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Florida International University

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Students plead for financial aid

ALONSO MONTANO
Staff Writer

As a result of economic hard times and a constant increase in enrollment numbers, students at the University will have to meet different, more difficult requirements to qualify for financial aid.

“The requirements went up a little bit, so we have seen a little reduction in the numbers of students who are eligible because the test scores went up,” said Francisco Valines, director of Financial Aid at the University.

However, current students receiving financial aid should not be affected by the changes in criteria for scholarship awards.

“As long as they meet renewal criteria for their scholarship, as long

as they do well while they are here, they are going to continue to keep it,” said Valines.

The real effects of the higher test scores and overall tougher requirements will be reflected in the number of incoming freshmen who receive any form of financial aid.

“Next fall is going to be the bomb,” said Valines in reference to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

“Students who graduate from high school in 2014 have a much higher test score requirement and we expect there could be as many as 80 percent of our Bright Futures kids who would’ve gotten it...[that] aren’t going to get it next fall,” said Valines.

SEE FINANCES, PAGE 2

GIVING THANKS



OSCAR LIN/THE BEACON

Orlando Rodriguez, sophomore in political science (left), poses to take pictures with the polaroid frame in front of the “Thank You” board – a message of appreciation to the University’s donors.

Stocker AstroScience Center celebrates grand opening



OSCAR LIN/THE BEACON

Tom Barnello (left) and James Webb, astronomy professor (right), perform a cover of Rocketman by Elton John before discussing the new Astroscience center.

ALYSSA ELSO
Staff Writer

Star parties, solar viewings, a live music evening and various guest lectures were among the many events students and faculty members enjoyed in celebration of the Stocker AstroScience Center grand opening.

“I just wanted to allow students to participate because the ribbon-cutting is sort of an administrator event,” said James Webb, a professor in

the Department of Physics who initiated the project.

The ribbon-cutting, Nov. 12, was followed by a week-long series of events.

“I have been working on this for about 20 years, so when the dean’s office suggested we have a ribbon-cutting ceremony I said ‘great, but it’s not going to end there, we’re going to have a whole week of events,’” said Webb.

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the week of events began with a tour of

the center and a lecture by John Mather, a Nobel laureate who also works as senior astrophysicist in the Observational Cosmology Laboratory at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center. Mather’s research focuses on infrared astronomy and cosmology.

“John Mather spoke opening day about the history of the universe, as well as the new James Webb Space Telescope, which is an infrared telescope,” said Jennifer Medina, sophomore physics

major and Astronomy Club member. “It was an amazing experience to hear him talk about the research he had done.”

Among others guests at the ribbon-cutting ceremony was Carl Stocker, a retired physics professor who provided the main donation to help build the observatory and whom the observatory is named after.

The rest of the week featured fingerstyle guitar

SEE SCIENCE, PAGE 2

Admissions ‘doesn’t have time’ to check social media

RAUL HERRERA
Staff Writer

Students and their social media profiles once again are topics of discussion when it comes to university admissions. A Kaplan Test Prep survey found that the amount of college admissions officers who have reportedly searched applicants on Google or Facebook has increased.

According to the 2012 survey, 27 percent of officers reported that they had used Google to discover more about their applicants, 26 percent claimed they had used Facebook. This year, 29 percent have used Google and 31 percent have used Facebook.

Luisa Havens, vice president of Enrollment Services, declined an interview due to her eventful schedule. However, an admissions clerk advised Student Media that the Admissions Office does not have the time to check applicants’ social media profiles.

Salvador Dajer, junior finance student,

was once a dual enrollment student from Ronald W. Reagan Doral Senior High School. When he applied to the University, he did not consider the possibility of his social media profile being checked.

“It did not cross my mind back then, though it doesn’t surprise me now,” said Dajer.

Seppy Basili, vice president of College Admissions and K-12 Programs in Kaplan Test Prep, claimed in the survey’s press release that there is a greater “acknowledgement” of the fact that some universities check social media profiles.

The same press release noted that another Kaplan survey pointed that 75 percent of students surveyed that were headed for college did not seem too concerned if an admissions officer would search for them on Google.

However, Dajer believes that students should maintain a clean Facebook profile.

SEE MEDIA, PAGE 2

Men’s basketball grounds the Falcons in home opener

PATRICK CHALVIRE
Staff Writer

The Panthers christened their new Lime Court at the US Century Bank Arena with a win over first time opponent and United States Collegiate Athletic Association Division II member, Florida College, 85-39.

Four Panthers reached double figures, which have become the norm for the team so far this season.

Redshirt senior forward Rakeem Buckles led the Panthers once again with 16 points and 8 rebounds. Buckles’ outing became his fifth straight game with double-digit figures.

Buckles has seemed to surpass the expectations of spectators but according to the Miami native, he’s doing what he should be doing.

“I feel I should be doing this,” Buckles said. “I’m 23-years-old and this is my fifth year in college. I have lofty

goals for myself and I’m happy where I’m playing but it was expected, let me say that.”

Sophomore forward Jerome Frink finished with 13 points and four rebounds. While senior forward Tymell Murphy ended his night with 10 points and 13 rebounds.

Junior guard Marco Porcher Jimenez also hit the double figures mark with a season high 12 points of his own.

Aerial drummers and a new cabana brought the fans to the arena, as well as some distractions for the players. A 10-0 run early in the game for Panthers kept the Falcons at bay, before reality hit and the Falcons avoided the early shutout.

The Falcons seemed to also fall trap to the new Lime Court and festivities going on, as both teams showed early season rust, accounting for a combined 31 turnovers, 15 from the Panthers.

SEE BASKETBALL, PAGE 7

WORLD NEWS

China to ease one-child policy, abolish labor camps

China’s leaders announced Friday the first significant easing of its one-child policy in nearly 30 years and moved to abolish its labor camp system - addressing deeply unpopular programs at a time when the Communist Party feels increasingly alienated from the public. Beijing also pledged to open state-dominated industries wider to private competition and ease limits on foreign investment in e-commerce and other businesses in a sweeping reform plan aimed at rejuvenating a slowing economy. The extent of the long-debated changes to the family planning rules and the labor camp system surprised some analysts. They were contained in a policy document issued after a four-day meeting of party leaders one year after Xi Jinping took the country’s helm.

