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The Beacon, March 27, 2013

Florida International University

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WHAT A BEACH

New court design coming to FIU



PHOTO COURTESY OF FIU ATHLETICS

This is the proposed plan that could be painted onto the U.S. Century Bank Arena court for the upcoming 2013-2014 season. Also in the plan is for both the men's and women's basketball teams to get new uniforms.

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Big things are awaiting FIU as the school joins Conference USA later this year.

With a winning season in his first year, Head Coach Richard Pitino brought the Panthers into the limelight by leading the team to a trip to the Sun Belt Conference championships for the first time in school history and an 18-14 record, and 11-9 in conference.

Going into a new conference, the Athletics department is looking at it like getting a new house; the program is

looking to put a nicely redone hardwood floor down at the U.S. Century Bank Arena. The one catch with the update is that the Athletics department will be putting a painted design on the floor. The incoming court design features a sandy beach, where the shadows of palm trees are visible with a small portion of the breaking waves visible near one of the sidelines.

Funding for the new court will come from one or more sponsors. It was not released at the time of publishing as to who the sponsor(s) will be because the deal has not been

agreed upon. Because the renovation is in the athletic budget, no student fees will pay for either the redoing or painting of the court, said Pete Garcia, athletics director of FIU. Garcia confirmed The Huffington Post's figure that the project will cost under \$1 million.

The hopes for the new court would be to draw not only new men's and women's basketball players to the University, but also keep fans coming to the games because of its South Florida theme.

Pitino released two of the design options via his twitter

account. Since that tweet, several major media outlets have picked up on the story.

"This has become a national story and we definitely weren't expecting that," Garcia said. "We have to redo the court anyway. I just thought of how I could help the coaches in reference to recruiting and we are going to be on TV a lot in the next few years, such as Louisville coming here next year, also we are trying to showcase Coley as she returns for her senior year campaign."

SEE BASKETBALL, PAGE 7

Students may soon have access to cheaper cellphone services

JESSICA MESZAROS
Contributing Writer

Students are overwhelmed with several payments including tuition, textbooks, food and gas, but may be catching a break with their cell phone bills in the future.

The White House and the Federal Communications Commission are urging Congress to overturn the law that does not allow people to use a cell phone which does not belong to their contracted service carrier.

For student consumers, this could lead to cheaper cell phones due to the competition over price after the initial service contract has been fulfilled. Each

cell phone company would no longer be able to monopolize the price of their cell phones because they would be forced to compete with other service carriers and online cell phone sellers.

The Copyright Office of the Library of Congress ruled last year to open the software that restricts most phones from working on another service carrier's network, according to The New York Times.

However, not all students are aware that there is an illegal process to maneuver around the software placed by Congress.

Jonathan Felix is a junior majoring in information technology. He said that the process of illegally activating a phone

which does not belong to his carrier is not new to him. He has an Evo from Sprint, but uses the MetroPCS service carrier.

"You buy the phone from anywhere online or a different company, and there's a friend of mine that actually does it," said Felix. "He does some kind of, like, flashing to it and then you can use it on any carrier that you desire."

He said that this process is completely out of the radar of his service carrier. MetroPCS is under the impression that his phone came from their specific stock. Felix feels that people should be able to purchase cell phones from anywhere and have them activated to any service carrier

SEE CELLPHONE, PAGE 2

FIU and XSEDE to host engineering workshops

MARIA BRITOS
Contributing Writer

Researchers, scientists and even faculty and students at the University will have the opportunity to learn and accelerate their research with the Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment. Funded by the National Science Foundation, XSEDE is a virtual system of High Performance Computing that scientists and researchers use to share and have access to data, computing resources and expertise.

One of XSEDE's goals is to promote the use of High Performance Computer, or super-computing, by offering regional workshops and outreach programs. The University, alongside the Sunshine State Education and Research Computing Alliance, has partnered with XSEDE to co-host a series of computational workshops on campus.

XSEDE's target audience includes faculty and students in science, engineering or computer science disciplines that are interested in using computing power to analysis of large amounts of data or have a need to use large amounts of computer assisted processing to solve complex problem.

"I have never been to any of the workshops but I am really interested in it," said Miguel Macias, freshman computer science major. "I know that part of being a scientist is dedicated to sharing ideas so learning about this will definitely benefit us."

Mike Kirgan, associate director of University Technology Services, said learning about and having access to High Performance Computing both at the campus level, through the Division of Information Technology's Instructional and Research Computing Center and through offerings from XSEDE, helps keep the University's faculty and students competitive at the national level in the areas of research and academic study.

"With this type of technology being more commonly required in so many disciplines, it is becoming increasingly important that we provide access to computational computing here at FIU," said Kirgan. "So our student's first experience with them are not when they get their first job."

The workshop is open to students of all majors. However, Kirgan said science, engineering and mathematics majors will most benefit from it since they will be using this type of resource during their careers.

"XSEDE is one of the biggest providers of this type of technology on a national level, so by having it here at FIU, it gives us a chance to see some of the most advanced computational technologies out there and it will certainly help us in research and academics methods," said Kirgan.

The workshop will be held on April 4 and April 5 at the College of Business Complex, free to faculty and students. The topics that will be offered during the workshop will be customized based on participants' requests when they register through the email that was sent out by the Division of Information Technology. Some examples, according to Kirgan, already requested include parallel computing, modeling and simulation.

-news@fiusm.com

WORLD NEWS

US military says Guantanamo hunger strike edges up

The U.S. military says a hunger strike at the Guantanamo Bay prison has grown to include at least 28 prisoners.

A prison spokesman says 28 men held at the U.S. base in Cuba meet the military’s definition of a hunger striker. Navy Capt. Robert Durand said Monday that 10 of those men are being force-fed liquid nutrients to prevent dangerous weight loss. Three hunger strikers are at the hospital being treated for dehydration.

Ukrainian capital paralyzed by snowstorm

The city of Kiev has declared a state of emergency after the Ukrainian capital was paralyzed by an unprecedented snowstorm that has stalled car, railway and air traffic.

The city was hit by about 50 centimeters (20 inches) of snow in the past day, more than it usually receives per month during this season.

Tractors, armored vehicles and other heavy equipment were dispatched Saturday to clear roads blocked by kilometers-long traffic jams. Desperate to get home, some Kiev drivers simply abandoned their stalled cars on the roads and set out on foot.

