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FINANCIAL AID

Student debt rises 19 percent in 3-year period

MARIELLA ROQUE
Staff Writer

Student debt could be the next financial bubble to burst nationally, according to Chief Financial Officer Kenneth Jessell.

In a recent Board of Trustees meeting, the Finance and Audit Committee at the University presented information detailing the state of undergraduate student debt and initiatives taken to help lower the increasing rates.

"My personal belief is that student debt is not necessarily bad," Jessell said. "You're making an investment in higher education and that investment will always have good dividends."

During the 2011-2012 fiscal year, 48 percent of students at the University graduated with debt averaging

\$16,026. This compares to 2007-2008 when 29 percent graduated with debt averaging \$10,899, a 19-point increase over a 3-year period.

Director of Financial Aid Francisco Valines attributed this increase to the economic downturn in 2008, explaining that parents who were previously bearing the cost of education no longer had the means, forcing students to turn to loans.

"If we look at the numbers, less than half of our students graduate with debt. The other half don't have any debt at all versus 66 percent nationally," Valines said. "I think our debt is still pretty manageable for our students."

What does concern Valines is the 7.5 percent Cohort Default Rate at the

SEE AID, PAGE 2

SO GOOD



CARL-FREDERICK FRANCOIS/THE BEACON

B.O.B performs his hit song "So Good" at Panthermonium to kick off Homecoming Week celebrations.

University reacts to Venezuelan election results

BARBARA CORBELLINI DUARTE
MELHOR LEONOR
FIUSM Staff

The absence of a Venezuelan Consulate in Miami did not stop people from voting in the Venezuelan presidential election on Sunday, Oct. 7.

Maria Alejandra Sanchez, a University alum, volunteered in one of the buses that took Venezuelans to the Venezuelan Consulate in New Orleans to cast their votes.

"New Orleans was packed with people wearing their Venezuelan flag hats and their 'I voted' sticker. It was incredible," Sanchez said.

South Florida Venezuelans had to travel to cast ballots following Chávez's decision this year to close the Miami Consulate. The decision was made after the U.S. government expelled the standing consul for "behavior incompatible with her status," according to the Department of State during a press briefing in January.

Natalia Sanchez, a junior and hospitality major, was on the same bus as Maria Alejandra Sanchez. She travelled 870 miles so she could vote for Henrique Capriles.

"We all came together united because of one reason and one reason only -- we

are all Venezuelans," Natalia Sanchez said.

She was confident that Capriles would win, but President Hugo Chávez, who led the country for more than 14 years, won re-election for another 6 years with 54.42 percent of the votes, according to the National Election Council of Venezuela.

"We all came together united because of one reason and one reason only — we are all Venezuelans."

Natalia Sanchez
Junior
Hospitality major

According to Eduardo Gamarra, professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations, there were several reasons for this outcome.

"In the end, why people voted for him is largely because he conveyed to them the fear that if he were not re-elected all these benefits that they receive would be

taken away," Gamarra said, alluding to the government missions that go into remote towns to teach people how to read and write and that provide medical care.

Gamarra also mentioned that the largest supplier of jobs in Venezuela is the government.

"If [Chavez loses] the election, people might fear that they will lose their jobs," Gamarra said.

In regards to fraud, Gamarra said that "there was no fraud in the traditional sense."

"How did they rig the entire process? They control the means of communication; how information goes out. Whereas the opposition had three minutes a day of television time, Chavez could speak infinitely on television," he said.

"He controls the electoral courts," Gamarra added. "They were also extraordinarily intimidating of the opposition. When I say there was no fraud in the traditional sense, it's because there didn't need to be."

Carla Parada graduated from the University in 2011 and went back to Venezuela to live in Barquisimeto. She worked for the Capriles campaign and believes that the lack of education is one of the reasons why Chávez was re-elected.

"As he says in his speeches, he is the



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARLA PARADA

Voters line up in Barquisimeto, Venezuela, to cast their votes.

president of the poor and tonight that was shown," Parada said. "But poor of soul, that are willing to sell the future of their kids for some money."

She went to vote on Sunday at 6 a.m. to find people standing in a line about 10 blocks in length. She waited six hours in the rain to be able to vote.