Albania rejects request to destroy Syrian weapons

The international effort to destroy Syria’s chemical weapons was dealt a major blow Friday when staunch American ally Albania rejected a U.S. request to let the destruction take place on its soil. The surprise refusal by the small and impoverished Balkan country left the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons without a country to host the eradication of Syria’s estimated 1,000-metric ton arsenal, which includes mustard gas and sarin. Syria has said it wants the weapons destroyed outside the country, which is in the middle of a raging civil war, and the OPCW has described that scenario as the “most viable” option. The OPCW had no immediate comment on its next step. Albania had been considered its strongest hope, and few diplomats expected the NATO country of 2.8 million people to reject what Prime Minister Edi Rama said had been a direct request from the U.S.

For more world news, check out
FIUSM.com.

Future remains dim for Bright Futures Scholarship applicants

FINANCES, PAGE 1

About two years ago, the Florida Legislature decided to raise the bar for scholarships offered by the state;

incoming freshmen bring in Bright Futures to just 35 percent of them,” said Valines.

Even though the amount

loans and debts, the University’s numbers are better than average. According to Valines, only about 50 percent of current students use loans, which is well below the 66 percent national average.

“Half of our students graduate without any debt. For the other half that graduates with debt, the average debt is about \$17,000,” said Valines.

“The Project on Student Debt” states that the national average of debt owed after graduation is \$26,600.

Some students, however, believe the University could be doing more to help not only future panthers, but current students as well.

“I think there’s a lot of people that should be receiving financial aid that aren’t,” said Melissa Cruz,

a junior psychology major. “[The University] needs to continue to make it one of their priorities.”

James Hall, a junior majoring in international relations, had a similar point of view.

“I think that it shouldn’t be necessary for students to pay ridiculous amounts of money to go to school when they are just trying to pursue a career,” said Hall. “The school should do something to facilitate tuition and help students out financially.”

“They need to focus on making it a little easier for people who are studying and making an effort,” added Cruz.

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“Next fall is going to be the bomb.”

Francisco Valines
Director
Financial Aid

Valines believes the impact of these changes will be even more noticeable come next year.

“We might go from where we’ve had 75 percent of our

of awards received by students will go down, the University’s numbers are not low in all categories of financial aid.

In fact, when it comes to

More admissions officers checking Google and Facebook profiles

MEDIA, PAGE 1

“As new technologies develop, social culture must also evolve and adapt. Your Facebook page is a window into your values, your interests, how you carry yourself and how you manage your relationships with others,” said Dajer. “I

believe you should always be conscious of the visibility of your behavior on Facebook, whether you’re concerned about friends, family [or] potential employers.”

The Kaplan survey found that there has been a decrease in the discovery of negative content by

admissions officers. In 2012, 35 percent reported discovering content that would negatively affect the application of students. This year, the number is at 30 percent.

Dajer mentioned his concerns on whether or not such a practice can be dangerous.

“I personally believe this issue can be an invasion of privacy. Biased employers or university admission workers may discriminate based on attributes not disclosed within applications,” said Dajer.

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CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 25, Issue 37, in the article titled “Don’t feel inclined to define yourself,” we misspelled Ian Vazquez’s name as Ian Vasquez.

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

Panthers’ observatory on cloud nine

SCIENCE, PAGE 1

with Professor Webb, a live music evening with artists from all over South Florida and a lecture from Russell Romanella, the director of Safety and Mission Assurance at NASA’s John F. Kennedy Space Center in Florida; Patrick Ford, astronomy club member and Mars One applicant, also spoke on NASA day.

The AstroScience Center will replace the current observing pad, located behind the Graham Center.

“The new observatory is very different from the current observing pad because it is elevated above most of the ground lights and now, with the dome, we can have a permanent telescope setup,” said Webb.

Webb also hopes to inspire students to learn and gain further interest in astronomy now that students will have access to a state-of-the-art observatory.

“Observatories give you a place where you forget about the outside world,” said Webb.

“And now you are in

the world of science and astronomy.”

Andres Medina, Astronomy Club president and senior majoring in physics and biomedical engineering, echoes Webb’s sentiments about the outcomes of the observatory’s presence.

“By having an observatory on-campus students that are interested in studying astronomy now have a way of learning how to operate an observatory,” said Medina.

Medina also hopes that the new observatory will enhance student interest in astronomy.

“I also believe that the demand for an astronomy major will increase which could lead to the possibility that one day FIU will start offering an astronomy major for undergraduates,” said Medina. According to Webb, students should have access to the observatory by the spring 2014 semester as construction wraps up.

“The observatory is really for the students, to engage their learning and to make astronomy fun and interesting,” said Webb.

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Students share turkey and stories

LGBTQA, PAGE 8

“The talent show was the idea of my organization, which we really liked because it allows students another opportunity to show their individuality and express themselves through art,” said Santoli.

“It’s a beautiful thing and an important idea we like to reinforce constantly: celebrating individuality and embracing what makes each of us unique instead of feeling ashamed by it and trying to hide it.”

According to Serrano, the LGBTQA Initiative at FIU has partnered up with Pridelines Youth Services that cater to 14-

to 24-year-old individuals and raise awareness about different issues in the LGBTQA community, such as the risk of having unprotected sex.

This organization also provides HIV testing and organizes many events to bring young individuals together and give them the opportunity to have group talks and play board games, simply sharing their time with each other.

“I think it shows the LGBT students on campus that there is an environment for them to come and not have to feel judged or discriminated against for who they are,” Santoli said. “There is an opportunity for

growth for every single staff and student on campus.”

The BBC potluck will be in WUC 155 and MMC’s potluck will be in GC 243. Students are encouraged to bring one canned food item to donate to Miami homeless shelters, and to RSVP and sign up for their dish.

“It’s a good self awareness experience for LGBTQA students to realize that they aren’t alone,” said Natalie Reyes, junior psychology major.

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Female self-esteem: apparently an unnecessary concept

JENNA KEFAUVER
Staff Writer

I just recently read an article by blogger Matt Forney called “The Case Against Female Self-Esteem.” I have never read anything so misogynistic in my life. I’ve also never laughed so hard... and then been so angry, and just back and forth, over and over again.

The article starts, “I’m just gonna come out and say it: I love insecure women.” I was torn between the desire to keep reading and, what would have probably been the smarter option, to just put my phone down and go to bed. But, of course, I kept reading.

The article continues on to say: “The idea that women should have self-esteem or need it, beyond a low baseline to ensure they don’t commit suicide or become psycho stalkers, is one of the most disastrous social engineering experiments of the modern era. A woman with excessive confidence is like a man with a vagina. It’s an attribute that is at best superfluous and at worst prevents women from fulfilling their natural biological and social functions.”

