8-25-2008

The Beacon, August 25, 2008

Florida International University

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As students return to school this semester, they’ll notice that the University has gotten smaller while classes have gotten larger.

Still reeling from a statewide budget crisis, the University has spent the summer cutting degree programs, research centers and staff, placing enrollment caps and hiking tuition.

For students, however, this has meant changing academic plans from switching majors to putting back graduation as they adjust to a university trying to deal with a financial bind and its commitment to students.

“The Céspedes brothers agreed to donate $1 million to FIU Athletics in 2007. That was to be phased out during the next two years. The agreement was to be 26.5 million during a three-year span. As a result, the company was unable to complete the remaining payments.

However, after the bankruptcy, the Pharmed Group was unable to complete the promised to donate to FIU.

The University changed the name of its Pharmed Arena to the FIU Arena this April. “There was an agreement in place and [Pharmed] did not finish paying the amount,” Vice President of Community Relations Sandra Gonzalez-Levy said.

Pharmed was established in 1980 and was once one of the largest Hispanic owned
The impact is that classes are filled to the top. Students just can’t get in,” M artinez said.

The budget cut’s biggest impact, explained Martinez, is that it has forced him to shrink his department of 15 full-time professors, is 15 one-third because of the budget crisis; only 14 art history classes can be taught.

For the first time, she’s going to have to take half of her semester courses away from the classroom.

“The impact is that classes are filled to the top. Students just can’t get in,” M artinez said.

The budget cut’s biggest impact, explained Martinez, is that it has forced him to shrink his department of 15 full-time professors, and 25 adjuncts by one-third, resulting in the reduced class offerings.

This close correlation between, on one hand, budget cuts and reduced faculty, and the other, number of faculty and class offerings, has been felt in most departments throughout campus.

Cesar Levy, associate dean of academic affairs at the College of Engineering and Computer Science, said the CEC is undergoing “deep belt-tightening” and it has forced a reduction in classes, an increase in class sizes, and a freeze in hiring adjuncts.

Luckier departments have actually added faculty. The English department, already one of the larger departments in the College of Arts and Sciences, will boast four new professors this year and offer more courses.

However, even with extra classes than last year, class sizes are still higher than the national average.

The department would have to add 30 additional sections to comply with national trends, English department Chair James Sutton said.

“Traditional problem in our classes has long been over-enrollment and high (class) caps,” Sutton said. “But because of staff additions if anything, we’ll hold the line.”

And it’s because of these additions that the department has been able to deal with a unique influx of students—a migrating group from the English education major in the College of Education and one of the programs cut over the summer.

Most faculty agree that there is only so much that can be done with a failing budget. Still, fears are rising that making the most of a bad situation is leading to a University that is not only shrinking in size but quality as well.

“We prided ourselves because we had smaller classes than these big time universities, like U.F. It had an attraction because there was that interaction with professors,” Levy said. “It’s harder now.”
Online tuition reduced, more classes offered

**Daniela Bacigalupo**

As national trends show students flocking to take online courses, Florida International University (FIU) is following suit. According to Camayd-Freixas, court interpreter and ethics professor at FIU, more students are taking online courses due to increasing gas prices, FIU students have show students flocking to take online classes in the past even the economy went into its tailspin.

The price of gas will not make [online courses] more attractive but our classes have been full in the past even before the economy went into its tailspin.

Enrollment at FIU has grown exponentially since the program’s inception in 1999 and has peaked to 37,000 students in 2007-08, according to Elam. FIU’s numbers reflect a statewide trend. Enrollment in the same period reached a total of 290,000 students in 10 state universities.

As well as regulating online fees, the still namesake bill establishes the Florida Distance Learning Task Force. The Task Force is mandated to present the Legislature a report recommending statewide guidelines for higher education online learning by March 2009. It will also ensure that online courses comply with accreditation standards, but questions about the quality of online education compared to traditional instruction has propelled FIU’s Faculty Senate to set up its own Online Learning Committee.

Director of Communications, Bill Edmonds said. “With gas prices alone, even if that wasn’t an issue, we would still expect distance learning to continue to grow,” Edmonds said. “It’s really the convenience for it some students.”

Because of this interest, the BGC is exploring online course issues and inter-university sharing of technology, but class quality issues need to be dealt with by individual universities, according to Edmonds.

“We are not unaware about that kind of complaint, but I’m not even sure whether [quality fears] are valid or not, Edmonds said.

Nonetheless, Elam expects online enrollment to continue growing. The FIU community is heavily based on non-traditional students who must balance multiple responsibilities, online options will always be in demand, Elam said.

The reduced fee will force FIU Online to pay its faculty with its $4 million instructional budget.

Even with its current budget crisis, the University is steadfast in offering online courses if the demand is there, said.

**Correction**

In the issue dated July 23, the editorial incorrectly stated that teacher evaluations are controlled by deans and not readily available to students. They are released by the Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness and available at http://www.fiu.edu/irdata/portal/instructor_eval.asp. The Beacon welcomes any feedback. For more information, call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-915-4722.
Pharmed immersed in controversy

Pharmed Group Timeline

1987
Wyeth Pharmaceuticals sue. Settle out of court.

1999
AmerisourceBergen sue for $1.2 million. Settle out of court.

2004
Johnson & Johnson stop supplying. Accuse company of "unjust enrichment."

2005
Commissioner Jose Diaz orders Jackson Memorial Hospital to give Pharmed Group preference.

2006
Brothers charged with hiding $21 million and evading $8 million in taxes.

2008
Pharmed Healthcare stop supplying. Causes loss of $300 million in revenue.

Pharmed Arena named.

University loses racial discrimination case

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO
News Director

University President Modesto A. Maidique reaffirmed the University's commitment to diversity in a July 24 newsletter - just six days after a Miami-Dade jury ruled against FIU in a discrimination lawsuit.

The jury ordered the University to pay former employee Sean St. Louis $2.5 million for racial discrimination during the Contracts and Grants department’s dismantlement in 2004.

In 2003, the University had undergone several federal audits investigating the mishandling of federal grant money in the Hemispheric Center for Environmental Technologies. Evidence of mismanagement at high administration levels led to drastic changes in the makeup of the accounting section.