US hands prison over to Afghans

The U.S. military gave control of its last detention facility in Afghanistan to Kabul on Monday, a year after the two sides initially agreed on the transfer.

The handover of Parwan Detention Facility ends a bitter chapter in American relations with Afghanistan’s mercurial president, Hamid Karzai, who demanded control of the prison as a matter of national sovereignty.

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

Jailbreaking phones could be legalized

CELLPHONE, PAGE 1

they please.

Under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, unlocking a cell phone could lead to a \$500,000 fine and five years in prison.

The Library of Congress stated, according to The New York Times, that it agreed with the Obama administration that the issue of whether consumers should be able to unlock their phones “has implications for telecommunications policy” and that it should be reviewed by Congress and the administration.

Faisal Kaleem, professor of electrical and computer

engineering, did not respond to a scheduled phone interview with Student Media to discuss the issue.

Tiara Cruz, psychology junior, wants to change her service carrier to Sprint, but has to pay a penalty fee of about \$300 to do so. She has a T-Mobile Gravity phone and dislikes the T-Mobile service because of poor signal quality. Cruz thinks that the White House and FCC request for phones to be unlocked is a good decision.

“I think that’s going to be better for me because I can use my cell phone and I don’t have to pay to have another one,” said Cruz.

-news@fiusm.com

Russia may help Cyprus only after its deal with EU

AP STAFF

Moscow will help Cyprus out financially only if the country’s new money-raising measures get the backing of the European Union, Russia’s prime minister said Friday.

Dmitry Medvedev said Russia “hasn’t closed the door, hasn’t said ‘no’” to Cyprus, but will discuss specific assistance to Cyprus only after it reaches a deal with the EU.

“We will only be ready to discuss various ways of support for that state after the EU nations and Cyprus work out a final settlement,” Medvedev told a news conference after talks with the European Commission President

Jose Manuel Barroso. “We aren’t indifferent about it, but the main thing is that this decision is efficient and helps Cyprus find a way out of the very difficult situation it has found itself in.”

Cypriot authorities are putting the final touches to a plan they hope will convince international lenders, including its European partners, to provide bailout money to avoid a bankruptcy within days.

Cyprus has until Monday to secure a deal

after the European Central Bank warned it would stop providing the country’s banks with liquidity on that day if no package is agreed.

Medvedev acknowledged that Russia has “understandable economic interests” in Cyprus.

Cypriot banks are awash with deposits from Russian companies and individuals and are thought to total around 20 billion euros (\$25.8 billion), or about a third of the total.

Medvedev’s comments

came after Cyprus’ finance minister left the Russian capital without a hoped-for deal.

Russia’s Finance Minister Anton Siluanov said Friday, according to Russian newswires, that the Cypriots failed to convince potential investors to buy into a state-owned firm managing revenue from the island’s newfound offshore gas.

He said Russian bankers equally showed no interests to Cyprus’ offer of stakes in some of its banks.



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Congratulates Our Students!

First Annual Life Sciences South Florida STEM Research Symposium

1st Place Oral Presentation Winner
Ruslan Garcia

"Endothelin 3 increases the angiogenic response of tumors in a mouse model of melanoma"
(with Dr. Lidia Kos and Nikeisha Chin, Biological Sciences)

2nd Place Oral Presentation Winner
Alex Perez

"Evaluating Temporal Dynamics of Carbon Production for the Genus Halimeda in a Karstic System" (with Dr. James Fourqurean and Dr. Ligia Collado-Vides, Biological Sciences)

Other FIU Participating Student Researchers

Richard Barrios
Sabrina Schneider
Daniel Pitaluga
Manuel Menoya
Ann Dresher
Daphney Dorcius
Janina Rojas Sanchez
Patricia Rodriguez
Belkis Largaespada
Gabriella Riccio
Helen Molinares
Dalton Steele

Cuban-American Association of Civil Engineers (CAACE) & the Association of Cuban Engineers (ACE) Engineer's Day Gala

ACE FP&L Scholarship &
ACE Noel Betancourt Scholarship
Armando Camacho, Mechanical Engineering Junior

ACE Momentum Consulting Corp. Scholarship
Tatiana Bejarano, Biomedical Engineering
Graduate Student

CAACE Premio Vila
Victoria Zulueta, Civil Engineering Senior

ACE José M. Amèzaga Award
Mr. Guillermo "Willy" Gonzalez,
Mechanical Engineering '79

CAACE Young Engineer of the Year Award
Mr. Nelson Perez-Jacome, Civil Engineering '11

CAACE Luis P. Saenz Engineer of the
Year in Government Award
Mr. Alfred Lurigados, Civil Engineering '96

CAACE Presidential Award
The FIU Student Chapter of CAACE

Changing our behavior to change our health

BRIAN ANDERSON
Contributing Writer

Health is a number one priority for many Americans. One issue of great significance is obesity—especially as it relates to children. According to the American Dietetic Association, 25 percent of children in the US are overweight and 11 percent are obese.

Of equal concern are adolescents. Seventy percent of obese adolescents grow up to be obese adults.

This is a viable public health issue.

To combat the childhood obesity epidemic, first lady Michelle Obama has implemented her “Let’s Move” initiative. Like issues addressed by other first ladies—such as Nancy Reagan’s JUST SAY NO campaign, Ms. Obama is tackling an issue which has reached epidemic proportions.

Through this comprehensive initiative, giving parents helpful information and fostering environments that support health choices target the epidemic.

The 5 pillars of the First Lady’s “Let’s Move” initiative are:

- 1) creating a health start for children
- 2) empowering parents and caregivers
- 3) providing health foods in schools
- 4) improving access to healthy, affordable foods
- 5) increasing physical activity.

From a public health perspective, the root of change is behavior.

If these behaviors are not controlled early, this behavior will continue into adulthood and lead to more serious issues such as hyperglycemia, hypertension, abnormal glucose levels, infertility and other cardiovascular and digestive diseases and complications. For children, psychological issues such as depression are imminent.

Nutrition is a pivotal issue for college-age students as well.

I recall as a freshman at the University of Maryland, I was just another victim of the “freshman 15,” the acronym given to freshmen in college gaining 15 pounds the first year of college.

