Payroll system upgrades to online, saves time

BEN F. BADGER JR.
Asst. News Director

For University employees, the days of tim cards recording every hour worked, supervisors verifying them, and making sure the cards made it to the payroll office in Pimera Casa are a thing of the past.

An online system called Time Saver replaced the traditional time cards June 15, offering employees a more efficient way to log hours worked. It’s run by Automatic Data Processing, Inc., a firm that processes over 32 million paychecks a week, according to its website.

The first paycheck scheduled under Time Saver will be issued July 6.

Carlos Flores was the director of the Payroll Transition Project which was responsible for the switch. He was available for comment at publication.

Some students, such as Martha Lopez, a sophomore who works at the Graham Center, was the Information Desk, pointed out some of the advantages:

“Easy,” she said. “You can access it from anywhere.”

But besides allowing employees to log in from any computer, the system also allows a more accurate record of work hours. Employees can log hours worked, vacation hours, and sick days, as well as edit other personal information.

Once their online time cards are filled out, they are submitted through the web to various department heads that are responsible for verifying the hours logged.

The new system can be accessed from any PC with Windows, Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher, and Adobe Reader 6.0 or higher. A drawback about Time Saver is that it will not work on Macintosh computers or on the Safari web browser according to the PTP website.

Despite the system’s advantages, a system failure that could result in them not being able to log in their hours is a general concern among student employees. Lopez also has concerns about possible system failures that could result in the loss of logged hours entirely with no physical records of them.

“Paper is proof,” Lopez said.

Pablo Vega, a Graham Center Lab attendant, was also concerned that older, technologically-unversed FIU employees might find it harder to adapt to the new system.

“For me it’s easier,” Vega said.

“But for older [employees] it may be harder.”

Another key aspect of Time Saver is that employees must be careful about when they submit their hours through Time Saver.

With the previous time cards, there was some leeway. Even if past due, employees could still receive payment. With Time Saver, if an employee does not submit hours on schedule, he or she will not be paid for that two-week pay period.

According to Sherry Carrillo, associate director of the University’s Public Relations and a former faculty member, Time Saver will affect the approximately 250 full-time and part-time employees who work there.

“We think it’s a positive thing like any other new system. We will deal with issues as they come up,” Carrillo said.

There will be several Time Saver workshops this week. For a complete list see the PTP website at ptp.fi.edu. For technical support, employees may email paysystem@fiu.edu or call 305-348-2181.
Scultures relocated to other universities

The sculptures are in good condition by all standards. All maintenance specifications for the loan were met at its highest level, she said.

FIU’s Faculty Senate Chair Bruce Hauptli, who plans to brief the senate about the relocation of the sculptures during the Steering Committee meeting this week, said that he has been hearing the rumors, including that Margulies had some concerns regarding the amount of publicity and recognition accorded the sculpture park. However, he said there is not much substance supporting them.

“The items belonging to Mr. Margulies are on loan to this university...he is free to reassign these pieces to other location at any point,” Hauptli said in an email. “The reassigned pieces will be missed, but we shall be appreciative of his willingness to share elements of his collection with us.”

“The sculptures are invaluable. Without them, there is just a bunch of buildings,” said Associate Art Professor Pip Brant.

According to Hinds, it’s hard to know whether the sculptures will ever return to FIU, adding that the best thing about being involved in the business is that you don’t have to answer the question about the future.

She did reassure, however, that the popular Tony Rosenthal’s ‘Marty’s Cube,’ which students traditionally route for good luck, will still stay at FIU.

Law suit follows resignations

An article published in the Dec 7, 2006 issue of the Beacon regarding procrastination did not intend to convey that Rajiv Kirpalani just fine.”

Asst. News Director

Panah wrote, “I feel confident that as long as we keep it low key that everything should be approved just fine. Hence, as long as someone doesn’t go poking around, we should be just fine.”

