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Work study program understaffed, could be cut further

MADISON FANTOZZI
Asst. News Director

As the largest employer at FIU, University Libraries is experiencing the fullest effect of cuts in the work-study program.

While the libraries seek to recruit student workers and volunteers, according to a press release from the White House, the March 1 sequester will result in around 1,700 fewer Florida students eligible for work-study.

According to Thomas Breslin, interim dean of libraries, the libraries are currently understaffed by 40 students and hours have been cut in half. This reality has left library shelves unread and books unaccounted for.

According to Library Circulation supervisor Genevieve Diamond, students are divided among the shelves and assigned to read them.

There is not enough money to pay the amount of students needed to get this job done, however.

“Work-study funds are so scarce. The number of students working and the number of hours being worked are low.”

“Work-study funds are so scarce,” Breslin said. “The number of students working and the number of hours being worked are low.”

Modesto Maidique Campus’ Green Library houses eight floors of library materials and Biscayne Bay Campus’ Hubert Library has three floors. Breslin said there are over one million books in the Green Library alone.

However, there are currently 80 to 140 students working on-and-off at both libraries.

Diamond said she encourages undergraduate students to voluntarily work for the library.

Although Breslin and Diamond stressed to Student Media the libraries’ need for student employees and volunteers, its strife may only worsen due to the

sequester.

Not only will the sequester lessen the amount of students in work-study, but it will also leave around 6,250 fewer students with financial aid.

Last year, financial aid and the work-study program faced a similar crisis. The University responded to cuts by doing cut of its own – cutting the hours of students in the work-study program.

The protest of struggling students led the University to construct a new plan.

In an interview with Student Media, director of Financial Aid Francisco Valines said the University asked the departments to match 18 percent of the work-study amount.

The solution was implemented for fall 2011 and spring 2012.

The effects of the sequester on departments and the response of the University to work-study cuts for future academic years are yet to be determined.

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Adjuncts hired more for a ‘cheaper price’

VINSON PRESSLY
Contributing Writer

Students may have at one point or another taken a course that was taught by an adjunct professor.

The practice of having adjunct professors teaching college courses is almost universal among colleges and universities but can become problematic if done excessively.

In 2010, FIU was in the process of being reaccruited, a process that occurs every ten years, when it was notified by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the accrediting body that the University was hiring too many part-time or adjunct professors.

According to Teresa Lucas, president of the FIU chapter of the United Faculty of Florida, the union representing the University’s faculty, if the University does not address this issue, sanctions can be imposed on the University.

The idea that a university or college is hiring too many part-time professors cannot be attributed to only the University. According to Lucas, the excessive hiring of adjunct professors is a nationwide problem.

She said schools are having to compensate for budget cuts by hiring more adjunct professors because it is cheaper than having a tenured full-time professor.

Adjunct professors do not receive the benefits or salary that a tenured professor would receive not to mention they are not protected by a union or a contract.

According to Lauren Christos, a library senator on the Faculty Senate and vice president of UFF-FIU, adjunct professors cannot be members of the union or be protected under the collective bargaining agreement, which is a contract between the Board of Trustees and the University’s full-time faculty that ensures the rights of the faculty are protected. The advantage of being tenured is job security, something an adjunct does not possess.

Although adjunct professors may not have as many advantages as a tenured-professor, there is a progression ladder: adjuncts are governed by a 4-4 contract, which means they will teach four courses in the fall and four courses in the spring semester, unless there is a special circumstance.

“The responsibility of an adjunct is teaching,” Lucas said.

After five years of service, an adjunct can become an instructor, which would yield a 10 percent increase in salary and after another five years of service, they can become a University instructor which would yield another 10 percent raise.

Although there is a plan in

Digging in



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

Phi Sigma Sigma hosted the annual Rock-a-thon for the National Kidney Foundation on Feb. 26. It featured a chicken wing eating contest. Finalists Advienna Johnson, junior Nick Alonso and senior Dylan Matthews, left to right, get ready for the start of the competition.

place for advancement, until then, an adjunct may have to juggle several jobs in addition to their teaching duties to the University.

“Adjuncts have miserable salaries,” Lucas said. “They make about \$2,500 to \$3,000 per course.”

Despite the drawbacks of being an adjunct professor in comparison to being a tenured professor, the experience is not completely negative.

Sarah Mason, who teaches English Composition 1101 and English Composition 1102 has been an Adjunct in the past and said she enjoys the experience.

“Students are great and I appreciate that students want to be there [in my class] despite

that it is a requirement,” Mason said.

She also believes that the faculty is supportive of the efforts of adjuncts and do not hesitate to offer help.

“I’ve never had a question go unanswered,” Mason said.

While Mason highlighted teaching motivated and enthusiastic students, Michael Young, a graduate student who is earning his masters in higher education administration discusses what it is like to be taught by full-time faculty.

“They can relate certain scenarios from the book to real life experiences [and] it can bring background knowledge,” Young said.

Young mentioned that most

of his professors in his graduate program have doctorates or education specialist degrees along with years of experience in the field and teaching.

Christos also discussed the benefits of having full-time faculty educating college students: full-time faculty bring a “lifetime of teaching experience and research experience” to the classroom.

According to the FIU admissions website, the faculty to student ratio is 18 to 1. A full breakdown of the number of instructors, adjuncts and full-time faculty hired since the SACS recommendation were not available as of press time.

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WORLD NEWS

China executes 4 foreigners over Mekong murders

China executed four foreigners on Friday for killing 13 Chinese sailors in an attack on the Mekong River, following a live nationwide broadcast showing them being led to their deaths that harkened back to the mass public execution rallies of past years.

The attack on the sailors on the Mekong highlighted drug smuggling and extortion rackets along the vital waterway and led to a major expansion of Chinese police powers in the region.

Accused ringleader Naw Kham and accomplices Hsang Kham, Yi Lai, and Zha Xiha were found guilty of the killings. The four are of Myanmar, Thai, Laotian, and unknown nationality.