According to Dr. Fatma Ercanli Huffman of the College of Dietetics and Nutri-

tion in the School of Public Health and Social Work, the effects of obesity on children and adolescents are more devastating due to the incidence of Type II diabetes in this at-risk population.

With regard to college-age students, Dr. Huffman points out sedentary lifestyles and stress as major factors. Consumption of unhealthy foods in the diet such as soft drinks, fast foods and junk foods (candy bars, chips, sugary drinks) also contributes to obesity.

To combat obesity, Dr. Huffman recommends keeping a log of activity and foods eaten on a daily basis. When a balance is kept, a healthy weight can be maintained.

In addition, awareness and education are key components.

According to Dr. Huffman, nutrition education must be core requirements for FIU and other college students.

Dr. Rashida Biggs, a professor in the School of Public Health and Social Work, also agrees.

According to Dr. Biggs, the major issue with college students is a sedentary lifestyle.

She believes portion control and awareness are essential to combat obesity. In addition, more incentive fitness campaigns should be offered and heavily advertised.

For students who are interested in learning more about nutrition, the College of Dietetics and Nutrition offers two courses which are key to learning the foundations of proper nutrition and health: HUN 2000 FOUNDATIONS OF NUTRITION (also meets UCC for science) and HUN 2201 PRINCIPLES OF NUTRITION.

These courses are offered each semester, including nights and summers. These courses have no prerequisite requirements and can be registered by any college student.

Obesity is an important issue, not just for children but also for adults. College students are not exempt either.

In order to combat this issue, proper education and lifestyle changes are a must.

The earlier we start with these lifestyle changes, the healthier our population will be.

-opinion@fiusm.com

Difficult decisions, aligning our own stars

MIGUEL MARTINEZ-VIERA
Contributing Writer

Our relationships throughout our lives, specifically our romantic ones, define us as individuals. Each other human being we choose to engage with romantically, or just sexually, adds a little more to our personal identity, and takes a little of us away with them. This is just a basic fact of how humans work.

But, for now, let’s avoid talk of the purely physical relationships, and focus on the truly romantic. The truly romantic being the ones in which we invest our entire entity and give ourselves up wholly to this other individual because what we feel for them is in fact love. A little heavy, I know. But why bother writing about something fluffier.

Anyway, with the relationships that truly take the strain on, and add some pain to, our heart, come some tough instances where we must test our resolve and analyze our investment. In this particular case, I’m talking about distance.

There is an inherent risk in collegiately started relationships, and that risk comes, if the relationship lasts, at the time of graduation.

After graduation, students have choices. The choices, although more limited now due to the hellish economy those that came before us created, all involve the commencement of your “real life.”

These are not easy choices to make, and many decisions will be quite uncomfortable. Even more so, when you have a loved one you are attached to.

Let’s imagine Boyfriend A, who’s in love with his girlfriend, Girlfriend A.

Now, Boyfriend A and Girlfriend A both attend FIU. BFA and GFA have had a fairytale relationship, they met in astronomy their first year, and their stars aligned.

BFA and GFA understand each other, every little quip, comment or look is easily understood and appreciated by each one, and their time spent together, which is much, is always easy going and comfortable.

Now, BFA is a biology major who wishes to attend medical school after graduation. BFA has been accepted into a wonderful medical school in a major East Coast city, and is super excited.

GFA is a journalism major. BFA and GFA had discussed their future, and GFA was excited to move to that major East Coast city and everything was looking like it would work out wonderfully.

But then, GFA was accepted into an amazing internship with a company located in a major West Coast city. Here is our dilemma.

I’ll end this story at this point, and we can now attempt to address this classic conundrum.

A few solutions come to mind: compromise, a long-distance relationship and

separation.

None of these are ideal, and that’s the point. If any of the solutions were ideal, then this would not be a dilemma, and we would not be having this conversation (well, me talking/writing, and you listening/reading.)

Each option has its pros and cons, but we won’t list them.

I think I’m just pointing out that life kind of, pretty much, isn’t fair.

We believe we can have all of these wonderful things, but in the end, fate, or our choices, or a combination of both, just forks us over. We can all act as if we understand why tough choices have to be made, but – no, fudge that.

Why shouldn’t life be something we can all enjoy, why can’t our aspirations be something we can all achieve and why can’t our deepest desires be the things we can hold on tightest to and only let go of when we want to?

Well, I guess it’s because we all want that. And we can’t all get what we want.

Anyway, I have no answers for you about what to do when you’re in a relationship, and the two of you need to go to separate places. Just have many conversations, and hopefully find a solution that you both feel, if not happy with, comfortable with.

Good luck.

-opinion@fiusm.com

THE BEACON | Editorial

Students with side businesses to pay tuition

In lieu of recent cuts in the work study program, financial aid, and grants, students look elsewhere to pay their tuition. Although many receive financial aid in some form or another, others have resorted to taking out loans to be paid back over the years or working long shifts for wages.

In 2011, President Barack Obama signed the Budget Control Act into law that would result in automatic cuts for nine years totalling \$1.2 trillion. Naturally, student financial aid (including federal grants and loans) has been impacted and as mentioned previously in a Student Media article, Pell Grant recipients would see an \$85,000 cut. In addition, federal work-study would be hit with a cut of about \$142,000 resulting in about 50 less students elected for employment.

Today, students face the very real challenge from these cuts in federal funding. Thanks to the rise in tuition every year and increasing fees, many students look for alternative ways to make money aside from college employment or simply scholarship refunds.

For some, the difficulty of surviving on wages is all too familiar. As an employee, you are replaceable and employers know that, of course that’s not always the case.

But, there are other more intuitive and fulfilling alternatives to meet financial needs.

One practice that has become increasingly common is to follow an entrepreneurial route to earn more than you would at an average job elsewhere.

Students at the university, like our own BBC photo editor, Sana Ullah, have started their own businesses to pay for additional tuition costs not covered by scholarship.

Through her own side photography business, SUPhotography, she has had the freedom to control what days she chooses to work in respect to her own business. She’s also acquired a unique set of skills including marketing and photography techniques while interacting with clients at a much more personal level rather than a forced “hello.”

Likewise, junior Adnan Saeed, psychology major, established his own dry-cleaning business after being tired of being mistreated by employers and working long hours for peanuts.

By offering incentives such as complimentary delivery and services, Saeed has been able to keep a competitive edge that led to success. Through his hard work and success, Saeed has refrained from conformity. On the contrary, it’s pushed him to strive for more.