Of course women should just feel awful about themselves because you think they should! Women having self-esteem is definitely the worst thing to happen since women getting the right to vote. Let’s just put them back in corsets and tell them they aren’t allowed to show their ankles. We can’t allow them to have “excessive confidence.” That’s unnatural.

And, yeah, if women feel good about themselves they won’t want to have babies or cook anymore. Obviously men are going to have to figure out how to impregnate themselves or the world will cease to exist.

“In order for America to right itself, there needs to be a massive and concerted war on female self-esteem.”

There’s still human trafficking, but no, crushing female self-confidence is so much more important.

And seeing as, according to Forney, we women don’t want to have self-confidence, we (the “average urban slut

machines”) don’t want to feel good about ourselves; we just want to continue living in our Prozac-fueled haze.

“The same goes for having a job. The vast majority of girls work useless fluff jobs: government bureaucrats,

“Women having self-esteem is definitely the worst thing to happen since women getting the right to vote.”

human resources and various other makework positions that exist to give them the illusion of independence. The jobs that keep the country running — tradesmen, miners, farmers, policemen, the military — are still overwhelmingly dominated by men. If every girl was fired from her job tomorrow, elementary schools would have to shut down for a couple days, but otherwise life would go on as usual.”

Yeah, the future of our country would be without teachers, but, absolutely, the world must go on. And then a man, being perfect and amazing, would sweep in and save the day. And then he’d probably do a better job because women can’t do anything right. We just turn life into a silent movie where we get tied to train tracks and we need our prince charming to come in, armor gleaming. Darn, we can’t do anything right.

Sorry, Matt. Guess you’ll have to pick up after us yet again. Unless, of course, it’s in the kitchen where we belong. Then we’ll clean up after because that’s all we aspire to be.

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Where are all the classics?

GIOVANNI GARCIA
Staff Writer

Each semester starts and all the freshmen are given a SLS lecture to get started with college life. Everything seems interesting enough: midterms, reports, strict due dates and assigned books. Some English lectures would recommend certain books to read for the class, but it turns out the book is an example of college life. Some assigned books can be very informative, but other books can be quite weird.

The one thing I remember thinking about what college was supposed to be was the books you were supposed to read. All of the classics like Homer, Shakespeare, Mark Twain, etc., were the top names I remembered seeing college students reading when I was younger.

What happened to them? Sadly, most high schools will only briefly introduce these classics to their

students. Even certain plays from Shakespeare are not used since it’s a repeating trend. Those who are very skilled at reading will happily grab these books on their spare time and get lost in their pages. A smaller percentage would read these books to take references for other projects or reports.

But the largest percent do not read any of the classics and some have no interest to read at all — mainly because some of these classics are harder to understand. When you listen to someone reading “Beowulf” in Old English, the reader sounds like they are speaking in tongues. I would be scared to try to read “Beowulf” in Anglo Saxon, but there are no classes to learn the language at all. The only students who are inclined to read the classics, or any intensive reading at all, are certain English majors.

With these weird SLS books, they try to catch the general crowd with the right mindset. Some students

would try to read a book for how strange or bizarre it can be. Then there are those who get hooked into the book and would read every page. You must consider the students who read it just to pass the course, either getting into the college study habit or just there because they have no other option but to take the class.

As much as I would like to have tips to survive college, I would appreciate to just have that. Tips. Nothing extreme, something short, bulleted and — best of all — with diagrams. If I want to read something for a class, I’d prefer a classic than a new age mumbo jumbo story. There is a classic story for everything and we can learn from the morals or outcomes of fictional characters. Even though a percentage of people are losing interest in reading, I still prefer to have classics around in college classes.

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Slander in the media

RAUL HERRERA
Staff Writer

NBC’s Charlotte, North Carolina, branch (WCNC) recently ran an exposé on Pastor Steven Furtick of Elevation Church. It pointed out that the pastor was in the process of building a \$1.7 million dollar home. Because of this, the pastor fell under scrutiny.

While both local political commentator and business owner Alex Mitchell and a later NBC-WCNC report by Stuart Watson revealed that Pastor Furtick is paying for the house through book sales, the stigma remained. Furtick, a man with a reportedly large social media aura, was portrayed as yet another greedy preacher who cons churchgoers out of money. Those who have sadly confused the making of money with the avaricious adoration of it have condemned him without having even met him.

I am pointing to this situation not because I want to weigh in on the debate of the place of money in churches or because I am endorsing Furtick or Elevation Church (I am not), but because there is a larger situation at hand here. Many in the mainstream media look for information that may be damning.

This desire for damning information can sometimes lead to good things. Back in my spring semester How We Know What We Know class, we met whistleblowers that spoke out against evil practices. The media was able to promulgate these messages. On Oct. 28, some whistleblowers that exposed supposed government wrongdoings came to FIU, as reported in a student media article by Jessica Meszaros. All of these people had their exposures of malice enhanced by a media searching for controversy.

This can grow to be destructive. Think of the Furtick case. Hundreds will now have a different image of Pastor Furtick, one that perhaps is not entirely accurate to his character. Think about other cases. Just a year ago, the media created a storm over the opinions of the president of a fast food company. It goes on and on and on.

The mainstream media hungers for controversy. It hungers for damning information that can destroy a person’s career or public image. And we, media consumers, fuel the fire of this lust.

We here at FIU, however, are unique. The fact that you are reading this proves that you are someone who consumes media and information in your daily life. We have the power to take in the information we want.

“The mainstream media hungers for controversy. And we, media consumers, fuel the fire of this lust.”

These cases prove that if we search for information from more than one source, a clearer picture of any particular event is formed. Simply put, look at different sides of an issue. Use more than one news source (it doesn’t have to be every single one in existence), especially if it is over something controversial. Do not let your view of someone be tarnished by a one-sided article.

I sometimes forget to follow these maxims myself, but I believe they are important in this day and age where accuracy is sacrificed for the sake of controversy and edginess.

Is Pastor Furtick a perfect person? No, certainly not. And I am certainly not trying to take a position on the controversy over the building of his new house. What I am getting at here is that the desire the mainstream media has of damaging stories is not always a force of good, and to combat this, we must become more savvy information seekers.

Perhaps the search for truth can be a weapon in an age of slander.

