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Florida International University

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TECHNOLOGY

Wi-Fi access for students an issue in few areas

STEPHAN USECHE
Asst. News Director

FIU students are granted a Wi-Fi connection anywhere on campus at anytime, however, 2011-2012 Audit Reports recount otherwise. According to the Office

of Internal Audit, “83 of the wireless access points installed at the Campus Support Complex, Management and Advanced Research Center, and the Kovens Conference Center did not align with the Technology Fee Guiding principles.” The Audit Report

explains that these locations benefited administrative staff rather than the students.

According to Vice President and Chief Information Officer Robert Grillo, 5% percent of the student tuition goes to the Technology fee, which ranges from

\$7 million to \$8 million a year; administration and academic units together decide how the fee will be spent.

“Wi-Fi was the first thing that the money was [given] to,” said Grillo.

However, \$131,670 was given to install 66 wireless access points at the Kovens Conference Center, which is located at BBC; but only 11 points were actually installed. The budget was then overestimated by \$109,725.

“The leftover money gets repurposed to other areas for students to utilize or for us to install Wi-Fi in areas where students need it,” said Grillo.

This is the case at CSC, where 17 wireless spots were estimated to be installed, but 47 were eventually installed at a cost of \$55,860, instead of the \$33,915 originally budgeted for that building. CSC mostly accommodates administrative staff rather than classrooms; on the other hand, the MARC building accommodates both, staff offices and classrooms, and the Kovens Conference Center has students, staff, and guests.

“Students and staff members utilize it during events or lectures that take place there,” said Grillo. “But it’s also used by the public, so anybody that wants to come to

the Kovens for an event can utilize it.”

Grillo explains that the reason why the Wi-Fi connection doesn’t benefit the students as much as the administrative staff is because “the administration doesn’t see students congregating in those areas.”

The University has 20,000 users on Wi-Fi.

“We built a very robust and a very good infrastructure to support the Wi-Fi technology,” said Grillo. “And the reason we made an investment there is because most of the students have mobile and portable devices and they basically want to check everything on the run and it’s better to be connected to a Wi-Fi network because of the performance and reliability.”

Grillo explains that all students should have access to Wi-Fi access anywhere on campus at anytime. Guests to the University are the exception, however.

“As a guest, they don’t have the same bandwidth, they get less bandwidth,” said Grillo.

Guests have to request to access the Wi-Fi and once the request has been approved they have full availability to it.

-stephan.useche@fiusm.com

NEW FOOD FOR THE NEW YEAR



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

The new restaurant Almazan opened this semester to replace Sushi Maki which relocated to the atrium. The restaurant offers a variety of Greek and Middle eastern food adding to the wide variety of food’s offerd on campus.

INTERNSHIPS

Connect for Good internship beginning this spring

MADISON FANTOZZI
Asst. News Director

Students seeking professional work experience conducive to educational and career learning now have the opportunity to work with local non-profit agencies as a part of the Connect for Good internship program.

The University has partnered with Catalyst Miami, a Miami-based nonprofit organization. According to the organization’s website, its mission is “to develop and support individual leadership and strong organizations that work together to improve health, education and economic opportunity in all communities.”

Aimed at developing South Florida students into future leaders of the local not-for-profit sector, the 15-week program will match students with nonprofit organizations. The program will place up to 50 interns per semester to provide them with a firsthand working and management experience.

“Students have the highest capacity of growth and intellect for the future,” Connect for Good’s public relations representative Priscilla Bejarano said.

Thirty nonprofit organizations are hosting and offering positions including the American Red Cross, Florida Breast Cancer Foundation, Habitat for

Humanity, Miami Children’s Initiative and Neighbors4Neighbors.

Bejarano recited the program’s slogan, “No matter your major or passion, Connect for Good will make your dream career a reality.”

Internship opportunities include positions in areas from marketing and finance to web design and social media. No student is limited or exempt from this opportunity -- an internship position is available for every interest and major.

“And I endorse this [idea] completely,” Bejarano said.

Bejarano introduced Connect for Good to the senate in SGA’s Monday, Jan. 7 meeting that voted in support of the program. As of Jan. 7, there were only ten noted applicants. Fifty applicants are needed to jumpstart the program.

“SGA promotes Connect for Good and this great opportunity for students,” Student Government Association vice president Alex Castro said.

Students of all majors are encouraged to apply via the career service panther-soft joblink by Wednesday, Jan. 16. All applicants must submit a resume and the Connect for Good internship application.

Applicants must also attend an internship matching fair on Tuesday, Jan. 22 from 6 - 9p.m. Selections of interns will follow the fair. The University and Cata-

lyst staff will match each organization with one of their priority choices and the students with on of their priority choices.

The Care for Good program will give the students the opportunity to benefit the local community through nonprofit work while also benefitting from hands-on work

and leadership experience.

“This is our first shot,” Bejarano said. “The program is starting locally and we hope to expand to universities across the United States.”

-madison.fantozzi@fiusm.com

GRADBASH 2013



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Orientations for this years new grad students took place earlier in the week. Here the school of medicine welcomed the students with introductions by profsors, staff and special motivational speakers to get the students excited about their new journey into grad school.

Students paying more for books than last semester



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Yamilet Navarro, senior political science major is one of many students purchasing textbooks after waiting patiently the hectic line at the FIU Bookstore.

PREPARE, PAGE 8

“For this semester, what I want to do is join clubs, and actually participate [in campus life], because I’ve been doing good in academics. I want to do good also in being a more active student,” said Accilien. “Once you leave here, you don’t want to just go with a degree. Then you don’t know the real life, you don’t know the students. If you go to a new place [after graduation], the more students you know, you

have a bigger network.”

BOOK PRICES GO UP

According to Accilien, it’s too expensive between textbooks, special equipment and associated fees.

“I expect to pay about \$600 this semester alone,” said Accilien.

Based on the prices given by five students who bought their books at FIU, students are spending an average of \$112.50 per book, whether it be new, used or rented.

Due to the high costs of

books, Morales hopes her total bill will be less than \$400.

“Because I’m going to buy them online, not from here,” said Morales. For instance, she found a required text online for \$94; the same text would cost her \$200 from the on-campus bookstore. Ultimately, she recommends buying academic texts outside of FIU, “unless you have financial aid.”

According to Morales, “Amazon’s a good bet” for finding cheaper or used copies of texts.

Accilien seemed to agree, “I’m still making the decision if I should just go online and get it for cheaper.”

Just as spring represents renewal and rebirth, so the start of a new academic semester offers the opportunity to start anew, equipped with the lessons learned from semesters passed.

-bbc@fiusm.com

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republican Party seems as divided, angry as ever

STEVE PEOPLES
AP Staff

The Republican Party seems as divided and angry as ever.

Infighting has penetrated the highest levels of the House GOP leadership. Long-standing geographic tensions have increased, pitting endangered Northeastern Republicans against their colleagues from other parts of the country. Enraged tea party leaders are threatening to knock off dozens of Republicans who supported a measure that raised taxes on the nation’s highest earners.