Kenya’s police are key for peaceful vote on Monday

One of Kenya’s most vilified institutions — its police force — will be in the spotlight next week during its efforts to prevent the same type of post-election bloodbath that Kenya suffered during its last presidential election.

Kenya on Monday holds its first presidential vote since the 2007 election devolved into tribal violence that killed more than 1,000 people. At least 405 of those people were killed by police when citizens took to the streets to protest a flawed election because they did not trust the judiciary to fairly resolve problems. Kenya has since revamped its judiciary, and in December a new inspector general of police was appointed — David Kimaiyo.

Tobacco cuisine on display at Cuba Cigar Festival

Tobacco: It’s what’s for dinner.

A team of Croatian chefs whipped up a pungent meal Thursday, infusing the flavor of the tobacco leaf synonymous with Cuba into baked stone bass filets, bread and butter, a rich demi-glace sauce, even ice cream. The result was a tangy heat that one taster likened to ancho chili powder, and a powerful finish with all the nicotine kick of a chubby Montecristo cigar. “Wow, buzz city!” said Gary Heathcott, a public relations worker from Little Rock, Arkansas, who also writes for Smoke magazine.

For more world news, check out www.FIUSM.com.

Singing the night away



CARL-FREDERICK FRANCOIS/THE BEACON

On Wednesday, Feb. 27, Mara Lagitana and Manuel Ipanez came from Spain to the Frost Museum to perform their Flamenco routine and share with students some information about traditional Spanish culture.

Florida man swallowed by sinkhole under bedroom

CHRIS O’ MEARA AND
TAMARA LUSH
AP Staff

A huge sinkhole about 30 feet across opened up under a man’s bedroom and swallowed him, taking all of the furniture too.

Jeff Bush, 37, was feared dead after the floor gave way Thursday night. As he screamed for help, his brother Jeremy Bush jumped into the hole to try to help, but couldn’t see him and had to be rescued himself.

With the earth still crumbling, a sheriff’s deputy reached out his hand and pulled Jeremy Bush, 36, to safety.

“The floor was still

giving in and the dirt was still going down, but I didn’t care. I wanted to save my brother,” Jeremy Bush said through tears Friday as he stood in a neighbor’s yard. “But I just couldn’t do nothing.”

The only thing sticking out of the hole was a small corner of a bed’s box spring. Cables from a television led down into the hole, but the TV set, along with a dresser, was nowhere to be seen.

Officials lowered equipment into the sinkhole but didn’t see any sign of life.

Jeremy Bush said it took him only seconds to get to his brother’s room about 11 p.m. Thursday. He had just knocked on his brother’s bedroom door, telling him they weren’t working Friday. The brothers were employed by the Transportation Department and picked up trash along interstates and roads.

“I went in my bedroom, heard a loud crash, ran in that direction,” he said. “I was getting ready to run into the room and I almost

fell into the hole. I jumped into the hole and started digging for me. I started screaming for him.”

Engineers worked to determine the size of the sinkhole. At the surface, officials estimated it was about 30 feet across. Below the surface, officials believed it was 100 feet wide.

The state is especially prone to sinkholes because underneath the ground is limestone, a porous rock that easily dissolves in water, sometimes forming a hole in the earth.

From the outside of the small, sky blue house, nothing appeared wrong. There wear no cracks and the only sign something was amiss was the yellow caution tape circling the house.

There were six people at the home when it collapsed, including Jeremy Bush’s wife and his 2-year-old daughter.

“It was something you would see in a movie. You wouldn’t, in your wildest dreams, you wouldn’t think

anything like that could happen, especially here,” he said.

Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Deputy Douglas Duvall rescued Jeremy Bush.

“I reached down and was able to actually able to get him by his hand and pull him out of the hole. The hole was collapsing. At that time, we left the house,” Duvall said.

Sheriff’s office spokesman Larry McKinnon said authorities asked sinkhole and engineering experts to help with the recovery effort, and they were using equipment to see if the ground can support the weight of heavy machinery that was needed.

“We put engineering equipment into the sinkhole and didn’t see anything compatible with life,” Hillsborough County Fire Rescue spokeswoman Jessica Damico said. “The entire house is on the sinkhole.”

Neighbors on both sides of the home have been evacuated.

THE BEACON

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A concert lover's quiet observations

JUNETTE REYES
Staff Writer

Within any given year, I try to attend as many concerts as I can. Sometimes this is hard to do because of financial issues or the phenomenon that almost every band worth seeing has a habit of avoiding Miami. But for the most part, I manage to attend at least one to three a year, sometimes even concerts offered here at FIU by the Student Programming Council.

The upcoming Uproar concert featuring 3OH!3 and Trey Songz on April 5th, organized by the Student Programming Council, has got me reminiscing on some of the amazing experiences I have had at pasts concerts and some experiences I'd much rather forget.

Besides the obvious enjoyment of the bands and live music, which often brings me a feeling of euphoria, the idea of experiencing a sense of unity with my fellow fans transcends the moment to another level.

My neighbors in the crowd are usually fantastic, which only makes the experience all the better, however, there are times when things turn sour to the point of almost ruining the moment.

Sometimes, people need to develop a sense of concert etiquette so as not to lessen the enjoyment of others.

I avoid this most of the time or at the very least, I can still enjoy my time at concerts in spite of such issues.

One of my biggest peeves is with the giants who have a habit of standing

in front of me. I wouldn't say that I am unusually short but I always seem to get stuck with that person who's just tall enough to block my view of the stage.

I do not find it a problem, of course, when the person was already there to begin with; I understand and appreciate the idea of "first come, first served."

In fact, were it up to me, no concert would ever have assigned seating and simply a General Admission area; it sucked in school and sucks even more in concerts, so I appreciate concerts like the Black Keys, Grace Potter and the Nocturnals, and the SPC-organized Flo Rida and Far East Movement concert, which were all GA.