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Local fraternity teaming up to help kids read

ANIZA CASTILLO
Contributing Writer

A fraternity on campus is helping kids who can't read well. The Iota Omicron chapter of the Theta Chi fraternity is teaming up with literacy awareness organization Reading is Fundamental for Theta Chi's main philanthropy event this semester called Story Time Live!

According to rif.org, Reading is Fundamental is "the largest children's literacy nonprofit in the United States. RIF prepares and motivates children to read by delivering free books and literacy resources to those children who need them most."

The headquarters for Reading is Fundamental is located in Washington, D.C., but it does have an outreach program in Miami-Dade which helps out with the Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership. "We wanted to give back to something closer; that it hits home like more to FIU," said Gabriel Jose Bonilla, senior psychology major, and the chapter's philanthropy chair.

“We have kids that come in only speaking Spanish and they are in ESOL classes and kids that come from everywhere and they can't speak English.”
Gabriel Jose Bonilla
Senior Psychology Major

Story Time Live! is a competition where groups of University students get together to compile stories for children. Students write the story from scratch, then the fraternity reads through them and makes sure they're appropriate for elementary school. The kids will read the story as the students act it out for them. The kids are going to judge which story they

CHALK ZONE



DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS/THE BEACON

Catherine Lantigua, junior international relations major, writes on a "free speech wall" placed by the Young Americans for Liberty Organization.

liked best and vote for their favorite. The winners of Story Time Live will be receiving 10 percent of what is collected the entire week through registration and donations, while the other 90 percent will go to Reading is Fundamental. The Iota Omicron chapter chose Reading is Fundamental as its philanthropy because it believes reading really is fundamental. "Literacy is something that is very important and, I mean, we're

educated students — we're college students — and there are a lot of organizations getting helped, but," Bonilla started. "We have kids that come in only speak Spanish and they are in ESOL classes and kids that come from everywhere and they can't speak English. They speak everything but English, and reading is definitely a gateway to not only learning but to anything...." Theta Chi is doing a book drive

throughout the week leading up to the main event, which will be donated to Reading is Fundamental and schools around Miami-Dade County. The event is this Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the FIU stadium club. "A lot of kids look up to us and FIU as a beacon for Miami," said Bonilla.

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Time to celebrate the fall: Beaujolais Nouveau is here!



Finally, the weather is becoming less harsh in Florida and you can feel the humidity dissipate as we come closer to Thanksgiving. This is my favorite time of the year, in which you are invited to more festivities than you can actually attend. It is also a great time to get together with family and make new friends. This time of the year is particularly unique for winemakers, as harvest time officially ends. This is celebrated with the release of a peculiar wine called Beaujolais Nouveau, a light red-colored French wine that has only been fermented for a period of six to eight weeks and then it is bottled and released on the third Thursday of November of every year. Brighter color as well fruiter

flavors are perceived in this red wine due to its carbonic fermentation. Whole bunches are put into a sealed container where carbon dioxide is pumped in. The process differentiates from the regular yeast fermentation particular due to the non-skin contact with the juice during fermentation, which is done prior to crushing. It is a great wine to be paired with this season's famous dishes such as turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. This wine should be consumed while it is young, as it does not hold aging very well due to its lightweight structure. It is also recommended to chill prior to serving. Here are my suggestions of Beaujolais Nouveau to look forward on Nov. 21, and best of all, the average price per bottle is \$12. 1) Georges Duboeuf Nouveau 2013, France.

2) Thorin Nouveau 2013, France. 3) Signé Vignerons Château du Souzy Nouveau 2013, Beaujolais Villages - France. In addition, here are my favorite suggestions for the upcoming festivities that should please and impress anyone at the table if you want a couple more varieties to bring over your best friends' or in laws' house: 4) Hugel and Fils Gewürztraminer "Hugel" 2010, Alsace, France. Average price: \$20. This unique area produces outstanding wine, which is undoubtedly my choice for white wines when shopping since it securely represents vivid flavors and crisp acidity. This wine is great to start your evening. It has a bright gold color with a vivid nose of orange blossom, lychee and jasmine, with tones of spices such as black

pepper, ginger and bell pepper. This wine has a medium body and a medium-short finish. 5) Mouton Noir O.P.P. (Other People's Pinot Noir) Willamette Valley, Oregon, United States. Average price: \$18. It was first created as a garage wine by sommelier Andre Hueston, with the intention of being sold to the top restaurants in New York. In recent years, due to its popularity and increase in demand, it has reached wine stores around the United States and it surely delivers great value and character. Exciting, interesting and unique, this Pinot Noir has predominant floral tones of cherry and white flowers followed by subtle scents of ginger, wood, earth and spices, giving a medium to long finish to it. 6) Champagne Baron de Rothschild Brut Non-vintage, Champagne, France. Average price:

\$100. This unique wine has just been announced by the Rothschild family in the United States and so far has gotten amazing reviews. It has a bright yellow-gold color, where bubbles can be seen for a long period of time in the glass — certainly an invitation to keep savoring this amazing beverage. It is brut, meaning that there is almost non-residual sugar left. Yeasty and creamy flavors with nuances of almond, apple and melon are lingering in your mouth for a long period of time, ideal for a pre and post party. Cheers! - Daniela Walter is a Teaching Assistant to professors Chip Cassidy and Bill Hebrank of the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management. Follow her on twitter @ellavwalter

“12 Years a Slave” captures audience’s attention

COLUMNIST



MARTELL HARDING

Slavery. Much can be said about the cruel subservience, yet the dreadful details in a visual aspect have been scarce until now. Director Steve McQueen (known for his provocative film “Shame”) has taken it upon himself to illustrate the memoirs of Solomon Northup, a well-respected free black man of the 19th century, through his journey of survival. Persuaded with kind words and friendship, he is eventually kidnapped by two seemingly harmless gentlemen and sold into slavery. This is not just a film about a black man nor is it a black film, this is American history.

The film opens showing a group of men standing idle, dreary and tired. These

grave-looking slaves listen as they are being instructed on cutting cane. Immediately, you feel a sense of disdain and the feeling sticks with you throughout the film. This instruction repeats itself but often in the form of punishment. The opening scene feels like an insight of what’s to come. We will watch, we will learn and we will be uncomfortable doing so. McQueen’s attentions to detail create a world unimaginable yet disturbingly real.