The University created new offices and positions, including the hiring of a chief financial officer, reorganized departments and dismantled others and fired at least 20 HCET employees, according to Erika Deustch Rotbart, St. Louis’ lawyer.

“We take allegations of this nature very seriously,” Maidique said in a statement responding to the verdict. “The University plans to appeal the decision.”

Visit the NEWS section of our Web site for more coverage on the discrimination case.
The storm made landfall in the Florida Keys during the early morning hours of Aug. 19 and continued on a north-northeast track throughout the day.

From student to student
Campus hot spots fulfill your needs

KISHORE SAWH  Staff Writer

It's back to school time and Biscayne Bay Campus opens its doors to welcome new faces as well as old ones.

"Starting off the school year can be a bit daunting," said Daniele Aking, a junior engineering major.

That's why below you will find a list acquired from a few student, staff and alumni voices to help you strike a bit more smoothly through the information jungle that is university life at BBC.

BEST PLACES TO MEET NEW PEOPLE:

"The best place to meet new people is at On Point Poetry club gatherings and in the Wolfe University Center," said Kertus M. Tous, a senior majoring in hospitality management.

"Everyone is really friendly and close parking, unlike UP, and can meet up with everyone you know. It's way more of a family environment," Paciotti said.

BEST PLACES TO STUDY:

"At the back of WUC by the piano is [good] to take a nap in the big chairs," said Ryan Jagessar, a resident advisor at the Bay Vista dorms.

"In the library in one of the cubicles or empty rooms upstairs if they are empty," said Stephanie Popko, hospitality management senior.

BEST THINGS ABOUT BBC

"It's all in the name: Biscayne Bay. It's right on the water with nice views. I mean, I kayak behind here last weekend, How cool is that for college?" Lyman said.

"It's so convenient. You can find close parking, unlike UP, and can meet up with everyone you know. It's way more of a family environment," Paciotti said.

Highly-awaited cafeteria brings new food, variety

PAMELA DUQUE  BBC Life! Editor

After an estimated $1.5 million in costs, the new cafeteria at the Biscayne Bay Campus will open its doors Sept. 29, according to Mike Oesterreich, Dining Services marketing manager.

The new facility will accommodate 300 people and offer an extended schedule past 5 p.m., according to Madeline Baro, assistant director of Media Relations.

The new cafeteria will offer students a different menu with three new concepts: Bleecher St., Joe’s Southwest Grill and Grill Works, which is familiar to the FIU community as one of the locations at the existing cafeteria.

Bleecher St. will provide students with a variety of choices including sandwiches like California turkey, tangy roast beef and tuna. More select sandwiches have ingredients like hummus, feta cheese and Portobello mushrooms, and fresh garden salads.

Current locations at the existing cafeteria – Subway, Grill Works, Home Zone, Bene Pizza and Salad Garden will be replaced by the three new ones.

The new facility will also offer cupcakes, cookies and pastries including danish and shores.

Student Affairs hopes to develop multipurpose student meeting rooms and a student recreation/game room at the location of the current cafeteria.

Madeline Baro, Assistant Director
Media Relations

Baro said in an e-mail interview.

New SGC-BBC agenda set for year

BARBARA QUIANO  Contributing Writer

The Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council goals for the 2008-2009 school year aim to "reach for the impossible," according to President Ana Maria Silva.

The goals were revealed at the SGC-BBC school year kickoff meeting on Aug. 6 by Silva and Kenisha Paul, SGC-BBC vice president. The meeting was meant to formally introduce the student council officers and help them get to know with the faculty and staff through small discussions, games and food.

The ten issues that received the most concern at the meeting and were chosen as the SGC-BBC 2008-2009 detailed goals were:

• Addressing academic issues through surveys

• Increasing student communication with deans

• Providing links to advising and a learning center for tutors

• Increasing campus security at BBC and Pines

• Ensuring better lighting and marketing public safety

• Improving library policies

• Making more rooms available for graduate and undergraduate students

• Executing a beautification project at BBC

• Improving business services at BBC, such as providing students access to the copy room, implementing customer service surveys, extending hours for the Co-store on campus and adding more food and groceries

• Launching a two week SGA marketing campaign, to include going to specific colleges, visiting classrooms and attending orientations

All of the repairs are coming out of the university wide reserve account ... the amount of money left from every fiscal year, approximately $1 million for repair here at BBC," Silva said.

Student Affairs hopes to develop multipurpose student meeting rooms and a student recreation/game room at the location of the current cafeteria," Baro said in an e-mail interview.
Coffee, snacks at SOC club fair

Valerie Mull Contributing Writer

To jump start the beginning of the Fall term, FIU welcomes students to attend two free events at Biscayne Bay Campus on Sept. 8.

The Club Fair and the Late Day Latte are open to all students and professors interested in either just a cup of coffee or in joining different clubs that fit their interests.

At the Club Fair, which is sponsored by the Student Organization Council, clubs and organizations will provide material and feedback about their associations and interests and recruit students to join them.

"Students will be networking with each other and getting involved," said Ivy Siegel, coordinator of Campus Life.

The Late Day Latte is being sponsored by Campus Life and is a chance for the evening students to kick back and have a break and a little snack, according to Sarah David, office manager of Campus Life.

"It’s for students who have late classes. They complain that during our day events they’re only here in the evening, so that’s why we did it," David said. "It’s the kind of event where you can go after class or before class. It’s a great way to relieve stress."

According to David, coffee, juice and cookies will be provided.

[The events are] an ongoing thing. We actually have four dates for fall and we’ve done this for the past two years," David said.

According to Siegel, these events are expected to have a good turnout.

"We usually have about 100 people stop by the Late Day Latte," Siegel said.

Both events will be held in Panther Square from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. For any questions or additional information please contact Ivy Siegel at (305) 919-5823.

FIU provides students with recreational opportunities ranging from flag football, to water polo and kayaking.

BBC’s Recreation Complex is a 70,000 square ft. fitness and aquatic facility, equipped with a aerobics studio that offers group fitness classes, yoga, massages and dance instruction.