In the lawsuit, Izadpanah claims to be referring to professor Christos Koulamas, chairperson of the department of decision sciences and information systems of the CBA, who questioned the affairs of FIU Online to the extent that such inquiries exceeded the bounds of reasonable supervision and constituted harassment and ‘meddling’ or interference with the affairs of the department.”

Maydel Santana-Bravo, director of media relations, said that Koulamas could not comment due to pending litigation.

Perez later claimed in a Miami Herald article that Izadpanah and Morejon were not truthful when filing requests for outside employment, which the two deny. Perez also said that FIU lawyers believed that the school owned the rights to the digital textbooks that Izadpanah and Morejon sold.

However, in a March 8 email to Elam, Izadpanah claims that the textbooks had “no affiliation” with FIU.

“I’m pretty sure someone on the team is just dissatisfied with their current salary and looking out,” the email says.

Izadpanah and Morejon have since resigned from FIU. Izadpanah was not available for comment.

Elam stated in an email to the Beacon that she could not give grant interviews due to pending litigation.

Perez did not return a phone call or email request for comment. Perez resigned last month after accepting an offer to become a partner with the private equity firm MBF Healthcare Partners.

According to the Miami Herald Article, FIU was conducting an investigation into the matter that should have been completed by May 19. Santanta-Bravo did not comment on the investigation at the time of publication.
JAMES SALLEE
Contributing Writer

Public nudity embraced at Haulover Beach

Loren Mejia had never been naked in public before she never had the urge to do so. “It’s not something I’ve ever seriously considered. I mean, really, who wants to be naked in public? It makes no sense to me,” she said.

Mejia, a junior at Middlebury College in Vermont who was raised in Sherandoah, Florida, was unaware that Florida’s only legal “clothing optional” beach resides right in her backyard, at Haulover Park.

As an experiment, Mejia ventured out June 4 to the nude beach located at 10800 Collins Avenue in Miami Beach during her summer vacation.

An estimated 1.3 million people visit the nude section of Haulover Beach every year, according to Oscar Rountin, a Haulover Park representative. He said they come for the scenic view, tennis facilities and the opportunity to experience with the nudity.

“We get comment cards all the time from the people who thank us for giving them an opportunity to experiment with something they had never wanted to try for a while,” Rountin said.

“We also get comments saying that we’ll be following the nudists into hell because we give them area to flaunt their nakedness freely,” Rountin said.

Rountin said he was unfazed by the controversy the beach generates and thinks it’s funny.

The South Florida Free Beach Association, a group of “naturists,” sectioned off a stretch of Haulover Beach and announced the area to be a nudist section in 1991. The association darened Miami Beach authorities to stop them, but they never did. The association pays an annual fee in order to maintain the beach’s status at the only location in Florida to allow public nudity.

The beach has an array of colors and contrasts. White sand is backdropped by a wall of steel conods and hotels, painted different shades of whites and pastels.

The lifeguard stations which are painted in seafoam green, baby blue and light yellow, separate the beach into four sections that contain the swingers, families and gay community groups. Comapcted between the towers are umbrellas, towels and naked bodies. An artist sitting on the sand painted, looking toward the backdrop for inspiration. Mejia grew apprehensive about taking her top off as the day progressed.

“I was worried that people would be looking at me. There were some people with binoculars that weren’t looking at the birds. I’m not really comfortable with my naked body like some of those people are,” Mejia said.

“Gawkers” is a term used by the association to define people who go to the beach solely to see nude people. This is strictly forbidden at the beach and, if caught, gawkers, lifeguards and association volunteers will ask them to leave.

Meanwhile, a fellow beach-goer was on the lookout for something to massage that day. Larry Fleischman, a self-proounced “Beach Mayor,” was

Leak prompts changes in BBC pool

EVER CRUZ
Staff Writer

A week before the FIU Swim and Sports Academy summer camp began at the Biscayne Bay Campus, Christine M. Fisher, athletic coordinator, scrambled around in her office preparing the camp’s schedule. She had to deal with unplanned events that there would be no swimming in the pool campus this year for her 150 campers.

The camp began June 4, but the Department of Facilities Management did not notify Fisher until May 16 that the pool would be closed.