Some may argue that another film about slavery is unnecessary; however, films such as “Roots” and “Amistad” aren’t enough to truly convey the events of subjugation. Never has the pain and suffering of slaves been detailed in mainstream film; often times physical and mental cruelty from slave masters are tamed to be deemed appropriate for all

audiences, but this is a story of a man trying to emerge from a hell — “I don’t want to survive, I want to live.” Northup strikes at the root of freedom as he’s faced with brutality.

Although we are not strangers to stories of slavery, most have been unable to connect and that’s where the power of the film comes into play. Anyone can relate to Northup with ease, played by the astounding Chiwetel Ejiofor, as he literally gets dragged into what seems like a dark fantasy, a place no one would ever imagine to go. It’s very nightmare-like watching a man’s peaceful life quickly transition into a life of anguish, agony and torture. Ejiofor portrays every inch of a man with extreme bravery. Lupita Nyong’o’s powerful performance should also be mentioned; the new actress holds nothing back and touches us deep within

our souls. No film of slaves has been aimed towards the heart of us all with such sympathy.

That said, the narrative never points an idle finger at anyone, it merely presents unspeakable truth. McQueen’s daring initiation on a subject that repeatedly gets tucked away under a bed of shame will leave you speechless. The film is not meant to shock you; it is meant to put you at the heart of Solomon Northup’s reality and nothing more.

“12 Years a Slave” will break you, leave you speechless and it will test your humanity by offending you, horrifying you and upsetting you, which slavery should. However, this film must be seen — I cannot emphasize this enough. “12 Years a Slave” is undoubtedly the most important film of the year.

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Privet: new club promotes Russian language

LAURA CALDERA

Contributing Writer

As Fall Semester continues on the course to winter break and the next few years of our lives, we don’t usually stop to take notice of the new things that continuously spring around us.

One good example of just how unaware we can get when we move through the hustle and bustle of the FIU campuses is the very fact that we’ve completely skipped over the brand new Russian Club — Kalinka — that has officially arrived earlier this semester.

“Our main aim is to introduce the students, the FIU Students, to Russian history, cinematography, music, food, traditions, etc.,” said the President of the club, Alibek Rakhimov, international relations senior.

“We wanted to unite the Russian-speaking students, or people of Russian descent,” said Gulnaz Kydyrmaeva, a senior Anthropology major and Vice President of Kalinka, “because there is a large Russian population here, but there was no club.”

Located primarily on the Main Campus, Kalinka

wanted to create an environment where they, and others, could meet up and learn about the history of Russia, the taste in food and music, as well as learn more about the culture and language.

Even for the times when you just want to sit back and watch a well-made Russian movie, with English subtitles of course, with a group of amazing individuals who share the same tastes as you do.

And it’s open to anyone; those who are Russians or of Russian descent and want to contribute to the growing community, those who are from Post Soviet States like the Ukraine and Lithuania, and those who are, well, just interested.

Rakhimov and Kydyrmaeva mentioned that they were both from the Post-Soviet state Kyrgyzstan which was once part of the Soviet Union but later declared its independence in the early ‘90s.

Sixsy Alfonso, an international relations and political science junior and Secretary to the Russian club, said that she was from Cuba.

Add the members that are already with Kalinka, a total of 24 members and counting, and you have a wonderful

group of people coming together for one common interest.

“Our goal, by the end of this semester, is to go to the Russian coast, in Sunny Isles, Fla., and try to taste the Russian cuisine as well,” Rakhimov claimed.

When asked what the word “Kalinka” meant, Alfonso replied saying, “It’s a song, a Russian Dance song that is very famous.”

If you have any questions about the Russian club that were not answered in this article or are interested in joining the club, please do not hesitate to contact them through their Facebook page “Russian Club Kalinka FIU,” join them at OrgSync.com or to contact the president directly at arakh001@fiu.edu.

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ROCK ON



JAHREL FRANCIS/THE BEACON

Fernando Lopez, senior mechanical engineering major, gets passionate singing lead as his fellow band members worked for 100% accuracy in Rock Band. Game Wars hosted this gaming event at the Engineering Center Pit for students to showcase their skills in various new top games.

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Chatter beginning on potential end of era



BEACON FILE PHOTO

The ninth-winningest coach in Division-I history, Cindy Russo (right), is surrounded by retirement talk after 34 seasons at FIU.

COLUMNIST



RUBEN PALACIOS

basketball Head Coach Cindy Russo retiring at the end of this year.

I have no idea whether these rumors have any merit, but you know what they say, “where there’s smoke, there’s fire.”

Russo’s time at FIU has been highly decorated. She basically built the women’s basketball program at the school. Let me put that into perspective, in 38 years of women’s basketball at FIU, Russo has been at the helm for 34 of them.

Russo defines FIU women’s basketball, so that’s why talk of a possible retirement are so serious. Her retirement would not only affect FIU but it would rattle Division I women’s basketball, as well. Entering the 2013-1014 season, Russo is the ninth-winningest active coach in D-I women’s basketball. In 36 years of

We might be on the verge of witnessing the end of an era here at FIU.

Chatter has begun to spread about the possibility of women’s

coaching, Russo owns a 689-364 overall record. In 34 years at FIU, she owns a win-loss mark of 649-342.

Not only does Russo rack up wins with ease, but she produces talent, as well. The veteran coach has molded seven All-Americans during her stint with the Panthers. One of those All-Americans, current senior Jerica Coley, Russo led to back-to-back Conference Player of the Year awards.

Russo was at the helm when FIU recorded its best season in the history of the program. During the 1997-1998 season, the Panthers racked up wins against five NCAA Tournament teams - Purdue, Michigan, Georgia, Miami and Louisville - en route to a 29-2 record.

That season, the Panthers rose to No. 11 in the AP Poll and No. 12 in the USA Today/ESPN Coaches Poll. That squad advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Russo’s retirement speculation comes because her star player, Coley, is a senior and on the verge of graduation. Coley, by Russo’s account, is the best player she has ever coached. And looking down at the roster there are no players of Coley’s caliber, not

even close.

Why would such a highly decorated coach, with a place in D-I women’s basketball history already reserved stick around after Coley graduates to coach a poor team?

There is no logical answer to that question. And that’s why Russo is beginning to have to answer questions about her future at FIU.

“I’ll be here forever,” Russo said recently to the Miami Herald when asked about her future with FIU.

I agree with her response. She will be at FIU forever, as a matter of fact, she already has been at FIU forever. Her legacy is as good as set in stone. The U.S. Century Bank Arena, might as well be called the “House that Cindy Russo built,” and the Lime Court at the arena will be, or should be, one day renamed “Cindy Russo Court.” It’s only right.