That being said, the alternative of self-employment can help in several ways that otherwise would be unattainable. Most importantly, the freedom to be your own creator and boss provides one with an indelible sense of pride, purpose and accomplishment. In addition, becoming much more responsible, organized and timely from an academic standpoint is another added bonus.

Ultimately, it’s up to you what path to take for your future. There is no right or wrong answer.

Despite the recent rise in tuition and federal cutbacks in financial aid, know that there are options out there. Know that there’s always a solution and know that there’s always reward for your hard work.

Stick true to your convictions, and nobody can take away your sense of accomplishment.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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Digital world conquers higher education at FIU

CONSUELO NARANJO
Staff Writer

From the most complex cell code information exchange to the simplest technology created by humans, communication has been and always will be the base of every interaction within our society.

Facial expressions, vocal sounds, smoke signals and hieroglyphs are all part of the infinite ways that information has been exchanged. The way we interact is constantly evolving. Currently our platform of choice is the Internet.

According to the Council for Research Excellence, a study in 2009 found that adults living in the USA were exposed to screens – such as TVs, cell phones, GPS devices and computers – for approximately eight and a half hours a day.

New technologies and social platforms are in the hands of more than 114 million Americans. A majority of those users own smartphones, according to the Business Insider website.

The world is going digital and as a consequence the landscape of higher education is changing. In 2012, the University spent \$8.3 million dollars in technology fees, according to the University budget summary from 2012-13. Blackboard, modern computers, digital video cameras and other advanced

technologies are now part of a new style of education that FIU is continuing to expand every year.

Matt Hagood, director of Media and Technology Services for the Division of Information Technology, emphasized the importance of global engagement along secure access. “We are experiencing such an extraordinary change in technology. Moodle and Blackboard have changed our students’ lives dramatically,” Hagood said.

FIU is updating their whole system. Currently, thousands of books, articles and even textbooks are available in an online library. Virtual classrooms are increasingly common at FIU.

Three semesters ago, the Center for Academic Success opened their online services. William Marquez, a senior majoring in computer science and a tutor at the center, is excited to help students with their academic needs either online or face to face. “We try to accommodate students’ busy schedules. Now they can receive tutoring on weekends just by sitting in front of a computer.”

Since 2011, after hour and weekend appointments have become very popular with students. After registering for an appointment, students are able to communicate with a peer-tutor via video conferencing. “Online tutoring is a really good option for students who cannot make it to the

center because of time constraints or transportation issues. Our extended schedule tries to accommodate those who work odd hours or need last minute help on an assignment,” said Nazneen Zaidi, an FIU liberal arts graduate who tutors undergraduate students at Biscayne Bay Campus.

Ziyad Ben Taleb, graduate student of the Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work, stresses the importance of new technology in the development of higher education.

“Among the many amazing searching tools that FIU provides to the students is Google Scholar. It is my main source of investigation, and where I access scholarly literature across any discipline,” said Ben Taleb. “I am lucky to have access to the most current information available. Technology, along with great professors at FIU, have helped mentor students, creating well-rounded experts in the field,” said Taleb.

Moses Shumow, assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and one of the founders of the digital media studies major, explained the transition into digital media.

“Digital Media is transforming not just communications programs, but politics, economics and culture,” Shumow said. “We are living in a communication revolu-



SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

tion and we need a new set of skills to understand it.”

Yu Liu, assistant professor in the SJMC, characterized FIU students as “internet natives” because they grew up with the Internet. “Students in the United States have become more aware as to what is happening in other coun-

tries and cultures. They are open to the idea of globalization thanks to the Internet,” Liu said.

However, social media and the easy access to technology can also become a distraction in class.

“It is much harder now for

SEE TECH, PAGE 5

Fashion show spotlights women empowerment

KARLA REYES
Contributing Writer

In light of Women’s History Month, FIU’s non-profit organization Stand Up for Love drew students’ attention to the subject of women’s empowerment and women’s rights by hosting a charity fashion show that featured local designers and guest speakers.

Those who participated were moved by the cause and participated in the hopes to spread awareness on women’s empowerment. Many of the local designers involved carried messages that encouraged positive progression for women.

The female-owned Anjavic line printed the statement “Be natural, be simple, be beautiful” on their products, while the male-owned Shop Heartbreak claimed that they did not hesitate to join “anything that is meant for good.”

Yolangel Hernandez Suarez, associate dean for graduate medical educa-



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Senior Chantelle Hua strikes a pose during Stand Up For Love’s first women’s empowerment fashion show. Stand Up for Love is dedicated to bringing youths together through advocacy, education and community service while simultaneously displaying their vision of a society in which all people are given respect, dignity and the opportunity to create positive change.

tion at the University, and James D. Wilets, chair of the Inter-American Center for Human Rights, were invited to speak on the subject of women empowerment and to encourage students to fight for equal treatment and equal opportunities for women.

Hernandez Suarez was the first speaker of

the night and used her life experiences as positive examples for women. Linking life to a movie, she explained to the audience that “life is like a movie, except it’s not just one kind of movie.” She explained that life is made up of different moments that can be described as different genres of movies.

“As a woman, take control of those moments and take control of what life gives you,” said Hernandez Suarez. Her speech focused on the reality of the present society and how its changing can be beneficial to women. “There are no social norms to what anything means anymore... Women matter. Women are

changing what it means to be successful.”

The core message of her speech was clear when she said, “Don’t let gender be a barrier to anything you want to be.” Her speech aimed to encourage all the young girls and women in the audience to find their passions, follow them and to think of themselves as “stars.”

Wilets drew attention to a more serious matter concerning women and spoke about the Violence Against Women Act. With its epicenter in South Florida, VAWA deals with the issue of domestic violence against women. Wilets addressed its importance in protecting battered noncitizens from losing their immigration status in cases of domestic abuse.

By promoting women to leave abusive relationships, VAWA helps in the fight against women being used as sex slaves. While the act largely helps protect these abused women, Wilets said that not many people are aware of the actual issues. “It’s happening all

around us,” said Wilets. He encouraged the students to help support VAWA and to spread awareness about the act. “There really is a way that you can help deal with these issues in South Florida,” said Wilets.

