

10-1-2012

The Beacon, October 1, 2012

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Florida International University, "The Beacon, October 1, 2012" (2012). *The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon)*. 457.
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Slowly, unsurely: Florida's economy lags behind

NATALIE BAEZ
Contributing Writer

With the highest long-term unemployment rates, Florida's Great Recession recovery is slow – emphasis on slow.

According to the 2012 "State of Working in Florida," report released by the University's Research Institute on Social and Economic Policy, Florida exceeded the national average of long-term unemployment by 9.3 percent in 2011.

Written by Bernardo Oseguera, a research associate from RISEP, the "State of Working in Florida" is a yearly publication outlining the Florida employment climate.

According to the recent study, during the Great Recession, Florida lost 715,200 jobs and has since recovered 96,600 jobs, or 13.5 percent. The rest of the America has recovered

34.6 percent. States facing an economic hardship similar to or worse than Florida, like New York and Pennsylvania, have been recovering more efficiently.

Florida's private sector has been recovering but the public sector is still losing jobs, losing 2.8 percent in the recovery while losing only 0.9 percent during the actual recession.

Additionally, the professional and business services, health care and social assistance, retail trade, and leisure and hospitality industries recovered 56 percent of the jobs lost during the recession.

"Hospitality is very flexible and it's a seasonal business. Depending on the time of year, Florida, being the tourist spot that it is, can attract people to do a lot of things hospitality related," said Alex Choi, a junior majoring in hospitality

management.

These industries, however, are widely low-wage. Higher paying industries are underperforming, causing Florida to lag behind the other states.

"I believe that Florida needs to do a better job with creating jobs in manufacturing and construction, which are higher paying jobs," said Alayne Unterberger, associate research director at RISEP. "However, most of the jobs being created are in lower wage industries, like retail."

The retail trade industry and leisure and hospitality industry have together added 85,000 jobs. The health care and social assistance industry didn't lose any jobs during the recession and has since maintained a steady job growth. Sixty-three percent of minimum

SEE FLORIDA, PAGE 2

FROM THE GROUND UP



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Sculptor David Colbert getting the field ready for his geometric stainless steel sculpture that will be displayed outside of the Academic Health Center 2.

PDA and advisors team up for graduation success

LORDANA GUILLAUME
Contributing Writer

Keeping track of required courses just got a makeover.

A year after the introduction of the Panther Degree Audit, Undergraduate Education is rolling out a new program Oct. 1 designed to track student prog-

ress under the Graduation Success Initiative.

"GSI takes information from MyMajorMatch and the Panther Degree Audit and combines it with My e-Advisor, which makes it a more integrated and interactive experience for the student," said Valerie Morgan, assistant dean of undergraduate educa-

tion for the Biscayne Bay Campus. "It serves as a replacement for the Student Academic Support System reports, which had to be accessed on a different site using a different set of login information data."

My e-Advisor allows students and their advisors to view a student's progress on their Major Maps in a collab-

orative manner, so they can plan their courses. The program alerts both parties when the student falls off track and has a section containing advising notes that are available for viewing at any time.

Christina Saintlouis, a junior studying recreational therapy, believes that the Panther Degree Audit has been

useful.

"It is helpful to see courses that you need for your [University Core Curriculum] and how many classes you have left until you graduate," Saintlouis said.

Jessica Martinez, junior public rela-

SEE PDA, PAGE 2

EPA stops by to sign understanding with University

STEPHANIE MASON
Contributing Writer

The University was greeted this past Friday by Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming, regional administrator of the Southeast Region for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Fleming was welcomed by Michael Heithaus, director of the University's School of Environment, Arts and Society program and professor of biological sciences, to sign a memorandum of understanding between the EPA and the University.

According to Heithaus, this MOU is expected to "lead to substantial new scientific collaborations and fantastic new opportunities for students to get involved and work at EPA and with EPA."

Once the memorandum was signed, Fleming announced the EPA's new "tradition of exchanging pins."



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming (far right) shakes hands with students attending the signing event.

After exchanging folders containing documentation of the MOU, as well as pins with Fleming, University Provost Douglas Wartzok acknowledged the "real action planned" with this MOU and

expressed his gratitude to Fleming for her presence and compliance in speaking to the University on behalf of the EPA.

Fleming took the stage to discuss with students the importance of protecting and

sustaining the environment.

She said that by renewing focus on environmental education, we are "positioning the graduates of this institution to ride a strong foundation for how America will not only survive in the 21st century, but how we will thrive in the 21st century."

"In order for us to thrive, all of us need to have those basic necessities of clean air, clean water and clean land," Fleming said.

She also stressed the importance of conversation and communication when discussing environmental issues.

With environmental education nowadays people need to, "look beyond the traditional work," because each study is "interconnected and it's going to take that interdisciplinary approach to find solutions."

-news@fiusm.com

ORGANIC RESULTS



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON
David Becker hands out test results to 300 Organic Chemistry students outside of the Academic Health Center 3.

Changes ease process of course selection

PDA, PAGE 1

tions major, found benefits in the system as well.

“It’s much easier and faster to look online [rather] than to make an appointment with an adviser,” she said. “When I made an appointment with an adviser, I was able to meet a week later.”

Despite the support provided by the audit, advisors have not seen a decrease in the amount of students who come in.

