAU has owned FIU the last two seasons, having gone 4-0 since the 2009-2010 season. Before that, from 2007-2009 FIU had won four straight against FAU.

COMMENTARY



JACKSON WOLEK

However, from the 2006-2007 season until the 2010-2011 season FIU has only been ahead of FAU in the Sun Belt standings just once in 2008-2009 when the Panthers went 13-20, the Owls 6-26.

The common theme is that FIU has been dismally bad since joining the SBC, never getting above a .500 record for a season. On the other hand, FAU had one horrible season, and hovered just below and above .500 in the rest of them.

To put it in perspective, although neither team has done very well since their inaugural seasons in the SBC in 2006-2007, FIU has a combined record of 52-101, FAU is 72-86.

To be fair, in football FIU had not beaten FAU for nine consecutive seasons until they finally beat the Owls this year. Yet the rivalry still remains, partly because of the annual Shula Bowl that is associated with each game. FIU has also found recent success in football the past two seasons, while in basketball FIU is on the down turn.

It's true that in many rivalries, despite what either team's record is when they play each other, they still hate each other's guts when they get on the court. For example, in 2009-2010 when UNC went just 16-16 and never even made the NCAA tournament, it was still a huge deal for both them and fierce rival Duke when they squared off that year.

What that rivalry has and what FIU-FAU doesn't have is history. They were together in the Trans-Atlantic Athletics Conference from 1993-1994 to 1997-1998 and reunited again in the Sun Belt conference beginning in the 2005-2006 season.

Above all else in rivalries is fan involvement. Last year, when FAU beat FIU 73-72 on a last second layup by Brett Royster in front of 2,961 screaming fans, the fans rushed the court at The Burrow in joy of beating what they perceived to be their rival.

Two weeks later at "The Bank" the Panthers played in another tightly contested game with the Owls, only losing in overtime 80-78. The main difference in that game was only 1,531 fans showed up and the loudest fans there were from FAU.

If both teams want to make this a rivalry game that can last for a long time, then they must both be at least in contention for the regular season conference title for consecutive amount of years. When that happens, a strong focus will be given to every game that they play against each other, making it more exciting and meaningful to watch. Until then, it's just going to be two mediocre teams playing in two meaningless games.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

High-scoring Panthers face Owls

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Conference action is in full swing and the Panthers are in the midst of a tough stretch of Sun Belt games. Coming off an impressive victory over Louisiana 78-48, the Panthers (12-6, 2-3 SBC) will hope to continue to stay hot when they welcome their in-state rival, Florida Atlantic Owls (8-8, 3-2 SBC), to the U.S. Century Bank on Jan. 21.

In the last two seasons, the Panthers have gotten the best of the Owls, sweeping them in both seasons. The last time these two teams played, the Panthers eclipsed the 100-point mark for the first time since the 1998 season.

The Panthers will be

relying heavily on the efforts of Fanni Hutlassa, who reached the 1,000-point mark for her career in the victory over Louisiana. Not to be easily outdone is Jerica Coley. She stands just 49 points from reaching the 1,000-point mark for her career and she has only played a season and a half for FIU.

Earlier this month, head coach Cindy Russo eclipsed Muffet McGraw of Notre Dame (644) to become the ninth most winningest coach in Division I women's basketball history. She now sits 93 wins from jumping up to eighth over Jim Foster of Ohio State (740).

Coley still remains the second leading scorer in the nation, averaging 25 points per game. She is still well behind the leader, Elena Delle Donne,

who is averaging 29.3 points per game.

With a win over South Alabama on Jan. 18 and against FAU, the Panthers can climb from fifth in the East Division to as high as third. The top dog in the East is Middle Tennessee. They are also beginning to receive votes in the top 25 USA Today Coaches Poll.

The key to stopping the Owls, who have struggled offensively in their last two games, averaging just 37.5 points per game, will be stopping Chenise Miller. She plays the forward position and leads the Owls in both points per game (9.8) and rebounds per game (7.6).

However, the Panthers dominate the Owls on the stat sheet. FIU has the highest

scoring offense in the Sun Belt (66.5 points per game), while FAU is middle of the pack (59.8 points per game). A thing to keep an eye on is how many blocks the Panthers can force on the Owls. They head into this game averaging 5.1 per game, by far the highest in the Sun Belt.