It’s a strange when you think about it but this time next year, Cindy Russo, for the first time in 34 years, might not be roaming the sidelines of the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

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Cabanas, air drummers and some men’s basketball

COLUMNIST



RHYS WILLIAMS

For a game against a college that I had never heard of in Florida College, the stands were pretty packed, even going up to the second layer. Florida College is in Temple Terrace, Fla and they are a member of the United States Collegiate Athletic Association. Temple Terrace is just to the North East of Tampa.

The band played, there were some drummers hanging from the rafters playing sets in mid-air, and the cabanas that were set up and put in place of one side of the student section were filled with sponsors, VIPs and the like. Along with two sunset beach themed backdrops above the floor section and the cabanas it was a nice set up.

The Athletics department did bring back an old face though at halftime when former Panther and former National Basketball Association athlete Raja Bell was the honorary captain. Bell played for the Panthers from 1997 to 1999 after transferring from Boston University. He led the Panthers to a Sun-Belt Conference championship in his senior season.

Even on the media sideline I was watching the guys get hoisted into the air with cords to drum on drumsets above the older men drinking beer, socializing and not watching the game. As well as trying to figure out exactly why, when the basketball arena is almost a 30 minute



CARL-FREDERICK FRANCOIS/THE BEACON

Senior point guard Raymond Taylor (above) and the rest of the FIU men’s basketball team won their home opener on Nov. 14.

drive to South Beach, not only the Lime Court is basically a beach mural but there are multiple pictures of beaches at sunset.

However, even though all these things were distracting, there was a pretty decent game of basketball played. The Panthers led the Falcons of FC by 10 at the half

and due to the play of redshirt seniors in guard Raymond Taylor and forward Rakeem Buckles never looked back.

Both transfers to the team are playing in their first official seasons after transferring in to the Richard Pitino team last year. Buckles followed Pitino from the Univer-

sity of Louisville - who will be in Miami to play the Panthers in late December during the Winter Break - and Taylor from the Owls of Florida Atlantic University.

Again both players have some interesting storylines with them. Such as Buckles hadn’t played since 2011 due to back-to-back ACL tears. As of Nov. 15 he was the leading scorer on the team with 95 points, 35 more than second leading scorer senior forward Tymell Murphy. Taylor is 5’6” and a starter for a Division 1A college basketball program, not you did not read that backwards, he is five feet, six inches tall. That makes him not only the shortest on the team but when he is on the court with Buckles who is 6’7” and senior center Ivan Jurkovic who is seven feet tall, he is definitely playing with the big boys.

A team that is barely over .500 on the season with losses to Youngstown State University by two points and a near blowout by Eastern Kentucky University in the first game of the regular season by 22 points, does not have a win yet over a school that at least I have heard of before seeing them on the schedule - Kennesaw State University, Warren Wilson College and Florida College - and yes it is early in the season, but on the year when the team cannot go to the postseason, it will be something to see how they stay motivated throughout a season that lasts until March 6.

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Under the shadow of a phenom, Idom to return

ALEJANDRO SOLANA
Staff Writer



KAMIKA IDOM

A new conference with better competition will prove to be a test for FIU, led by coach Cindy Russo in her 34th season at FIU, and the nations leading scorer in Division-1 women's basketball last season, senior sensation Jerica Coley.

Leading up to the season, there has been plenty of chatter regarding FIU's best player and believed phenom, Coley, who was nicknamed "Holy Coley" and now even has a website presenting her importance. However, it could be said that the 11 other members of the women's basketball team have been lost in the spotlight of their teammate.

Junior guard Kamika Idom, Coley's cousin, is one of those players.

Last year, Idom's sophomore season was cut short due to a knee injury that sidelined

her for almost half of the season. She returned back in time for the Sun Belt Conference championship but did not see the court nearly as much as she had before the Injury. Idom was only able to play in 19 of the Panthers' games, starting in five of them.

"My knee is doing great, it is coming along and I feel much better," Idom said. "It was rough last season. Since it was my first injury, it was tough coming back from it."

Although her sophomore season was cut short last year, Idom still averaged 4.6 points a game, fourth best for the Panthers while only playing 17 minutes a game. Her 17 minutes placed her at sixth on the team for minutes.

Before the injury, Idom was almost always the first player off the bench for the Panthers filling in nicely at the sixth-man role. Idom shot 44 percent from the field, the second highest field goal percentage on the team while also recording just under three rebounds a game and 20 total steals on the season.

When taken into account

the limited minutes she saw throughout the season, stats like these could be are impressive by the 5-foot-9 guard out of St. Petersburg, Fla.

The junior played for two different high schools in her hometown of St. Petersburg before beginning her collegiate career at FIU two seasons ago. During her last two seasons of high school, Idom averaged 16.7 points, 8.5 rebounds, 4.9 assists, 3.2 steals and 1.2 blocks at St. Petersburg High.

She was named a two-time MVP while at St. Petersburg High while being coached by her mother, Tamika Coley. The elder Coley is the All-time leading scorer in University of Central Florida women's basketball history.

So far this season, FIU has only played in one regular season game when they faced off against in-state rival Florida Gulf Coast University. The Panthers fell short to the Eagles 75-55.

Idom did not make an appearance in the team's first game as she is still sidelined due to her knee. Typically for any athlete, their first

KICKING IT



IGOR MELLO/THE BEACON

The Brazilian National Team visited FIU on Nov. 14 while preparing for a game against Honduras on Nov. 16. at SunLife Stadium.

game back from a knee injury like hers can be difficult and extremely nerve wracking.

As for Idom though, she cannot wait for her chance to be back on the court.

"Nervous? No, not at all," Idom said. "I cannot wait, I am excited more than anything knowing I'll be back better than ever."

As for when she'll be back?

"The next home game ill definitely be on the court, no question," Idom said.

FIU will look to bounce back from their rough first game as they begin a three-game road trip starting at UCF this Friday, Nov. 15.

The Panthers will then

travel to Massachusetts to face off against Harvard and Boston College before returning home for the annual FIU Thanksgiving Classic at U.S. Century Bank Arena, where Idom will look to make her first appearance of the season.

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Final game for three seniors against North Texas

OSCAR BALDIZON
Staff Writer

The FIU volleyball team closed out their regular season this Sunday, Nov 17 against North Texas University. For three Panthers this was the last time they take to the Lime Court to play a collegiate volleyball game. Those three players were Kimberly Smith, Jessica Mendoza and Cece Spencer.