"I can't help it to have tears in my eyes watching what is going on tonight, looking at the faces of hundreds of young people crying because they just feel hopeless, that no matter what they do, they

SEE CHAVEZ, PAGE 2

Not free to do as you please

ALEXANDER SUAREZ
Contributing Writer

Within the University's Student Code of Conduct there is a vital statement that protects much of what happens on campus. It protects acts such as distributing fliers and inviting public speakers to discussing and passing out literature in a manner that does "not disrupt the essential function of the University."

This code states: "Students are guaranteed freedom of expression." This should come as no shock to American students since the United States itself holds a similar protection within the Constitution.

In the first Amendment it states: "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech". What does this mean and why does it matter?

A common and typical response would be that this amendment protects your ability to say or share whatever you want.

However, there is a problem with this understanding of the First Amendment protection and

it is a large one.

For example, would you condone student A to threaten student B with murder as a protection of his "freedom of speech"? The problem in this understanding lies not in the misreading of the Amendment but the misunderstanding of freedom.

To get a clue as to what freedom might have meant to the founders we turn to a portion from the Appeal to the Inhabitants of Quebec in 1774 by the First Continental Congress:

"The last right we shall mention regards the freedom of

the press. The importance of this consists, besides the advancement of truth, science, morality, and arts in general, in its diffusion of liberal sentiments on the administration of Government, its ready communication of thoughts between subjects, and its consequential promotion of union among them, whereby oppressive officers are shamed or intimidated into more honorable and just modes of conducting affairs."

Though this commentary dealt with "the freedom of the press", it shares some insight as to how we should understand this

freedom of which they sought to protect.

First, it should be quite noticeable that this appeal commends the use of the press for means we would consider to be noble or honorable.

Second, we should notice that in the appeal there is no mention of protecting the press when used for means to tell lies and ignoble purposes. Rather "the freedom of the press" is to be used for the "advancement of truth" and "morality" along with many other reasons assumed to be good and right.

What does this tell us about freedom? Is freedom the ability to do whatever you want to do? No. Rather it is having the ability to do what is good and right. Freedom serves as a means to virtue.

What then is our freedom of expression? Possessing the ability to express one self in what is good or right. Why is all this important? Because we should be asking, "What is good?" and "What is right?" a lot more often.

-opinion@fiusm.com

“What then is our freedom of expression? Possessing the ability to express one self in what is good or right.”

THE BEACON | Editorial

Give us a sign, P&T



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Effective Oct. 8, Parking and Transportation has implemented a new Golden Panther Express schedule that will provide for a shift in times to accommodate high volume usage times with the addition of four routes.

The Beacon considers this to be a good move on the part of P&T; the reworking of the schedule for the GPE shuttle that helps students commute between Biscayne Bay Campus and Modesto Maidique Campus is necessary.

Since the start of the semester there have been multiple occurrences where students have been forced to take later shuttles and/or mob-like scenes have broken out due to the increase in passengers this year.

With the addition of more routes, and more frequency of shuttle times during three high volume hours during the course of the work week, The Beacon must implore P&T to also consider the addition of a more organized system for the boarding of the GPE.

As it stands, getting onto these shuttles is a free-for-all which has led to near riots. Some students arrive up to 45 minutes early to patiently await the arrival of their designated shuttle.

But even though these individuals arrive early they still have to fight tooth and nail to make it onto the GPE because of the bumrush that occurs at loading time.

The solution that The Beacon proposes is a pretty simple one. Add a sign at the bus stop that reads, "GPE line starts here."

This sign would benefit both prospective passengers and the drivers of the GPE who have to risk life and limb when dealing with the mob.

I'm sure that the last thing Transportation wants is to call the University Police Department to come and restore order at the BBC shuttle stop, once again.

CLASSROOM PERSONALITY TYPES

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CHRISTIAN SPENCER/THE BEACON

CAMPUS LIFE!

Heart Walk dedicated to one of our own Panthers



PHOTOS BY KATHERINE LEPRI/THE BEACON

On Saturday, Oct. 6, Florida International University hosted the American Heart Association's Heart Walk, a 5K walk around the University, commemorating Olga Hernandez, a Panther, on her success with the survival and recovery of heart disease.

KATHERINE LEPRI *Contributing Writer*

Every 39 seconds another human life is lost to heart disease, according to heart.org.