Moira Lertora, coordinator of Student Support Services at BBC, believes that there has been no decrease in students coming through her office.

“I continue to see the same number, if not more, students utilizing the office. The PDA provides students with a guide of their degree progress, but many of them still have questions about which courses are best for them. I therefore encourage students to regularly meet with their advisers,” Lertora said.

Despite PDA assistance, Saintlouis believes that advisers are still very much needed because they are able to provide

advice, where the PDA cannot.

“Advisers will still always be needed because they can help guide you if you are considering changing a major or can help you with paperwork in regards to transient courses,” Saintlouis said.

Farida Quant, a sophomore studying civil engineering, needed more help during her freshman year.

“My first semester I had a math class that I needed to drop and I didn’t know how, so I had to meet with an advisor,” Quant said.

Lertora advises students to make sure that they regularly meet up with their adviser to avoid discrepancies.

“I always encourage students to follow up with an adviser regularly. This ensures that all records are up to date and that in making course selection students enroll in the best courses for their needs,” Lertora.

Students can access more information about GSI, along with its integration with MyMajor and My e-Advisor by logging on to gsi.fiu.edu.

-news@fiusm.com

Report highlights disparity among demographics

FLORIDA, PAGE 1

wage workers come from these three industries.

Since the recession, the working age population has increased faster than job creation, leading to a rolling job deficit. Discouraged workers have dropped out of the labor force and as a result are not included in the 2011 unemployment rates, which would have been 3 percent higher had they remained seeking jobs.

The report also notes disparity among certain demographics, some recovering better than others. White males are recovering faster.

While unemployment rates began falling for white workers in 2009, it wasn’t until 2011 when Hispanic workers began to see a turn around, and still, unemployment for black

workers are almost twice as high as that of Hispanics.

Last year, Hispanic workers earned 80 percent of what white workers earned, 5 percent less than 30 years ago. Black workers earned 75 percent of what white workers were waged in 2011, down 6 percent from their wages in 1979.

Women are also at a disadvantage, making up nearly half of the labor force, but hired four times less than men at the national level.

In 2011, women in Florida earned 88 percent of what men earned, 74 percent at the national level.

“You could look at it two different ways,” said Unterberger. “Either the glass is half full or the glass is half empty. Glass full - Floridian women are making more per woman compared to women at the national average.

The second way, glass half empty, everyone in Florida has depressed wages meaning that everyone has relatively equal lower wages.”

Daniela Alvarez, a nursing and health care administration major said, “I don’t see why women would be paid less than men, especially in nursing where females dominate the profession. It’s not fair that we do the same amount of work and get paid less.”

Following the release of the report, Florida Gov. Rick Scott said that “Every economic indicator we have is good.”

When questioned by reporters on the numbers reported by FIU and other economists at a press conference Sept. 18, Scott answered, “I’m saying we generated 130,000 jobs.”

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Florida needs to do a better job with creating jobs in manufacturing and construction, which are higher paying jobs.

Alayne Unterberger,
Associate Research Director
RISEP

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



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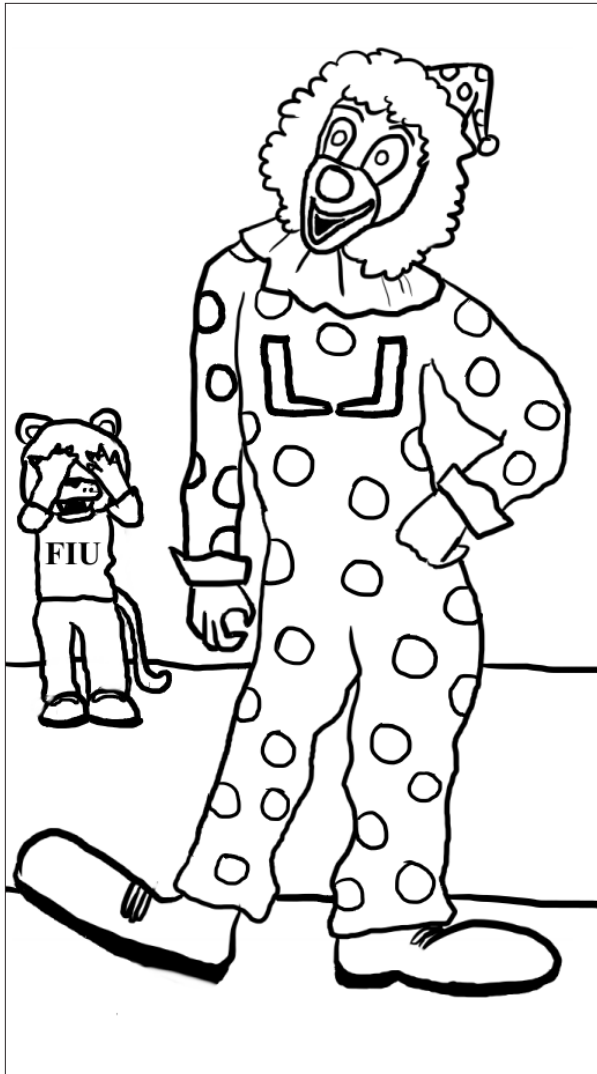
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QUIT CLOWNING AROUND

What you see



What we see



HOLLY MCCOACH/THE BEACON

For better or worse, Facebook has our vote

ANDREA NAJERA
Contributing Writer

Most people's daily routine likely involves logging into Facebook, Twitter or Tumblr and getting lost in what everyone else has to say. What may have started off as a way to simply keep up with friends has now evolved into a worldwide chat-room where anybody can shout their opinions to the masses.