Unfortunately Spencer is out right now with a leg injury and was not be able to play for FIU against the Mean Green. This is quite a blow for the team considering Spencer was beginning to really play well after a recent move to outside hitter.

"There's some mixed emotions that will be going on, definitely an element of sadness to it all but you still want to finish strong and finish it out the right way. Especially with Cece out, she's a senior and wont be able to play, so we want to win for her and play for her," Smith said.

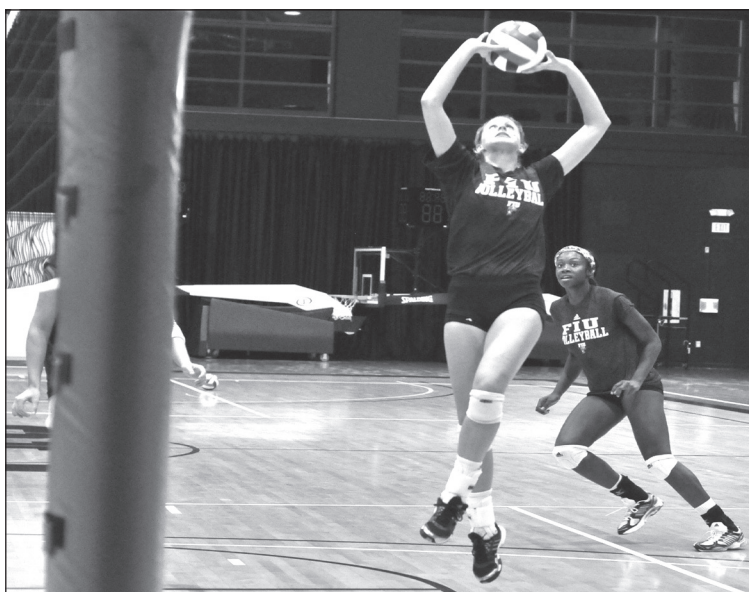
Smith has thrived as a leader for FIU this year, stepping up multiple

times in clutch situations for the Panthers. As a captain, she has been steadfast in her positive attitude all year long and other players have flourished around her feeding off her energy.

She is amongst the Conference USA leaders in hitting percentage, kills, blocks, and points, the only Panther to do so. Both offensively and defensively, she has answered the call of responsibility and productivity needed from a team captain.

Jessica Mendoza was the other senior taking the court for the final time in the U.S Century Bank Arena with Smith and her leadership on the court this year has been well documented. Wrapping up her first and only volleyball season inside, she will join the beach volleyball squad for her second year when she finishes with indoor.

"We feel stronger than we have ever been, the last three games have been the best we played and it's definitely an encouraging atmosphere. We know we have to stay together and we cant get comfortable just because we have a spot



BEACON FILE PHOTO

The FIU women's volleyball team will see three of its seniors play their final game against North Texas.

in the tournament, this upcoming game is very important for seeding and preparing for Conferences," Smith said.

Squaring off against the Panthers will be the Mean Green from Denton, Texas. The Mean Green closed out its home slate

with a sweeping victory over the UTEP Miners, a win that keep North Texas in the driver's seat for a potential bye in the first round of the Conference USA tournament.

North Texas got 12 kills out of senior Courtney Windham on a .688 attack percentage, her third-

most accurate clip of the season, while freshman setter Amy Henard dished out 38 assists to a variety of Mean Green attackers. At 16-12 North Texas is among the top five teams in C-USA in hitting percentage, kills, service aces and represent a formidable test for the Panthers to close out their season.

FIU is coming off a tightly contested match with their South Florida rival, Florida Atlantic University. Even though they lost in five sets, junior Martyna Gluchowicz led the way, recording 16 kills and two service aces, a welcomed sight for the Panthers after losing Spencer.

"We're all pumped to be playing in the tournament and we have been working really hard lately so we know we are ready. We're all very determined right now and if we play our best, no matter what the outcome is, we will have still have something to show for it," junior Brittany Mullee said.

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Big men lead team to victory over Florida College

BASKETBALL, PAGE 1

When FIU was able to keep control of the ball, the offense stepped on the pedal and never let go. The second half saw the Panthers go on a 22-12 run and a 20-point lead for the team. The team also recorded 51 of their 85 points in the second half.

Size was also key for the Panthers, as big men Buckles and Frink started the game and showed their presence in the paint, holding

the Falcons to just 18 points under the basket.

The duo also contributed on the boards and helped the Panthers out-rebound the Falcons, 51 to 35.

The Panthers finished the night shooting 55 percent from the court and 38 percent from behind the arc. Defense kept the Falcons in check with just 21 percent shooting, along with 12 percent from the 3-point line, as well as holding the Falcons to just 15 points in the last 20 minutes.

Redshirt senior guard Raymond Taylor started his first home game for the Panthers but failed to find the bottom of the net early. Taylor scored two points on 1-of-6 shooting, but was able to get back on track after half-time and finish the game with seven points on three for nine shooting.

For Frink, who played last year under former coach Richard Pitino, the change of personnel has been something he's been getting used to.

"It's way different from last year," Frink said. "New coach, new players, I just gotta adjust to my new teammates and my new coach and his rules."

For both Buckles and Frink, the Panthers are just scratching the surface at the potential this current team has.

"We're not the team that we should be, I'll just say that," Buckles said.

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Student Government Association exploring fee for Maritime Science Technology Academy

SOFIA GALIANO
Contributing Writer

In August, Biscayne Bay Campus welcomed the Maritime Science Technology Academy. As the program's first semester comes to an end, the high school students crowd the cafeteria and use student services with their FIU OneCards — issues that the Student Government Association are investigating.

BBC-SGA President Fu Zhou Wu said MAST students were issued FIU OneCards to use facilities on campus, granting them access to services including on-campus events and the Recreation Center.

Wu claims SGA is working to see how much MAST students are spending in University services and whether they should be charged a fee in the future.

"After they swipe their card, we can get the data," she said. "It's the beginning."

The MAST@FIU partnership is roughly three months old. SGA is monitoring the progress of the program. Meanwhile, MAST

students utilize services paid by University students' tuition.

BBC Vice Provost Steven Moll said there are about 90 ninth graders in the program, but by next year, the current ninth graders will move to tenth grade and a new ninth grade class will join them.