Fisher believes the pool repairs are linked to the construction of the new fitness center and cafeteria at BBC since the fitness center will contain a walkway to the pool.

According to Elle “Elia” Bardawil, associate director of campus recreation, life and orientation, the pool, which is part of the BBC Aquatic Center, is currently undergoing structural repairs due to a leak found by his department in April.

Bardawil said his depart- ment mentioned the leak to Facilities Management, who then decided to renovate the pool for the first time since it was built in 1983.

No one from Facilities Management was available for comment to discuss the pool’s renovations.

Bardawil said the pool’s renovations would be completed in two phases. Phase one would include updating the pool’s plumbing, as well as working on its design to meet the specific needs of FIU’s swimming and diving team. Phase two will involve the remodeling of the pool’s surface.

Bardawil did not specify when either phase would be completed.

“When the new renovations are done, the student body is going to have once again a first class facility on our beautiful [campus] and the University swimming and diving team will have a premiere facility for training and competition,” Bardawil said.

The closed pool lead Fisher and the camp counselors to search for an alternative option for the four to 14-year-old campers this summer. The elementary school-aged children are taking instructional swimming at The British Swim School in Aventura. Everyone else is participating in the BBC kayaking program instead.

Ash Carozzi, a summer camp counselor, dislikes the change.

“It’s an inconvenience for all of us because we have to take buses to go to an alternate place,” Carozzi said.

Fleischman, who said he has been to Haulover Beach “more often than I haven’t been,” in the last 15 years, remembers when it was frequented by small groups of European tourists and a few men who only hung out by the pink lifeguard tower.

Fleischman said the beach is now a booming community with many regulars that he chats with daily.

“I hear about people who form a bond because they see each other all the time at the same Starbucks or the supermarket, and that’s how it is with us. We have our own little free family,” he said.

At no point did Fleischman ever mention someone as “nude,” always “free,” or “comfortable.”

“Being free out here on this gorgeous beach with gorgeous women and friendly people is the greatest feeling in the world,” Fleischman said.

Mejia went home that day unable to call herself a “naturist,” but she did come to a conclusion about public nudity.

“People really shouldn’t be naked in public. It’s kind of gross,” Mejia said. “I’m glad they are comfortable with themselves; I wish I was that comfortable in public, but I really don’t want to see people naked anywhere."

Fleischman would disagree with Mejia.

“People think that Haulover Beach is about exhibitionism, but it’s not about people seeing you naked, or you seeing other people naked. I don’t care if the beach is completely empty, I’d still be naked. Being outdoors is a wonderful feeling,” he said.
IMPARTIAL BORDERS

The City of Miami can aptly be described as a haven for diversi-
ity. It is one of the few places in the nation notable for the large
proportion of English, Spanish and Creole speakers.

According to the 2000 United States Census, it is estimated
that 74 percent of the individu-
als residing in the city of Miami
speak a language other than
English in their households, with
a total of 1.1 million foreign
born individuals living in the
Miami -Dade metropolitan area,
composing 51 percent of the
total population.

However, beneath the facade
of diversity, and the promises of
a new life in an affluent nation,
immigrants have come to the
realization that the immigration
policies set in place are not nec-
esarily equal.

This is a stark reality that has haunted leaders in the local
Haitian community for many
days, due to the favoritism that
pervades many nations
that separate them from the
other world.

For instance, Haitian and
Mexican immigrants, a sizable
chunk of the current influx to
South Florida, are forced to avert
any contact that would expose
them to immigration officials,
and some 35,000 sexual assaults
occurred in the 22 month tran-
sitional time span, mostly per-
petrated by criminals, although
abuses committed by political
figures were also evident.

It is only fair to help Haitians
escape an equally repressive
government. To favor Cuban
immigrants because of the nature
of the Castro regime is truly an
injustice.

Regardless of whether
FIU or anyone is at fault, the
University response (or lack thereof) only invites negative
assumptions and speculation
about the whole episode.