“People are mad as hell. I’m right there with them,” Amy Kremer, chairman of the Tea Party Express, said late last week, declaring that she has “no confidence” in the party her members typically support. Her remarks came after GOP lawmakers agreed to higher taxes but no broad spending cuts as part of a deal to avert the “fiscal cliff.”

“Anybody that voted ‘yes’ in the House should be concerned” about primary challenges in 2014, she said.

At the same time, one of the GOP’s most popular voices, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, blasted his party’s “toxic internal politics” after House Republicans initially declined to approve disaster relief for victims of Superstorm Sandy. He said it was “disgusting to watch” their actions and he faulted the GOP’s most powerful elected official, House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio.

The GOP’s internal struggles to figure out what it wants to be were painfully exposed after Mitt Romney’s loss to President Barack Obama on Nov. 6, but they have exploded in recent days. The fallout could extend well beyond the party’s ability to win policy battles on Capitol Hill. It could hamper Republicans as they examine how to regroup and attract new voters after a disheartening election season.

To a greater degree than the Democrats, the Republican Party has struggled with internal divisions for the past few years. But these latest clashes have seemed especially public and vicious.

“It’s disappointing to see infighting in the party,” said Ryan Williams, a Republican operative and former Romney aide. “It doesn’t make us look like we’re in a position to challenge the president and hold him accountable to the promises he made.”

What’s largely causing the dissension? A lack of a clear GOP leader with a single vision for the party.

Republicans haven’t had a consistent standard-bearer since President George W. Bush left office in 2008 with the nation on the edge of a financial collapse. His departure, along with widespread economic concerns, gave rise to a tea party movement that infused the GOP’s conservative base with energy. The tea party is credited with broad Republican gains in the 2010 congressional elections, but it’s also blamed for the rising tension between the pragmatic and ideological wings of the party — discord that festers still.

It was much the same for Democrats in the late 1980s before Bill Clinton emerged to win the White House and shift his party to the political center.

2012 presidential nominee Romney never fully captured the hearts of his party’s most passionate voters. But his tenure atop the party was short-lived; since Election Day, he’s disappeared from the political world.

Those Republican leaders who remain engaged — Christie, Boehner, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus — are showing little sign of coming together.

Those on the GOP’s deep bench of potential 2016 presidential contenders, including Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan, and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, have begun staking out their own, sometimes conflicting ideas for the party.

Over the short term at least, the party’s divisions probably will continue to be exposed.

Obama has outlined a second-term agenda focused on immigration and gun control; those are issues that would test Republican solidarity even in good times. Deep splits already exist between Republican pragmatists and the conservative base, who oppose any restrictions on guns or allowances for illegal immigrants.

It’s unclear whether Obama can exploit the GOP fissures or whether the Republican dysfunction will hamper him. With Boehner unable to control his fractured caucus, the White House is left wondering how to deal with the House on any divisive issue.

Fiscal issues aren’t going away. The federal govern-

ment reached its borrowing limit last week, so Congress has about two months or three months to raise the debt ceiling or risk a default on federal debt. Massive defense and domestic spending cuts are set to take effect in late February. By late March, the current spending plan will end, raising the possibility of a government shutdown.

Frustrated conservative activists and GOP insiders hope that the continued focus on fiscal matters will help unite the factions as the party pushes for deep spending cuts. That fight also may highlight Democratic divisions because the party’s liberal wing vehemently opposes any changes to Social Security or Medicare

“Whenever you lose the White House, the party’s going to have ups and downs,” said Republican strategist Ron Kaufman. “My guess is when the spending issues come up again, the Democrats’ warts will start to show as well.”

The GOP’s fissures go beyond positions on issues. They also are geographical.

Once a strong voice in the party, moderate Republicans across the Northeast are nearly extinct. Many of those who remain were frustrated in recent days when Boehner temporarily blocked a vote on a disaster relief bill.

Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., said campaign donors in the Northeast who give the GOP after the slight “should have their head examined.”

Boehner, who just won a second term as speaker, quickly scheduled a vote on a narrower measure for Friday after the new Congress convened, and it rushed out a \$9.7 billion measure to help pay flood insurance claims.

Wearied Republican strategists are trying to be hopeful about the GOP’s path ahead, and liken the current situation to party’s struggles after Obama’s 2008 election. At the time, some pundits questioned the viability of the Republican Party. But it came roaring back two years later, thanks largely to the tea party.

“If we have learned anything from the fiscal cliff fiasco, conservatives discovered we need to stand firm, and stand together, on our principles from beginning to end,” said Republican strategist Alice Stewart. “It’s frustrating to see the GOP drop the ball and turn a position of true compromise into total surrender.”

The Democrats succeeded in their strategy of divide and conquer.”

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 24, Issue 48 of the Beacon, the article “Turner named new head coach for football” referred to the Chiefs. It should have been the fighting Illini of Illinois.

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

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ALFRED SOTO

CONTACT INFORMATION

Modesto Maidique Campus:
GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 348-2709
news@fiusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus:
WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 919-4722
bbc@fiusm.com

Fax:
(305) 348-2712

Editor-in-Chief:
(305) 348-1580
philippe.buteau@fiusm.com

Advertising:
(305) 348-6994
advertising@fiusm.com

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SLS: Lessons in a New Academic Life

ASHLEY OROZCO
Contributing Writer

If there is something that could spark up a conversation amongst freshman this past fall semester it was the dreaded required reading, “I’m Down” as well as the course that required it, SLS 1501.

From my own experience, both were talked about with a negative connotation. “I’m Down” was most definitely not a crowd pleaser and freshman Yaelis Pupo referred to the course as “a waste of time and money.”

SLS is the ‘first-year experience’ course required of all students entering the university as first-time freshmen as it is part of the Undergraduate Core Curriculum.

The UCC and course website describe it as follows: “[SLS] introduces students to the University policies, procedures, and services; addresses academic and career choices; and enhances study and time-management skills”.

In theory, it sounds extremely beneficial to the first-time college student. But many didn’t see it that way.

“The idea of SLS isn’t so bad. However, the way the class is structured is very childish,” said freshman Carolina Moncion.

On the first day of my own SLS class, less than 20 timid faces filled the room. As we sat there each probably wondering what sort of person our professor would be, one brave soul decided to speak up and asked, “What did you guys think of the book?” Almost immediately the entire class was stirred up and thus began the bashing of “I’m Down” by

Mishna Wolff.

If you’re unfamiliar with the book, it is a memoir about a young girl who tells of her experience of being white while growing up in a predominantly African-American neighborhood.

Soon that isn’t her only problem as she is sent to a private school full of upper class white children where she doesn’t quite fit in either.

Our professor entered the room, discussed the syllabus and major projects and that was that. The course was true to the syllabus.

Because of that shared hatred for the book (which I’m sure was not the University’s intention), friendships were made.