Olga Hernandez almost became one of those statistics.

"One day I had chest pains; it was a Sunday night," said Hernandez, assistant director of community relations and special events. "The next day the doctor heard my heart and immediately knew something was wrong, and that afternoon my life changed."

Hernandez's active life came to an abrupt standstill when she found out she was a victim of heart disease, just like many in her family, including her parents and aunt. Unlike her mom and aunt, she survived the ordeal and has since recovered.

One year ago, Hernandez was physically

incapable of exercising due to her illness. This past Saturday, however, she walked in the American Heart Association's Heart Walk, a 5K around the University that last year brought over 10,000 participants, according to event organizers.

In front of an enthusiastic crowd of walkers, President Mark Rosenberg welcomed everyone to the Modesto Maidique Campus that morning and dedicated the University's participation to Hernandez.

Hernandez, who has been a part of the FIU community for over 25 years, listened to Rosenberg as he spoke of her journey from diagnosis to recovery. Her eyes welled up with tears as he addressed her from the podium.

"I'm really emotional about all this," she said, crying. "I'm very humbled."

The National Institution of Health says a person is at greater risk of heart disease if they have family members who had heart disease at

an early age.

"It's usually genetic," Hernandez said. "My parents had it. My grandfather died. His sister died. I thought I was going to someday have heart disease."

Hernandez considers her early life the typical story of an exiled family coming from Cuba to Florida in the 1960s. She was not only the primary caretaker for her parents when they became ill, but it prepared her for her own battle with the disease.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heart disease causes almost 25 percent of deaths in the United States. Nearly 700,000 people died in 2008.

The purpose of the Heart Walk was to raise money for research, spread awareness and educate the public on how to be proactive.

According to the American Heart Association, being educated about the personal risk for

heart disease can help prevent the illness.

"It was a sharp pain in the middle of my chest, and it radiated to the middle of my back; it was a continuous deep, sharp pain," Hernandez explained. "It hurt to the point that I cried. It was intense."

The coordinator of the office of community relations, Amanda Garcia, said that over 500 students pre-registered for the walk, the largest number of students to get involved in the last three years. "Everyone has been so great," Hernandez said. "This is a turning point for me."

As she neared the finish line, a group of her co-workers walked alongside her clapping and cheering. She then slowly raised her arms in victory, looked up to the sky and smiled.

"It feels wonderful," Hernandez exclaimed. "Next year I will be back."

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WOMEN'S CENTER

Sisterhood retreat promotes "female empowerment"

ALFREDO APARICIO *Staff Writer*

A strong sisterhood is all-inclusive. It creates a safe space full of open communication, provides a multitude of ways for self expression and seals bonds that go on to last a lifetime.

This year's seventh Annual Sisterhood Retreat's theme, "Sisters Sharing Shoes," is making strides to break the stereotypes of being too "girly" or too "sporty" and ensuring that every woman in attendance finds in her sisters a secure place within the sisterhood and constant support.

"It started with Suzanne Onorato, the former director of the Women's Center, seven years ago," said Bronwen Bares Pelaez, the associate director at the Women's Center. "One of the main reasons we think it continues to be successful is because it provides the opportunity for women

to get together on campus without having to be part of an organization. It's open to any female student who seeks a supportive, empowering, fun environment without commitment past the weekend."

The retreat, which starts on Oct. 19 through 21 at LaBelle, Fla., will host various activities and workshops that will help those in attendance increase self-knowledge, establish goals, and identify how values affect the decisions they make as well as outdoor activities, such as canoeing, kayaking and biking.

"The weekend is about female empowerment," said Jenny Guerra, a graduate assistant at the Women's Center and chair of the committee for the Sisterhood Retreat. "It's a time to build relationships, bond with each other, and have discussions about the issues affecting all of us."

One of the activities that kicks off the weekend

is "Burning of the Burden," in which everyone sits down around a campfire and talks about the obstacles that have shaped who they are today and how they can let go and move toward the future.

"Sharing's not required," Guerra said, "but it's a time that we are able to be ourselves and talk about things that are taboo and keeping an open mind and always agreeing to disagree."

The students who attend will be staying in a cabin, separated into rooms with three bunk beds -- each with its own kitchen -- while keeping an open floor space at the center.