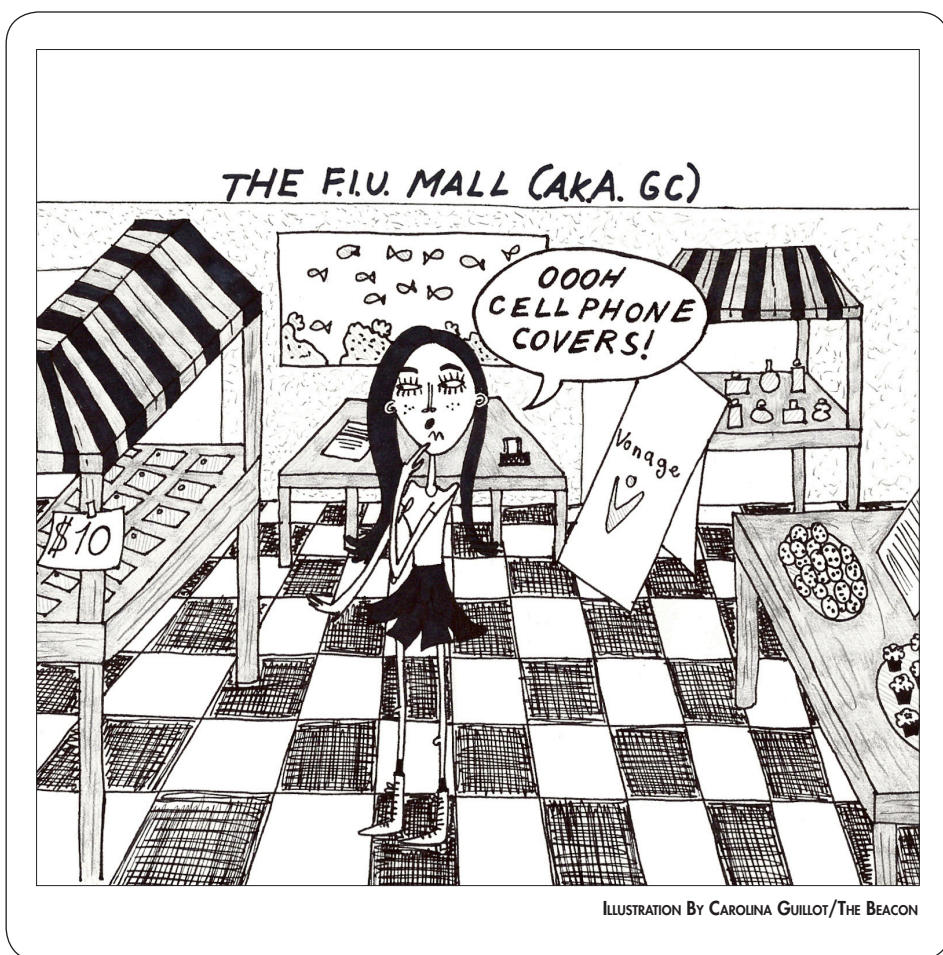
Actually, I haven't had much of a problem at the SPC concerts, with the small exception of the shovers.

My real issue is with the sly ones, the people who push their way into spots that are clearly already taken, and then act like all is alright.

Public relations student Brooke Englert said she's been to more than three FIU concerts and always enjoys her time. At some concerts there was some issues with space and a few people shoving, but added that it never ruined her time.

For me, it was most notable at the Grace Potter and the Nocturnals concert I recently attended, where group after group pushed their way forward without any concern for others. Luckily, I managed to somewhat hold my ground, although I did get slightly relocated.

I understand, it is a part of the GA



experience but it does not hurt to be polite, even if just a little.

Another issue that really concerns me is the consumption of alcohol at concerts. I realize that some people associate this with a good time but not everyone has the friendliest of reactions after drinking. Besides that, I have never really understood the point of distorting the music but that may be because I'm still only 20.

This won't be a problem at SPC-organized concerts, however, since alcohol is not served.

One guy beside me at a recent concert I attended got a bit out of hand with those around him, including me. He eventually

backed away, but at least I got a "licking the bass" moment with a complete stranger out of it like Paul Rudd and Jason Segel had in I Love You Man, even if it was a bit awkwardly hilarious.

Generally, I do not let these things ruin my time at concerts. It is not difficult for me to be easy going with whatever happens most of the time. I just wish people would be the slightest bit aware of those around them. It is a unified experience, after all.

Take this into consideration the next time you find yourself at a concert.

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Finding our voice: FIU's new film festivals

MICHAEL BAISDEN
Opinion Editor

As Miami Film Month gets underway, I'm excited to see that our university is finally getting in on the action.

Not only has a group of students created the Film Initiative: Underground, but later this month FIU will premiere their first Media Arts Festival.

I heard about Underground last December from a friend who's a theatre major and I went on their Facebook page right away to see how I could get involved.

Unfortunately my swarm of classes drowned me in so much work, so I have yet to go to one of their events. But as I read through a recent Beacon article, I was excited to see that this group of motivated young people is so dedicated that they've put together FIU's first film festival for University students.

On April 2 through April 4 people will be able to watch the

submitted films.

The Underground group is showing initiative and also offering a platform for other students to show their creative genius. Which I believe, is the driving force in the film, and any creative, industry.

Another milestone for FIU is the premiere of their Media Arts Festival.

The theme for the festival is "Only in Miami...", where over 20 applicants submitted visual snapshots of something culturally vibrant and lively, and uniquely Miami.

Submissions closed Feb. 28, but was open to students, faculty, FIU alumni and community members. The winners of the FIU Media Arts Festival will be presented at the Miami Beach Urban Studio, 420 Lincoln Road, on March 26.

I am proud to see that FIU has taken this step into visual arts. It's clear that even news media is becoming more visual. There's definitely a fast-paced integration happening.

Perhaps the best film program this University can hope for is one established by students for students.

"A lot of students want to be journalists but if they had a film class it would take their journalistic style to a whole new level," said senior journalism student Brittany Valdes.

The New York Times is making animated videos for opinion columns and their documentary team is growing quickly.

Perhaps if the popularity of both festivals grabs enough interest among students and the public,

FIU would consider starting a film program.