Sculptures do not disappear
overnight. Their removal had to
be in the works for some time.
Yet the University neglected to
mention their imminent disap-
pearance to the student body.
In fact, as of June 22, they have yet to issue an official
comment.

There was a lack of proper
maintenance on the part of the
school! Did Mr. Marguiles feel
there was insufficient promo-
tion and appreciation of the
collection? Perhaps there was a
dispute between Marguiles and
school administrators which led
to their removal.

In any situation where some-
ting valuable is taken away
from FIU, it is only natural
for some to assume, perhaps
unjustly, that the administra-
tion must have done something
wrong.

When no one provides
answers, it is only human to
ask questions.

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off in GC 210 at
University Park, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus
or sent to beaconopinion@yahoo.com. Letters must
include the writer’s full name, year in school, major/
department and a valid phone number for verification
purposes.
Emotions soar high at launch

By SARA RODRIGUEZ

Fairytale are full of characters that fell in love for hundreds of years under magical spells. It seems that after four years of long study nights and caffeine, college can be quite an opposite spell on students.

According to a 2001 study cited on the Brown University Health Education website, only 11 percent of college students receive a healthy dose of sleep, making them one of the most bleary-eyed age groups.

While this demographic slept an average of seven to seven and a half hours per night in the 1980s, recent studies show they are now down to six or seven hours.

As quantity and quality of sleep diminish, mental alertness is affected, as well as one’s ability to perform well and recall facts, which are some of the main reasons why students compromise their sleep in the first place.

If this pattern continues, a sleep debt gradually builds up and can rear its ugly head in the forms of irritability, disorientation, tension and even depression.

Junior Kathie Warfel has been recently accepted to FIU’s School of Nursing and has had to face a more strenuous workload than the one she previously carried.

Yet, in the midst of pressure to succeed, a healthy amount of sleep is one thing that Warfel has found impossible to relinquish.

“I’m the type of person who can’t stay up late, because I’m on a schedule in which I wake up early,” Warfel said. “If I get less sleep one night and try to nap, it becomes a vicious cycle. [The minimum I get is] seven hours.”

English Professor Ken Claus, who has taught classes scheduled as early as 6:40 a.m., feels that he cannot stress enough the importance of a good night’s sleep to his students.

“The majority of students at any of my classes report an average of five to six hours of sleep per night,” Claus said. “I know because I often ask.”

Many students have observed that their fellow classmates grow sick at least once a semester and have even fallen victim to frequent illness themselves.

Claus says that part of the way this can be avoided is by refusing to cheat one’s body of sufficient rest.

“Students think they don’t need much sleep and it always catches up with them,” Claus said. “You can almost chart with precision that by the end of the first four to five weeks of class at least half the students are sick. Then another six weeks goes by and more plague. And then there are finals and it is like Europe 1380.”

Claus has especially found this to be true of his own students because he often teaches early morning classes, many times taken by students who go straight to work after school.

Not only does he give speeches to his students about the need for proper rest, but he has found creative ways to increase their level of awareness at such an early hour in the day.

“I do blast ‘hair’ heavy metal when everyone arrives,” Claus said. “It is quite effective, but nowhere near as good as the Scots bagpipe.”

More conventional ways exist to ensure one’s alertness is at its maximum potential, such as maintaining the same bedtime each night and setting one’s alarm for the same time each morning.

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BBC celebrates 30th anniversary

Students gathered outside the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management’s building on May 12 to celebrate the Biscayne Bay Campus’ 30th anniversary. The event also generated many opinions regarding BBC’s expansion, resources, and general future.

At the event, Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver, dean and professor of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, stood on the stage overlooking the patio and gave a speech, the first hand account of the building’s inauguration day 30 years ago.

Other appearances at the celebration were Noel Browne and Nadia Turner, both former FIU students.

Browne is now an R&B singer and Turner was a finalist on the television show American Idol.

Crist rejects five percent tuition increase

Governor Charlie Crist has rejected a proposed five percent tuition increase for state universities and community colleges. Crist signed a $71.5 billion budget for the University’s fiscal year, and said the five percent tuition increase was too high.