"I always say, 'it's like a slumber party,'" said Guerra, who will be going for her seventh year. "The students are about to become friends, and a lot of the time they continue to be friends past the weekend."

The weekend will also provide an opportunity

to deal with the heavier issues affecting women in society today.

"We have workshops on body image and personal goals and, in the end, it's a fun weekend to explore and reflect on things we sometimes don't think about too often," Guerra said. "We challenge [the students] to think about the goals they want to accomplish and to think ahead and that what's happened in the past has already happened."

The Sisterhood Retreat costs \$20 for the whole weekend, which includes transportation, snacks, food, lodging and all the materials needed for the entire weekend. The deadline to sign up was extended to Friday, Oct. 12. To sign up go to GC 2200 at the Modesto Maidique Campus or WUC 256 at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

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CALENDAR FALL 2012 EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 10

FIU ORGANIC FARMERS MARKET
WHEN: 12-3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GL Breezeway

CAREER FAIR BBC FALL 2012
WHEN: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC Wolfe University Center Ballrooms

THURSDAY, OCT. 11

PANTHERS' GOT TALENT
WHEN: 5:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC U.S. Century Bank Arena

COMING OUT DAY
WHEN: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC PIT

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2GO

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RANKINGS

As seasons wind down, playoff chances dwindle for FIU

It's no secret that the goal of every single FIU sport is to win a championship.

Every year, before the start of a sport, coaches and players will rattle off the same response to the question, "What's your goal for the season?" They want to win a championship.



EDUARDO
ALMAGUER

To get there, though, they need to play well enough in the regular season to make it to their respective conference tournament, or a bowl game if we're talking football. Out of the four big early fall sports this semester (football, volleyball, women's soccer and men's soccer), only two have a realistic shot at making it to their conference tournament. Both soccer seasons are winding down and volleyball and football are at about the midway point.

Here's how I see the chances of each team at making it to their conference tournament or bid for a bowl game.

1. Women's Soccer (Sun Belt Conference; picked to finish first in pre-season):

This probably shouldn't be a surprise. The women's soccer squad is the reigning 2011 Sun Belt Conference champion after a thrilling victory over Western Kentucky. Despite a lackluster start to the season, the team has picked it up in recent weeks. Coming off a draw against North Texas on Oct. 7, a team that didn't stop pounding SBC foes (now at a 5-0-1 record), FIU currently sits at a 6-5-2 record overall and a 3-1-1 record in the conference. The most promising part of the schedule is about to begin. The Panthers end the season with five games against teams with a combined 6-17-2 schedule, with half of those wins belonging to Arkansas State. A 4-1 finish to the season is not out of the question



JASEN DELGADO/THE BRACON

The volleyball team, now 5-13, are falling fast from postseason contention even with the team's health improving with each game.

and that puts the women's soccer team in prime position to repeat as champs.

2. Men's Soccer (Conference USA; picked to finish last):

If you told me two months ago that the men's soccer team had a better shot at making their conference tournament than the football team or volleyball team, I would have laughed you out of the room. Lo and behold, after a historic 5-0 start to the program, they have a chance to do it. The same ringing endorsement, however, can't be given to the men's team as opposed to the women's because while Head Coach Kenny Arena's team got off to a great start, they've stumbled recently with a 1-2-3 record in the last month. The worst part is that none of their current six

wins are conference wins. FIU is 0-2-1 in conference games and is in last place in C-USA. Their next opponent, Southern Methodist University, is 4-0 in C-USA. FIU is in the bottom half when it comes to goals and assists. Their last five conference opponents have a 6-3-2 combined record. The team's heroics were great to start the season, but it'll be useless if they can't close it out.

3. Volleyball (SBC; picked to finish third):

This was supposed to be the last hurrah for volleyball for the next few seasons. Senior Jovana Bjelica was supposed to leave her mark in the FIU record books and go back home to Serbia to play for her national team with the FIU crowd chanting

her name. Instead, once the outside hitter suffered a broken bone in her hand that's kept her out of the team's 18 games (and counting), it was a domino effect. Whether it was Renele Forde's abdominal strain, Jessica Egan's mononucleosis, Ashlee Hodgkin's knee and back pain, or Silvia Carli's ailing shoulder, something was always hurting with the team. Head Coach Trevor Theroulde deemed it necessary to address his training staff. The mix of an inexperienced roster and injuries has sunk this team to a 5-13 hole (2-4 SBC). The team's seven-year streak of appearing in the SBC tournament is in serious jeopardy, and if Bjelica can't return sooner rather than later, Theroulde might as well start drawing up plans for next season.