What we do have at the University is a Film Studies Certificate Program, taught by its director, Professor Barbara Weitz. This program has been available for over 10 years now.

I was kind of disappointed to know that this course was offered, yet no one really talked about it, and very few students know about it. I

understand there's no official track for film, but I think it could be more widely publicized for students who may just be a little curious.

After a search on FIU's course catalog website, I found six more film courses. When I spoke with the Theatre, Journalism and English departments, very few were aware that there was more than one or two courses in film.

But maybe it's a little too optimistic to think FIU would consider a new school. The University is undergoing a lot of construction and reconstruction, building on already established programs. Perhaps the best film program this University can hope for is, as we're seeing, one established by students for students.

The Underground group exemplifies the fact that changes start with a simple idea, and then come into fruition through collaboration with other passionate people to get something done and make a mark.

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ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Elena Kurstin, donator of the Cuban Memorabilia Collection located on the second floor of the Green Library (center), overlooks the exhibit and shares the wealth of Cuban culture with others.

Cuba’s tourist history comes to life

NATALIE MONTANER
Staff Writer

Cuba is often a melancholic subject in the hearts of many Miami residents, including some faculty and even students at the University.

By donating her private collection to the University, Elena Kurstin, who is responsible for collecting the pieces in the Elena Kurstin Cuban Memorabilia Collection, is helping to bring life and honor to what was once a tropical paradise for tourists and home to many of our fellow Miamians as well.

With the decaying economy of this communist nation and the struggle for cash growing steadily, Cubans began to sell off this memorabilia during the 90s.

The U.S. trade embargo on Cuba heavily limits and restricts the exchange of goods; therefore, the exact process

Cuban memorabilia brings nostalgia to FIU

of how Elena Kurstin was able to acquire her collection through eBay and at the Miami International book fair is a bit hazy.

It seems very likely that Cubans sold these items privately to dealers in other countries first, which in turn made them accessible to the U.S. population and available for purchase.

Vintage pieces of maps, postcards, magazines, and even travel brochures from Cuba comprise this mini exhibit in the Green Library and bring students an opportunity to view bits of the island’s history. This collection is also one way of remembering the thriving tourist haven that Cuba once

was and the many ways it advertised in order to appeal to foreigners.

No doubt a nostalgic little collection for many Miamians, the collection is something that can be greatly appreciated by many of the students and faculty members that make their way through the library every day.

The varied pieces of memorabilia are being stored in glass casings, making it both easy to view and ensuring its preservation in the populous campus spot. Hanging against the walls are also some framed travel posters.

The Elena Kurstin Cuban Memorabilia Collection is on display through mid-March on the second floor of the Steve and Dorothea Green Library at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

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Dean strengthens relationship with Chinese universities

DANIEL URIA
Staff Writer

In January, new Dean of the College of Business David R. Klock accepted an invitation to travel to China in order to meet with FIU’s dual degree partners at Shandong University of Finance and Economics.

During his trip, he also met with other partners: Tianjin University of Commerce, Tianjin Foreign Studies University and Qingdao University.

“I had never been to China before so it was a new experience for me,” said Klock. A part of this new experience included lengthy lunches during which he said, “I discovered there are vegetables I didn’t even know existed. But I tried them and they were good.”

This kind of new experience is what Klock hopes that students both from the University and the Chinese universities can gain from their partnership.

The University’s partnership with Chinese universities involves students from China

coming to finish or complete the entirety of their graduate programs at FIU.

Throughout this period, Klock states these students gain far more than just a formal education.

“The real attraction is that they’re having an opportunity to come to an institution where their students are having the ability to interact with our students that have been brought up in a culture that they’re trying to learn more about.”

This experience is a two-way street for business students who will have to deal with people from all over the globe.

“The most important thing about growing this relationship with students from China is for our students to gain better insights that these are just good people,” said Klock.

University President Mark B. Rosenberg, who travels yearly to China to lead the graduation ceremony for students in Tianjin, also stresses the benefits of this cultural sharing.

“Over the last 10-12 years we’ve been thinking a lot more

“I’m really excited by the initiatives that we have in China because I think it ensures that our students are going to be better prepared for the challenges ahead.”

Mark B. Rosenberg
President
University

and doing a lot more on, and about Asia,” said Rosenberg. “I’m really excited by the initiatives that we have in China because I think it ensures that our students are going to be better prepared for the challenges ahead.”

Apart from simply getting to know the University’s Chinese partners during the trip, Klock also agreed to expand the business program’s partnership with these universities.

“One thing that is going to be happening as a result of these

visits is that we’ve agreed to accept more of their students. Over the next couple of years it could be hundreds of students instead of 40 or 50,” said Klock.

Klock also reached common ground on his interest to have more undergraduate students involved in the program. “While the students are here we need to find more ways to get them involved with our undergraduate students.”

Klock feels that greater integration of undergraduate

students can not only increase their education, but also allow for more cultural immersion.

“One of the things that I learned is that the leadership of those universities would like the students, not just to get the academic knowledge, not just to have classroom activities, but they would like their students to have more interactive kinds of things that are unrelated to the classrooms,” said Klock.

But ultimately, the biggest thing that Klock took away from the trip was the new relationships with FIU’s Chinese partners.

“The word ‘international’ is our middle name, and we take it very seriously here. It’s one of the things that attracted me to this institution,” said Klock.

“Since I hadn’t been there and I’m the new dean, I think it’s very important that you go there and see it and meet the people, interact with the people and establish a relationship. Next time I go I’m visiting a friend, not a stranger.”

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Street style fashions making a comeback

Every season, we flock to fashion magazines, malls and high street store likes Topshop and Forever 21 to find out what's going to be in trend for the next few months.



ASHLEY GARNER

New York Times photographer Bill Cunningham realized in the 1970s that it wasn't what was in the magazines and on the runways that was really being worn in the streets, and thus began his column "On The Street." Scott Schuman of the wildly popular blog, "The Sartorialist," also picked up on this and has been photographing street style and trends for up to eight years now.