They are paying higher property taxes. They are paying higher gas prices. I don’t think it’s right to make them pay.

Football stadium renovations begin

FIU officials held a groundbreaking ceremony at the FIU Football Stadium May 25 for the renovations that will take place through the next months at the stadium. Representatives from FIU and Odebrecht Construction Inc., the company in charge of the project, were present at the ceremony.

Phase one of the three-phase project will cost $31 million and will add 10,500 seats and other amenities to the stadium. These include 14 air-conditioned luxury suites, a wrap-around concourse with a full field view, 1,400 club seats, a video scoreboard and a stadium club.

A $71.5 billion budget for the state May 24. “I feel for our students and I feel for their families,” Crist said. “They are paying higher insurance rates. We are paying higher gas prices. I don’t think it’s right to make them pay for higher tuition, too.”

Steve Fernandez, the University’s vice provost, Cathy Akers, assistant vice president of student affairs, and Katiana “Kathy” Saintable, SGC-BBC president.

Browne and Turner performed on stage and sang the birthday song.

The event ended with the cutting of the birthday cake by Damian Browne and Turner performed on stage and sang the birthday song.

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Lakeview Residence Hall closed at the end of Summer A because of maintenance needs. According to James Wassenaar, executive director of student affairs, Lakeview Residence Hall was closed to replace its faulty shower pans.

“We closed Lakeview to ensure there would be no moldy problems,” Wassenaar said. “If there were moldy problems we would not let students live there.”

Vice President Marcos Perez resigns

After four years of work at FIU, Executive Vice President of External Relations Marcos Perez resigned. University President Modesto A. Maimique announced the resignation in a university-wide email dated May 12.

Perez has accepted an offer to become a partner with the private equity firm MBF Healthcare Partners.

FIU lost twelve scholarships due to inadequate graduation rates, the most likely to lose a team can record without losing any scholarships is 925, which indicates that the team’s athletes earned 92.5 percent of all possible points and that the team is on track to graduate 50 percent of its athletes.

If a team scores less than 900, it cannot replace scholarships even if an academically ineligible player leaves the team.

This year, three FIU teams scored less than 900: baseball, football and basketball.

As a result, FIU will lose 8 scholarships in football, two in men’s basketball and one in baseball.

Ancestors to the worst, with 850, and was placed in the top 1st-10th percentile nationally, which means that 90 percent of Division 1 schools were out-grading players.

The basketball team scored 870 and the football team scored 889.

To date, the NCAA has taken back nine scholarships from FIU; the remaining three scholarships will be lost in the Fall Semester.

NFL drafts two Golden Panthers

Former Golden Panther linebacker/defensive end Antwan Barnes was drafted by the Baltimore Ravens in the fourth round with the 134th pick overall, while former wide receiver Chad Chandler Williams was selected in the seventh round of the draft with the 233rd pick by the Minnesota Vikings.

Although Williams and Barnes are the first two Golden Panthers to be selected during the NFL draft, they are not the only players who remain in the institution.

The minimum score a team can record without losing any scholarships is 925, which indicates that the team’s athletes earned 92.5 percent of all possible points and that the team is on track to graduate 50 percent of its athletes.

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Tall players are synonymous with the sport of basketball. Brian Kremser, by the name of Russell Hicks will join the Golden Panthers basketball team. His mother and father stood at 6’6 and 6’5 feet tall respectively.

He started playing basketball when he was in the seventh grade and soon grew and towered over his classmates.

Hicks attended Westlane High in Ontario Canada, where he achieved his full height and started to draw a lot of attention on the basketball court with his impressive size and great stats. Following high school, Hicks enrolled at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif. As a freshman, he played in 30 games and averaged 4.0 points per game, 3.1 rebounds, 1.6 blocks and 1.4.6 minutes.