Both teams are strong in the rebounding department, both averaging nearly the same margin on both ends of the court. The game could come down to who can pull down the last board and it will be on Finda Mansare to battle down inside against Miller.

Whoever can assert herself early on and continue to crash the boards will go a long way in determining who will come out on top of this rivalry game.



2012 SPRING TENNIS PREVIEW

Defending champs start season against No.14 Clemson

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The Panthers will begin their 2012 season on the road, visiting 14-ranked Clemson Tigers on Jan. 20.

FIU, who finished 2011 with a 13-7 record, is coming off their Sun Belt Conference championship win over North Texas.

The tennis team is looking to not only defend their title but also capture their sixth championship in eight years.

Motivation should not be an issue, as head coach Melissa Applebaum-Dall’au has established a theme, as she does every year, for the new season. This year is no different, with a theme of “All the Way.”

“Personally, when you play in a tournament, you want to go all the way,” Applebaum-Dall’au said. “The way I meant for it to come across was, right now, is that every individual on my team has a personal wall that they have to overcome. That wall is what’s keeping us from being a Top-20 program that I know we can be.”

Leading the defending champions are seniors Christine Seradni and Lisa Johnson, who paired up and secured the Doubles competition point in the SBC title match last season with a 8-3 set victory over Paula Dinuta and Madura Ranganathan of North Texas.

Seradni finished last season with a 18-9 singles record, including 8-0 when playing in the third position.



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

McLean [top] heads into her first season at FIU. The Panthers went 11-5 last year and won the Sun Belt Conference championship behind Lisa Johnson and Christine Seradni.

Finishing the 2011 season on a hot streak, winning nine of her last 11 matches, Seradni will look to capitalize on the momentum that she currently carries into her senior season.

“As a team, and as a player, we worked really hard and it was great to get the results that we wanted,” said Seradni.

Lisa Johnson, who transferred to FIU after her sophomore season at Utah, primarily played

the second and third positions throughout her junior year.

The second position was good to Johnson, allowing her to obtain a record of 5-2. With a role increase going into the season, Johnson knows what it takes to repeat as champions.

“It feels really good to be the champions. The expectations are high but we all believe that we’re as good as we need to be to win it again,” Johnson

said.

The expectations are set high, not only by themselves as individuals, but by the incoming players, such as Sarah McLean, Karyn Guttormsen and Nina Djordjevic.

“I’m more excited for a season than I have been for any other season. I feel like, with the fresh blood in there and the young attitude, they are just driven,” said Applebaum-Dall’au.

Both Seradni and Johnson will be looked

2012 TENNIS SCHEDULE		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Jan. 20	Clemson	3 p.m.
Jan. 22	Furman	11 a.m.
Jan. 27	Fresno State	11 a.m.
Jan. 28	TBA	TBA
Feb. 4	Florida State	11 a.m.
Feb. 5	Georgia	11 a.m.
Feb. 10	New Mexico State	3 p.m.
Feb. 11	Rice	1 p.m.
Feb. 12	Texas Tech/Santa Clara	12 p.m.
Feb. 25	South Alabama	1 p.m.
Feb. 26	North Texas	12 p.m.
Mar. 7	Middle Tennessee	1 p.m.
Mar. 9	Penn	1 p.m.
Mar. 13	Ole Miss	1 p.m.
Mar. 14	Southern Miss	2 p.m.
Mar. 16	Yale	1 p.m.
Mar. 18	Columbia	10 a.m.
Mar. 21	Florida Atlantic	1 p.m.
Mar. 30	Brown	1 p.m.
Apr. 6	Fresno State	1 p.m.
Apr. 19	SBC Championship	TBA
		Home: Blue
		Away: Gold

upon from the incoming class of players, which they sat down with to let them know what is expected.

“Their first week in, as upper classmen, we told them ‘This is what you have to do and what you can’t do.’ Yeah, we definitely sat down with them,” Seradni said.