All currently enrolled students are automatically Campus Recreation members and may attend classes free of charge.

Campus Recreation is located in the WUC, room 160. Call (305) 919-5678 or e-mail bbc-clc@fiu.edu for more information.

CAMPUS LIFE

Located in WUC 141, Campus Life focuses on enhancing students’ academic achievement through participation in a variety of FIU associations.

There are many areas in which students may choose to become involved, including Fraternity & Sorority Life, Homecoming Council, Honors Council, Student Government Council, Multifaith Council, Panther Rage, Student Organizations Council and Student Programming Council.

To more information, contact Campus Life at (305) 919-5804 or e-mail at bbc-clc@fiu.edu.

FINANCIAL AID

A Financial Aid Administrator is available to assist students with financial aid concerns.

Assistance is available on a walk-in basis to answer general questions, distribute & accept application materials, and provide information concerning application procedures and general program requirements.

Located in ACI 100, the Financial Aid Office is open Monday, Thursday, and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Tuesday & Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

A Financial Aid administrator can be contacted by telephone at (305) 919-5750, or by fax at (305) 919-5403.

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Big time coordinator brings
Big Ten experience to FIU

LUCA MESSINA
Asst. Sports Director

When Bill Legg was hired as offensive coordinator in March, FIU immediately made a substantial improvement to its offense, at least from an experience standpoint.

Two things became evident: the offensive scheme needed revamping, and we needed a coach with experience at a big time program.

Bill Legg has got it. A veteran of big-time programs since he began his career on the sidelines at his alma mater, West Virginia University in 1986, this hiring is the equivalent of a Hail Mary for FIU's Golden Panthers. This is the kind of experience that coach Mario Cristobal embraces.

"Coach Legg is a veteran who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with him," Cristobal said. "He is a great

2008
FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Team</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
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<td>September 6th</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
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<td>Louisiana at Monroe</td>
<td>November 29th</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAU (Dolphin Stadium)</td>
<td>November 26th</td>
<td>4 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Kentucky</td>
<td>December 6th</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
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BRUISING BACK
Reams looks to silence doubters, show full potential this season

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

As the football team continued to play during a scrimmage at University Park on August 12, something stood out in the midst of the typical hot and humid summer day in South Miami. Something was different on an offense that otherwise was dominated for most of the scrimmage, and most of training camp, for that matter. During the 10th rushing play of the day, senior running back Julian Reams was on his way to being taken down by a throng of Golden Panther defenders. As Reams received a toss to the right and was met by a swarm of white jerseys, he proceeded to reverse his course to the left and turn the play into a 54-yard display of power and speed.

Something looked different in Reams game compared to past seasons.

“He looks more aggressive,” cornerback Anthony Gaitor said. “He’s more explosive now when he runs, and he runs physically and hard.”

POTENTIAL

Entering his last season, a sense of urgency has overcome Reams.

“Coaches would ask me one-on-one what I wanted to improve on and I said everything, because from my freshman year with the media there’s always been a potential thing,” Reams said. “But now I’m in my last year, so when is the potential going to show?”

Reams used that motivation to increase his focus during the offseason, and use it during pre-season workouts.

“I was just more focused this offseason, because last offseason my son was born so my head was somewhere else, I was in the real world,” Reams said. “Now I’m back and I’m focused.”

Though his mind was on the newest member of the Reams family, he decided he wanted to block out all distractions entering this summer and prepare for a breakout season.

Reams’ father, Alexander Reams, takes a different approach from the sideline and lets the coaches do the football work, but as Julian’s main supporter he has seen the change. Although not too much of his routine has been different, he has been more steadfast in his devotion.

“He’s always been committed and done what’s asked of him, but his weight program has picked up and he’s been very intense about that,” his father said. “A big motivating factor was also not to get too far out of shape.”

Reams’ weight and strength have been a common topic among those close to the team.

“I am not lifting the most as far as the heaviest, but I am doing the most reps, and also this is the heaviest I have ever been in camp and the weight is consistent,” Reams said. “We do reps in 225 pounds see how many times we can do it. I can do like 15 right now.”

With added weight and confidence, Reams’ talents have made significant gains from his junior to senior season.

“He learned that once the hole opens he has to go, and he’s more advanced now where he gets the ball and goes to make a big play,” Gaitor said.

Reams agreed.

“I am just reading plays better, and I’m reacting quicker than I usually do,” he said. “I did the same things before but I wasn’t able to react as well, and again that goes to the offseason I had.”

The dreaded Reams, who is 79 yards away from 1,000 on his career, is also showcasing a new aspect of his game. During the last scrimmage of the offseason on August 16th, he showed it.

VOCAL

While Reams continued his impressive training camp with 35 yards on eight touches throughout, the offense had to do a few drags afterward once they lost to the defense. The senior yelled a few encouraging words to his teammates during the punishment, something the naturally humble Reams might do more often.

“I try to be a leader, but sometimes they say that it’s selfish if you say you’re a leader but you never say anything,” he said. “I’m trying to be more vocal rather than just lead by example because that’s the way it should be.”

Because that’s the way it should be.”

Reams wouldn’t be a typical sideline scrambler, but he will do what it takes to make that mark at FIU during his last season.

“Our expectations are real high for this year as far as running backs, we are trying to be leaders, and me and A’mod [Ned] are both trying to get a stack this year, which is 1,000 yards,” Reams said. “Regardless of numbers, Reams just wants to clarify one thing.

“Just don’t want people to think it was just a potential thing that never came out,” he said.

Golden Panthers ditch old uniforms for new threads

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

Before FIU switched to their new jerseys for the 2008 football season, reviews among the players were not very favorable for the old ones. In fact, a few players would have even preferred their high school digs.

Senior running back Julian Reams, a graduate from Coral Reef senior high, said he would take his prep jersey. Cornerback Anthony Gaitor, member of the 2006 class from Northwestern High, stated he would also take his high school uniform.

Even those who didn’t ever have a chance to wear the 2007 uniform, and saw it from a distance, noticed that it needed improvement.

Freshman defensive players from Booker T High, Julian Jackson and Kambriel Willis, both believed that their prep outfit was better.