According to Moll, Miami-Dade Public Schools will build a permanent facility between Academic Two and the Kovens Conference Center housing one thousand MAST Academy students in two years.

FIU students appreciate the MAST program for the opportunities it brings the high schoolers; however, they disapprove of MAST students taking part in recreational activities and using other services paid out of college students' pockets.

Moll said Miami-Dade Public Schools is paying for Academy students to take college classes and to use University facilities.

He said the purpose of the program is to incorporate the high schoolers into the mainstream of University life, and they are just as much college students as the ones who pay FIU

tuition.

"They are FIU students," he said. "They are taking FIU classes."

University students disagreed. "If they are using the services provided by the A&S fee, I don't think it's right," said Valerie Andrea, junior psychology major. "I think the exposure is good, but if they're abusing it then that's no bueno."

She said it's good that MAST students are able to utilize BBC and familiarize themselves with the University, but it becomes an issue when it's at the expense of the University students' tuition.

University students also complained that MAST students crowd the cafeteria during lunch time, taking up tables to facilitate an entire high school class.

The MAST students gather in the small BBC cafeteria from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. for lunch, leaving few seating options for University students like Rebecca Budhoo, a sophomore biology major.

"They should eat at a different location instead of the café, because there are already a lot of students

here," said Budhoo. "Sometimes there's not even a seat available."

Wu and SGA Chief Justice Francheska Periche both said they didn't know University students were bothered by the MAST students in the cafeteria.

If they are using the services provided by the A&S fee, I don't think it's right.

*Valerie Andrea
Junior
Psychology Major*

Periche said the lunch rush for University students is at noon, therefore the MAST students shouldn't affect others eating on campus.

"To my knowledge, I haven't seen any complaints about it," said Periche.

Wu said she will contact Business and Services to investigate the issue and find a possible solution.

Budhoo suggested the freshmen class eat in smaller groups and at different times to occupy less space in the café.

"I don't mind them being here," said Budhoo, but she is burdened by the crowded cafeteria of high schoolers.

Although the issue affects University students eating on campus, those concerns have not been voiced to faculty.

Moll said MAST students used to eat outside then moved inside the cafeteria for a 30-minute lunch break, "and then it's back to work."

Budhoo may be bothered by the crowded cafeteria of high schoolers during her lunch break, but said she can't stand the MAST students using student-paid services.

"That I can definitely not tolerate," Budhoo said. "That's a no."

Periche said the University is using this time to see how the program is going to perform.

"This year is a trial run," she said.

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Artist with heart for environment paints Glenn Hubert Library mural

ALEXANDRA MOSQUERA NETZKARSCH
Staff Writer

Jaime Choclote, a comic artist and mural painter, has illustrated scenery of the Amazon rainforest and indigenous tribes onto the walls of the Glenn Hubert Library as a part of the library's renovation project.

Among the characters in Choclote's mural is Sanange, a fictional super chamán or shaman who protects the rain forest from deforestation, pollution and the vanishing of the identity of the indigenous tribes.

Choclote said the mural consists of two parts of the Amazon: on one side, the night with dolphins, mermaids and a shaman, the latter representing the mystical; on the other, a bird representing the day, plus four people representing the indigenous tribes.

"The Amazon should concern everyone," Choclote said. He wants people who use the library to look at the mural and think about the meaning it has for them, because it might wake some curiosity about the Amazon.

"It is important for younger generations to learn about environmental issues, and I think comics are a good way of catching their interest," said Choclote, who is also the coordinator for the Cultural Association Píncel Verde and dedicated to raising awareness about problems faced by the indigenous tribes of the Amazon.

More than 30 years after opening, the Glenn Hubert Library begins changes that will make its services and design

reflective of Biscayne Bay Campus' focus on environmental concerns.

Some of these changes scheduled through 2014 include the renovation of the first floor public service desk, the addition of a new mural behind this desk and a second floor makeover.

Two years' worth of meetings with the Student Govern-



ZAINA KAHUK/THE BEACON

ment Council at BBC produced these results, according to Bryan Cooper, associate dean of technical and digital services.

Over a million dollars in allocations from the technology fee paid for the renovations, the most central of which will be the Academic Skills and Knowledge Center, where students can expect to find computer lab, laptop bar and reading zone. The AskCenter will serve as the equivalent of the Green Library's Hub at MMC.

The renovations should end by late summer 2014, according to Cooper. He publicly unveiled the mural on Nov. 7.

Jim Riach, lecturer of Environmental Studies and member of Project Amazonas (a humanitarian and environmental non-profit research organization) established strategies to address health, conservation and development needs in the Peruvian Amazon.

Riach met Choclote at a comic festival in Iquitos, Peru, in 2008. Impressed by Choclote's talents, Riach said a light bulb lit up when he met the artist and realized they shared goals.

"It is nice to differentiate Jaime's art from other art in Iquitos," Riach said.

In one weekend, Choclote finished the draft for the design of the mural, which he then sent for the approval of Cooper and the Hubert Library staff. Riach financed the trip from Iquitos to Miami, and the Kuyayky Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and development of Andean music and culture, made it possible for Choclote to stay in the Kuyayky founders' home while painting the mural.

"The mural is a great addition to the library," Cooper said. "We did pull together as a team to make this happen."

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LGBTQA community joins together in Thanksgiving potlucks

ALEXANDRA MOSQUERA NETZKARSCH
Staff Writer

Edwin Serrano, graduate assistant for LGBTQA Initiatives said the community's Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner event, will allow students who are not accepted by their families to participate in a holiday dinner

where they don't have to worry about going back in the closet.

Together with the Stonewall Pride Alliance, LGBTQA Training and Development Committee and GSA, the LGBTQA community will host its Thanksgiving potluck on Nov. 20 at Biscayne Bay Campus' Wolfe University Center and Nov. 26 at Modesto Maidique

Campus' Graham Center from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

"A lot of students don't have the ability to be themselves within their families," said Serrano. "This event will give them the chance and the space to be who they are."

According to Serrano, this dinner has the purpose of getting the community together and

remembering that students can be themselves without being judged.

"LGBTQA students will have the opportunity of not having to worry about going back in the closet if their family is unaccepting," said Serrano.

Some students agree with Serrano, who thinks the dinner is a chance for the LGBTQA and

University community to come together for the sake of a holiday.

Justin Santoli, sophomore in elementary education and the president of the Stonewall Pride Alliance, will perform a self-written poem about bullying — a theme familiar with LGBTQA students.

SEE LGBTQA, PAGE 2