Because of the campus involvement papers, students were able to explore some of the activities the University offered that they might want not have otherwise bothered to look up. Because of the paper on “I’m Down”, students were shown the Center for Academic Success, a resource that also might have gone unnoticed in their four years at the University.

Many students complained about the course; however, a few saw the benefits it provided them with.

“[SLS] helped get more involved in the social life at FIU as well as ease into the world of college studies. It helped me create new plans for my future,” said freshman Kaitlynn Gutierrez.

Though SLS awards you just one little credit, the lessons taken from the course will help anyone in their time at the University.

-opinion@fiusm.com

Back to the Balancing Act

MICHAEL BAISDEN
Opinion Editor

Spring has begun and I settle into the familiar feeling of waking up with worry, calling three different people for one simple question and walking into advising with 12 students ahead of me.

This is my eighth, and last, semester at FIU and the first day never gets easier.

My great hope is that all of you had a less stressful day than I, but

in most instances this is not the case.

As the new Opinion editor for the Beacon, board member of FIU’s revived Society of Professional Journalism chapter, and aspiring graduate, the pile of responsibilities just hit me around 12 p.m. Monday morning.

I look at other students around me, juggling internships, full school schedules, a steady relationship, a job, extracurricular activities and their sanity and I admire each

of them. I looked to them as role models each time I took on a new position.

But I think those people I look to are super human.

I don’t know how these people find the balance to do it all.

But that is my mission, and the mission for many of us as students and people in this world.

Balance. It is the one thing we should all strive for.

Balance between your boyfriend and your girl friends.

Family and friends. Work and play. Food and fasting.

It may appear to many of us that balance is nearly impossible.

But I never look at impossibility as a possibility.

So in between ordering books and preparing for finals, teetering on the thin wire between you and graduation, take a moment to breathe.

It’s a balancing act.

-michae.baisden@fiusm.com

Dorm living: A team sport

ADRIANNE RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

Leaving home for the first time and moving in with a roommate, or three, is not the easiest transition to make.

But as a matter of courtesy and respect, don’t force your roommate to stare at a pile of clothes, your overflowing drawers and miscellaneous knickknacks.

“I believe that just moving to college in general, people tend to over pack because it’s their first time being truly away from home for a long period of time and there is really no way you can prepare for it. So I guess it does make the housing residences cluttered,” said freshman Jakari Clayton, psychology major and resident of Panther Hall.

We’ve all tried to maintain a space similar to the one that we have at home, in our bedroom, bathroom or kitchen.

But when you have a roommate, you have to respect their space and understand that you aren’t living at home anymore.

Your belongings have to fit on your half of the room, not yours and your roommate’s.

Students need to understand this before moving into a dorm or apartment in order to make living arrangements on campus a lot easier.

“Your belongings have to fit on your half of the room, not yours and your roommate’s.”

Unfortunately all of us didn’t come with this understanding and even after being on campus for a while, still fail to understand this very important concept.

My personal experience with Panther Hall dorms is that everything that you need is there, but not everything you want.

That is how it is supposed to be; it’s college.

But then you see everyone bringing their whole lives with them to move into a cubby hole and then the room looks cluttered, becomes harder to maintain and harder to study in with so many distractions.

It is okay if you have made the mistake of over packing because it was your first time being away

from home, but as the semester goes on more items should not be added to your side of the cubbyhole nor your roommates.

We should learn that respecting another individual’s space is needed when the residence is being shared between two to four individuals at a time.

Paying \$4,303 per semester for a room that you aren’t comfortable in because you have slight signs of claustrophobia isn’t any way to live, especially when you have other things to worry about like research papers and exams.

The moral here is simple: I respect your space and you respect mine.

-opinion@fiusm.com



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A DASH OF GLITTER



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Fatima Khalid, senior speech therapy major, Lia Mora, junior international relations major, and Fernando Velazquez, sophomore biology major decorating picture frames pennant and fish bowls as part of SPC's week of welcome events in the GC pit. Events will continue to take place everyday during this first week.

PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION

All Aboard: Life on the Golden Panther Express

STEPHAN USECHE
Asst. News Director

The one-hour bus ride from Modesto Maidique Campus to Biscayne Bay Campus on the Golden Panther Express gives students time to catch up on their homework, sleep and read.

Journalism major Lissan Ramos has been taking the Golden Panther Express since fall 2011.

"I normally listen to music on my iPod - almost everybody does - sometimes I'll do some reading for class and sometimes I'll try to take a nap, but I personally can't sleep well on buses," said Ramos. "Some people knock out, though."

A passenger like Michael Young, a graduate student in administration, is the opposite of Ramos.

"I normally sleep because it's early in the morning," said Young who takes the shuttle Monday through Thursday.

The Golden Panther

Express, which increased its fee in 2011 from \$2 to \$2.50 per one-way trip, now provides WiFi service. It now also runs during the winter break on an alternate schedule.

However Ramos feels like he hasn't benefited from wireless service.

"The WiFi isn't the greatest, so surfing the Internet is usually out of the question," said Ramos. "And because I like to listen to Pandora sometimes, the data on my phone gets its most usage during the trips."

Panther Express driver Narciso J. Pauler, however, says he always tries to give the passengers the best service possible by keeping the shuttle clean, but that sometimes the passengers make it difficult to do so.

"They place their feet on the seats and litter a lot by throwing gum on the floor and leaving trash behind,"

SEE EXPRESS, PAGE 5

FROST ART MUSEUM

New year, new events for the Frost Art Museum

EDWIVE SEME
Staff Writer

After ending fall 2012 with its Art Basel event and Breakfast in the Park, the Frost Art Museum had ongoing exhibits throughout winter break. They included Ivan Navarro's light sculptures which end on Jan. 27, their tribute to influential artist Mike Kelley running through Feb. 24, and "Reflections Across Time: Seminole Portraits". The Seminole portrait exhibit, which was scheduled to end on Jan. 2, but will be extended to Jan. 13.

"We were delighted to take advantage of the opportunity to extend it, so that more people would have the opportunity to see it," said Emmett Young, marketing and communications assistant director of the museum.

"Reflections Across Time", curated by Annette B. Fromm, coordinator of museum studies, debuted in November when President Barack Obama officially made November National Native American Heritage Month. The exhibit shows the history of the Seminole Tribe through artwork including 150 years of portraits of Seminole leaders and tribal members. The pieces of artwork show the history, the pride and visions over the years.

Young says this is one of the exhibitions they're most proud of because it brought art that is considered a national treasure from the Smithsonian Institution and other museums in Washington. The exhibition is important, he says, because it represented a one-time opportunity to celebrate part of South Florida

heritage and history.

"It exposes everyone to artwork that they would not be able to see unless they went to Washington D.C., not to mention important art work of current Indian artists," said Young.

Before the exhibit ends, a conference, "Portraits and Identity: Seminoles Portrait," will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 9 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., gathering a group of scholars and Native American artists to discuss the history of the Native American Art movement in the U.S. and aspects of portrait from ethnography, art history, and artistic perspective. This conference will include three scholars: anthropologist Dennis Weidman; art historian Alpesh Patel and Folklorist Annette B. Fromm; along with three practicing Seminole artists, Leroy Osceola, Elgin Jumper and Pedro Zepeda.