“As Booker T jerseys, it has to be,” they echoed when asked which uniform they liked more.

Coming into the season with a new uniform, now the player’s couldn’t ask for better.

“They are much better than last year, last year they were loose, but these are tight,” Gaitor said with a smile a yard wide. “We can compete with the jerseys now.”

Jackson believes the tighter fit of the new uniform is an advantage on the field.

“Yea they fit like under armor tight now,” Jackson said. “They won’t be able to hold us, they’re real swift.”

The new uniforms display the new FIU logo, and will feature the player names on the back as the past ones did. In addition, the design is different and features a line down the side of the pants, as well as lines on the shoulders.

Gaitor believes the change has put them in the top of the NFC East.

“We should be,” he said. “In the top.”

Visit our Web site for more photo gallery of the football uniforms.

www.FIU.com
Whitewater Rafting and Caving in West Virginia

**TRIP DATES:** Thursday, Sept. 25 - Sunday, Sept. 28
**REGISTRATION BEGINS:** Monday, August 25
**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** Wednesday, Sept. 17, 5:00pm, RC 103
(Monday, Sept. 8 for early bird rate)
**COST:** $325 FIU students / $350 Non-students ($25 discount for earlybird registration)
**INCLUDES:** Round-trip bus, 3-night lodging at Microtel Inn & Suites, rafting & equipment, lunch on the river, and cavern tour.

**MAXIMUM # OF PARTICIPANTS:** 50

BBC Campus Recreation & UP Recreation Services offer you a West Virginia adventure to treasure - whitewater rafting and cave exploration. If speeding down the Lower Gauley River and touring the Lost World Caverns sound like good times for you, this is a trip you won’t want to miss. This trip is perfect for ALL LEVELS of experience. Departure scheduled from both BBC and UP campuses. For more information on this and other **Adventure Recreation** trips, contact Matt O’Connor (UP) at (305) 348-7530 (matthew.oconnor@flu.edu) or Warren Shaw (BBC) at (305) 919-4595 (shaww@fiu.edu). Space is limited so register early!

Other Recreation Services **Adventure Recreation** Trips for Fall 2008:
- Miami Dolphins Game (vs. San Diego Chargers on Sun., Oct. 5)
- Kayaking on the Bay (TBA) • Indoor Rock Climbing (TBA)

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**FALL 2008 CLINIC DATES**

- **Softball:** Sept. 2 - 4, 6 - 8pm or 8 - 10pm, Rec Center (RC) 102
- **Flag Football:** Sept. 9 - 11, 6 - 8pm or 8 - 10pm, RC 102
- **Volleyball:** Sept. 23 - 25, 6 - 8pm or 8 - 10pm, RC 102
- **Indoor Soccer:** Sept. 30 - Oct. 2, 6 - 8pm or 8 - 10pm, RC 102

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- Become a leader!

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2008 FOOTBALL PREVIEW

FOOTBALL 2008 PLAYLIST

DISC ONE (OFFENSE)
LT - Protea Y. neck / Ws-Tong Qian / Feat. Ula Matovano
LG - Amirah Batin in the Wolf / Pink Floyd / Feat. Dustin Gibson
C - Like A Rock / Bob Seger / Feat. Brad Serini
RG - Banana Pancake / Jack Johnson / Feat. Joe Alajajan
RT - Right Now / Van Halen / Feat. Andy Leavine
TE - The End / The Dooms / Feat. Daniel Kirchmayer
WR - Gimme Some / Brandy Spears / Feat. Marquis Rolle
WR - With Arms Wide Open / Creed / Feat. Junior Merrell
WR - Ride The Lightning / Metallica / Feat. Jeremy Dickens
QB - Leader of The Pack / Sargam Est / Feat. Paul McCall
HB - Born to Run / Bruce Springsteen / Feat. Julian Reams

DISC TWO (DEFENSE)
DE - End of the Line / Traveling Wilburys / Feat. Artis Wax Jr.,
DT - Bad to the Bone / George Thorogood & The Destroyers / Feat. Daniel Chatrop
DE - Under Pressure / O.T. / Feat. Quentin Newman
FB - P.O.D. / Feat. Tyler Clawson
OLB - The Outside / A Perfect Circle / Feat. Scott Bryant
CB - Bring "Em Out / 11 / Feat. Michael Dominguez
CB - Break Up 2 Make Ups / D Angelo / Feat. Anthony Gaitor
LB - The Corner / Feat. Robert Mitchell
FS - Stronger / Kanye / Feat. Jeradon Weatherson
FS - Free Fallin' / Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers / Feat. Ashley Parker

DEFENSE

Andrew Julian
Sports Director

UNDEFEATED

Understanding the defensive line last season, the Golden Panthers finished 10th in the nation in run defense.

Jonas Murrell at six-feet-four inches, 340 pounds will add big in the mix as they try to improve on their run defense that finished seventh in yards per carry allowed (5.1 YPA) in the Sun Belt Conference.

Joining Murrell on the inside will be seniors Harris Peniston and Jonathan Rebecini. Peniston saw action at tackle and defensive end a year ago and should add quickness to the interior defensive line, while Rebecini, who started five out of the final six games last season, finished second on the defensive line with 25 tackles. Sophomore Daniel Chacreton, a fifth-year senior, who played on the scout team, is a big option on the outside, at outside linebacker to the defensive line to try to add an even bigger rush and a factor.


Derek Clawson excelled on special teams last year and made late tackle stops to move to the top of the depth chart.

Teren Smith, who coach Mario Cristobal says is a very smart and complete football player, walked on a year ago, and made an immediate impact leading the Golden Panthers’ special teams for the season.

According the coaching staff, speed rules on the weak side with Mike Dominguez, who ranked second on the Golden Panthers with 66 tackles, and Ryan Martinez who made 53 stops on '07.

DEfbensive BACKS

The strength of the defense should be its secondary, because of experience and athleticism returning to the unit, despite the departure of former All-Sun Belt performer Lionel Sargent. Anthony Giovani returns, this year at FIU’s top cover corner, he led the team with a pair of interceptions last year in going along with 96 tackles. Robert Mitchell (10 tackles, 4 pass forced), who has improved coaches with his ability to defend the run during fall practice, returned with a strong spring for open comeback position, once recovering from a leg injury that limited him for the entire season his freshman year, with Out Johnson who played half of 12 games last season and made 47 tackles.