If we were to give this street style trend sighting a trial at the University, it would be very easy to say that one trend that has been bombarding everyone's closet is combat boots. They have been seen in black, brown, tan, PVC, rawhide, spikes or no spikes, original Dr. Martens or knock off Steve Maddens. Call them a revival of our 90s grunge

roots, but I say that they never left; we just misplaced them for a moment with UGGs, and what a mistake that was.

It's no surprise that these shoes have become as popular as they are when they're versatile enough to go with any outfit, whether it's your basic jeans and t-shirt or a flouncy sun dress and you want to give it that sweet, but not too sweet vibe.

Alexandria Saunders, junior and art major, who is often seen wearing her black version of combat boots said she loves them so much because "they can literally go with everything; a dress, a pair of jeans, something formal or laid back. I only have them in black but I want to own them in every color."

Another trend that has been seen are backpacks, laptop cases, sweaters, skirts and dresses in tribal print. Ranging from sources like the Aztecs, Mayans and other deep rooted cultures, tribal prints come in a wide variety of colors and designs, making it perfect for masses of people to appreciate this print and not have to worry about meeting a friend with the same exotic shirt on.

I discussed this particular trend influx with Anam



Parpia, junior and public relations major, who said, "I like tribal prints that mean something and have sacred ink, since I'm from Tanzania. I have an appreciation and see the significance in each print or marking."

Not to mention, tribal prints can bring out your wild side when going out to enjoy Miami's nightlife or when

you just want to try something more daring when attending classes for the day. If you're tired of sticking to the mainstream basic colors and want to bring some tribal into your life, check out online sites like Karmaloop or Nasty Gal to find some within your college budget range.

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PHOTOS BY ASHLEY GARNER/THE BEACON

Weinermobile gives alumni chance to work, travel, and play

JESSICA VALERIE RODRIGUEZ
Contributing Writer

Students and alumni can relish opportunities from Oscar Mayer's Weinermobile.

Oscar Mayer, the famous meat and cold cut production company, is well-known for a car that always catches attention. And that's probably because it's a 27-foot long by 11-feet high, hot dog on wheels: the Weinermobile.

Through the Weinermobile, Oscar Mayer promises a development in public relations, consumer promotions and grass-roots marketing for anyone who participates in the Hotdogger program.

The Hotdogger program, designed in 1988, doesn't only give college alumni and students about to graduate the chance to operate the Weinermobile. It also allows students to live abroad as the weiner-shaped vehicle visits cities all over the country.

This past Wednesday, Feb. 27, Miami was one of these cities. More importantly, FIU was their main stop.

Orientations for the hotdogger program were given at the Biscayne Bay campus, and Oscar Mayer's spokespeople explained the opportunities one of the most highly recognized brands in the world has to offer.

University alumna and hotdogger Angela provided details about what a hotdogger's job entails.

A hotdogger's goal and responsibility is to recruit from different colleges around the nation and to be the spokesperson at these events. Although she cannot reveal

the winners, Angela said there are a lot of prospective Oscar Mayer spokespeople at the University.

She admits, "the competition is tough, we can only pick 12 people nationwide and I saw a lot of great candidates here."

Oscar Mayer only accepts 12 out of 1,200 applicants. So if the victory wasn't yours, Angela assures a return to the University next year for a possible second opportunity.

The event was very successful according to this hotdogger, who also hopes the panthers saw the great opportunities the Hotdogger program has to offer.

Angela explained the Weinermobile is like a mobile marketing or public relations firm on wheels. It is a chance to interact with different customers by explaining to them the different Oscar Mayer products. This not only helps the company, but it helps students grow in their prospective fields.

Presentations that the hotdoggers will have to make gives them practice in public speaking, and getting in behind the scenes gives a view into the marketing world.

Spokespeople will be able to speak on Angela's behalf in front of cameras, train, work, and obtain the fun memories from traveling.

Angela and her team are looking for outgoing, independent, trustworthy adventurous, travel lovers for the job.

"You can only imagine all the fun that happens in a hotdog shaped car, that just says it all!" she said.

-life@fiusm.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING 2013

MONDAY, MAR. 4

GREEN GRADUATION PLEDGE TABLING
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WHERE: MMC Barnes & Noble Bookstore

RAY KURZWEIL LECTURE
WHEN: 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC GC Ballrooms

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
WHEN: 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Women's awareness day kick off event with entertainment, workshops, activities, and FREE food.
WHERE: BBC Panther Square

FEDERALIST SOCIETY EVENT UPDATE
WHEN: 12-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC RDB 1000

RPPTL & ACLU PRESENT "LGBT ISSUES IN PROBATE LAW"
WHEN: 12-1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC RDB 2006

TUESDAY, MAR. 5

TINKERING WIRH HUMAN DNA: ARE WE GOING TOO FAR?
WHEN: 6-9 a.m.
WHERE: MMC GC 140

FIU NATURE PRESERVE VOLUNTEER DAY
WHEN: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: No pre-registration is required, simply show up on time and ready to work.
WHERE: FIU Nature Preserve

WELLNESS EXPO 2013
WHEN: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC Graham Ballrooms

GREEN GRADUATION PLEDGE TABLING
WHEN: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC Barnes & Noble Bookstore

BBC MINDFULNESS MEDITATION SESSION
WHEN: 12-1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC Academic 2, Room 246B

CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES: CHAMBER WINDS. WOOD-WIND, BRASS, AND TUBA ENSEMBLES
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Concert Hall, Wertheim Performing Arts Center

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calendar@fiusm.com

Intra-squad tournament reveals optimistic future

DANIEL BREY
Contributing Writer

Those on hand on a chilly March 1 morning witnessed the beginning of a new era.

The inaugural intra-squad tournament marked the first official event in FIU sand volleyball history and the first step into the sand for the FIU sand volleyball season.

“It’s a tradition in the making. It is going to be one day at a time, one week a time,” said FIU sand volleyball Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett. “We are all working hard to be that team that goes to nationals and wins.”

Each serve and kill elicited a spike of excitement within the awed crowd eager to see what the future holds for this new program.