Scrolling through a Facebook or Twitter timeline, one finds that the big subject right now is the upcoming presidential election.

With no censor, people openly spew out their opinion, often with little regard for facts.

With this being today's main medium of getting information, one can't help but wonder the extent of social networking's influence on who wins this year's presidential election.

These days spreading something factual or, more commonly, something false, is so common that the line between fact and fiction is completely blurred.

In this sense, though using new campaigning social networking sites as a campaign tactic has the potential to strengthen a candidate's odds, it does an equal disservice to the candidates and voters alike, making the truth increasingly elusive.

This new age version of campaigning is only contributing to the laziness that characterizes today's generation of youth voters.

Gone are the days of being intellectually stimulated while formulating personal opinions. Instead of seeking information, the information is now brought to us, condensed and simplified and spun to fit our pre-standing biases.

The fact that the timeline of a social networking site has become more powerful than a televised debate or a reputable news station is scary.

People can now become pro-Obama because a friend of theirs posted a funny meme poking fun at Romney.

Going through blogging websites such as Tumblr, one can see that Romney has become a walking punchline. Tumblr blogs such as "I Bet Mitt Romney...", which claims that they bet Mitt Romney "took gym too seriously in high school," likely have as much influence on the young voter's decision as any reputable poll or candidate speech.

Though the idea of mixing politics and social networking together seemed like a good one to reach out to the up-and-coming generation, its outcome was less than ideal, spreading a ignorance and naivete that's borderline tragic.

Once Election Day comes around the big question everyone should be asking themselves is; "Am I voting for my candidate because I agree with his policies, or because it's the cool thing to do?"

-opinion@fiusm.com

Coital encounters of the third kind

JENNA KEFAUVER
Staff Writer

To the couples that have sex, or near-sex, in places on campus,
Please don't.

The last thing I want to see on a Friday morning is you getting it on in your car in a crowded parking lot.

I understand, sometimes you can't wait. But 9 a.m.? That means you basically drove to the University to have sex. Stay at home and do it, find an abandoned parking lot-something; and then come to school.

Don't go to the most crowded part of campus to give us all a free show we'd have to wait to see on Cinemax's After Dark.

To those of you who perform, or have oral sex performed on you, in your cars, and you have a housing decal: go to your dorm. That's so unnecessary, not to mention illegal. Public indecency,

anyone? Just go home. Do you really want to do up to 20 years of hard time?

And for those of you who still do your post-coital snuggle and sleep outside my office, next time I see you, I might spray you in the face with water.

“

Just calm down and keep it in your pants until you get home. Then you can do whatever you want and no one will care.

”

Just a warning. That's not your conjugal bed or any kind of bed for that matter. Go sleep and/or make out somewhere else. There's plenty of semi dark corners on campus for that.

And to those of you who glare at me and all other students and administrators that work in the Student Affairs hallway as we walk by: Sorry, I didn't realize I was walking through your bedroom...oh wait.

I'm not saying you can't show some PDA. I do it too. We're young and in love. Just limit it, please. Or do whatever you need to do where I can't see it. I mean, there is a stairwell right across from where you're fornicating. Go hide out in there.

Just calm down and keep it in your pants until you get home. Then you can do whatever you want and no one will care.

-jenna.kefauver@fiusm.com

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WORKSHOP

Students learn the importance of permaculture



PHOTOS BY KATHERINE LEPRI/THE BEACON

Marcus Thomson, local permaculture expert (standing left), demonstrates how to build a worm composting unit to students at the Organic Garden.

KATHERINE LEPRI
Contributing Writer

It is a sticky Friday afternoon and more than 60 students are in a garden listening intently to a man enthusiastically discuss the importance of earthworms. “Live soil produces live and healthy food which produces healthy people,” says Marcus Thomson, a local permaculture teacher. “And earthworms play a primary role in that.” Students cluster together around Thomson as he continues his lecture. Worm composting, he says, creates nutrient-rich,

crumbly compost that your plants will love. “This is the largest workshop yet,” says Dr. Mahadev Bhat, faculty adviser for the Garden Club and co-director of the Agroecology Program. “There is double the amount of participants from the garden’s last workshop.” The purpose of the workshop is to educate students and give hands-on experience about the different aspects of permaculture, the development of agricultural ecosystems with the intention to be self-sufficient, and how it can apply to sustainability.

Participants of the workshop learned how to construct their own worm-composting unit using accessible materials that are available to anyone at their local garden store or Home Depot. The students watch Thomson as he begins to drill holes into the small plastic storage bin. He says the holes are for air filtration and drainage of the water collecting in the unit. Drainage is optimal so the worms don’t drown, Thomson says. Grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture supported the workshop. The purpose for these workshops, according to the Agroecology Program, is to provide

students with specialized skills and training. The worm-composting unit was created about three years ago. Braian Tomé, a senior in the environmental studies program who is currently studying abroad, was the person who vigilantly maintained the garden’s vermiculture unit for the past three years. “Everyone could use a little training on this practical application that is discussed in class,” says Miles Medina, manager of the Organic Garden, explaining why vermiculture was the topic of the first workshop. “Tomé is the one that knew the most about it, I wanted everyone to be able to handle it while he was gone.” “The practice is scientific,” says Bhat. “You need to know exactly what to feed, how much to feed, when to feed, what type of base you need to have, what depth you need to maintain, the temperature that you need to maintain [the unit].” According to Bhat, Facebook and Twitter helped to make this event. About to leave, Bhat looked over and realized he didn’t know half of the students who were crowded around Thomson. “That’s great,” Bhat says. “The more that get to participate, the better it is for the program and for students.” Both Medina and Bhat agree that the workshop was a success.