The Panthers will not play at home until March 7, when they open up conference play and host Middle Tennessee. The schedule might seem peculiar and tough, but Applebaum-Dall’au prefers it that way.

“I like to do that. I like to end [the season] at home. End of the year, you like to be at home,” Applebaum-Dall’au said. “I have

a tough schedule for my girls every year. I don’t like to sugar coat it... I like to have it where we’re getting down to the nitty gritty and getting dirty.”

That tough beginning to the season gets the team ready for conference play, where FIU feels that they should be better than everyone in the SBC.

When it comes down to the end of the year, the team expects to win a championship.

“If I said no, you should fire me. We should win conference every year as long as I am here,” Applebaum-Dall’au said. “If we don’t, then I am not doing something right...It’s a title that deserves to be here at FIU every single year.”

THE GREAT EIGHT



GIULIETTA BOHA

Year: Sophomore
2011 Record: 14-9

Boha surprised many last year as a freshman, posting a mark of 14-9 from the number 6 position. The Wuerzburg, Germany native heads into this season with high expectations of being successful with the departure of Liset Brito and Maria Spenceley.



NINA DJORDJEVIC

Year: Freshman
2011 Record: 0-0

Djordjevic heads into her first season as a Panther from Serbia, where she attended the First Sports Basketball High School. She plans to study Environmental Engineering at FIU.



KARYN GUTTORMSEN

Year: Freshman
2011 Record: 0-0

Guttormsen is coming to FIU from Bradford High School in Wisconsin, where she went 87-6 in her career. Her team won the state title in 2010, when she was also named Wisconsin Player of the year.



MAGALI HOLT

Year: Junior
2011 Record: 2-6

Holt has struggled in her career at FIU, posting a mark of 2-20. The Quebec native has not seen much action in her two seasons as a Panther, playing in only 22 matches, 24 in doubles competition.



LISA JOHNSON

Year: Senior
2011 Record: 15-11

Johnson has compiled a career singles record of 47-38 at both FIU and Utah. She transferred to FIU from Utah in her Junior year, where she went 19-5 in singles play. Johnson and Christine Seradni went 3-0 in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament last year.



RITA MAISAK

Year: Freshman
2011 Record: 0-0

Maisak comes into this season with a career record of 23-23 at both FIU and South Carolina in singles competition. The junior partnered with Johnson in doubles competition last year, where they compiled a record of 8-3. She is originally from Minsk, Belarus..



SARAH MCLEAN

Year: Freshman
2011 Record: 0-0

McLean is entering her first season as a Panther. At Gulliver High School, she went 10-2 and was the 2010 FHSAA 2A singles champion. She earned first team All-Dade in singles and doubles in 2010.



CHRISTINE SERADNI

Year: Freshman
2011 Record: 0-0

Seradni is finishing off her career as a Panther this season, after posting a mark of 32-25 in the last two years. The Virginia native was named to the Sun Belt Commissioner’s list last season for having a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

GIVING BACK

Fundraiser encourages more involvement in 15th year

SANDY ZAPATA

Staff Writer

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Dance Marathon will be marking its 15 years at the University on Jan. 28 at the University's Recreation Center.

The fundraiser of 25 hours benefits the Children's Miracle Network on a national level and the local Miami Children's Hospital.

This year's theme is based on Disney's "The Lion King," highlighting the movie's motto, "it means no worries."

The logistics of the annual event are always known but this time around the personalized, emotional experiences of the dancers who participate are being spotlighted.

Joanna Garcia, the Center for Leadership and Services coordinator has been involved with Dance Marathon since her freshmen year at the University of Florida, which lasted for 32 hours.



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Dance Marathon, which is now in its 15th year at the University, aims to raise as much money as they possibly can for the Children's Miracle Network and the Miami Children's Hospital. Since 1998, the 25 hour long marathon has raised over \$850,000.

Through her sorority and its philanthropy, Garcia got involved as a team dancer for DM.

"At first you're excited and everyone wants to line dance and then you go through your different moods, you get tired, some people get tired and some people don't

respond very well to it."

Garcia continued to participate as a dancer in DM for the rest of her undergraduate career.

"My first year was the best because I didn't know what to expect and after my first year I knew standing was going to be uncomfortable."