The Women’s Empowerment Fashion Show was the first show for Stand Up for Love. Aray Rivera, the founder of Stand Up for Love and junior public administration major, hopes that it will be as big a success in the future.

Rivera believes in women’s empowerment and believes that everyone should stop seeing women as lesser than men. “Society doesn’t see women as important as men and it saddens me.”

Rivera also hopes that students walked away from the event with a greater respect for women and with the drive to fight for their equal treatment. He summarized the event’s purpose best with, “Women should not have a glass ceiling.”

-life@fiusm.com

GIS Center to host annual event on tech impact

EDWIVE SEME
Staff Writer

Students, researchers and faculty in diverse fields with diverse interest in Geographic Information Systems will be able to connect during FIU’s 2013 GIS Day.

This annual event has served to open channels of communication between people with diverse and complementary interests, according to Matthew Toro, Maps and Imagery User Services coordinator and research associate at FIU’s GIS Center.

“Historians to geographers, to philosophers to architects, to epidemiologists to performing artists, etc. -- you’d be surprised at the connections being made,” said Toro.

GIS represents new technologies that are changing the world by creating geographic

consciousness, collecting geographical data and analyzing it, revealing relationships and patterns and creating a better understanding of the world.

According to Toro, natural and social scientists, decision-makers and the general public are increasingly engaging and expanding the potential of GIS to improve the way human beings interact with earth. FIU’s GIS Day provides a forum for people to discuss these technologies and applications.

This year’s theme, chosen by GIS Center Head Jennifer Fu, will be “GeoHumanities: Drawing New Connections in Time and Space.” The fields of geo-humanities, according to Toro, are changing the way human beings perceive their historical and contemporary relationships with history and geography. These advances

aren’t only changing the way people look at their past, but also giving insight on the way society must progress into the future.

“The FIU GIS Center recognizes these developments seek to provide a forum focusing on ways to harness and promote the potential of GIS-based geo-humanities research,” said Toro.

The day will be filled with activities, including guest lectures by GIS and visiting experts, workshop sessions, map games, an all-day GIS posters display and even a poster competition that both students and non-students can participate in. Toro describes it as a one-day mini-conference.

Through their annual GIS event, the GIS Center intends to raise the public profile of GIS technology and the impact it’s having on transforming society,

“Most importantly, we intend to show the community just how accessible, and powerful, GIS really is. We intend to broaden and deepen the conversation about what GIS is and what people are capable of through GIS.”

Matthew Toro
Maps and Imagery User Services Coordinator
and Research Associate
GIS Center

by bringing together GIS practitioners from all fields. “Most importantly, we intend to show the community just how accessible, and powerful, GIS really is,” said Toro. “We intend to broaden and deepen the conversation about what GIS is and what people are capable of through GIS.”

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Communication evolving at the University

TECH, PAGE 4

a professor to maintain students’ attention than it was two decades ago,” Liu said. “Nowadays, it is a challenge for professors to keep students focused in class, so I decided to join students on their social media platforms by incorporating YouTube. This way they can ignore personal technological devices.”

Shumow also tries to create a technological bond with his students. “What we are trying to do in SJMC is to incorporate digital aspects to all the tracks, giving students a broader way of thinking while they better their skills,” Shumow said.

“Clickers are a teaching strategy. I try to get away from the idea of me talking and students just taking notes,” Shumow said.

FIU social networks such as Facebook and Twitter have more than 50,000 likes and almost 11,000 followers, respectively. More recently, hundreds of hashtags connecting to FIU on Instagram have become a popular way of communicating among students, faculty and staff.

Moises Fuertes, a junior majoring in digital media, believes that technology is not just changing the way that everyone communicates, but it is also becoming a necessary tool to communicate effectively. “More people use mobile texting or Facebook for university purposes than ever before. We will see this evolve further as personal cell phones become more like computers.

”Fuertes uses his smartphone to access main social platforms. “I go to my Face-

book app to set up meetings and keep in touch with group members in my classes. I find that messaging them on Facebook is more effective than calling or a texting.”

Even though new technologies can create a world of extensive possibilities, it also represents a factor of concern between users and experts. Privacy issues have become the major dilemma with the boom of social platforms.

There is a shrinking line between what should be posted and what is considered inappropriate.

Now, a late night picture may create problems in the future when looking for a job opportunity since everyone can see everything.

Shumow believes that, “students need to start distinguishing between their youth and what is going to be expected from them professionally in the real world. The college setting is a great place to start practicing that,” Shumow said. “The Internet is not like your living room or dorm room where you can sit down and talk to it privately. If you think there is something out there on

the web that is potentially embarrassing or harmful, take it down now.”

There are two sides to technology. When it is used correctly, like in the world of

higher education, it can open the doors of possibility.

Social networks have connected the world in a way we have never seen before.

However, it is an evolving

technology that if used incorrectly can be potentially harmful.

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NOTICE OF

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The University Health Fee Committee will be holding public hearings on

Thursday, March 28, 2013 MMC
GC 150 at 10:00am

Thursday, March 28, 2013 BBC
WUC 155 at 2:00pm

The objective of these meetings will be to give interested individuals an opportunity to hear arguments pertaining to the proposed increase to the Health Fee. The amended fee will become effective in the Fall 2013 term. Students and other interested individuals are invited to attend these meetings.

 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

NOTICE OF

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The University Capital Improvement Trust Fund Fee Committee will be holding public hearings on

Monday, March 25, 2013 MMC
GC 140 at 10:30am

Monday, March 25, 2013 BBC
WUC 155 at 2:00pm

The objective of these meetings will be to give interested individuals an opportunity to hear arguments pertaining to the proposed increase to the CITF fee, used to fund student buildings. The amended fee will become effective in the Fall 2013 term. Students and other interested individuals are invited to attend these meetings.

Transfers ready to move from sidelines to the court

KEVIN CASTANEDA
Staff Writer

Imagine you are the biggest fan of FIU's men's basketball team.

You not only go to every single home game, you travel to watch the Panthers on the road. Having watched basketball your whole life, you begin to nitpick some of the things the team does wrong – plays like Malik Smith taking on off-balance three with two defenders in his face or Deric Hill making a lazy cross-court pass that gets intercepted. However, no matter how mad you get at their plays, you know as a fan the most you can do is yell from the bleachers.