4. Football (picked to finish first):

At some point early this season, someone grabbed FIU football by its ankles and shook hard. What fell out were all the expectations and pre-season predictions of FIU finishing first in the SBC and definitely making a bowl bid. Now, sitting at a paltry 1-5 record after the program's fourth consecutive loss, a bowl bid seems like a pipe dream. The team must now win five of its next six games to even think about the postseason. With teams like WKU and University of Louisiana Monroe are playing (combined 7-3 overall, 2-0 SBC), it's not looking like the Panthers can beat them.

The injury bug has also crept from the volleyball team to football, as RB Kendrick Rhodes has been hampered by a high-ankle sprain and QB Jake Medlock suffered a foot injury that will sideline him for another two weeks or so. Without those two pieces, FIU's highly anticipated season is looking like nothing more than a rebuilding year.

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WOMEN'S SOCCER

Panthers draw with Mean Green moving toward season's end

EDUARDO ALMAGUER
Asst. Sports Director

A tie is a tie no matter what.

But when the FIU women's soccer team and North Texas played to a 1-1 draw on Oct. 7, it may not have been a bad thing.

"The reality was, the draw was good for both teams," Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt said.

The Mean Green came into the game with a spotless 5-0 Sun Belt Conference record and FIU was able to at least prevent a sixth win. Chestnutt, however, knows that while it may not have been a loss, a tie is never what you strive to achieve.

"I wasn't too excited about having a draw with them," Chestnutt said. "We're not going there to try to get a draw. We drop points because of that. It's always tight at the top and we can't afford to drop any more points to have a shot at winning the regular season."

FIU struck first on Sunday. Midfielder Scarlett Montoya sailed in a goal in the 62nd minute of the game to give the Panthers their only goal. The lead was quickly erased, however, as

midfielder Karla Pineda answered with a goal for NT less than a minute later.

The Panthers' tie is quite impressive when you consider NT outshot FIU a whopping 31-7 and 14-3 on corner kicks. All of FIU's seven shots came in the second period, meaning they were silenced in the first period and in both overtimes.

"Our execution was a bit off. We fought hard and worked hard," Chestnutt said. "Physically, we were good but I felt like mentally we weren't there."

KEEP CALM AND BLOCK ON

Goalkeeper Kaitlyn Savage has been everything the team has needed her to be and more. After a tremendous 16-save performance on Sunday, she leads the conference in saves (81), saves per game (6.23) and is second in save percentage (.844).

"She's the best keeper in our conference; I don't think there is a question in our conference," Chestnutt said.

But while her numbers speak for themselves,

SEE SOCCER, PAGE 8

PRESEASON SOFTBALL



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Freshman pitcher Corinne Jenkins throws against Nova Southeastern University in an exhibition game on Oct. 6.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Heat arrive in China for two preseason games

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Staff

LeBron James is visiting China for the ninth time, which makes him one of the resident Miami Heat experts about the world's most populous nation.

Specifically, the food choices there. "If anyone comes back with any body fat from this trip, then I don't know what they were doing on their free time," said James, the NBA's MVP.

So maybe it's fortunate that the coming week won't exactly include a ton of free time for the Heat, who arrived in Beijing on Monday night for a weeklong trip. The reigning league champions play the Los Angeles Clippers twice during the NBA China Games, starting in Beijing on Thursday and then again Sunday in Shanghai.

"Should be fun," James said. "It's a very long trip to be bonding together, but we're going to use it and not waste an opportunity."

The itinerary is hectic, with VIP receptions, a trip to the Great Wall of China and other excursions planned. The Heat are trying to ensure that players and personnel have time to experience some elements of Chinese culture on their own.

"You only have these type of opportunities so often," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra

said. "You want to take advantage of it. This is the preseason. We understand the big picture. It's a great program that the NBA runs when you have an opportunity to play overseas. Our last trip was tremendous when we went to Europe. Great team-building, and you get to see another part of the world and do it together."

The Heat played games in France and England during the 2008 preseason against the Nets, who then called New Jersey home.