Although Garcia no longer dances for the event, her involvement in the fundraiser has affected her life in such a way that she never thought it would.

"This event is special because I have ties to it from nine years ago. Such an event can have an impact in different communities,

whether it is in Gainesville, FL or Miami, FL, and to involve so many people is an amazing feeling."

Garcia encourages anyone who hasn't been involved to try it or at least to stop by and check it out.

"You might need some sleep afterwards but I think they'll [newcomers] really have a good time and enjoy being part of the event."

Giovanni Correale, a senior, psychology major and recruitment chairperson, has been involved in DM for two years.

Correale was involved in a lot of the service-oriented programs provided by CLS and decided to take a chance with DM.

"Throughout the night my legs hurt, my feet hurt, but in the beginning of the morning I felt so happy that I made it to the end."

A week later, Correale's niece was diagnosed with an erupted appendix and sent to Miami Children's Hospital.

As a result, he

decided to be a part of the DM committee and continue with this particular service project that touched so close to home.

Despite the tedious and long hours spent dancing and lack of rest and showers, Correale said, "It's a big ol' pachanga [party] and you're taken care of for 25 hours."

Kimberly Harvey, senior, sociology and criminal justice major is the director of recruitment and has been part of DM for four years.

Harvey admits that she wasn't much of a kid lover before DM. However, her perspective has changed after DM as well as other notable aspects of her life, like public speaking.

"You might hate it at the moment— your feet will start killing you and your back will start hurting from standing so long. But, after it's all over and you look back on it, you're so thankful that you did it. It's a life-changing philanthropy."

REEL TO REEL

Carano flaunts her fighting skills in "Haywire"

Sex, drugs, war, disease, crime and comedy—Steven Soderbergh has done a little of everything. His decision to leap into action has definitely

been a good one, as he adeptly brings us the intensely entertaining flick, "Haywire."

COLUMNIST



JUAN BARQUIN

Soderbergh's action film revolves around Mallory Kane (Gina Carano), a freelance operative frequently hired for covert missions that can't receive government authorization.

After a hostage rescue in Barcelona, she is sent on a seemingly simple mission to Dublin that goes awry. Realizing that she has been betrayed by the men who hired her, Mallory must use her skills to escape and outlast her enemies in order to discover the truth and stay alive.

"Haywire" is a sophisticated action film that sets high standards for other films in the genre this year. It is tense, sexy and features some of the best executed fights in years.

It should come as no surprise that these fights are top-notch, given Gina Carano's previous career as a mixed martial arts



PHOTO COURTESY OF RELATIVITY MEDIA

Fassbender (left) shares a sexy scene in Haywire with Carano (right), who plays a freelance operative.

fighter. She does a wonderful job in the lead role of Soderbergh's film, not only in fighting but in acting as well. She goes from surprisingly seductive to scathingly vicious without a moment's hesitation.

Strong female roles in action films are rare and it's pleasant to see a new action star on the rise. One might even suggest that she'd be the perfect choice

if and when Wonder Woman needed a successful comeback.

The film comes with no shortage of big names—Michael Douglas, Antonio Banderas and Bill Paxton among them—while also featuring actors like Michael Fassbender and Michael Angarano.

Among the supporting cast, Fassbender and Ewan McGregor stand out. Both men play char-

acters with professional ties to Mallory and complement Carano's performance. McGregor is sharp and serious while Kenneth and Fassbender help to provide what might be one of the sexiest fight scenes in an action film.

When it comes to the writing, Lem Dobbs does his job at providing the movie with just enough framework for the film to work. The screenplay

is really nothing more than a serviceable map for Carano to beat her co-stars senseless in wonderfully choreographed fight scenes that echo the early James Bond films.

Much like his work on "The Informant!" Soderbergh draws heavily upon that 1960s movie feel. Not only does he provide gorgeous scenery with shots taken at Barcelona, Dublin and other scenic cities, but he captures the intensity that an action film deserves through the close-combat his actors engage in.

For an action film, "Haywire" is pleasantly realistic as was "Contagion," his previous disease drama film. Soderbergh's work as the director of photography and editor of the film is notable; the distinct visual experience he brings to the screen feels familiar and appealing to the senses.