The entire season Raymond Taylor, Rakeem Buckles and Dennis Mavin lived this experience tenfold. The three transfers had to sit out this whole season, relegated to the role of hard-core fans. Unlike a fan who can't change the outcome of a game, these players had to endure knowing their talent could make a difference.

"It's very frustrating because you feel like everything that a team needs, you can provide it," said Taylor, a redshirt senior.

The Panthers were extremely young this season and Head Coach Richard Pitino stressed it.

He repeatedly said that he had no way of referencing back to a specific game because his players had never played Division I basketball at this level.

This meant in practice the primary role that Taylor and his fellow transfers provided this season was that of being mentors and sharing their experience.

Buckles, a redshirt senior, brought the most experience to the table having played at No. 2 Louisville under Pitino's father, Rick Pitino.

In his freshman year, Buckles was able to experience the NCAA Tournament and the Final Four. His exposure to such a stage could have helped the Panthers in key games when the pressure may have been too much.

Taylor and Mavin came from

Having played at such high levels in their careers, it was difficult for them to sit and watch the entire time.

"When we got hurt in the post, me and Rakeem would talk about it. We felt like Rakeem could provide that spark in the post. Or if it was lacking from a point guard production, I would be like 'man I can produce whatever we needed.'"

Buckles and Taylor not only played high school basketball together at Miami Pace, but they led the team to a state championship together.

While at Pace, both players also played under Mark Lieberman, who is now an assistant coach for the Panthers. Buckles' familiarity with both Pitino and Lieberman will translate well into next season, and the offensive scheme right into Taylor's skill set.

"Coach Pitino is a guru offensively and he knows where to put me in the right spot, where I can really display what I can do with the ball," Taylor said. "Offensively, Rakeem knows this system like the back of his hand because he came over here with Pitino. And defensively that's Dennis' strength."

Knowing the offense and defense is one thing, but execution is another.

These players have taken a year to digest the game from the sideline, as well as be upset by some of the losses.

For Taylor, his most disappointing moment came in the SBC Championship loss to Western Kentucky – a game where he knows he could have been a difference maker.

"It meant the most. It was the game that could have made history, going to the NCAA Tournament when no one thought we could do it," Taylor said. "I played against Western Kentucky for 3 years. I know those players a little bit better than Deric and would have picked better spots where to attack."

The Panthers posted a fantastic season in the SBC. Next year they move to the Conference USA. Now that the transfers will have the opportunity to play next year, Taylor has set some very lofty goals.

"My expectations are to win the Conference USA outright," Taylor said. "To be the league champions the first year in it."

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“It’s very frustrating because you feel like everything that a team needs, you can provide it.

Raymond Taylor
Redshirt senior
FIU men’s basketball

"You turn into a coach and a student of the game," Taylor said. "Deric Hill had a great season for us this year. I feel a part of that was because of how much we pushed each other in practice."

Florida Atlantic University with championship pedigrees. Just two years ago, the duo led the Owls to a first place finish in the East Division of the Sun Belt Conference.

Panthers struggle to scale Hilltoppers

FRANCISCO RIVERO
Staff Writer

If there is one word to describe the Panthers' season so far this year, it is inconsistency.

After dropping two of three games over at Florida Atlantic University, FIU (12-12) looked to rebound in a three-game home stand against Western Kentucky University. First up for the Panthers was starter Tyler Alexander who came into the game with a record of 1-3 and an earned run average of 3.57.

The game was a close until the ninth when WKU scored on a wild pitch by pitcher Mitchell Davis. The Hilltoppers were able to take game one by a score of 4-3.

Game two was a seesaw battle that FIU dropped in the eighth inning after a sacrifice fly to lose 9-8. Having lost yet another series, starter Mike Franco took the mound to salvage another Sunday win.

Franco gave the Panthers a much needed performance with five no-hit innings as FIU went on to win 5-2.

Head Coach Henry Thomas knows just how important it is for his team to get consistent starting pitching in order in win ball games.

"The first two nights we got five out of 18 leadoff hitters out, today we got seven out of nine," Thomas said. "Every time you don't get the leadoff hitter out you're going to be in trouble as a team."

COMING UP SHORT

FIU has lost a quarter of their games by three or less runs this season. Players

such as second baseman Manny Alvarez and Franco know just how difficult it is to lose such close games.

"Last weekend we went 1-2, this weekend we went 1-2 but it gives us a positive note for next weekend," Alvarez said. "It gives us hope that we are going to break out of it soon, I know it."

"That Sunday game you always want to win, but of course you want to win the series," Franco said. "We came up a little short Friday and Saturday, but getting a win on Sunday and not having a middle of the week series gives us a lot of momentum for the next weekend series."

PITCHING HIGHS AND LOWS

Besides Franco, who owns a 4-1 record and an ERA of 3.57, the rest of the Panthers pitching staff is struggling to stay above mediocrity.

"Truthfully, it's just how we go about preparing ourselves going into the week, everyone goes hard and everyone prepares themselves very well," Franco said. "I just feel that sometimes we get to comfortable and we can't stay that way, we just got to keep pushing ourselves and striving to be the best pitchers we can be."

FIU currently has the worst ERA in the Sun Belt Conference with 4.78 mark, and the second most hits allowed and the most runs allowed with 135 on the season.

The Panthers look to stop the bleeding when they host visiting Arkansas State (16-9, 4-2 SBC) on March 29-March 31.

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ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

The baseball team sits at 12-12 after dropping their second straight SBC series. The team's pitching has been the achilles heel with a 4.79 ERA, good for last in the conference.

Sand volleyball opens history books with an ace

DANIEL BREY
Contributing Writer

FIU sand volleyball put on yet another show for the second straight week defeating Webber International University 4-1 in two duals matches.

The Panthers (3-3), coming off a dominating win at last week's Hawaii Tournament and now ranked sixth in the nation, hosted the Warriors on March 23, marking the first home sand volleyball game in FIU history.

Before the beginning of the match, excitement filled the air as a special ceremony, headlined by University President Dr. Mark Rosenberg, was held to commemorate the inaugural season of sand volleyball.

The ceremony featured the cutting of the game nets, and a team photograph with Rosenberg, athletics director Pete Garcia, and Senior Associate Athletic Director Julie Berg.

"It was definitely amazing," graduate student Kate Stepanova said. "What a great opening... It was so special to have all these big names here to share this moment with us."