Miami left on Saturday for Atlanta, played the Hawks there in the preseason opener for both teams on Sunday afternoon, then boarded a charter for the flight to Beijing, one that lasted a little more than 14 hours. The Heat landed around 9:30 p.m. local time.

Heat guard Mario Chalmers remembered to turn his phone's international plans on before leaving the U.S. Apparently, he forgot to account for the time difference halfway around the world — tweeting that he slept for about 11 hours on the plane, meaning he was rested and refreshed around what would have figured to be bedtime in China.

"I ain't gettin no sleep tonight," Chalmers wrote.

Which means he may be a bit groggy Tuesday morning, when the Heat are scheduled to hold their first practice in

China. The team has set aside about six hours for a trip to the Great Wall later in the day.

"We're looking forward to the opportunity," Heat guard Dwyane Wade said. "I think as an organization, as players individually, once we get over there it will be a great opportunity to continue to grow our game."

Wade did not play in Atlanta on Sunday as he continues recovering from offseason knee surgery. He is hopeful of playing at least once in China, and went for a late-night workout after the plane landed Monday night. He remembers what those Nets-Heat games were like in Europe four years ago, and said the element of facing the same team twice in the span of a few days helps raise the competitive bar a bit, even in an exhibition.

"The second one was a little bit more of a grind-out game, where you really wanted to win," Wade said. "The first game will be fun and will give the fans a show. The second one's going to be a little more intense. Guys will want to get at it and try to win. No doubt, you need some competitive situations. You need to be pushed, you need to feel fatigued, all those things."

The NBA allows teams that are traveling internationally during the preseason to open camp a few days earlier than

everyone else, which Spoelstra said was helpful.

Sure, it's a logistical challenge, but Spoelstra isn't worried.

"There's a lot of good things about trips like this with the NBA, and that's why we're looking forward to it," Spoelstra said. "If we didn't have this training camp I'd be thinking that this is a tough thing, a lot of distractions and so forth. But we've had a full training camp. Now we get to go away, together, and spend an inordinate amount of time around each other in a place that's a little bit out of our comfort zone. That usually is good for team-building."

Those meals might create a team memory or two as well.

Chinese culinary options can seem unique — even though some on the trip are quick to point out there are American fast-food restaurants all over Beijing. But for those with more adventurous palates, some unusual choices can be had.

"I'm sure we're going to eat some funky meals where we can all say, 'Oh, that was nasty,'" said Heat forward Shane Battier, who has endorsed the Chinese shoe brand Peak since 2006. "Those experiences are good. And for guys who have never been to China before, it'll be fun to see their reaction. And those things, I think, can build a team."

FIU still fighting for first place with five games left

SOCCER, PAGE 7

With a squad that does not have a single senior player on the field, her veteran presence is key when facing top-notch opponents. Chestnutt says that her ability to stay calm when high-powered offenses like LSU and Florida are barreling her way has been important time and time again.

As captain of the team, her teammates are always following

her example.

"She doesn't disappoint. She always brings a great effort," Chestnutt said. "She gives a good vibe to the team and they're confident in her."

EASY AS SBC

The remaining five games for FIU could not be any better.

The Panthers square off against University of Louisiana-Lafayette, University of Louisiana Monroe, Arkansas State, Univer-

sity of Arkansas Little Rock and Florida Atlantic University.

Those teams have a combined 6-17-2 record with half of those wins belonging to Arkansas State. A 4-1 finish is feasible, and a 5-0 finish is not out of the question. In 2011, the team went 5-0-1 against those squads with the only blemish coming as a result of a ULM tie.

Chestnutt is pleased with his team's fourth-place position in the standings, but knows it could

be better.

"We're in the hunt for the regular season. We wanted to be in this situation," he said. "But we would have liked [our playoff hopes] to be in our hands. We don't have it anymore."

"You have your ups and your downs and we've gone through

that a little bit. But we've been consistently going forward. We're happy with where we are and feel like we're in a position where we can achieve the big goals that the team wants to achieve."

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KICK IT UP A NOTCH



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

The Panthers fell 2-1 to the University of Alabama Birmingham on Oct. 6 despite out shooting the Blazers 24-13.