While some may complain that "Haywire" isn't smart or plausible enough to work, Steven Soderbergh achieves his goal of delivering a fun and fast-paced film that showcases its star as intended.

Reel to Reel is a weekly movie review column. Juan Barquin is an intern for the Miami International Film Festival.

COVER TO COVER

“The Hunger Games” makes commentary on reality media

Beware: pick up The Hunger Games, and you will not want to put it down. This may be the most addicting series I have picked up since I found Harry Potter in the fifth grade.

COLUMNIST



KELLY MALAMBRI

The 12 districts of Panem, the continent previously known as North America, are controlled by a totalitarian government called the Capitol. Each year, the Capitol mandates that one boy and one girl between the ages of 12 and 18 from each district fight to the death in what they call the Hunger Games.

The Games, put in place because District 13 once revolted against the Capitol, are meant to serve as a reminder of what happens to those who do not obey the government’s demands. District 13 was destroyed by the Capitol and anyone who disobeys the law faces the same fate. Meanwhile, the government also mandates that every citizen of Panem watch the children fight to their death.

Katniss Everdeen lives in the last and most barren district of Panem, District 12, and decides to volunteer for the Games when her sister, Prim, is selected for the games at the age of 12.

Through its addictive storyline, The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins made it difficult for me to put it down. From the second Katniss risks her life to save her young sister to the moment of climax in the novel, the story never gets dull.

The book offers a little bit of everything — from romance in Katniss’ love triangle to action in the brutal deaths of the Hunger Game contestants. The novel makes a strong statement about not only the effects of war, but comments on the way that “reality” shows and violence on TV have affected and will continue to



PHOTO COURTESY OF LIONSGATE FILMS

Jennifer Lawrence stars in the movie adaptation of The Hunger Games which will be released in theatres on March 26.

affect the viewers in our own country.

For example, in the memorable moment of the novel when Katniss volunteers herself to enter the Games for her sister, the entire crowd, including every member of District 12, makes a gesture toward her with three fingers, moving them silently from their lips into the air in her direction.

When Collins informs us that “it means thanks, it means admiration, it means good-bye to someone you love,” she suggests that people are stronger than the negative material and violent aspects in the imaginary country of Panem. She compares the effects of the Games to those that hold us down in our America, as good outweighs evil in the novel from the beginning to the end.

In the same moment and in the relationship created among Katniss and her fellow tributes, or game players, in the novel, Collins proves that the humanity of mankind is enough to inspire people to overcome those who try to control us and tell us what is right and wrong, like the Capitol does to the citizens of Panem.

In this sense, the book promotes virtuosity and the importance of critical thinking. Because of the complex

and advanced humanistic ideas that it promotes, The Hunger Games is more than just a teen novel — it is more than appropriate for college and adult audiences.

Despite all of its strong points, the book is not flawless. At some points, the novel proves to be predictable. This predictability occurred a little too often for my taste. However, certain parts of the novel — the end in particular— did not cease to surprise me.

The first book of the trilogy has been given rave reviews from many sources, including Stephen King, whose review of the novel can be read on Entertainment Weekly’s website. The book is a relatively short, easy read, making it a breeze to enjoy as the workload of a new semester begins to unfold.

The Hunger Games is to be released in the form of a movie on March 26. I am anxiously waiting for its release and the chance to read the rest of the trilogy, which includes the New York Times bestseller Catching Fire, and the third installment called Mockingjay.

Cover to Cover is a biweekly book review column. Email at kelly.malambri@fiusm.com.

MODERN LIFE

Drivers distracted by text messaging

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ
Contributing Writer
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Driving probably isn’t the safest activity in the world, but mix in the distraction of text messaging and you may have a recipe for disaster.

Text messaging is an addictive way to communicate anywhere — even behind the wheel. Unfortunately, many people text while driving because it is so easy and young adults can be some of the worst culprits.

Composing and reading text messages while driving can remove your attention from the road for about five seconds, which is more than enough time to miss a light change or stop sign.

Recently, many commercials and billboards have been promoting the campaign to stop texting and driving in response to the rising number of related accidents.