"I was so excited watching the cutting of the net and the entire ceremony," said freshman Emily Podschweit.

"Our team is going to be known by many generations to come here at FIU."

A SPIKE IN INTEREST

The Panthers arrived in Miami after going 1-3 on their first west coast road trip of the inaugural season.

Their performance was not exactly what was expected from a team coach by an Olympic silver medalist.

Saturday's matchup however, had more than 150 spectators on hand to witness the first home sand volleyball game in FIU history a total, much higher than predicted.

"We had so many fans," Podschweit said. "I was so surprised, we usually don't have this many fans being that we are a first year program."

Of those fans, a few had the opportunity to sit alongside their favorite sand volleyball players.

"I was talking to some people in the bleachers that had never seen a sand volleyball game," Stepanova said. "You could tell they absolutely loved it."

Stepanova and junior Maryna Samoday were just two of the various sand volleyball players who engaged in conversations with fans during timeouts.

Fans who attended the

game lined up around the perimeter of the sand courts, while others took a seat on the three benches provided by FIU.

The lack of spectator accommodations and the optimistic future of the team have led FIU to develop a plan to build new bleachers for next season according to Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett.

"FIU is planning to build brand new bleachers for next season," Buck-Crockett said. "We really needed it."

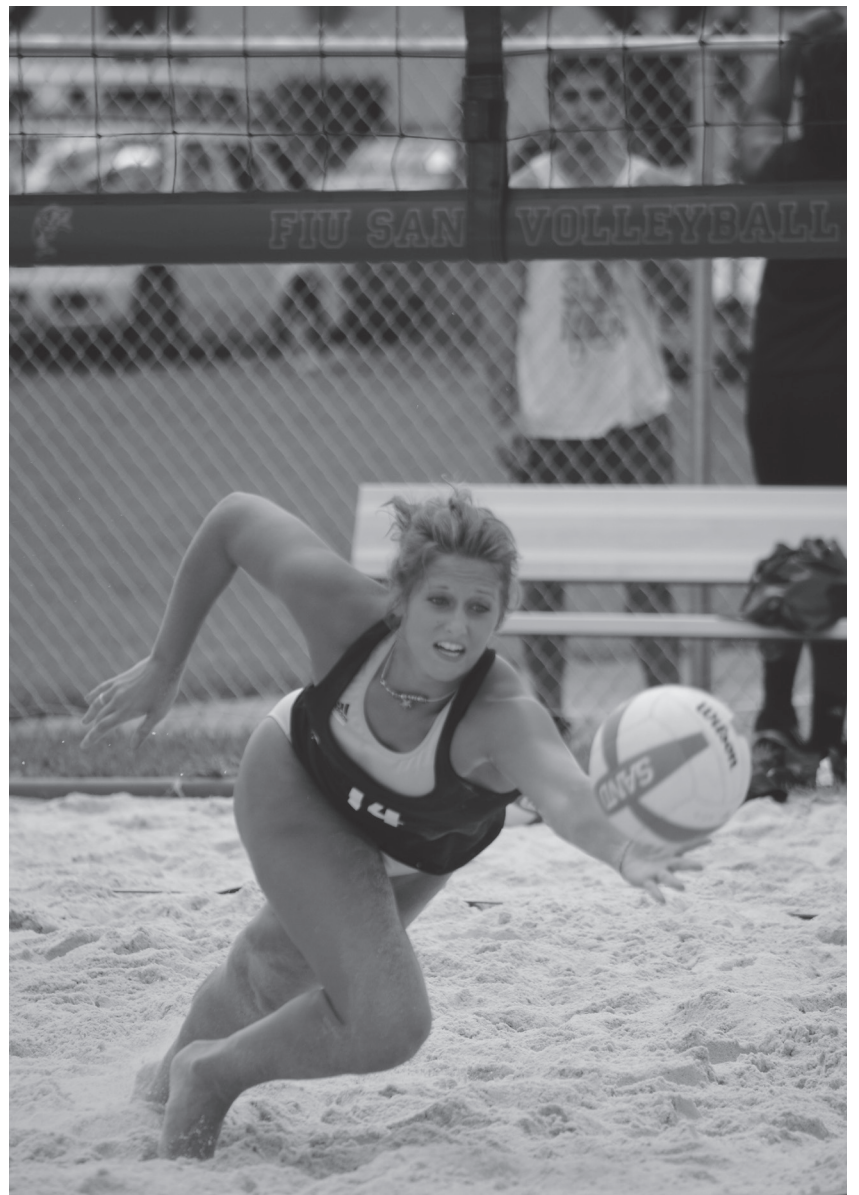
SURF AND TURF TOURNAMENT

Starting March 29 at 9 a.m. on the FIU sand courts, the Panthers will take on the best teams in the nation at the Surf and Turf tournament, which will mark the first sand volleyball tournament to take place at FIU.

The Panthers will face Georgia State, Tulane, FAU and defending national champions Pepperdine, who steamed rolled FIU 5-0 in their first matchup of the season.

"We will certainly review the tape from our previous game against Pepperdine to see what adjustments we can make to better our chances of winning," Buck-Crockett said.

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ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

The sand volleyball squad opened up their first home game with a win over Webber International to even their record at 3-3.

New basketball uniforms among 2013-14 additions

BASKETBALL, PAGE 1

Garcia said the reasoning behind the design is that when people think of South Florida, they immediately imagine the beach. Sand, palm trees and water are staples in South Florida and those are the main parts of the design that was chosen.

"It was coach [Pitino] who had the idea to add more sand and more of a beach look from the first design with the South Beach skyline. We all agreed on the second version of the design. We have sponsors that want to come in and name the court for helping us pay for it. The court will also bring in more revenue," Garcia said. "We thought about the court being a distraction and then realized that it will be a distraction for the other

teams since our teams will practice on it all the time whereas the teams who are coming here to play us will be able to do a shoot-around for 30 minutes beforehand and then they have to play."

Another possibility for the teams is that the new jerseys will be designed to accompany the look of the new court. The new Adidas uniforms will be more modern than the former jerseys.

Some reactions from students at the University are positive about the new design for the court and the upcoming seasons of FIU basketball.

"It is a huge step for the up and coming program and I am excited to see where we go from here. The court will be an advantage to the programs in a lot of ways," freshman health services adminis-

tration major LJ Powell said.