This excitement, however, did not entirely spring from Kate Stepanova’s deadly kills, or even Emily Podschweit’s gravity defying sets; this excitement stemmed from the fact that every individual wearing a FIU blue jersey was part of history in the making.

“It is pretty exciting.



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Kristine Montforte, number 25, watches Bridget Keller dig the ball out and send it back for a point in the sand volleyball team’s first intra-squad match. It’s the first event the team holds as it kicks off its inaugural season.

This is definitely a big deal for me,” Stepanova said. “We are making history by being here and playing on this team.”

“I am so excited,” said Marna Samoday, FIU

sand volleyball player and Ukraine native. “Because this a new program it is so much different than Europe.”

Stepanova and Samoday were the highlight of the

intra-squad tournament effectively using their experience and height to match up against other top FIU dual teams that featured freshman standout Podschweit and junior

Ksenia Sukhareva.

The European duo also seemed extremely fortunate to be playing alongside each other for the upcoming inaugural season.

“You can’t even imagine

how excited I am to play with Kate,” Samoday said. “Playing duals with her makes everything so much easier; it is something I dreamed about.”

Each duals team for the Panthers performed exceptionally well during the tournament, but Buck-Crockett however, views the team’s performance as “by no means the best that we can be.”

“We are still growing. We do not want to peak right now,” Buck-Crockett said. “I feel we are where we are supposed to be.”

Podschweit, the first sand volleyball player in NCAA history to be recruited out of Colorado, was one of many who showed signs of being in midseason form.

She is expected to be one of the team leaders this season as she has been the center of media attention this past offseason because of her high school success.

Personal jitters will not present an issue according to Podschweit, who said that playing alongside the “best of the best” has been beneficial in further

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Walk-ons await chance to join football team tomorrow

RHYS WILLIAMS
Contributing Writer

Athletes who do not receive any scholarship offers to play their respective sport can experience some heartbreak. But that does not stop them from trying.

Tomorrow, March 5, a group of these hopefuls will showcase themselves in front of the football coaching staff on Alfonso Field at FIU Stadium to see if any of them have what it takes to play collegiate Division 1-A football in walk-on tryouts.

“I am all for students coming out and trying to walk-on,” Head Coach Ron Turner said. “I have had a few players in the past walk-on, play, and even earn scholarships. I am glad when they have the ability to be successful at this level.”

Being Turner’s first year here at FIU, this is one of the first big events that he has been in charge of regarding the future of his program here.

“I will be running the tryouts similar to how I have before when I was at San Jose State and Illinois. We will be doing some tests on conditioning and agility of the athletes as well as looking at their height and weight,” Turner said. “Everyone

participating tomorrow has a fair chance at making the team and I am glad students are attempting to come into the program.”

The athletes though, whether they are skilled position players or they play with their hand in the dirt on the offensive or defensive line, will not be able to touch a football during the tryout, as per the NCAA rules. Turner did not know at the time of publishing when those who make the team will be notified.

Palmetto Ridge High School in Naples, Fla.

“Walking around campus and working out at the rec center I usually get asked if I am on the team, or if I just play football in general at least once a day,” Azu said. “I just simply tell them that I am trying to be or I hope I can be after the walk-on tryouts. I am not going to say more than that to them until I know what is going to happen for absolute sure.”

Even with only one year of

“I have this drive though, and I won’t stop until I know I have exhausted all of my strength into putting 110 percent into what I am choosing to do, and that is football.”

Michael Azu
Walk-on hopeful

One current Panther trying to play next season is Michael Azu, who stands 6’ 3” tall, and weighs in at 331 pounds.

Azu is a freshman and majoring in electrical engineering after coming here from

high school football, Azu was a sought after asset with his skills at both offensive guard and defensive tackle.

Azu received walk-on and preferred walk-on offers from more than 15 schools, including

prestigious programs like Florida State University and the University of Wisconsin. Why did he choose to come to FIU then?

“My parents didn’t and still don’t want me to play football. They didn’t want me to play in high school which is why I only got to play in my senior year. They almost kept me out of my first game by trying to get me off of the team,” said Azu. “I have this drive though, and I won’t stop until I know I have exhausted all of my strength into putting 110 percent into what I am choosing to do, and that is football.”

Size doesn’t matter unless you can back it up with strength, though. Azu squats more than 500, bench presses 360, and can max out with a whopping 765 pounds on the leg press machine.

Another young man trying out is sophomore broadcast journalism major Ryan Halter, a kicker and punter, who also is a transfer from Ave Maria University in Naples, Fla.

“I left there (Ave Maria University) for a few reasons. I didn’t like the direction that the football program was taking, the school academically didn’t have the major that I wanted to pursue and I knew that I wanted to chal-

lenge myself at the D-1 level,” Halter said. “The school overall just wasn’t a good fit for me as both a person and as a player.”

Halter received either scholarship or preferred walk-on offers from 14 schools including some programs like Florida Atlantic University and Hampton University in Virginia. He was also in talks this past fall with a member of the Cristobal staff about walking on to the team.

“I may only be 5’ 8” tall and only weigh 180 pounds, but I can still compete with the big boys,” Halter said.

Going into tomorrow, Turner is looking at what the athletes do in the present and how they handle themselves. He knows that some of them may have been decent players in the past, but tomorrow is what matters.

“What the athletes do tomorrow at the tryouts is the key. We are going to look more into their current level of play and athletic ability, and less off of past experiences and walk-on or preferred walk-on offers, because what they do out on the field now is what we are going to base our judgment off of,” Turner said.

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Table tennis more than just a leisurely activity

JOLSON DIAZ
Contributing Writer

It's not too well-known, but hidden in the Graham Center game room is a ping pong table used frequently by a team in students that can lay claim to being the best in the sport in FIU.

Not only is it used for enjoyment among friends and classmates, table tennis at FIU is also known for competing nationwide in the Association of College Union International Region 6 Tournament.