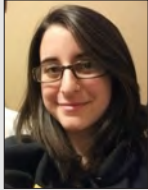
“It went really smoothly,” Medina said. “I think it’s good for beginners to learn about how they could do little things to contribute to make the world a better place,” said Adis Alvarez, a junior environmental science major and treasurer of the Garden Club. On the Organic Garden’s Facebook page, students are already requesting to know when the next workshop will be. Medina said another workshop may be in the works for the end of October at the garden.

-life@fiusm.com

THEATRE

Japanese traditions are shared with the University

Hailing from the Shimane prefecture of western Japan, four coiling serpents, a daring god of the storm and a candy-throwing fishing god shared an ancient Japanese tradition with University students and faculty. In Iwami Kagura Shinwa-Kai’s theatrical performance “Iwami Kagura,” 13 community performers and musicians took

COLUMNIST

MARCY DIAZ

center stage in the Graham Center on the second floor, to recount two of Japan’s oldest tales of stirring comedy and vengeful rivalry. First performed by priests as a token of appreciation for the Shinto gods, Kagura is an energetic form of dance that has been handed down to the common people of Japan for generations. This popular pastime has evolved throughout history and resulted in different regional theater styles. “Iwami Kagura,” known for its eye-catching costumes and pulsating music,

is indigenous to Shimane, the “land of gods.” With the collaborative help of the Consulate-General of Japan in Miami, the Japan Foundation, and the University’s Department of Modern Languages and the Asian Studies Program, students and faculty experienced, what the Masuda City Office of Industry and Commerce called in a brochure, “the heart of Japan through the spirit of dance.”

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PHOTO FROM CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN IN MIAMI

CALENDAR
FALL 2012 EVENTS



MONDAY, OCT. 1

NATURE PRESERVE
VOLUNTEER DAY
WHEN: 1-4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC Nature Preserve

SGA BBC SENATE
MEETING
WHEN: 3:30-5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC WUC 221

CMS PANEL SERIES - THE
TRUTH ABOUT SALES
WHEN: 5:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC CBC 232

BBC FILM & DIS-
CUSSION: CUBAN
AMERICA
WHEN: 3:30-4:45 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC WUC Theater Museum

TUESDAY, OCT. 2

ENVIRONMENTAL
FILM SERIES: CUBAN
AMERICA
WHEN: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC WUC

CHORAL ARTS SERIES
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: MMC Wertheim Performing Arts Center

Q&A

Up close and personal with trainer for Lose It program

JODIANN JACKSON
Contributing Writer

After a hard workout by one of the Lose It personal trainers at the Recreation Center, Student Media sat down with trainer Ilyas Hamid, a junior majoring in dietetics and nutrition.

He has been involved with the Lose It program since fall 2011 and a personal trainer for over a year at the University. He discussed how he became a personal trainer as well as his involvement with the Lose It program.

STUDENT MEDIA: *Why did you decide to become a personal trainer?*

HAMID: Many reasons. First, because my passion for dietetics and nutrition goes hand in hand with physical activity and wellness, and also because I’ve been an athlete my entire life, and I love working out.

STUDENT MEDIA: *Why did you become a personal trainer for the Lose It program?*

HAMID: I felt that my education in this proficient dietetics and nutrition program here at FIU would allow me to offer great nutritional advice to the Lose It program.

I also understand how hard it can be for a person to be motivated to go to the gym, so I hope all of the participants understand how reputable it is that they get in the gym everyday and work on their calorie intake



PHOTO FROM STOCK.XCHNG

everyday.

I know how hard it is, and they are all very respected. I’m honored to be their trainer.

STUDENT MEDIA: *What do you think will be your biggest impact on the contestants?*

HAMID: I hope I impact everyone in the manner of leading a more healthy lifestyle. Eat right, work hard, and finish strong!

STUDENT MEDIA: *How would you encourage someone who is not part of the program to lose weight?*

HAMID: Baby steps. First, shorten your portions in your food. Eat slowly and swallow your food before taking another bite. A few moments after your meal, you will see that you are satisfied, and that extra food you left on the plate was never necessary.

STUDENT MEDIA: *As a personal trainer, how do you think the program is benefiting?*

HAMID: Two-thirds of the U.S. population is overweight, and half of those overweight, are obese. This program is allowing me to fulfill my desire of making a difference in that number, even if it is

only a few people at a time. This program is also allowing me to help the participants when choosing their meal plans. I offer some nutritional counseling and advice for everyone who needs it.

STUDENT MEDIA: *What type of workouts can contestants look forward to while training?*

HAMID: I change the workout routine every four weeks, but my workouts mainly consist of circuit training. Circuit training has shown to help with losing weight while strengthening the body. I also do Tabata style workouts. Tabata has shown to increase a person’s VO2 max, maximal oxygen consumption, more quickly than any other exercise. I also incorporate stairs for cardio and boxing.