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CAMPUS LIFE

BACK IN POWER

Panther power restructures its editorial board

MANUEL CEDEÑO
Contributing Writer

After Panther Power's sudden depletion of organization members at the start of the spring 2012 semester, it had to be put on hold for recruitment purposes.

With the start of the fall term and the amount of new students at Biscayne Bay Campus, Panther Power was able to restructure its editorial board and start the recruitment process for new members.

Panther Power is a BBC organization that promotes and supports the athletic teams. The organization hosts athletic geared pep rallies and events. The mission is to invoke a sense of pride in each student and enhance a sense of community.

"We're looking for general members to help us set up for pep rallies, give out freebies and since we take the shuttle over to Modesto Maidique Campus for the football games, people to help us sign students in. Just general members, like 20 to 25 students," said Rebecca Merek, vice presi-

dent of Panther Power.

Panther Power still needs two more people to complete the editorial board, a secretary and a parliamentarian.

"We actually created a survey, asking the student body if they've heard of Panther Power, what interests them and other important questions. We also hope to gain more exposure through our Facebook page and word of mouth," said Victoria Douglas, president of Panther Power.

The surveys will be sent out via mass email and were also found at Homecoming's Kick-Off by the Bay which happened yesterday afternoon, Oct. 9 at 3 p.m.

Panther Power will also be promoting their organization at the swimming tri-meet versus Florida State University and Florida Atlantic University at BBC's pool Oct. 20 at 10 a.m.

Ivy Siegel Mack, assistant director of Student Life, and Gary Santos, a graduate assistant, have been leading the 'revamping of Panther Power' by guiding the new council members as to how to set up and

coordinate future events.

"We want to make sure that they're ready to be on their own two feet and run the council and organization. With my help and with Ivy's help we're trying to steer them down the path they need to go, helping them get involved and gain experience setting up events and pep rallies," said Santos.

Other than the possible assembly of a step team and a dance team, the board members do not have any plans for the spring semester.

"We just want people to know who Panther Power is at BBC as well as at MMC. We want to have a hand in more than just shuttles to football games. We want to be able to bring in school spirit back to BBC," said Douglas.

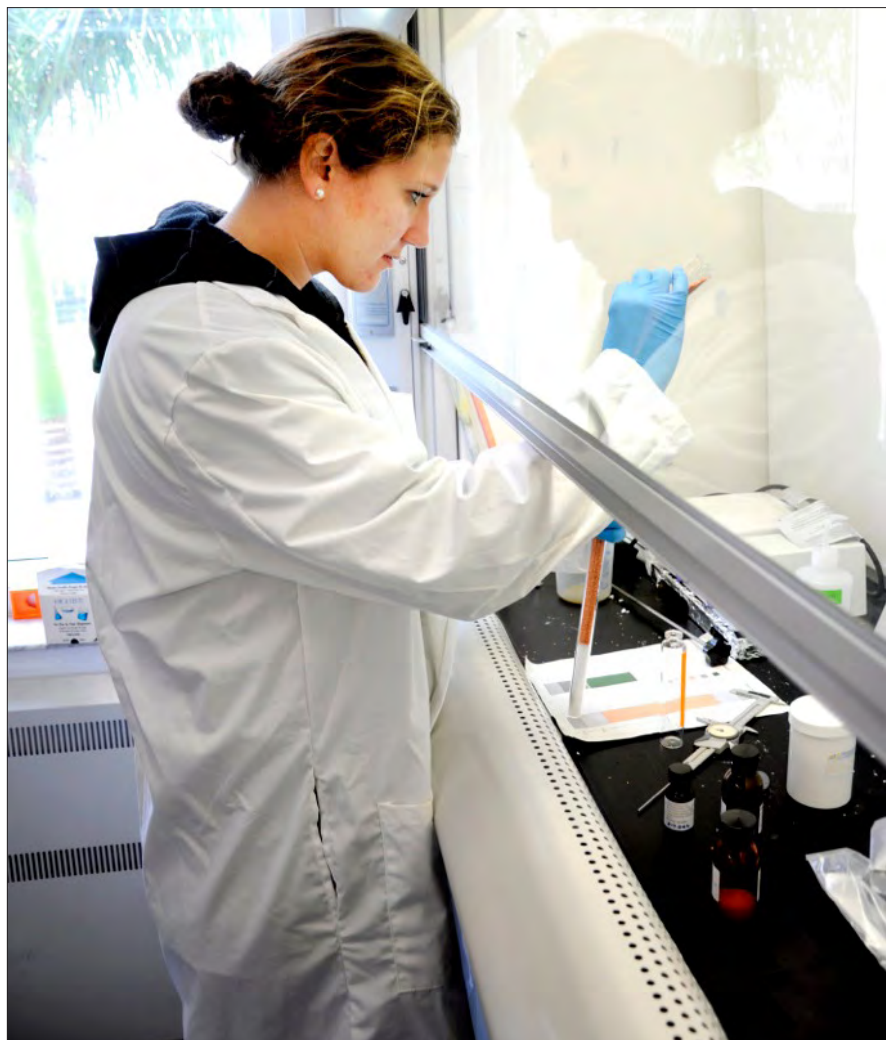
"And not only who Panther Power is, but who BBC is," said Merek. "We have a swim team, and we have athletes here as well and just as much spirit and school pride as MMC."