Sanyo Mathews, manager of the game room and coach of the ACUI FIU table tennis team gave the players the chance to compete in the ACUI tournament. Mathews was originally the associate director of the Information Technology department at FIU, but after the original manager of the game room resigned, Mathew's boss thought he would be a perfect fit.

"I really enjoy it at the game room. It takes me away from my usual day to day routine," Mathews said. "I'm usually behind the scenes doing IT work but my boss saw more in me and she wanted me to utilize myself outside the scope of just IT."

Mathews, who managed the game room for just under a year, was able to do just that. Using the TV screens around GC to advertise the ACUI table tennis team tryouts, about 100 people showed up.

Mathews held tryouts all throughout September, October and November 2012, attempting

to build a well-rounded team. Mathews also has the upper hand in preparing for the tournament; in 2001, he played in the ACUI table tennis team for Southern Illinois University.

In order to compete in the ACUI tournament, a group of four students are required; three males and one female. Marcos Garcia, Zhenfeng Liu, Gino Bernasconi and his sister Daniela Bernasconi were all chosen as Mathews gathered up the team and headed to Atlanta to compete in the regional tournaments.

Seven schools including the University of Miami and Florida State University showed up.

From FIU, Daniela Bernasconi and Gino Bernasconi as well as Garcia acquired top seed and made it to nationals, allowing them to bring home gold medals.

"Knowing that FIU Student Affairs and the Graham Center had put their trust in me to portray the values and sportsmanship that the school stands for was nothing short of amazing," Gino Bernasconi said. "Representing FIU at the ACUI Regional Tournament was unbelievable and I won't forget how great it felt to know I'm playing for something greater than myself."

FIU bringing home gold did not hide the fact that money is the biggest obstacle for the team; so fundraising proves to be vital.

GC is sponsoring table tennis to fundraise for uniforms and bring more awareness. One fundraising technique they use is putting a table tennis machine in the GC pit that lets you practice



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Table tennis team member Daniella Bernasconi demonstrates how to train with the table tennis machine in GC while Marcos Garcia, right, gives her pointers. The team charged \$1 to have a round with the machine to fundraise for their trip to nationals.

your racket handling skills for just one dollar. Mathews plans to hold car washes as well as raffles to continue fundraising for the team.

Reaching out to the Biscayne Bay Campus is another goal that Mathews plans to accomplish. By using the TVs in the Wolfe Center to broadcast table tennis, he hopes to form a unity between the two campuses.

"My passion is to represent

FIU as well as I possibly can," Mathews said. "I felt that when we went to compete at first I didn't reach out to BBC as well as I should have, so I want to try and bring both campuses together."

The FIU table tennis team hopes to come back strong for the upcoming 2013 ACUI tournament and the players are more than excited to show off their panther pride and represent the

University.

"I am looking forward to continuing working with such great people and winning many other gold medals for our university," Daniela Bernasconi said. "There is no greater feeling than knowing you are able to give back to the university that has given you more than you could have ever hoped for."

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Panthers to play first two matches this weekend

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improving her game.

Podschweit also noted that players such as Samoday and Stepanova, were "potential NCAA National Champions," and that their experience and wisdom have made her transition from high school to college that much better.

Apart from tournament competition, the weather was a hassle throughout the tournament as spectators rushed to their vehicles in search for warmer attire to shield themselves from the teeth-chattering morning temperatures.

The FIU sand volleyball players, wearing less than warming attire, seemed to be relatively unshaken by the weather.

"We are used to playing in different weather conditions," Stepanova said. "This weather is nice compared to what we have played through."

This issue is relevant not simply in regards to last week's competition, but what is expected during their first action on March 8 against Grand Canyon University. The team then plays Pepperdine on March 9.

The conditions expected for the first serve of the inaugural season, which kicks off in Los Angeles is predicted to be in the low to mid-sixties with winds up to seven miles per hour.

These conditions will no doubt test the Panthers ability to adapt to their environment.

"I have spent a lot of time in LA," Podschweit said. "All we have to remember is how to play in the wind because it will no doubt be awful. We just have to focus on keeping the ball low and fast in order to be successful."

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Leaving NKorea, Rodman calls Kims 'great leaders'

AP STAFF

Ending his unexpected round of basketball diplomacy in North Korea on Friday, ex-NBA star Dennis Rodman called leader Kim Jong Un an "awesome guy" and said his father and grandfather were "great leaders."

Rodman, the highest-profile American to meet Kim since he inherited power from father Kim Jong Il in 2011, watched a basketball game with the authoritarian leader Thursday and later drank and dined on sushi with him.

At Pyongyang's Sunan airport on his way to Beijing, Rodman said it was "amazing" that the North Koreans were "so honest." He added that Kim Jong Il and Kim Il Sung, North Korea's founder, "were great leaders."

"He's proud, his country likes him — not like him, love him, love him," Rodman said of Kim Jong Un. "Guess what, I love him. The guy's really awesome."

At Beijing's airport, Rodman pushed past waiting journalists without saying anything.

Rodman's visit to North Korea began Monday and took place amid tension between Washington and Pyongyang. North Korea conducted

an underground nuclear test just two weeks ago, making clear the provocative act was a warning to the United States to drop what it considers a "hostile" policy toward the North.

Duffy said he invited Kim to visit the United States, a proposal met with hearty laughter from the North Korean leader.

Kim said he hoped sports exchanges would promote "mutual understanding between the people of the two countries," the official Korean Central News Agency said.

North Korea and the U.S. fought on opposite sides of the three-year Korean War, which ended in a truce in 1953. The foes never signed a peace treaty, and do not have diplomatic relations.

Rodman's trip is the second attention-grabbing American visit this year to North Korea. Google's executive chairman, Eric Schmidt, made a four-day trip in January to Pyongyang, but did not meet the North Korean leader.

The Obama administration had frowned on the trip by Schmidt, who was accompanied by former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, but has avoided criticizing Rodman's outing, saying it's about sports.