According to a study by the University of Utah, during the few seconds that your eyes are on your phone and not on the road and for a moment after, you are twice as likely to get into an accident than if you were legally intoxicated. “I just don’t think a text message could be worth taking my attention off driving,” said Jason Martinez, a business major.

Using hands-free equip-

ment to talk and text on your cellphone can mitigate some of the factors associated with the dangers of texting while driving. Although driving might seem like a mundane, everyday activity, full attention is needed in an unexpected emergency situation.

According to www.nationwide.com, one in ten college-aged drivers are using their phone while driving at any one time and distracted driving is a factor in 25 percent of reported car accidents.

About 30 states in the U.S. have some form of law concerning texting and driving. The vast majority of the states have prohibited texting while operating a vehicle. There are currently no laws about texting and driving in Florida.

“I think Florida should ban texting and driving to avoid accidents and it works out for the driver who avoids all the hassles of a car accident, and obviously works out for the victim who could potentially get hurt or killed,” said senior Isaac Soria, a hospitality major.

Many people today completely drop whatever they are doing when they get a text. It is a smarter, more polite and safer move to avoid the risk and simply concentrate on the task at hand, whether it be driving, walking, school work or a real life conversation — the distraction can wait.

Tweet Beat!



@StephenAtHome:

Wikipedia will go dark in protest of SOPA. Now where am I supposed to find inaccurate information about SOPA?

-TV show host Stephen Colbert on the Stop Online Piracy Act, a bill that would censor the internet if passed in Congress.

UPCOMING WEEKEND EVENTS

20 FRIDAY

SPC MOVIE: “PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 3”
WHEN: 5 & 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free to students
WHERE: MMC GC 140

CAREER FAIR FOR BUSINESS STUDENTS
WHEN: 10-11:30 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC CBC 121

COM 2011-2012 INTERVIEWS
WHEN: 12-5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC Lot 33

MLK MOVIE NIGHT
WHEN: 7-10:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC DM 100

FIU OPERA THEATER
WHEN: 7:30-9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: 618 SW 8 St, Miami, FL 33130

21 SATURDAY

CARNIVAL
WHEN: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC Bay Area

A SYMPOSIUM
WHEN: 10 a.m.-10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC Frost

FIU WOMEN’S BASKETBALL VS. FLORIDA ATLANTIC
WHEN: 3:30-5 p.m.
WHERE: U.S. Century Bank Arena

NEW MUSIC MIAMI FESTIVAL
WHEN: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: 15.00 General Admission, \$10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, \$5.00 FIU Students and Alumni Association Members.
WHERE: 10910 SW 17 Street, Miami, FL 33199

22 SUNDAY

AVIATION IN MIAMI: THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS
WHEN: 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5-\$8
WHERE: History of Miami Museum

LINCOLN ROAD FARMERS MARKET
WHEN: 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Lincoln Road Mall

TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED
EMAIL:

CALENDAR@FIUSM.COM

Assimilation not optional, speaking English essential

PAOLO RAMOS
Staff Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

Assimilation should not be an option when moving to another country. The responsibility of learning the predominant language of that country should be a high priority, as it benefits the people moving into the country and allows for the country to better serve them.

In the United States, English is the predominant language spoken and used in federal and business transactions. Therefore, it should be expected of those desiring to live and do business in the U.S. to at least have a working knowledge of English.

Living in Miami undoubtedly exposes us to countless nuances and eccentricities, the by-products of the high cultural diversity within the city. This may also be a cause of frustration for some when trying to interact or do business in a city where the cultures and languages are not familiar.

The fact that Miami is so embracing of other cultures is often taken advantage of, and some who live and do business here have forgotten that cultural adaptation is a two-way street.

By living in the U.S., learning the language spoken by the majority of the country should be a necessity when choosing to live here, if for nothing more than to demonstrate courtesy for the generous hospitality offered by living here.

Miami, unlike most of the U.S., is considered to be more of a cultural mosaic rather than a melting pot, in that most immigrants from other countries can comfortably express their culture.

There is a fine line, however, between freedom of expression and outright disregard for a home country’s customs.