The Golden Panthers have several options at middle linebacker and at weak side linebacker starting with Tyler Claxton and Toronto Smith. Claxton excelled on special teams last year and made critical stops late to move to the top of the depth chart.

Teren Smith, who coach Mario Cristobal says is a very smart and complete football player, walked on a year ago, and made an immediate impact leading the Golden Panthers’ special teams for the season.

Offensive Line/UnMd:

Lucas Messina
Asst. Sports Director

QUARTBACK

Another year, another quarterback battle that has seen senior Paul McCain come out the winner in a neck-and-neck competition with sophomore Wes Younger, who started all but one game last year. Both Younger and McCain once again battled till the end for the starting job but don’t be surprised if Younger quite often relieves McCain in certain game situations.

McCain, an intelligent player with a decent arm to move the ball, is more of a check-down type of option, something that works well with both run and pass plays.

Leading the way opposite Warthen will be Quentin Newman, who bounced back from leg injuries that forced him to miss the majority of the ’05 season and all of the ’06 campaign to record 10 tackles and 2.5 tackles for loss. Freshman Kambriel Johnson who played in all 12 games last season and finished second on the Golden Panthers with 66 tackles and 2.5 tackles for loss, with seven.

Sophomore Kambriel Johnson will be the fullback as the speedster had 12 receptions with 80 yards and a touchdown. Sophomore Trenard Turner will mostly likely be the go-to guy at running back, this position includes mostly underclassmen.

ENO†HESE

By contrast, Younger, who has completely come back from his shoulder surgery and has been cleared to play, will look to stay healthy this year. For Younger is 79 rushing yards away from 1000 for his collegiate career.

Ned led the team in rushing for the second straight year with 381 yards on 143 carries, which was also the fourth-best single-season rushing total in FIU history. He also had two rushing touchdowns and 123 yards on 10 carries in 2008.

The offensive line consisted of mostly seniors and juniors thus FIU ranking last in all but one category. This tight line is the key to the season as they battle the best defensive lines in the nation.

The area must improve if both the offense and defense plan on being better. The unit is inexperienced but has potential.
Linebacker may not look the part, but plays it

JONATHAN AUPER
Staff Writer

Scott Bryant may not look like a
linebacker, but when running backs
feel one of his bludgeoning hits at the line
of scrimmage, the pain changes their
mind.

The true sophomores has a contas-
gious smile that livens up the locker
room. However, once the shoul-
der pads are slipped on, helmet is

That’s the surprise. One of the
least physically intimidating play-
ers off the field is one of the most
ferocious on it. The 5-foot-11, 205-

Attitude changes.

on the offensive side of things will be back and
definitely struggled last season, most of the guys

In his year coach in Cristobal. Although the offense

“Coach [Cristobal] is develop-
ing it from the ground up. [Whether

Scott Bryant shares that
responsibility with the rest of the
upperclassmen on the defense: just
as when he and other players were

“Focus on being a student of the
game, and look forward to learning
more: staying in the film room, learn-
ing how to make more plays. It’s my
responsibility to know and to share
my knowledge,” Bryant said.

MESSINA, page 7

championship programs. He will bring the kind
of leadership that will help our program get to
the next level and we’re thrilled to have him on
staff.”

While the Golden Panthers are fortunate to
hire an offensive general with 22 years of col-
lege football experience, who also coached in
10 bowl games, it’s still the players that produce
wins and losses.

He will certainly have his work cut out for
him, but this is older, with a hardened second-
year coach in Cristobal. Although the offense
definitely struggled last season, most of the guys
on the offensive side of things will be back and
eager to contribute for Legg and the team.

Legg is bringing his version of the spread of-
fense to FIU and he believes the experience that
his players have gained over the course of the
year will help make the second attempt at the
spread offense a successful one.

“Last year the biggest thing was maturity.
Last year was the first year for this coaching
staff to have these kids and it was a different
way of doing things,” Legg said. “It was a dif-
frent mentality and a different approach than
they had done before. I’m not saying one was
right and one was wrong, I’m just saying that it
was different.”

Besides his vast experience, Legg believes
that he has adjusted his version of the spread of-
fense to the talent of this team and has made it
more understandable for the players.

From a distance, the most closely monitored
part of Legg’s offensive work will be whoever
is left standing in the quarterback competition
between junior Paul McCall and sophomore
Wayne Younger, and how that chosen quar-
terback performs. But if you look closely, he
should be judged for his ability to get the best
out of both the seniors and the up and coming
younger on the team. If he can successfully
blend the two, the offense will be dramatically
improved.

This team is different this year because it
has both prototypes and potential in both as
well. Senior running backs Julian Reams and

A’mod Ned are returning and looking to fur-
ther contribute and at the same time, there is
a nice crop of young receivers like freshmen T.Y.
Hilton and Junior Mentile as well as sophomores
Greg Ellingdon and Marquis Rolle. Look for
an intriguing position change in senior Alonzo
Phillips converting from cornerback to wide re-
ceiver. If Phillips succeeds, then Legg will look
even more like a genius.

This hire gives the Golden Panthers a leg up,
no pun intended, at least in the preseason. There
is certainly no guarantee that Legg can translate
his successes over from Purdue; coaches aren’t
always miracle workers either. At the very least,
the hire is a fresh face that has been around the
block.

Save Time, Go Online!

http://parking.fiu.edu
Around this time of year, the chests of proud parents swell as they witness their children and co-workers over for one last dinner on the patio before the summer ends. Speaking of parents, I’m being for being able to not-so-casually drop into conversation which university their “perfect” child will attend.

This is usually followed by a directory of statistics from 100 companies and specializations offering the school in question’s degree. But if you open your eyes and see that communal drinking in the party scene is treated like a closeted skeleton. It’s the damp log on the fire, the bruised side of the apple.