Later that week, the University will host a lecture by Kevin Gover on Jan. 12 at 4 p.m. at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

Kevin Gover, director of the National Museum of The American Indian, will speak about the Native American art and identity. This lecture will be part of their Green Critics Lecture Series, which serves to "introduce numerous art world luminaries to the South Florida community," according to Young.

Its speakers are internationally renowned artists, museum curators, scholars and critics who speak on a variety of topics covering art.

After the lecture, a reception will follow in the Frost. This will also mark the last weekend of "Reflections across Time," which ends the next day. This reception will also be

the opening of "Form Transgressions: The Drawings of Agustín Fernández" in honor of the deceased Cuban-American artist. Fernandez was considered one of the masters of modern Cuban Art.

This exhibit, which is collaboration between the Frost and the Snite Museum of Art at the University of Notre Dame, will be composed of a group of graphite drawings done by him from the late 1960s to the 1990s. These drawings present an overview of his most recognizable imagery, and show the erotics of desire and vulnerability. This will be the first time an exhibit focuses solely on this group of drawings. On Jan. 15, a book signing will be held at the Frost from 11 a.m. to noon. "The book, 'Agustín Fernández: The Metamorphosis of Experience' is the most comprehensive exploration into the artist's career," said Young.

On Thursday, Jan. 10, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., the director of the museum, Carol Damian, is set to co-host alongside David Castillo a VIP reception for the opening of the Rafael Ferrer solo exhibition at Wynwood.

According to Young, they will have an ambitious slate of exhibitions and programs in 2013, including more upcoming Target Wednesdays, and the celebration of the 500th anniversary of Ponce de Leon's arrival in Florida with a series of exhibitions and events. "We will, of course, also have our usual slate of interesting student and faculty exhibitions, and some surprises that are still in the planning stages," said Young. "It will be a great time for students, staff and faculty members here at FIU."

All these events will be held on the Modesto Maidique campus, and will be free of charge.

-edwive.seme@fiusm.com

FROST MUSEUM EVENTS

Symposium- Portraits and Identity: Seminole Portrait Wednesday, Jan. 9 at 7 p.m.

Carol Damian to Co-host VIP Reception at Wynwood Venue Thursday, Jan. 10 at 6-10 p.m.

Green Critics' Lecture Series: Kevin Gover Saturday, Jan. 12 at 4 p.m.

Form's Transgressions: The Drawings of Agustín Fernández Saturday, Jan. 12 at 5-8 p.m.

Agustín Fernández Catalog Book Signing Tuesday, Jan. 15 at 11 a.m.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Florida celebrates its Spanish heritage in 2013

SUZETTE LABOY
AP Staff

MIAMI (AP) — When Juan Ponce de Leon searched for riches in Florida, he unknowingly helped turn the Sunshine State into the first travel destination in the United States.

In April 1513, the Spanish monarchy contracted the explorer to find another island off of Cuba that was rumored to have great riches. Instead he landed in Florida and named it “La Florida,” after the “feast of the flowers” during Spain’s Easter celebrations.

Five centuries later, the state is celebrating its Spanish heritage with a series of events throughout 2013.

“It was always seen as an exotic place,” historian Dr. J Michael Francis said of Florida. “That’s something that Florida tourism continues to market on some level.”

Although Florida’s history dates back more than 12,000 years with Native Americans, the statewide campaign “Viva Florida 500” will highlight the start of a new era with de Leon’s adventurous voyage to the New World.

“He was the first visitor to the United States,” said Will Seccombe, president and CEO of Visit Florida, the state’s official tourism marketing corporation. “That’s 500 years of explorers and they kept coming back.”

Tourism is Florida’s No. 1 industry, responsible for welcoming 87.3 million visitors in 2011, according to state official estimates.

Many visitors may know Florida mostly for its 825 miles (about 1,330 kilometers) of beaches or as the theme park capital of the world, but the “Viva Florida” campaign is designed to broaden their outlook, Seccombe said. The state will host 150 cele-

brations that “highlight cultural diversity and the art culture history that makes up the fabric of our communities.”

After de Leon’s visit, European settlers colonized in present-day St. Augustine, the nation’s oldest city. Visitors to the city can find many references to the Spanish colonial era, from the massive Castillo de San Marcos fort that protected the city from attack, to the colorful Spanish architecture and narrow streets. (Full-scale replicas of Ponce de Leon’s flagship will visit the city in April).

De Leon probably wasn’t the first European to set foot in Florida, and there is even debate on where he landed exactly: Melbourne Beach, St. Augustine or South Ponte Vedra Beach. But all of these suggested spots are based on fairly tenuous documentation.

“It’s unlikely we will ever know the precise landing spot,”

said Francis, Hough Family Chair of Florida Studies at the University of South Florida in St. Petersburg, Fla. “There is no archaeological footprint. No logbook. And even if found, there’s no guarantee we would even know from that.”

The commemoration, he said, is not about pinpointing the Spanish legacy but about rediscovering “and maybe even discover for the first time Florida’s colonial history.”

Francis also wants to set the record straight about the search for eternal youth: There is no mention of the Fountain of Youth in de Leon’s contracts with Spanish crowns or in his own writings, Francis said.

“Over time that story became more embellished,” Francis said. “What started as a myth ended up in the writings of later historians and chroniclers as history.”

But the legend lives on in Florida’s 700 natural springs

and with spas, health resorts and yoga retreats.

Kicking off the 2013 celebration of European discovery was “La Gran Naranja” or the “Big Orange” drop — a 35-foot LED neon orange LCD descending from the side of a downtown Miami hotel on New Year’s Eve. The word naranja comes from the sweet Valencia orange the Spanish introduced to America, later becoming Florida’s official state fruit.

Throughout the year, 150 events across the state will mark the anniversary: Drive the Spanish Heritage Trail. Dive on historic shipwrecks. Tour a Spanish basilica and mission village. Visit orange groves and cattle ranches. Taste the flavors of Florida. Other events will include plenty of festivals with re-enactments and other things to do in addition to visiting the beaches and theme parks the state is famous for.

Students ride out the one-hour journey

EXPRESS, PAGE 4

said Pauler. “We try to give them a good service, but the passengers don’t take advantage of the good service that the school is offering them to give them a pleasant trip.

He says many passengers also want to have random stops because they’re in a hurry.

“We can’t [stop] because we have our own designated stops,” Pauler said.

Nikolai Gage, who has recently joined the team of Panther Express drivers, has only driven the shuttle during this past winter break and says he hasn’t had any problems with the passengers and that the trips have been quiet and uneventful.

“The passengers mostly sleep, some read and others listen to music, and they’re in their own world trying to get the trip done as fast as possible,” said Gage.