STUDENT MEDIA: *What would be your word of encouragement for the trainers and the contestants?*

HAMID: Learn your modifications. A lot of people in the program have knee, shoulder and back problems. It’s important that you know your modifications so that you don’t trigger pain.

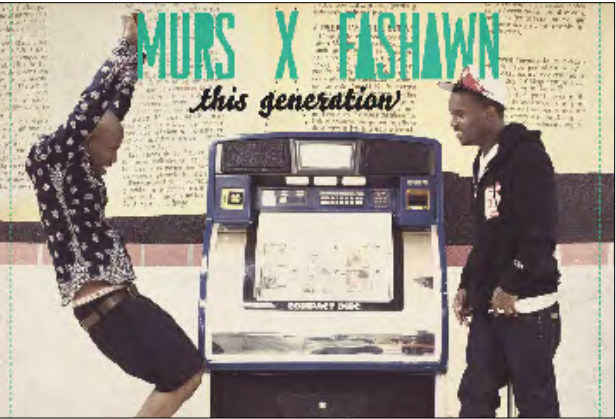
When the going gets hard, and the hard gets going, just remember all of the benefits of losing weight. Remember why you’re doing this. And if none of that works, just imagine what you would look like in a bikini after you reach your goal!

-life@fiusm.com

MUSIC BEAT

Murs and Fashawn

This Generation Duck Down Music



Great for Rap fans, but that may be it

If you listen to rap music, then this is one album that you can’t ignore. But if you don’t listen to rap, that doesn’t mean you should completely overlook it.

For his forthcoming album, Murs teamed up with West Coast rapper Fashawn, and created catchy beats with killer rhymes. Yes, there are songs, like “64 Impala” and the album’s first single, “Slash Gordon,” that somewhat adhere to the mainstream rap today.

However, there are songs like the album’s title track “This Generation,” which is a song about the modern day generation and “Future Love,” a song that takes on a “one that got away” theme, but also lets the audience know that women need to be treated right. It’s songs like these that give rap the in-depth style it used to have, and it’s songs like these that should remind us the underground rap scene deserves significant respect.

Handguns

Angst Pure Noise



Generic, but keeps “Pop- punk” fans happy

On their debut album, Handguns keeps in touch with the pop-punk sound so much, that if you don’t listen to pop-punk, you’d think you’re listening to the same song at one point.

Despite that, anyone who likes pop-punk should definitely listen to this album. In the first track, “Porch Light,” you’ll find yourself mesmerized by the poppy guitar riffs and the fast beats that seem so in sync with the appealing lyrics.

“Early Retirement” is also a fun track on the album that shows how much someone can hate their job. But the fun part is the dialogue between an employee and his boss.

The best song, however, is probably “The War At Home,” which is a powerful song with a chilling chorus that practically leaves you to answer the question as to who the singer, Taylor Eby, is talking about.

Sera Cahoon

Deep Creek Canyon Sub Pop



Sara Bareilles with a guitar in the background

Sera Cahoon’s new album is the kind of album you want to hear when you’re recovering from a mentally-exhausting day.

Its soothing guitar and nature-friendly lyrics will easily paint pictures of the woods, animals and serene nature. From the first track, “Deep Creek Canyon,” Cahoon lays out what seems to be her love of nature for everyone to see. Then her mood changes to her single “Naked,” where she talks about how vulnerable she and others can be.

However, songs with catchy and meaningful verses and soothing music in the background already exist. In the end, this album might be a hit-or-miss, but you won’t be able to deny that, with a guitar and catchy verses, Cahoon can set a mood and definitely make you think, even if thinking is the last thing you want to do.

ANTONELLA MORALES/CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Pitino focused on future, not concerned with past

KEVIN CASTANEDA
Contributing Writer

FIU men's basketball new Head Coach Richard Pitino exudes confidence, with his slicked-back hair and piercing eyes, describing himself as hard-working.

"Any time you are given a lot of responsibility and a lot of work, you normally are going to reap great rewards from it if you put in that time," said Pitino.

This is Pitino's first job as

Donovan, two hall-of-fame caliber coaches.

"I've got two mentors in this game and I brag about them all the time. I mean, they've been to nine Final Fours, three National Titles and have won over 1,000 games," said Pitino.

His father, Rick Pitino, has quite the resume. He coached at Boston University, Providence, Kentucky, Louisville, the Puerto Rico National Team and the Boston Celtics.

Rick coached Donovan, while

from another guy who is going to be in the hall of fame one day, is something that is invaluable," Pitino said.

Even with those role models, the most important figure for Pitino in his journey, is his wife Jill.

"I couldn't be where I am today without my wife. She has moved with me every step of the way. For her to pick up everything and just leave...certainly I couldn't have done it without her," said Pitino.

Despite the storm-filled controversy of firing Isaiah Thomas which prompted several FIU players to voice their displeasure and requests to be transferred, Pitino is not worried about the past and is here to put his own stamp on the program.

"We look to the future, we don't worry about the past," said Pitino.

He wants his players to get better through weight lifting, conditioning, individual instruction, study hall and class. His main goal is to build a consistent winner every year. Building consistency in the classroom was his first step, and players responded well by reaching a 3.0 GPA in the summer.