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New advisers join the SJMC and CSHTM

STEPHANIE MASON
Staff Writer

In an attempt to better meet the needs of students, the addition of advisers is a sought out remedy in both the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management as well as in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Starting fall 2011, the SJMC hired Paige Johnson, originally as a bridge adviser for undergraduate students. Johnson has now moved more towards the position of an academic adviser for all students in the SJMC.

The CSHTM will also be opening two new positions for advisers. One of the positions is waiting to be filled and the other will open in April, at the end of the 2013 spring semester.

Both positions are called dual report, which means the hired advisers will report half to CSHTM and half to the office of undergraduate education.

“One of the things is that when we only had two advisers, we didn’t have the luxury of having somebody at MMC, and even though it’s a smaller percentage of our students, there are students who are in our major who take their courses at MMC,” said Diann Newman, assistant dean for student services in the CSHTM. “They just didn’t have representation and so now we were able to, because of this additional position, have somebody there full time that not only works to advise them but works to engage to our students.”

Another change affecting advising university-wide, according to Amy Donaldson,

academic adviser for the SJMC, is the assignment of students to a specific adviser within their school known as their e-adviser.

According to Johnson, freshman and transfer students coming in fall and summer 2012 in the SJMC were assigned e-advisers once they started and all other continuing students were assigned their adviser Feb 20.

Donaldson said the SJMC is in need of a new adviser.

“I think that’s a great idea, only because in high school that’s how it was for me and I got to build a relationship with the counselor and she knew what I was going through, she knew me, and she had my best interest in mind,” said Vanessa Rodriguez, senior in journalism.

Rodriguez, said she has had a positive experience with advising in the SJMC, but towards the end however it could still use some improvements.

“I hope advising really improves because it’s a huge part of your college career and sometimes, because of lack of advisement or just bad advisement, a lot of people fall behind and they have a huge responsibility on their shoulders.”

Jose Gomez, junior in digital media studies, said he would like for advising to be more personal.

“It’s a little frustrating at times when you seek that role model within a career and you can’t find it within an adviser,” he said.

Gomez also said he has seen three advisers in the SJMC so far and they have been great help.

“Strategically we want to make sure that students have greater access to information that can

Testing the waters



SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

On March 1, Captain Robert Weisman, a professor for a motorboat operations certification course, gives his students a practice test in four different exercises: written exam, slow maneuvering, high speed maneuvering and dock and trail. The students are split into groups and tested on specific techniques with several of the captains. Captain Andre Daniels, a United States Geological Survey-Biological Resources Division fishery biologist, takes students out to practice their ability to smoothly dock the boat.

help them in making right decisions about the courses that they’re taking and their progression through their degree program so they can graduate on time,” said Mike Hampton, CSHTM dean on the addition of two new advisers.

Hampton said they prefer candidates who are hospitality or tourism oriented so that they can better assist students.

Fahad Khan, junior in hospitality management, said his experience with advising in the CSHTM has been “pretty good” overall. Khan does feel that an addition of advisers is necessary due to the large amount of traffic with students seeking advisement when a new semester begins.

Khan said he disagrees with the decision to assign each student to a specific adviser.

“[It] should be the students who pick the advisers,” Khan said.

Khan also feels that qualifications for the new advisers in the CSHTM should include having previous experience in the hospitality industry or from the University.

Another student in the CSHTM, graduate student Brent Howard, said his experience with advising has been really great at times and not helpful at others depending on the adviser.

On the assignment of e-advisers, Howard said, “I think it’s a lot better; it’s a lot more personalized experience.”

“I just think everyone really needs to be on the same page. Along with any business it’s the same, but especially because as students you know you’re really looking up to these people to help you with questions that you don’t know how to answer,” said Howard.

Donaldson said her role as an adviser can be very rewarding however,

“It’s a 50/50 relationship,” Donaldson said. “The student has to be just as proactive as we are... We have to meet them halfway, they have to meet us halfway; if not it’s not going to work.”

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MAST Academy expansion plan may reach BBC

VINSON PRESSLY
Contributing Writer

Students at the Biscayne Bay Campus may be sharing their campus with more high school students.

There are discussions being held about the Maritime and Science Technology Academy being brought to BBC in order to give high school students who are taking dual enrollment courses at MAST the opportunity to experience college life.

“Once in place, we will have a significant dual enrollment program whereby students from MAST can walk over to attend FIU and earn college credits while still in high school with Miami-Dade public schools covering the cost of the college credits,” said Steven Moll, vice provost for BBC.

Moll also went on to say “if [expansion

plans] go through, MAST will educate students from eighth through 12th grade. This will enable FIU and Miami-Dade public schools to work more synergistically to create a better educational partnership for the citizens of Miami-Dade County.”

Some students see the positive outcome from the relationship between the University and the magnet school.

“I’m for it for educational purposes. Kids [will] be exposed to the college life and it will bring more business to the bookstore and café,” said Malynda Point du Jour, junior nursing major who has attended classes at BBC for the past two years.

While some students see the potential benefits of expanding MAST Academy to BBC, others have concerns and question if it’s a good idea.

Henry Zelaya, senior biology major believes that bringing MAST academy students to BBC would be too much considering that students from Alonzo & Tracy Mourning Senior High School already come to BBC for swimming practice.

“We already have kids running around in their speedos,” Zelaya said. “It would be too many kids.”

Although Zelaya is comfortable with students taking dual enrollment courses, he is not okay with intermixing high school and college students in the same environment.

“I wouldn’t mind signing a petition against [the expansion plans],” Zelaya said.

Kaytien Franco, public relations assistant for Campus Life BBC, does not think this is a good idea and is concerned that

blending high school and college students on the same campus may be a safety issue.

Although Franco, like Zelaya, is in favor of “bright, smart and hard-working” students taking college level courses, she expressed discomfort at having high school and college students together on the same campus.

Despite the mixed opinions, one thing must be noted: the expansion plans have not been determined and decided on yet.

“The MAST Academy at BBC expansion is still in the process of negotiation, so nothing is final,” said Moll.

However, Moll is in favor of this expansion.

“This partnership should assist FIU in recruiting top local student[s] to finish their degrees at FIU,” Moll said.

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