Public Relations major Gabrielle Phillips was doing those same things until a

sudden shake of the shuttle interrupted her sleep.

“I didn’t know what was happening until the shuttle stopped in the middle of the expressway, and then I realized we had been hit by another car,” said Phillips. “That definitely took me out of the routine of sleeping and listening to my iPod, at least it made the trip a bit eventful.”

Phillips wasn’t the only one to experience this sort of event. Ana Lemos, an administrator for the Global Water for Sustainability Program at BBC and who takes the bus every morning because she lives closer to MMC, did as well.

“One time the bus did get stuck on the highway and someone tried to climb out of the bus,” said Lemos. “It was pretty crazy and then we were able to get off the highway and the bus driver wouldn’t let us out and we ended up getting to the other campus three hours later.”

-stephen.useche@fiusm.com

WEEK OF WELCOME SPRING 2013 EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 9

GOLDEN PANTHER BRUNCH
WHEN: 9:30-11:30 a.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: BBC WUC Ballrooms

MMC MINDFULNESS MEDITATION SESSION
WHEN: 12-1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC GC 305

STUDY ABROAD OPEN HOUSE
WHEN: 12-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC PC113

WEEK OF WELCOME WITH UHS
WHEN: 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC GC

FIT & WELL PROGRAM PRESENTS YOGA
WHEN: 1-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC Panther Suite

THURSDAY, JAN. 10

INVOLVEMENT & VOLUNTEER FAIR
WHEN: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: BBC WUC Panther Square

HOW TO ACCESS AND MANAGE THE “IT” WITHIN
WHEN: 12-1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC RDB 1000

MOODLE STUDENT ORIENTATION
WHEN: 2-3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC PC 414

(WERTHEIM PERFORMING ARTS CENTER) KEYBOARD ARTS SERIES: SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN LISZT SOCIETY
WHEN: 7:30-9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC Wertheim Performing Arts Center

FIU WOMEN’S BASKETBALL AT ARKANSAS STATE
WHEN: 8:05-11:05 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: Jonesboro, Ark.

To have your event featured, email us at
calendar@fiusm.com

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BODY BUILDING

FIU bodybuilder is lifting his way into the pros

DANIEL BREY
Contributing Writer

He walks on stage, cameras flicker; his oiled, muscular frame reflecting every flash of light. With his veins bursting from his body, the bodybuilder flexes. Biceps curled, his back arched and his mind focused.

Jonathan Menocal is a full time student at FIU, working night shifts at a local club and now bouncing back from a two-year hiatus. He is just two wins away from professional status in men's physique competition.

Born and raised in Miami, Menocal has seen a vast amount of success since deciding to take lifting weights as more than a daily hobby.

In his first competition at the 2009 NPC South Florida District Bodybuilding Championships, after 16 arduous weeks of constant training and careful dieting, Menocal, then 18, finished first in both the teen heavyweight and overall teen class.

"After my first show, I was hooked, I enjoyed this," Menocal said.

Bodybuilding competitions require that a competitor perform a routine, so that a panel of judges may then rank each competitor based on muscularity.

After appearing on the May 2009 issue of Exercise for Men Only, Menocal's father, Jessie Menocal, a former bodybuilder, introduced his son to longtime family friend, 2008 NPC Southern States champion and 2011 NPC Southeastern USA champion Andre Vaughn.

"Right off the bat I knew Jonathan was something special," Vaughn said. "His work ethic was tremendous both on and off the weight rack. I was simply awed by the manner in which he conducted himself."

With two wins under his belt, however, Menocal decided to opt out of the remaining



PHOTO COURTESY OF JONATHAN MENOCAL

FIU senior Jonathan Menocal working out at Porky's Gym. The bodybuilder works out every day of the week to constantly stay in shape for his next competition.

competitions in 2009 to gain more muscle and focus on his education.

"It was a decision I had to put a lot of thought into," Menocal said. "In the end, I felt focusing on my education and gaining some brain muscle was the right choice."

After an eight month layoff, Menocal felt he was both physically and mentally prepared to compete again.

Menocal then shocked the bodybuilding world by entering the Southern States Championships, a level five competition (scale of level 1-6, six being nationals).

Despite the eight-month absence from the sport, he showed no signs of rust after

placing second in the teen heavyweight division, and taking home the Most Promising Teen award.

At just 19 years old, Jonathan Menocal, unshaken by the pressure of competing on a national stage, finished third in the teen heavyweight division at the 2010 Pittsburgh GNC Teen National Championships, a level six competition.

"He never wavered," trainer Andre Vaughn said. "He was as cool as ice."

Following nationals, despite placing in the top three in every competition he participated, Menocal once again stepped away from bodybuilding.

He simply lost interest.

"I wasn't sure if I wanted to go in the direction of bodybuilding," Menocal said. "I didn't feel it was right for me."

In 2011, a year after dismissing bodybuilding, 6-foot-3, 240-pound Menocal, who played football in high school, joined the FIU football team; however, he played all of one spring game before deciding it wasn't for him.

"If I could dedicate five to six hours a day playing football, I could surely put the same amount of time into lifting weights."

Menocal headed back to the gym.

With his weightlifting career now back in full swing in 2012, Menocal was off to compete, but this time, in a new sport called men's physique.

Similar to the start of his bodybuilding career, Menocal took first in every class he competed in at the 2012 Dayana Cadeau Classic, and 16th in his first ever men's physique national competition.

Menocal, now sponsored by Betancourt Nutrition, will take his talents to South Carolina in May to compete in the 2013 NPC Junior USA competition. A win would land him at NPC nationals, to compete for a professional contract.

Now a senior at FIU, Menocal consistently finds success in the classroom despite keeping his life extremely busy.

Since 2009, Menocal's schedule has consisted of an immense workload: School work in the mornings, training sessions in the afternoons, and a late night job as a club bouncer, which keeps him preoccupied right up until the morning hours.

When asked how he has managed to survive such a back-breaking schedule, Menocal simply provided one word, "determination."

-sports@fiusm.com

CLUB FEATURE

Despite money woes, triathlon club runs on

BRYAN PALACIO
Contributing Writer

There are sports that test your abilities, sports that test your endurance, and then there are triathlons.

Imagine swimming two and a half miles, biking 112 more, and running a full 26.2-mile marathon-consecutively in one day. That grueling task is called the Ironman and it's the pinnacle of triathlons.

Senior Michael Meyer, president of the FIU's Triathlon Club, is no stranger to the Ironman. In his five years competing, he has already completed the race twice, an accomplishment some competitors never get to see once.

"You hear the words you have only heard in videos, 'You are an Ironman,' and at that point it hits you," Meyer said. "No words can describe the feeling of joy and happiness. For some time, the pain stops and you finally receive your medal."