As of the year 2000 census, 80 percent of people living in the U.S. listed English as their first language. When compared to this data, Miami seems like a far outlier, with 75 percent listing other languages other than English as their first language.

Although these statistics may be accurate, they are potentially problematic considering the divide presented between small segments of the country in relation to the country as a whole.

In the U.S., unity between all states and the cities within them is important and idealized, in spite of the varying demographic degrees such as culture. Language, however, must be one of the key ties within all areas of the country.

Even my family has directly experienced the difficulty caused by the lack of English-speaking ability present in Miami.

Earlier last year, my father visited a tag agency in Hialeah to complete the registration for his car. The person he dealt with had difficulty speaking English, but reassured my dad that everything was in order. A few months later, I had to borrow my dad’s car in order to get my driver’s license. When the agent at the DMV ran his registration through, it did not show

his car as being registered.

The language barrier present between the tag agency employee and my dad could have caused many more complications if it was discovered in a more drastic scenario.

It can be understood that businesses tailor their ways of communication to their intended audience.

Admittedly, Miami does have many ethnic pockets, and businesses should be entitled to serve them as such. However, when dealing with transactions that have the potential to produce serious legal ramifications, the language used must be understandable by every party involved.

In such transactions, English should

“The fact that Miami is so embracing of other cultures is often taken advantage of, and some have forgotten that cultural adaptation is a two-way street.”

always be the primary option as they deal with parties higher than local customers.

It is imperative that learning English be reinforced in the U.S., especially when related to important federal and business transactions.

Those immigrating into the country need to understand that English is the primary language used in everyday life in the U.S., and that though cultural expression is embraced, cultural assimilation is also expected.

Though the U.S. has not adopted a national language, many states have adopted English as the official language, including Florida.

A solution that may provide more incentive to acquire English would be to adopt a naturalization process similar to France.

In France, knowledge of the language and cultural customs carry much weight in the decision to naturalize a petitioner. In order to facilitate this process, the Department of Immigration could also offer a crash course in English language and U.S. customs in order to streamline the process.

Diversity should be embraced, but we ultimately live in a country where English is the most common language used for communication.

As a former immigrant, I have experienced first-hand what it is like to move to a country where the language and culture is unfamiliar. Even so, it can and should be done if you want to be a contributing member of society.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Occupy FIU arrests threatens freedom of speech, rights

Why is the arrest of seven people, student or otherwise, of any consequence to anyone? After all, the police were only keeping the peace, right?

To the first question, the ramifications of this escalated assault on those involved are pretty hefty. To start, the tone this sets for the students at FIU is that pre-crime sanctions are acceptable, and this is supposed to serve as an example to anyone who would step forward and try to confront the university on its policies.

It must be asserted that no crime was committed, the case of Jonathan Brand was dropped, and it wasn’t until the court was made aware that it was an Occupy participant that the charges began to stick. This in and of itself should be enough to have the charges condemned by President Rosenberg.

To the second question, there were no problems with the police until calls came down to them from the administration to confront us with mandates about our plans to encamp.

When they approached us en mass, four to our seven, you can imagine the element of intimidation that was in play. Mediation with the General Counsel

was required to get a tent up as a protest symbol.

The arbitrary rules created with no written documentation to follow up their claims validity, were observed as a courtesy of the Occupy crew at FIU. The very idea of limiting the terms of free speech to a zone, then further limiting its parameters to a time frame (in this case 8am-9pm) is repugnant.

These practices are of a subversive nature and should not be tolerated by the student body. In protest perhaps everyone conducting activities at FIU should use the word Occupy before their event to witness first hand the prejudice involved by the word alone.

What would lead administrative staff to behave in such ways? Double standards where they will tell us what to do without documentation, but when we lack the “appropriate” documentation arrests can be made on the probability that an infraction, of a charge that the police decide on after the fact, might be committed.

I suppose this kind of behavior is normal to a university that doles out masters degrees in National Security Studies financed by the Defense Intelligence Agency that teaches people how to be spies, and has a Global

Governance Masters program for the Southern Command in Doral which is the US military’s control center for operations in Latin America.