Instead of being discussed, this ranking is treated as an afterthought. It’s the dumber of the two children. It’s the dumber of the two children. The pimple on prom night it is the “Party School” ranking, in which the University of Florida claimed top honors in the 2009 edition of The Princeton Review under the premise so far: Saint Leo University and Eckerd College.

I encourage this debate not because I think the drinking age should be lowered; in fact, I believe it should stay at 21. If people are drinking while underage now – say, at 18 – who’s to say that more 16-year-olds won’t drink if the limit is lowered from 21 to 18?

I know I’m probably in the minority here, I’m a few months shy of the big “2-1” and I don’t drink alcohol. But alcohol could be even more accessible for purchase – and to minors – if the drinking age were reduced.

If alcohol were to be more accessible to minors, there’d be a greater chance of underage drinking and alcoholism. But alcohol would be even more accessible for purchase – and to minors – if the drinking age were reduced.

If alcohol were to be more accessible to minors, there’d be a greater chance of underage drinking and alcoholism. An organization founded by former Middlebury College president John McCord called Choose Responsibility, which sponsors the Amethyst Initiative, a Vermont-based movement to reduce the drinking age were reduced.

The petition is part of the Amethyst Initiative, a Vermont-based movement founded by former Middlebury College president John McCardell. Mothers Against Drunk Driving, a group that supports the current drinking age, is not pleased with the petition. According to a press release on the MADD Web site, the petition is a “misguided initiative” that utilizes misleading information for support of a lowered drinking age.

The science behind the [current drinking age] unequivocally shows that the 21-year mark is ridiculous, others stand firm in the fact that the age limit has saved thousands of lives.

As of Aug. 21, only two educational institutions in Florida have signed the petition so far: Saint Leo University and Eckerd College.

I’d bet my next gin and tonic that UF’s National President Laura Williams, a recent UF alum. I have no upstanding institute would like to facilitate another organization founded by McCordell called Choose Responsibility, which sponsors the Amethyst Initiative, proposes a drinking license adults under 21 can attain after an alcohol education program is completed.

I think a drinking license is a great idea,” said senior Armando Sagastume, a criminal justice major.

Sagastume also cites the classic argument against a 21-year-old drinking age: “If people are allowed to go to war at 18, they should be allowed to buy liquor.”

The license plan is a practical measure that can get reliable information to young adults. But even though such an enterprise is a nice suggestion, it would require a lot of funding and time to create.

Where would the money come from? And even then, taking a class won’t guarantee a decrease in binge or underage drinking. It’s up to the individual with such a license to make the right choices.

Neither a license nor a lower drinking age would not guarantee a decrease in binge drinking or underage drinking. A sanctioned law is not responsible in preventing accidents, deaths or other tragic circumstances. Individuals, on the other hand, are.

What we must understand is that underage drinking or irresponsible drinking habits will never disappear whatever the drinking age; those who do not meet its requirements and who do not understand alcohol’s dire consequences will possibly want to drink.
OLGA VELEZ
Contributing Writer

Fifty Republicans in Congress are trying to get Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi to call Congress back to session in order to quickly solve the nation’s energy crisis.

On June 26, Congress went on its annual 5-week summer break before coming to an agreement on how best to solve the problem. Although the energy crisis needs immediate attention, I believe this Congressional recess is necessary. During this break, all members of Congress should realize the importance of coming to a compromise on how best to solve the nation’s dependency on foreign oil and rising gas prices.

The break comes after the House of Representatives voted against an amendment enacting the American Energy Act included in the new Appropriations bill, which would have called for opening the Arctic coastal plain to drilling, allowing development of oil shale resources and increasing the supply of gas at the pump by allowing the constitution of new oil refineries.

Most Republicans would not vote for an amendment that did not include offshore drilling while most Democrats would not vote for an amendment that did. This dispute between parties could only be solved by members of Congress going to their districts and seeing that people in America are suffering partly due to the high cost of fuel and that a bipartisan plan needs to be put into place now.

However, there are still some 50 Republicans in Congress who refuse to take the much needed vacation and choose instead to remain in Congress and protest.

“It is simply wrong for Congress to take a 5-week paid vacation when so many families are struggling under the weight of $4-a-gallon gasoline,” said Republican Rep. Mike Pence in an article from The Economist.

Even though Pence makes a point in saying that Americans are suffering under the high cost of fuel, calling back Congress would not change anything. If an agreement cannot be made between parties as to how best to solve the problem, then there is no point in calling back Congress.

The protesting Republicans also believe this will not only draw attention to the issue at hand, but also prompt Pelosi to call Congress back in session.

“We realize not everyone can be in Washington next week,” said Republican minority leader John A. Boehner of Ohio in a blog from The New York Times. “But if you can, we ask that you come to the Capitol, join our colleagues, and lend your voice.”

However, it does not look like these protests will convince Pelosi to call Congress back in session.

According to the blog, Pelosi described the protests as engaging in the “war dance of the hand Republicans on tackling the energy crisis facing this nation,” said Rep. Roy Blunt of Missouri in the same Washington Post article.

That is exactly what seems to be happening. Pelosi has reversed her policy on offshore drilling during the break.

Pelosi even offered to hold a vote in the House on the American Energy Act on expanding offshore drilling if the bill addressed other energy issues, such as extending tax credits for solar and wind energy and releasing oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

I think that Pelosi changing her mind is exactly what needed to happen.

As long as the offshore drilling ban is removed in certain coastal areas most Republicans will agree to a bill that also includes benefits for renewable resources as shown in the previous amendment that passed.

Since Congress will not be called back, these Republicans should go home and speak with their constituents to see what they think about the issue.

House recess: no day at the beach

During a time when the energy crisis is the decisions of our elected officials that affect our lives while we attend FIU.

It is our job and our responsibility to inform the University community of these decisions and how they affect us as students.

Whether it’s the Student Government Association’s decision to fund a new club or the Board of Governors raising tuition by 5 percent, we believe this information needs to be in the hands of students.

Our main focus at The Beacon is to report and analyze University administration and student decisions because it is the decisions of our elected officials that affect our lives while we attend FIU.