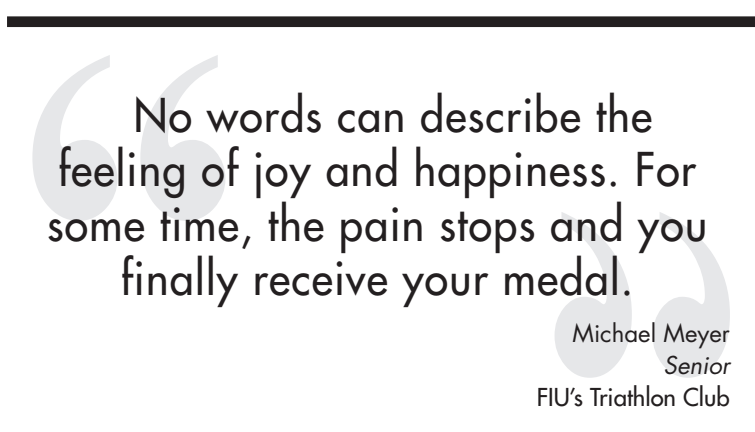
Meyer runs the team of 62 regis-

tered members, of which only about 20 are active, along with Vice President Ernie Diaz and Treasurer Frank Betancourth. Having started the club a year and a half ago, the trio is in charge of conducting practices, holding team meetings, recruiting members and finding sponsors.

Obtaining the necessary funds to compete is a challenging task for the FIU club, unlike their competitors from more well known and much better funded universities like FSU and UF.

"Our biggest detriment is finding the funds to be able to compete. A good value for a decent bike is around \$2,000. You can go and buy a bike at Wal-Mart with a steel frame for a few hundred dollars but you're never going to win," Meyer said. "The club is fairly new, having been started [in fall 2011], so we don't really have the money to send 10 members to every competition, almost all of it comes out of our own pocket."

The club gets \$1,000 to spend



on tangible things like suits and equipment for all its members, a cost that far exceeds what they are given. Also, races are usually held in Central Florida, where they are more accessible to all the schools. This leads to more costs like gas, hotels, food, and other traveling expenses. FIU does not cover any of those expenses, not even the registration fees to race.

"It can be difficult to support our members because we are ill prepared," said Betancourth.

"Had we have more funds, there would be more of the student body participating."

Their three sponsors TriJungle, Bike Tech, and Florida Running Company get them equipment and gear, like bikes and Tri Suits (a one-piece body suit worn throughout the entire event), at a discounted price, but even then it is still very expensive for many of the competitors. Many of the members are new to the sport meaning they are signing up equipped with little to no gear.

But the club looks past its budget constraints and continues to enjoy the growth of the sport.

Triathlons are gaining more and more fame each year. The club's registration numbers have escalated each semester since its inauguration and continue to climb. The numbers are also increasing globally with the Ironman competition having to add an extra series to accommodate for the amount of competitors.

With FIU already having its foot in the door, the triathlon competition brings a lot of potential success with both a school and sport beginning to make a splash.

"In the future, I see the club expanding with both more members and experience. A goal I have for the club for the upcoming year is to have a full team to race in several local competitions. I look forward to working with the community to get our name out there in order to gain some members."

-sports@fiusm.com

FOOTBALL

More questions after Turner hiring than before

FIU athletic director Pete Garcia is a walking question mark.

Why fire Mario Cristobal after extending his contract and winning two bowl games? Where did he find newly hired head coach Ron Turner? What are his expectations for Turner this season?

COMMENTARY



JOEY CRUZ

All these questions are surfacing from FIU's recent football coaching controversy. Cristobal had a mediocre 27-47 record while he coached here, but looking at his career through context suggests he brought the program from nothing to something.

FIU was one of the worst NCAA Division I schools in the nation after a 0-12 record and scandal only five years ago. Cristobal leveled the playing field in the Sun Belt Conference within three years. Still though, after only one winning season in 2010 where he went 7-6 and won the Little Caesar's Bowl, should his firing have been expected?

Now that Ron Turner is the new head coach, Cristobal definitely shouldn't have been fired. Turner has a Sugar Bowl appearance to his name, but Cristobal was the better coach for FIU. Cristobal had 15 recruits from Florida who were highly considering the Panthers as their first choice according to Rivals.com.

Where did Garcia expect FIU to be at this point? Their attendance is wretched every home game. While Cristobal wasn't great, he delivered success in two bowl games and a step forward toward entering Conference USA. Maybe Garcia felt Cristobal was not

good enough to further the program's capabilities in the new conference.

Turner coached in a prominent Big-10 Conference where he made it to the Sugar Bowl with a 10-2 season in 2001. Other than that, he is as mediocre as Cristobal was. He has jumped from college to the NFL time and time again. Is this a platform job for him?

With Garcia labeling Turner as the best quarterback coach in college, hopefully he can bring more offensive prowess than the Panthers had with Cristobal. Recruiting is essential for Turner as well. He will definitely be in the hot seat now that FIU is entering C-USA.

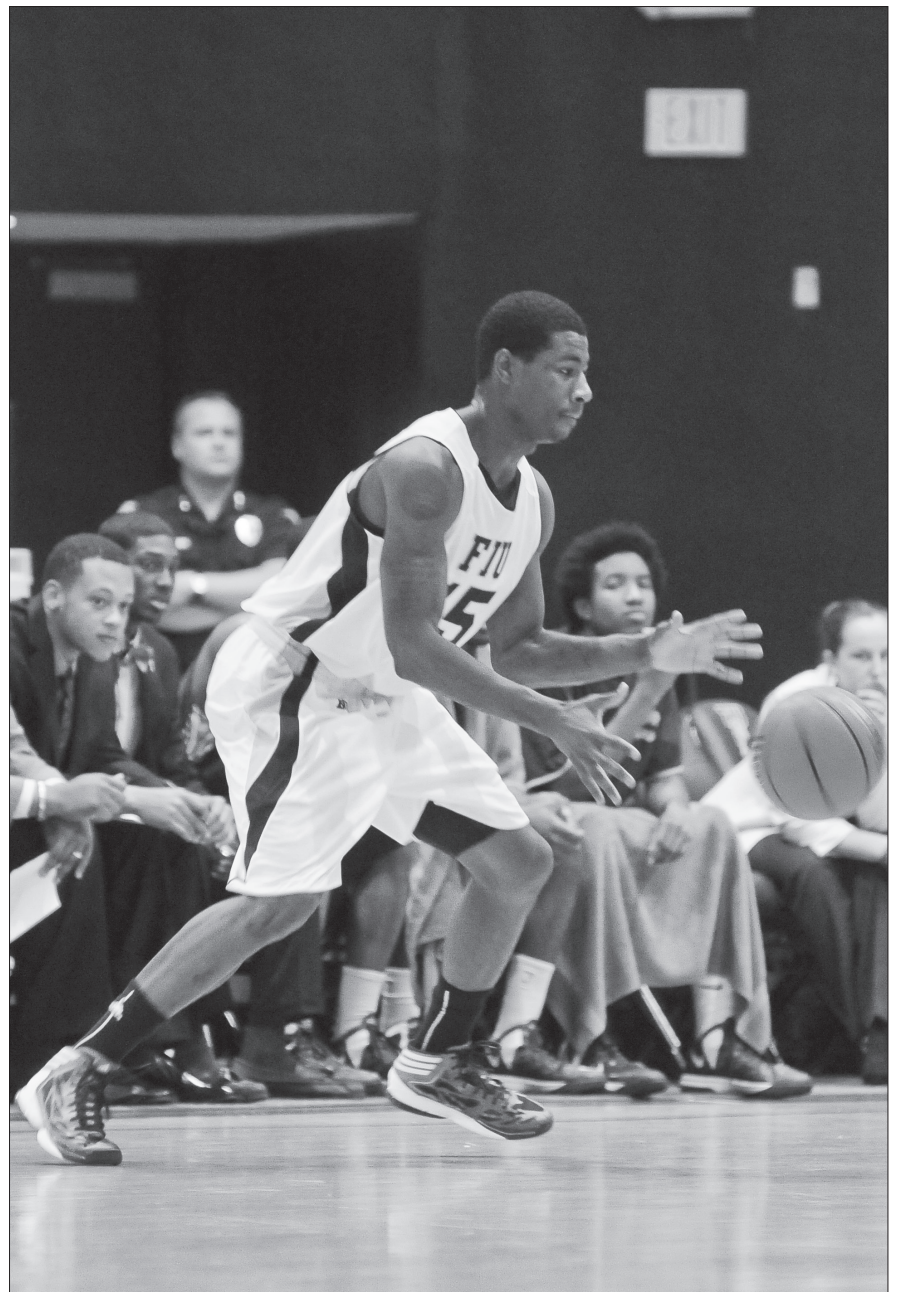
It just seems this was more of a desperation hire to get a "big name" head coach. The only popularity he might have is his last name, which one can relate to his brother Norv Turner, former San Diego Chargers Head Coach.