Perhaps this is why degree paths like Anthropology and Social Science in the Liberal Art are under attack by Rick Scott, while undermining education to use a business plan model that failed at Texas A&M.

That’s not to say that FIU hasn’t been selling itself to corporate interests. The University hosts Well’s *[sic]* Fargo despite the fact that Well’s *[sic]* Fargo invests in two companies of the Prison Industrial Complex.

Putting that all into context, there is also the matter of the Global Learning Program that assesses student’s attitudes, then reciprocates the student to favor liberal imperialism. Maybe that was the true crime of those arrested and charged afterward for “disruption of an education institution”, the disruption being that of thought and ideas that might somehow effect the minds of FIU’s students, pure unadulterated thought crime.

-Michael Park
Member of Occupy FIU



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STUDENT LIFE

New semester ‘bites’

NADRA MABROUK

Assistant News Director

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Ten days after the start of the spring term, and the malcontent is ever present in the air, ranging from full classrooms to bug bites.

There will always be a student or two who will walk in late in the middle of the class and steal others’ attention for a second from the professor’s lecture. In Cristal Ramos’ case, there was not a lecture to interrupt.

“On the first day of class, one of my professors was 30 minutes late,” said Ramos, sophomore and journalism major.

Often, students like to enjoy reading outside by the bay or eating their lunch in one of the swing seats outside the Bay cafeteria while studying or catching up in between classes. These peaceful moments can be hindered, or in fact, slightly biting.

“There’s an increase in bug activity; I’ve gotten bit everywhere,” said Hector Gonzalez, a junior and psychology major.

There was more availability of classes for some, leaving them pleased that they do not have to rely on paying the recently increased Golden Panther Express fare of \$2.50 to get to the Modesto Maidique Campus for class.

“This is the first semester

where I could find all of the classes I need at Biscayne Bay Campus with good professors,” said Michelle Reyes, a sophomore and business major. “There should always be that wide of a selection at this campus. I don’t need the shuttle this term.”

Not every student was lucky, though.

“All of the classes that I need are full and even when there are spots, professors just don’t let you register anymore,” said Ned Chandler, a sophomore and fine arts major. “I registered for a painting class that ended up getting cancelled. I had to rush around last minute to find a class that fit my schedule.”

The rush to find classes was not the only conflict. Students also have had difficulty getting books in on time and in the way that they find most feasible.

“I’ve tried to rent my textbooks for class but they weren’t available for rent and so I had to buy all of them,” said Alison Ho, sophomore and business major.

Another textbook titled, “Elements of Moral Philosophy” was unavailable until the middle of the second week for freshman and biology major Ilana Korchia.

“I like the use of access codes because you get to learn on your own pace online, but they’re very expensive,” said Niloufar Firouzi-Badoorally, a freshman and pre-med. “A lot of the access codes aren’t even available in the

PHELPS TAKES OVER BBC



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Michael Phelps, 16-time Olympic gold medalist, began training at the Biscayne Bay Campus Recreation Center on Jan. 18, in preparation for the 2012 London Olympics.

bookstore.”

The lack of available textbooks and classes were just the tip of the iceberg of concerns. Some students even expressed malcontent towards the availability of parking by the bay.

“There’s just never any parking. There’s always spaces available in the meter parking

and the faculty,” said Brittney Ward, senior Early Childhood Education major, “They should take some of those spots out and make them for students.”

With the lack of spaces, the parking fees seem to be an inconvenient redundancy.

“Why do I have to pay the parking fee twice? The \$80 fee

should be one time. I think it is unreasonable,” said Yuyang Hou, sophomore Business major.

Not everyone is pleased with the quiet late afternoons on campus.

“There should be more activity on this campus,” said Badoorally, “There should be more life here.”

MARCHING TO THE BEAT



PHOTOS BY ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Students from Madison Middle School, John F. Kennedy Middle School, Miami Central Senior High and William Turner Tech march along the Biscayne Bay to model the Montgomery, Ala. walks that Martin Luther King, Jr. organized during the 1960s Civil Rights Movement.

Pantherwire interviews

President

Mark Rosenberg

Friday, Jan. 27

11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Radiate FM

88.1, 95.3, 96.9