He wants a fast style of basketball that is up-tempo and entertaining to watch. If he can get his players in the best shape of their lives, he plans to—literally—run the opponents out of the building.



BEACON FILE PHOTO

New coach Richard Pitino is charged with the task of improving a team that only won eight games last year.

"It will be a lot of pressing, running, a lot of shooting threes. So guys are going to need to be in great shape to do that," said Pitino.

Pitino will take this new culture and style to Louisville on Dec. 19 to play against his dad.

He knows the feeling will be strange, considering he worked there for three years.

"It'll be kind of weird to look down at the other end there and to see him, to coach against him.

I've been on his team my whole life and now we are on opposing teams," said Pitino.

Pitino is bringing both youth and experience to a basketball program that sat in the cellar of the East division of the Sun Belt Conference for the majority of the year.

"Now that basketball is coming up, hopefully we can build a good brand and a fun style of playing."

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"It'll be kind of weird to look down at the other end there and to see him, to coach against him. I've been on his team my whole life and now we are on opposing teams.

Richard Pitino,
Head Coach
Men's Basketball

a head coach. For Pitino, 30, this is just another challenge to add to his repertoire, because he comes to FIU with enough experience.

Pitino has been a part of three Elite Eight teams, one Final Four Team and four Conference Titles. Those programs include the University of Louisville and the University of Florida.

He has worked under head coaches Rick Pitino and Billy

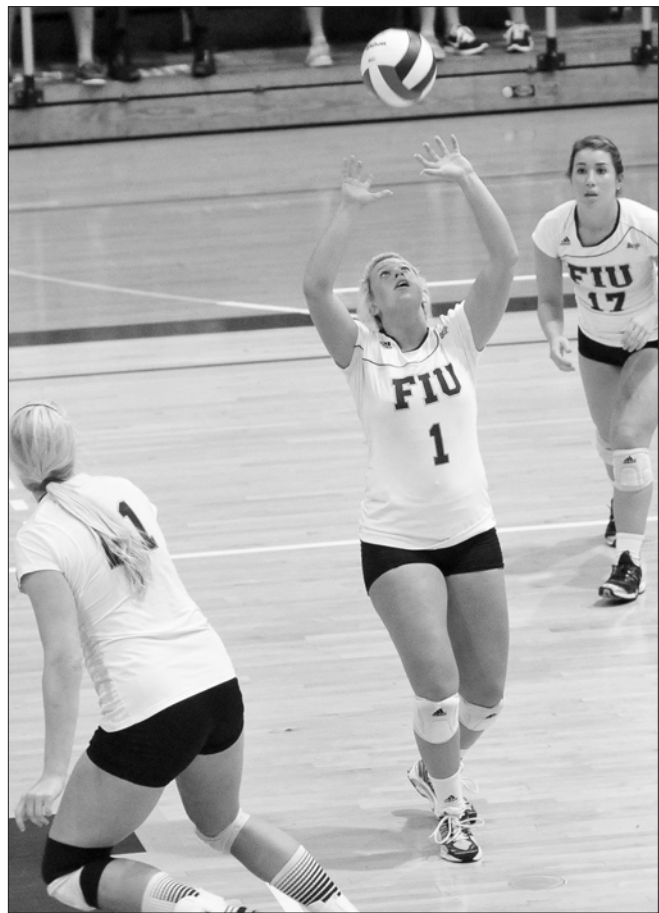
at Providence, to a Final Four.

But Rick's son does not focus on the idea that he has to fill his dad's shoes. He said that leaving Louisville for UF was one of the best decisions he has ever made.

"I learned more in those two years [in UF] than I had ever learned, because I saw a different side of it. I know what my dad is going to do, I've been around him my whole life, but to learn

VOLLEYBALL

Freshman setter brings depth to injury-ridden squad



JASON DELGADO/THE BEACON

JONATHAN JACOBSSKIND
Staff Writer

No matter the team or sport, nothing positive comes after losing five starters most of the time.

Usually, it leads to a string of losses and forces a team to play with backups or less experienced players.

This is exactly what's happening with the 2012 volleyball squad, as an array of injuries to key starters has sunk them to a 4-10 record.

But as the Panthers continue to weather the storm, a new light has shined on their hopes of reaching a Sun Belt championship, with the emergence of freshman setter Ashlee Hodgskin.

In a little more than a month, she has become the cornerstone of Head Coach Trevor Theroulde's squad.

"With Ashlee, it's like if you're doing an NFL Draft and with the number one draft pick you select a quarterback and you want to build your team around that quarterback," Theroulde said. "Ashlee is that pivotal player that you would want to pick."

Hodgskin is an in-state talent, an Orlando native who picked up a volleyball for the first time when she was 6 years old.

She had bounced around three different high schools when she finally found herself at Olympia High School for her senior year.

There she served as the team captain and picked up MVP honors. Her success did not come easy as she had to sacrifice her life as a normal high school student to excel on the court.

"All the time I spent playing volleyball and training, I had to give up doing some stuff as a normal kid," Hodgskin said. "But I really enjoy it, so it's all worth it."

The 5-foot-9 setter did not let her height get the best of her. She steamrolled her senior year and was named Athlete of the Year.

She was also a part of one of the premier volleyball club teams in the state, Top Select Volleyball Academy Club Team where she contributed to their 2009 title as well as being recognized as the team MVP the following year.