"The new design is on point," junior sports management major Ben Azu said. "I think it is

going to be better than the plain wood look that most courts have."

A generalization of how the Athletics department wants it to be accepted

though is a simple little phrase, tweeted by sophomore walk-on kicker/punter Ryan Halter.

"Love it. It'll be so sick," Halter tweeted.

At the time of publishing, there were no basketball players or staff available for comment.

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Ticket system limits election at BBC

NADRA MABROUK
BBC Managing Editor

The Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus will once again attempt to gather votes for yet another uncontested election.

FuZhou Wu, director of lectures, is running unopposed for president with Richard Azimov as her vice president. Other candidates include Ismail Hassan and Whitney Saint Fleur for Arts & Sciences senator, Jazmin Felix for Nursing and Health Services, Sheni Kathymoon for School of Journalism and Mass Communication senator and Christopher Morisset and Jonathan Medrano for lower division senator.

The candidate for “I would prefer if we

Broward-Pines Senator, John Barron, had the application withdrawn.

The ticket system limits the options for candidates for president, according to Rafael Zapata assistant director of Campus Life and SGA advisor.

The system requires that any student interested in running for president to have a vice president and any student for vice president to have a president, mimicking the system of the elections for president of the United States.

However, BBC is a commuter campus with much fewer students than the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, which limits the options for presidency even further.

didn’t have the ticket system because we would have had a four-way race for vice president this year,” said Zapata.

Wu on the other hand believes that the ticket system ensures that candidates are working together instead of clawing at each other and that the president and vice president are coming up with goals using teamwork.

A goal on Wu’s mind would be to try to bring back a coffee and snack place in the Glenn Hubert Library similar to Provisions on Demand which used to be in the library. She feels students who are studying shouldn’t have to go outside to grab a coffee or a bite.

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2013-2014 SGC-BBC ELECTION CANDIDATES

President/ Vice President

FuZhou Wu - President
Richard Azimov - Vice President

Nursing and Health Services

(1)
Jazmin Felix

Arts & Sciences Senator (3)

Ismail Hassan
Whitney Saint Fleur

Housing (1)

Emerald Nesbitt

Broward Pines Senator (1)

John Barron - Withdrew application

Journalism & Mass Communications Senator (2)

Sheni Kathymoon

Senator At- Large (3)

Sola Abebodun
Olivia Dehaarte
Kerline Honore

Lower Division Senator (4)

Christopher Morisset
Jonathan Medrano

(# of available seats)

Vendors might need more than bling to lure students in

VINSON PRESSLEY
Staff Writer

Walking down the halls of FIU. a vendor earnestly making the effort to persuade students to buy their products is a common sight. The University provides a platform for vendors to reach out to students and promote their products and services. However, there is a process they must go through before they are given the chance to come to FIU.

According to O’Darris D’Haiti, fiscal assistant at the Wolfe University Center, the vendors must fill out a form detailing their identity, their products, services as well as pay for a table to set up their products. Once their table reservation form has been reviewed and accepted, the information is passed to the setup crew; after this

point, the table is ready and the last step is for the vendor to set up their spaces and pitch to the students.

According to John Morris, TRAC program manager who also handles the tabling for the vendors, the table reservations are \$42.80 and are good for an entire day. In order for a vendor to even be considered to have their products on campus, they must have insurance and liability. Morris mentioned some of the vendors, including “Miami Wow,” a jewelry business, and “Mini Gateway Inc.,” a cruise line that has come to FIU in the past.

Vendors who attempt to get their products on Modesto A. Maidique are subject to the same process. According to Maxine Hylton, one of the directors of the Graham Center, vendors must go through a step by

step process and must book everything in advance.

Some students feel there is a serious lack of options when it comes to the products sold by vendors on campus.

“They need more variety, switch it around every so often,” said Jeffrey Sodusta, senior journalism major. Sodusta mentioned he would like to see other products being sold on campus by vendors besides jewelry. “I don’t wear jewelry, [I’d like to see] computer vendors, food vendors,” said Sodusta. Sodusta summed up his comments by saying “I emphasize more variety and selection [of vendors].”

Zoraida Pastor, junior psychology major wouldn’t mind seeing more variety in the types of vendors on campus either. Pastor discussed that she would like to see more clothing and food vendors,

including the farmer’s market. “The Farmer’s Market used to be on Mondays, now on Thursdays. It’s very limiting and I don’t think it’s a good idea,” said Pastor. Pastor argued that foot traffic is much higher on Mondays than later days in the week; “Friday is a ghost town” said Pastor.

Although some students have issues with the setup of the food vendors on campus, some have a slightly different view.

Ketialie Laroche, junior chemistry major, says she rarely buys from the vendors on campus, but when she does, she usually buys earrings and bracelets. Laroche also felt the prices of the vendors she buys from are “reasonable.”

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Pot of Golden Week



SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

Lila Reyes, a senior studying journalism, enjoys the giveaways in the Wolfe University Center’s game room for Student Organizations Council’s St. Patrick’s Day Celebration. SOC is hosting Golden Week from March 25 to March 27.

SGC-BBC brings Larry King to BBC

KARLA REYES
Contributing Writer

The Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus creates a lecture series every year with the aim of enticing students to participate and learn from different distinguished figures.

For these lectures, the SGC-BBC reaches out to various public speaker agencies in order to see whom they are offering and evaluate how it would be beneficial to have them speak at FIU.

In the past, the lecture series has brought Common, Dan Savage and Adrian Grenier. Students had the final say when Larry King was the

highest ranked in a survey in which they were asked to rank speakers they would prefer to see.

“[Bringing Larry King to FIU] is an educational experience that will allow the student body to interact and learn from an individual that has had the honor of interviewing many of the most distinguished people in the world,” said Pablo Haspel, SGC-BBC president.

From 1985 to 2010, King hosted the popular and self-titled TV program Larry King Live on CNN. Throughout his run on Larry King Live, King interviewed many prominent figures from politicians to celebrities.

The lecture will be based around an evening with King, in which students will hear about his experiences starting as a journalist in Florida and becoming one of the nation’s most watched TV personalities.

SGC-BBC hopes that students will be inspired by King’s examples and experiences in order to achieve the same successes that he has achieved.

The SGA-BBC Lecture Series Presents: Larry King will take place in the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms tomorrow, March 28. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

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