At the end of the season, he was selected to the West Coast Conference (WCC) All-Freshman Team. Hesiting in his sophomore year in Pepperdine on the day before an exhibition game against the University of Connecticut, he sustained an injury to his left foot. The injury forced him to sit out for eight weeks. He did return after Christmas break and finish the season; however, Pepperdine was in a slump and lost most of their remaining games.

After that disappointing season, Pepperdine head coach Paul Westphal was fired in a coaching shake-up. This was a major factor in Hicks’ decision to transfer. “I really liked Paul Westphal and the other coaches,” said Hicks.

“The coach that came in [Vance Walberg] was a great guy. Unfortunately, he was a more guard-oriented coach and it was not going to work with my big man style of play and it took away parts of my game. I just did not feel comfortable at Pepperdine anymore.”

Hicks says he decided to attend FIU because of the area, coaching staff and weight training program. Since arriving at FIU Hicks has made an immediate impres- sion on his teammates and most notably on men’s basketball head coach Sergio Rouco. Rouco is very excited to have a player like Hicks call- ing him “a proven guy.”

“He has an inside presence that can change the game defen- sively,” said Rouco.

We are a good defensive team, but we always give up that second shot. Now we got a guy that can alter and change shots defensively, so percentages go down and you get an opportunity to win ballgames.”

New coaches have tools to catapult FIU to next level

I believe everything in life is about recruiting, whether you are recruiting a coach, faculty, a dean or a spouse. I look at the coaches and make sure I have the coaches going into the future.

As for baseball, Garcia trusts his coaches and will continue to lead FIU to success in the future, especially in terms of recruiting.

“Obviously the coaches that we are hiring have to be excellent recruiters,” Garcia said.

“I believe everything in life is about recruiting, whether you’re recruiting a coach, faculty, a dean or a spouse. I look at the coaches and make sure I have the coaches going into the future.”

Classifieds

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Coaching changes necessary to awaken ‘sleeping giant’

This is Pete Garcia’s world, and we’re all just living in it.

Since the FIU Athletic Director was hired last October, the school has parted ways with five head coaches.

In the month of May alone, Garcia fired baseball coach Danny Price, women’s soccer coach Everest Edwards and women’s softball coach Kim Gwydir. Karl Kremser was ushered into retirement after 27 years as head coach of men’s soccer. Don Strock resigned last November after five seasons as FIU football’s head coach.

Ninety years of combined FIU head coaching experience gone in a flash.

The accolades and success of these coaches are aplenty. Price, the architect of the baseball program, finished a 28 year coaching career with a 1,086-597 record and only three losing seasons. Kremser earned six Coach of the Year awards and sent 40 players to the pros. Edwards, Gwydir and Strock built the foundation of their respective programs.

That was then, this is now. Welcome to the new era in FIU athletics.

While it was certainly poignant to lose such dedicated individuals that devoted their heart and soul to FIU, college athletics in the 21st century are not for the weak of heart. Garcia understands this fact, and he wants FIU students to understand it.

Division I athletic departments are run like corporations, and President Maidique hired Garcia to be the CEO.

The term is “cutting the fat,” and Garcia is using a ginsu knife expertly streamlining the FIU Athletic Department with precision. Garcia is on a mission to break the mold of mediocrity that has been FIU Athletics in the aggregate, over the past three decades.

The rest of the university is doing its part to rid the mantra that FIU just is a “commuter school.”

The FIU College of Law is excelling on all levels, the medical school accepts its first class in Fall 2009 and the business programs are ranked nationally.

Now it’s time for FIU athletics to follow suit.

If one of FIU’s esteemed academic programs posted average or below average numbers for almost thirty years, wouldn’t you want to bring in a respected individual from a prestigious university to shape the program and bring in new professors?

Well, as difficult as it is to say, one of the most “prestigious” universities in Division I athletics is Garcia’s alma mater and former employer, the University of Miami.

When the dust settles from the firings, the residue left is a group of elite coaches with winning attitudes.

The football team starts fresh with head coach Mario Cristobal. Cristobal is an energetic and the football team starts fresh with head coach Mario Cristobal. Cristobal is an energetic and