Since our elected officials get paid with our tax dollars and student leaders get paid with our student fees, it is important to hold them accountable for their actions. All the decisions they make are supposed to be made in the best interest of the student body and FIU.

Student Media serves as FIU’s watchdog to make sure it keeps the interests of both students and the University in mind.

On the front page of each issue of The Beacon, we have a slogan that reads, “a forum for free student expression at Florida International University.” That’s another role The Beacon serves the student population — we offer a medium for students to freely express themselves.

The Beacon also offers students a chance to try new things they may never get a chance to do; students who love sports can cover FIU Athletics and interview student-athletes.

Photography majors can get their pictures published in The Beacon and FISU.com and art majors can submit editorial cartoons, graphics or comic strips.

Movie and art lovers can write reviews for Student Media.

And since we’re a student-run organization, we may print mistakes. Whenever this happens, we don’t mean to do it purpose or with any malice.

We appreciate it when readers point out any mistakes so that we can avoid making that same mistake in the future.

We’re always willing to publish any critique submitted, no matter how harshly it’s written, even if we disagree with the opinion.

We’re here to serve the University community and anyone who has any suggestions for us.

This is your paper. Tell us your opinion.

That’s why we’re here.

Charlie Grau can be reached at charlie.grau@fisum.com.
LUCIA SASTRE
Staff Writer

Studying Abroad are two words that, for some, may sound scary or even out of their reach. Many students at FIU seem to be reluctant about leaving their comfort zone in order to experience something new. Other students complain that studying abroad is too expensive, or that it will interfere with their majors. Some even say that it is not worth it or that it’s better to wait until after graduation. But for those students and teachers who have actually travelled and chaperoned abroad, those thoughts are not remotely close to the truth.

“I believe that I speak for the 31 of us when I say that we had an eventful time visiting the medieval sights, meeting the warm-hearted people, shopping in the local markets, listening to popular music, tasting the culinary delights and participating in the various cultural activities the region of Umbria has to offer,” said the director of Passport to Italy, Angela Bromsburg.

Bromsburg further emphasized that on their trip abroad to Perugia, Italy this past summer, participating students had the weekends free to tour Italy, while on the weekdays they attended the Universita per Stranieri, one of Umbria’s oldest, where they immersed themselves in language and/or culture classes taught only in Italian by local instructors.

“Needless to say, I can personally tell you that one of my favorite moments was participating in a Master Class at the Perugina [chocolate factory]. ‘The art of making chocolate’ was not only instructive, but also incredibly fun. As you can imagine, we each had our own workstation and lots of chocolate to play with,” recalls Bromsburg from the trip.

The Office of Study Abroad ensures safety and protection to those students traveling.

“There are orientations when students get to their destined place and when they come back. This makes students feel safe when they encounter adjustment problems,” said Liza Carbajo, Director of the Study Abroad Programs.

A student may consider a destination abroad according to his or her major, or their language proficiency, but this isn’t the case for everyone.

Guadalupe Juarez, a junior and an education major, studied abroad in Perugina without previous knowledge of the language.

“I’ve never taken Italian before. When I first got there I was scared because I didn’t know anyone, but as time went on everyone got really close, and I even learned enough Italian to defend myself,” she said.

For more information on Study Abroad programs, visit: http://ois.fiu.edu
Seven suggestions for a successful first year in college

DOUBLE CHECK EVERYTHING
You are one of 37,000 students in this university, so it’s easy to get lost in the shuffle. Anytime you have to deal with the university in any way, shape or form with regards to paperwork, the onus is on you to make sure everything is in order. Every year, there are horror stories about people losing financial aid or not graduating on time because of some minor error on their part. Don’t be that person. Make sure you know your record better than anyone, it will come in handy.

GET INVOLVED ON CAMPUS
The easiest way to lose interest in your school (doesn’t matter which one), is to not get involved. Frat life may be the avenue you decide to choose, or maybe the Anime Club is more your style, but either way, explore what your fellow students have to offer. Intramural sports are an excellent opportunity to get involved, for example. The rules are a little different if you live on campus, because it’s a lot easier to be involved, so you should take full advantage of this fact. Take advantage of events in your building and don’t be shy. You are surrounded by a few thousand people in close proximity, so you are bound to find people with similar interests as you.

WORK HARD ...
You are here to learn, after all. This isn’t high school, and you can’t coast by not doing your reading. If you’ve got a project, start it early and do it right. If you play your cards right and find a major you are passionate about, most classes won’t feel like as much work as they are. A planner is pretty much your lord and savior if you want to make it through your classes. Keep the same schedule every day, or break the day up into units, or however you want to do it. However you plan, make sure you follow it and it will become second nature.

... BUT DON’T WORK TOO HARD
Sure, academics are important, but so is keeping your sanity. So try to find a balance between work and recreation. You don’t want to be the person who is completely burned out by the time finals week comes around, so make sure you pace yourself. Cramming during finals week works for some people, but it is often more stressful than it is worth.

DON’T BITE OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW
If you have to get a job, don’t work too many hours. Don’t take 18 credits in a semester and don’t take too much of one subject at the same time. If you’ve kept up during the semester, you won’t have to kill yourself at the end, and that last week of class will be even sweeter.

EXPLORE DIFFERENT SUBJECTS
Freshman year is the time when you are supposed to find what your major is, so don’t be afraid to diversify. If you are interested in German art or Alexander the Great’s military conquests, there’s probably a class for it. Look it up.

DO WHAT YOU WANT
This is, really, your first chance ever to really do what you want to do, so take advantage of it.

Everyone’s experience is going to be different, so make your own, and don’t let your parents or friends or anyone decide how yours is going to be.

PLAYING WITH RADIATION

PUT A RECORD ON: Junior William Diaz (back) and Freshman Lisa Junco (front) spend some of their free time deejaying at FIU’s student radio station, Radiate FM.
Week of Welcome reaches an all-time high

By NIKKI PEREZ
Contributing Writer

With its theme as “Panther Air: Prepare for take off,” this year’s Week of Welcome is aimed at offering students an enjoyable journey towards their degree by opening the doors of the FIU community and offering early opportunities to get involved on campus.