FIU will probably have a poor recruiting class this season. Turner said he had to research FIU before even taking the interview, which is concerning. With the mecca of high school football being in your backyard, an unfamiliar face coming to recruit will be difficult. There already are at least four other major universities who have the upper hand in Florida in recruiting over FIU.

Garcia better hope he made the right decision in hiring Turner with the pressure being put on FIU entering C-USA. Garcia will probably give Turner about three years to show improvement in recruiting and wins before it's on to the next one -- whether Turner wants to or not.

-joey.cruz@fiusm.com

REFUTING MURPHY'S LAW



JASEN DELGADO/THE BEACON

Tymell Murphy scored 20 points and 10 rebounds in Monday's 74-72 win over Bethune Cookman. Murphy recorded at least 20 points and 10 rebounds in all three home games en route to the Panthers breaking even at 7-7 on the season.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PGA Tour opener delayed again by wind

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Staff

On the third attempt at starting the PGA Tour season, Matt Kuchar stepped to the 10th tee at Kapalua and could barely hear his name through the wind. When he finally steadied himself, a gust blew his golf ball off the tee. And then it happened again.

"We had a powwow and took us five or six minutes to laugh it off and say, 'We're really going to go through with this?'" Kuchar said. "Made the best of it."

But not for long.

Just more than one hour after the Tournament of Champions finally got under way, it was scrapped again with all the scores erased.

Most golf tournaments end on Sunday. This one couldn't even get started Sunday.

The wind came roaring down the Plantation Course at Kapalua again, and it left officials no choice but to stop play and try to start again. With more manageable wind in the forecast, the plan was to play 36 holes Monday and

finish with 18 holes Tuesday.

That was good news for Ben Curtis. He had birdie putts on the first two holes and was 5-over par.

"It's crazy. That's the only way to describe it," Curtis said. "I've never hit two greens in regulation at the start and walked away at 5 over. But hey. At least we had to try."

And they will try again.

Rickie Fowler will hit the opening tee shot of the 2013 season on Monday — for the third time this week.

For those wondering why this tournament keeps getting postponed, an hour of television Sunday was all the evidence they needed.

Ian Poulter posed over his 4-iron shot to the 13th green and was so stunned to see it come up short that he looked at his small gallery for the longest time, repeating loud enough for them to hear that he was only 138 yards from the front of the green. Off to his right, Charlie Beljan had a search party stomping through high grass to the right of the 10th fairway looking for both his tee shots. He had

a 15-foot putt for triple bogey when play was stopped.

Moments later, a call came over the radio for a ruling on the 12th green. Scott Stallings was trying to tap in a 2-foot putt when a gust blew his ball 8 feet away.

"We need to try to put the show on," Poulter said. "Hyundai spent a lot of money. We want to play. Fans want to see us play. TV wants to see us play. We're backed into a corner. I don't think they understand how windy it really is. Now they've seen it."

It was comical from the start, with Kuchar having to tee it up three times before he could hit, and removing his cap the rest of the way. Jonas Blixt had a 1-foot par putt on the 10th hole and took about two minutes. He had to wait as a cup and someone's hat blew across the green.

Blixt has played 10 holes over two days in these conditions in 1-under par. None of it counts, but the Swede learned one thing.

"There's no instruction book for this," Blixt said. "You just go by instincts."

The Tournament of Champions was supposed to finish on Monday, the day it now hopes to start. The tour insists on a 54-hole tournament, no matter how complicated that will be with the next tournament, the Sony Open, starting on Thursday in Honolulu.

Andy Pazder, the tour's chief of operations, said television and operational equipment can only be transported to Oahu on a barge that takes 16 hours on a good day. The plan was to televise the final round at Kapalua, and go

with a limited TV production for the opening round of the Sony Open.

Defending champion Steve Stricker lounged on a sofa in the dining room watching the NFL playoffs with Dustin Johnson and Brandt Snedeker. Along with Bubba Watson, they have yet to tee off all week. Fowler made it through eight holes Friday and five holes Sunday.

But what a wild hour of golf that turned out to be.

"It seems like the first day was a cake walk compared

to today," Webb Simpson said. "But you know, they're trying to get us to play some golf. Matt and I were hanging in there, and it was fun. But you don't want to see stupid things happen. I think that was what they were starting to see."

Carl Pettersson began his round by hitting his tee shot into the native grass for a lost ball and a triple bogey. Kyle Stanley had 88 yards to the 10th green and went with a punch 9-iron that sailed over the green.

WANT TO BE A WRITER FOR THE SPORTS SECTION?

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Students renew and prepare for new semester

NICHOLAS HOFFMAN
Contributing Writer

As the spring semester launches into full gear this week, students are looking both forwards and backwards as well as watching their wallets.

Many students take time over the break to relax, recharge and refocus, all in preparation for the upcoming semester.

Gustavo Mendoza, a sophomore architecture major, took time to unwind.

“I just relaxed and hung out with friends and family. You know, the normal stuff on vacations. I didn’t do anything crazy,” said Mendoza. “The breaks are never long enough.”

Not everyone enjoyed the lengthy respite from school, though. Vanessa Morales, a sophomore psychology major, said she worked the whole break.