When Hodgskin's club and high school volleyball days were coming to a close, it was time to make decisions about college. Upon her unofficial visit to FIU, she already had a clear-cut choice of where she was going to play collegiate volleyball.

It would be at FIU.

"I just love this campus, I really enjoy being here," Hodgskin said. "I wanted to stay in Florida and I have always wanted to go to school in Miami."

The setter burst into the college scene against Florida A&M University where she notched 38 total assists, followed by a 41-assist showing against the Rattlers. Hodgskin did not tap the breaks as she exploded for 53 assists against the Colorado State Rams, her season high as of Sept. 28.

After posting an 8.63 assists per set mark, she took the starting role in the place of senior Jessica Egan who was sidelined with an illness and likely to be back sometime in the next few weeks.

"Ashlee came in with a lot of skill level and great leadership abilities," Theroulde said. "Once Egan went down, it allowed her to come in and start immediately as a true freshman."

Hodgskin's toughness and will to win is evident as she dives on the wood court, sacrificing her health for the team.

"You will not find another true-hearted, flag-waving, reach down deep, human being other than my good-willed niece," said Donald Hodgskin, Ashlee's uncle. "She will never, ever quit."

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Hodgskin leads her team with 356 assists so far this season, accounting for 67 percent of FIU's assists this year.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LeBron James: Champion Heat can be better

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Staff

LeBron James was back in the Miami Heat locker room on Friday morning, took a look around at his teammates and quickly came to a realization.

The reigning NBA champions might even be better this time around.

With 12 players back from last season's championship roster — foremost among them himself, after a season where he won the NBA's MVP award, the NBA Finals MVP, his first league title and then an Olympic gold medal over the summer for good measure — the Heat clearly have tons of talent.

Adding Ray Allen and Rashard Lewis to the mix figures to make them that much better. Naturally, James isn't complaining.

"It's scary to see, to look in our locker room today and say that we can be better than we were this past season," James said. "Are we better right now than we were just a couple months ago? Of course not.

"But we have the potential to be better. We have the potential to be a lot

better. That is scary."

Friday was the annual media day for the Heat, who open their training camp officially with practice on Saturday morning — the Heat can open camp earlier than most other teams because they have a trip to China in early October.

Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh talked about how they're continuing to heal after injuries dogged them in last season's playoffs, and Udonis Haslem was followed around by a camera crew there to, as he said, document "The Little 12," his description for everyone not in the "Big Three" club of Wade, Bosh and James.

Haslem's cameras might have been the only ones not on James, who hasn't spoken publicly much since the Olympics ended.

"He's not on cruise control, no," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said when asked about James. "He's as driven a professional as I've been around. He understands not only his legacy, but team legacy and the opportunity that this team and organization has. And he savors that. He's

the ultimate competitor."

It took James nine years to win that long-coveted first title, after leading the Heat past the Oklahoma City Thunder in five games. His clinching performance was a classic — a triple-double, 26 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds. James came out with 3:01 remaining and the celebrating started, waving his arms and jumping on the sideline, then wrapping anyone and everyone he could reach in massive embraces.

So began his summer vacation. It lasted about a week.

Not long after the champagne dried and the Heat parade ended, James went to play for the U.S. Olympic Team, helping the Americans win gold. After that, some business dealings — including a trip to China and a switch of agents, from Leon Rose to Rich Paul — took up more of his offseason.

And now, training camp has already arrived.

Not much down time, but neither James nor the Heat seems all that concerned.

"I've worked on a few things," James said.

Club trying to teach soccer throughout university

FUTBOL, PAGE 8

Recently, some of the equipment was stolen; this included eight soccer balls, 20 cones used to set up boundaries in the game and two small goal posts. The club quickly tried to get some of their assets together and get some new equipment.

Their funding, as was the funding of most other clubs, was cut. Currently, the club is deciding if they should enact membership fees. Maria N. believes that this will not affect the turnout, which averages 20 people each game. Members are gladly willing to support the club.

The field itself is also worn out as it is uneven with parts that stand out. Although this makes the members more prone to danger, there have been no major accidents in the past two years and the club has a first aid kit on standby. The Futbol club is currently trying to get the University to create a more even field to play soccer.

The club also wants to create a healthy community for soccer players, promote camaraderie and make friends, create more University spirit and have a good time. Members in the club look out for each other.

"If someone was to get hurt or an emergency came up, everyone would stop the game and try to help out one another," Maria S. said.

Maria N. emphasizes that there are people in the club who will help teach

how to play and will be patient.

Erick Vargus, a junior and sports fitness major, came into the club with virtually no knowledge of how to play at all. In fact, the only reason he joined was because he saw a big gathering one day and wanted to see what the excitement was about.

After Vargus continued to play, he became better with the help of his

“If someone was to get hurt or an emergency came up, everyone would stop the game and try to help out one another.

Maria S. Reynaga,
Futbol Club

supporting members.

"Players will motivate you, and teach you. It is a good place to meet friends. Don't worry about not being that good, you will get better. Futbol is always positive."

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LOVE FOR BOOBIES

Breast Cancer Awareness campaign comes to the Bay

CONSUELO NARANJO
Contributing Writer

Around 1 in 8 U.S. women will develop breast cancer.

In light of this statistic by breastcancer.org, the Wellness Center with the support of the Women's Center and the Recreation Center is leading the Feel Your Boobies awareness campaign against breast cancer.