The Week of Welcome, formerly known as Welcome Week, launches Friday, Aug. 22 at 8 a.m. with move-in, and ends Saturday, Aug. 31 at 1 p.m. with a bus tour around Miami.

WOW will be full of exciting events and fairs for new incoming students to get a taste of FIU, such as freshman convocation, pep-rallies, after-parties, dances, probate show and much more.

“This week of events is ideal for freshmen looking to meet other freshmen, get involved on campus and gain an understanding of what it is to have panther pride,” said vice president of external affairs in the Student Programming Council and WOW committee member, Cristina Rodriguez.

SPC will be hosting two events throughout the week which included an Iron Man movie presentation on the lawn, Saturday, Aug. 23 at 8 p.m. and an appearance by comedian/magician Justin Kredible in the GC Ballrooms Aug. 25 at 8 p.m. Kredible is a highly anticipated guest since Campus Magazine named him “Entertainer of the Year.”

All events in the Week of Welcome are absolutely free and are for the benefit of students’ engagement on campus. Those attending can look forward to free food and gifts. All students will get an opportunity to receive one of the train giveaways – airline key chains.

“We are all about traditions,” said Dr. Donna Cordova, advisor and planner for the Trail of Torch event. “FIU has much to offer, and we want our students to experience their heritage here.”

The Week of Welcome will also present its fourth annual Trail of Torch to the University Park Housing Quad on Thursday, Aug. 28 at 7 p.m.

The after-party will include food, music and a probate performance by the Zeta Phi Betas. Biscayne Bay Campus students need not feel left out. A bus will be provided to transport interested BBC students who want to attend the Trail of Torch. Space is limited though, so students planning to attend this event should sign up at Biscayne Housing or at the BBC Student Life office before Aug. 28.

Students are expected to attend and enjoy WOW, but they are also encouraged to consider becoming a team member of the committee that puts it all together.

Those who will be sophomores, juniors or seniors for the 2009 Week of Welcome are invited to pick up more information at the Office of Orientation and Commuter Services.

“I wanted to get involved with WOW because I wanted to be a part of one of the biggest weeks on campus,” said committee member Jessica Liana-Marie Okon. “There is a lot of involvement with being part of the committee and it has been really great work with some people.”

To take part in WOW, all attendees must show a valid Panther ID and have the enthusiasm to meet new people.

“I would like to end WOW knowing that the freshmen had a great first week of college and felt welcomed into the FIU family,” Okon said.

Fresh Food offers healthier eating options on campus

FIU students flocking back to campus might have financial aid, book purchases and courses to worry about, but there should be one more thing on their list: healthy diets.

As everyone knows, eating right and being physically active are essential a healthy lifestyle and help reduce your risk of many chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, osteoporosis and certain cancers and increase your overall physical and mental health.

FIU students — both commuting and on-campus residents — might wonder what healthy choices the University offers them. The best way to provide your body necessary and balanced nutrition is by eating a variety of nutrient-rich foods while staying within your daily calorie needs.

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**Monday, August 25**

**WHAT:** Welcome Back Week: Rain Backup for Rally
**WHERE:** GC Pit
**WHEN:** 9:00 am
**HOW MUCH:** FREE

**WHAT:** Panther Rage General Meeting
**WHERE:** GC 140
**WHEN:** 4 pm
**HOW MUCH:** FREE

**WHAT:** Welcome Back BBQ
**WHERE:** GC Panther Square
**WHEN:** 11:30 am
**HOW MUCH:** FREE

**WHAT:** SPC & WOW present: Magician "Justin Kredible"
**WHERE:** GC Ballrooms
**WHEN:** 4:00 pm
**HOW MUCH:** FREE

**WHAT:** Meet your Dean
**WHERE:** UP GC West Ballrooms
**WHEN:** 11:00 am
**HOW MUCH:** FREE

**WHAT:** Welcome Back Week Pep-Rally
**WHERE:** Betty Chapman plaza
**WHEN:** 12:00 pm

**WHAT:** Blue & Gold Breakfast
**WHERE:** BBC Panther Square
**WHEN:** 9:30 am
**HOW MUCH:** FREE

**WHAT:** Ice Cream Social
**WHERE:** BBC Bay Vista Housing
**WHEN:** 7:00 pm
**HOW MUCH:** FREE

**WHAT:** italian Club General Meeting
**WHERE:** GC 241
**WHEN:** 4:00 pm
**HOW MUCH:** FREE

**WHAT:** Pathologic Council Information session
**WHERE:** GC 150
**WHEN:** 6:00 pm
**HOW MUCH:** FREE

**WHAT:** Blue & Gold Breakfast
**WHERE:** BBC Panther Square
**WHEN:** 6:00 pm
**HOW MUCH:** FREE

**WHAT:** Freshmen Luncheon
**WHERE:** BBC Bay Vista
**WHEN:** 11:30 am
**HOW MUCH:** FREE

**WHAT:** BBC Trail of the Torch
**WHERE:** Bay Vista Housing
**WHEN:** 7:00 pm
**HOW MUCH:** FREE

**WHAT:** Student Alumni Association Trail of the Torch
**WHERE:** Up Housing Quad
**WHEN:** 7:00 pm
**HOW MUCH:** FREE

**WHAT:** Kayaking on the Bay
**WHERE:** FIU BBC Bay
**WHEN:** 12:00 pm
**HOW MUCH:** FREE

**WHAT:** Student/Saff Basketball
**WHERE:** BBC Fields
**WHEN:** 2:00 pm
**HOW MUCH:** FREE
TORN JEANS AND A FUNKY TEE.
I MAY NOT ALWAYS DRESS
"APPROPRIATELY"
FOR CLASS,
BUT I'M USUALLY
ON TIME...SORT OF.

DIESEL
Brown leather strap
chronograph.
A. #025629, $150.
B. #604419, $170.

GUESS
Black rubber strap
multifunction.
C. #0901276, $100.
D. #01263763, $125.

DIESEL
Black leather strap
with yellow crystal.
E. #02271197, $190.
F. #02271461, $140.

G-SHOCK
Shock-water resistant,
with 2 alarms.
G. #02530006-4, $99.
H. #02530007-7, $99.

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