STAYING FOCUSED

It stands to reason that how well a student manages those extracurricular diversions goes a long way to determining their academic success. As a student who has had positive results grade-wise at the end of semesters, Mendoza intimated that self-imposed tunnel vision is an element of his achievements.

“Just focus on school,” Mendoza said. “There’s a lot of distractions when you get to college, but you’ve got to just focus on your work.”

First-semester freshman, Tyler Rosario, seems to understand the danger of similar pitfalls, even without the benefit of previous college experience. Asked what he wants to do differently from last semester, when he was still in high school, Rosario said, “To be really honest, I’m just trying to break old habits that I had in high school and just kind of focus and move forward.”

The new semester is a time for applying lessons from previous experience. Ronato St. Hubert, a sophomore chemistry major, believes in the power of hindsight.

Hubert cautions to watch the company you keep.

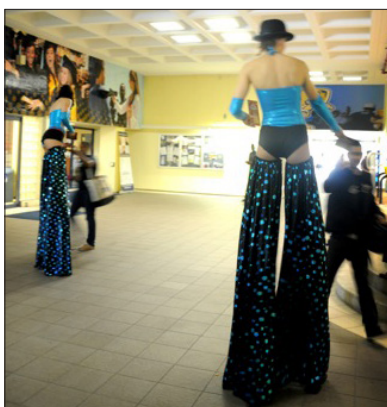
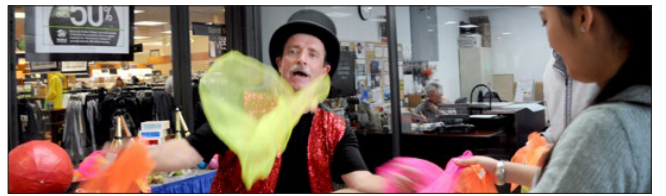
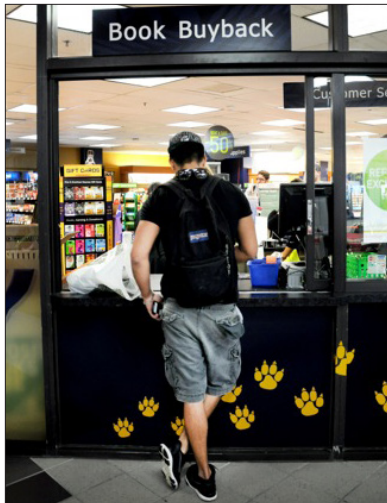
“Make sure you’re around people that are in your same situation,” Hubert said. “That have the same goal and are very ambitious, because it’s a little bit crazy whenever you’re not around people that can support you in doing whatever it is you want to do.”

He cautioned against becoming too intensely concerned with the daily grind however: “Sometimes you’ve got to know when you have to relax a little bit. Because when you go too hard in those classes and you don’t relax yourself a little bit you can actually go crazy.”

Junior Stenia Accilien is also directing her energy away from the classroom and toward other areas of the college experience.

SEE PREPARE, PAGE 2

GUESS WHO’S BACK...BACK AGAIN



PHOTOS BY SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

While students lined up outside of Parking and Transportation on the third floor of the Wolfe University Center and inside of the bookstore, Campus Life at Biscayne Bay Campus hosted a kick-off for their Week of Welcome in Panther Square. With a circus theme, students learned to juggle while women on stilts invited students walking by to join the event. Campus Life is hosting Week of Welcome from Jan. 7 to Jan. 13.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fishermen hoping for help with Sandy storm losses

WAYNE PERRY
AP Staff

While Superstorm Sandy did highly visible damage to homes, boardwalks and roads, it also walloped the Northeastern fishing industry, whose workers are hoping for a small piece of any future disaster assistance that Congress might approve.

The storm did millions of dollars’ worth of damage to docks, fish processing plants and restaurants. But it also caused millions more in lost wages to boat employees who couldn’t work for two to three weeks, to truck drivers who had nothing to transport, and to other assorted industries that service commercial fishing.

The \$9.7 billion measure to fund the National Flood Insurance program, passed by Congress on Friday, did not include anything for the fishing industry; a bill the Senate passed in December would have allocated \$150 million for that purpose.

Some of the worst damage to fisheries in the region occurred at the Belford Seafood Cooperative on the Raritan Bay shoreline in Middletown, where the pounding waves destroyed a 75-foot-long dock, gutted a

popular restaurant, and ripped away all five garage doors and parts of the exterior of office and storage buildings. The co-op’s manager, Joe Branin, estimates the damage at close to \$1 million.

“We went three weeks before we were able to pack a fish,” said Branin, whose business was still without electricity in mid-December. “We lost almost all our equipment. It was three weeks before anybody could do anything.”

The restaurant, where diners could eat scallops and fillets literally right off the boat, had provided \$5,000 to \$8,000 a week in revenue that is now gone.

The co-op supported 50 families who either work directly for it or in supporting roles. Many of those workers simply did without a paycheck for weeks afterward. The situation was the same at New Jersey’s Viking Village port on Long Beach Island’s Barnegat Light, where boats were idled after the storm.

“We couldn’t get to work for two weeks because the infrastructure was all torn up here,” said Bob Brewster, who owns three of the port’s 45 fishing boats and estimates he lost between \$10,000 and \$20,000 in

lost catch. “We were just twiddling our thumbs, waiting to get back out on the water. Everybody wants to make a living, and for a while, we couldn’t.”

In Hampton Bays, N.Y., Doug Oakland estimated two marinas he owns suffered between \$800,000 and \$1 million in damage. He estimates about a dozen other marinas in the eastern Long Island community were similarly affected.

“The marinas got beat up pretty hard. There’s a 75-foot section of our pier that’s just gone,” he said.

“There was about three to four weeks right after the storm where all the fish kind of disappeared,” he said. “The first two weeks, fishermen couldn’t even get out because a lot of their gear was buried in sand. With the gas shortage, there were no fuel trucks, and there really was no market to sell the fish to because nobody had power. There was no sense in even trying to catch them.”

Though most of the individual boats up and down the East Coast escaped damage, they were forced to stay at the dock because of a combination of problems.

That included damage to their home

ports; torn-up roads that forced street closures and kept workers, truck drivers, and customers from reaching the docks; the disruption to normal fishing patterns after the storm that saw many profitable species chased away until the following year; and even difficulty in getting in and out of ports because of new sand bars.

A strong nor’easter a week after Sandy just made things worse.

“We couldn’t get trucks to transport the product,” said Dwight Kooyman, who manages two of Viking Village’s scallop boats. “I have five guys that work for me that couldn’t work that entire time. If they don’t work, they don’t get paid.”

They’re all waiting to see whether Congress includes them in the billions of dollars in storm reconstruction aid it is considering. Less than three weeks after the Oct. 29 storm, the U.S. Commerce Department declared a fishery resource disaster for New Jersey and New York. But all that did was authorize the federal government to disburse any aid that Congress approves. Specific plans for applying for and distributing any aid to fishermen still have to be formulated.