To commemorate the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, from Oct. 1 to Oct. 31, the Wellness Center will collect new bras to donate to women in need at local shelters.

In 2012, the National Cancer Institute estimated 229,060 new cases of breast cancer and 39,920 deaths of females and males in the United States.

For Sarah Kenneally, employee of the Division of Students Affairs at Biscayne Bay Campus, prevention is better than the cure.

"We are looking forward to spread awareness and inform students about this illness. Breast cancer does not distinguish age, sex or race," she said.

Feel Your Boobies is a national campaign, founded in 2004 by Leigh Hurst, a breast cancer survivor.

This year with Hurst's support, the University is hosting different events related to breast cancer and early detection.

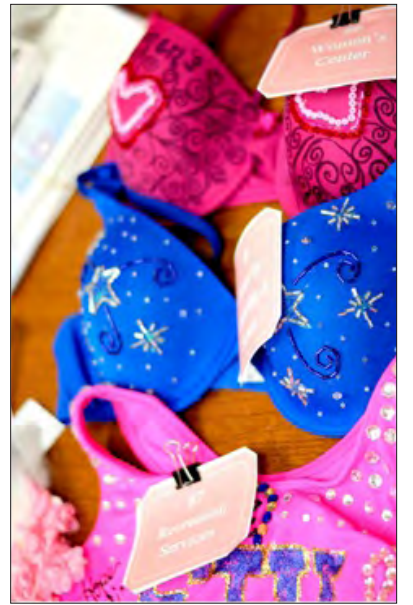
On Oct. 2, in Panther Square, a variety of decorated bras representing different organizations, departments, clubs and associations will hang.

The assistants will be able to vote for the best bra and enjoy music, baked goods, t-shirts sale and meanwhile raising money for the cause.

Graduate student from public relations and advertising, Janinha Piazzetta, agrees with the importance of early prevention.

In October of 2004 she was diagnosed with breast cancer, two semesters before getting her master's.

Even though her parents, brother and nephew died from different types of cancer, she was ready to overcome the disease with the support of some of her colleagues, professors, friends and family. She said her experience was



PHOTOS BY SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

Several organizations and departments decorated bras to help spread awareness of breast cancer. The decorated bras were being collected by the Wellness Center for the Feel Your Boobies event on October 2 in which students can donate 50 cents to vote for their favorite bra. National Breast Cancer Awareness Month is from October 1 to October 31.

life changing.

"Suddenly, I had to learn new ways to overcome and compensate my body. There was no time to be a victim. I had to create new possibilities in order to honor my essence and my new-me."

Now as a founder and executive director of H3: Health. Hope. Healing, Piazzetta shares her experience as a cancer survivor. H3 is an organization that supports breast

cancer patients, survivors, their family members and those who desire to improve their wellness by providing a connection to community-based educational resources.

After losing a family member from breast cancer, Janet Choongo, public health alumna, strongly supports the initiative of breast cancer awareness.

"Breast cancer educational events on campus

and conduct campaigns for self-breast [exams] can save many lives. Students and staff should enjoy these events, support and learn more about this illness," said Choongo.

The University Health Center is also "calling all boobies" to participate on Oct. 7 on a 1.5 run/walk to celebrate breast cancer awareness for a better health.

The event will start at 9 a.m. Participants will

be able to register the same day of the event at the fitness center – Wolfe University Center Room 160.

"There is always hope, and possibilities to find a cure, such as alternatives or conventional treatments," Piazzetta said. "Families who are battling with this sickness have to embrace this journey with positivism."

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DIVE IN, THE WATER IS FINE



BARBARA CORBELLINI DUARTE/THE BEACON

Miami Killian High School and Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High had a swim meet at the Biscayne Bay Campus Aquatic Center on Friday, Sept. 28, from 3:15 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Aquatic Center is open Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

STUDENT ORGANIZATION COUNCIL

Futbol club kicks high at BBC

JACOB SALZMAN
Contributing Writer

Futbol is one of the most popular sports in the world. No, not the traditional football Americans are used to, but the futbol the rest of the world plays, what Americans know as soccer.

That popularity has seeped into the Biscayne Bay Campus. In spring 2010, sisters Maria N. and Maria S. Reynaga, founded the Futbol Club.

At the time the club was formed, BBC didn't have an array of sports clubs to choose from. For the most part, people played pick-up games of basketball, tennis, and American football.

Students wanted to use the usually vacant fields by Bay Vista Housing. After getting approval from the Student Organizations Council, the Futbol Club was created.

The club has two big and two small goals, different colored bibs, cleats, and shin guards. These items

are usually paid for by the SOC or by fundraisers. On Sept. 29, the Futbol Club held a futbol tournament fundraiser to help pay for all their equipment.

The Futbol Club is also planning a big Color War event later this year.

"The purpose of the Color War is a way for students to know we are not only about soccer, but are about other stuff as well. This is a way to introduce students who normally wouldn't be interested [in] futbol to our club," Maria N. said.

The club usually meets every Friday from 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. They meet on the recreation field next to Bay Vista Housing.

There are occasions where the club will play indoors. In July, the club met indoors and played there as opposed to facing the blistering sun. While the club is comprised of mostly guys, the club encourages girls to play as well.

SEE FUTBOL, PAGE 7