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Victoria Douglas,
President
Panther Power

COLUMN UP



Sarah Strand, a graduate student in environmental studies, fixes a column in a lab inside of the Marine Science Building. The column is for the mass spectrometer, a machine that analyzes carbon and nitrogen in animal and oil samples.



PHOTOS BY SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

SPJ 'to enlighten' after re-igniting University chapter

AARON PABON
Staff Writer

In 1909, 10 students at DePauw University in Indiana, came together to start a journalistic fraternity known as Sigma Delta Chi.

The name was later changed to Society of Professional Journalists. The organization opened up more than 300 chapters across the United States.

The group was created to promote and defend the First Amendment, freedom of speech and the press, encourage high standards and ethics in journalism and to promote and support diversity in journalism.

The SPJ chapter at the University supports this same goal and wants to revamp the chapter to help students in their careers.

"The SPJ chapter has been here for a while, but there has not been a lot of interest," said Chris Delboni, advisor of SPJ-FIU. "What we are trying to do now is to rebuild it."

Delboni became the new advisor, after the previous advisor, Neil Reisner, associate professor in the department of journalism, stepped down. Delboni recruited six students from journalism classes.

The main goal for SPJ-FIU, according to Delboni, is to act as an additional source of information and help for journalism

students.

"It's programmed to enlighten journalism and journalism students," said Delboni.

In September, SPJ-FIU took part in the Excellence in Journalism Conference in Fort Lauderdale. There they attended workshops on various areas of journalism, such as preparing a resume, story idea sessions and understanding social media tools.

"It was eye opening for a lot of people," said Michael Finch, a political science major and president of SPJ-FIU. "For a lot of people, it was their first convention."

While at the conference, SPJ-FIU met with other SPJ chapter presidents to help give the University chapter the extra push needed to get it off the ground again.

On Sep. 26, SPJ-FIU, along with Student Programming Council, hosted the Hispanics in the Media Roundtable. The Roundtable speakers were Jorge Ottati of TeleFutura Network's Contacto Deportivo, Professor Alejandro Alvarado, Telemundo director of the Hispanic Media Futures program, and Sun Sentinel Reporter Maria Muriel, who is a University alum.

The speakers discussed the differences of journalism in Hispanic countries and how journalism is currently conducted.

The next SPJ-FIU event is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 22, at 2 p.m. Finch and Reisner, will be the speakers in the workshop for resume and internship application.

On Oct. 3, Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver met with SPJ-FIU and talked about her past experience with FIU-SPJ. Kopenhaver founded the organization on Oct. 16, 1991. She was also the group's first advisor.

"We wanted to have a strong SPJ chapter because we knew how important it was going to be networked with professionals," Kopenhaver said.

Kopenhaver will help SPJ-FIU with future events. There is a fee of \$37.50 to join SPJ's national chapter. After paying the national fee, all local fees will be waived for those students that join SPJ during the fall semester.

Students from all majors can join the organization. For more information on how to join SPJ, students can visit www.spj.org and www.facebook.com/spjfiu, or email the local chapter on spjfiuchapter@gmail.com.

Meetings are Wednesdays at 1 p.m. in Academic II room 303.

"We have a lot of ideas," said Delboni, "And right now want to hear more from students to hear more ideas on how we can build it together."

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