State limits campus drinking

MEGAN DOWNS
AP Wire

On any given night, a University of Central Florida student can drink without a lot of money, difficulty or limits.

“We’re out four times a week, at least,” said Alex Bozinta, 21, who ordered three drinks at a popular bar recently so she wouldn’t have to fight the crowd as often. “We drink and drink. As long as you get drunk, it’s fun.”

As classes and football games began for a new season, UCF and universities throughout Florida have been creating more stringent rules that attempt to curb underage drinking, as well as its dangerous counterpart: binge drinking.

“The problem isn’t when you start drinking, it’s how much you start drinking,” said Tom Hall, UCF’s director of alcohol and other drug-prevention programming.

“When you have a culture that supports excessive alcohol use, you have a problem.”

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism estimates that 1,700 college students between ages 18 and 24 die as well as his stance in the conflicts going on in the Middle East.

He was also intent on discussing the quality of the country not normally shown in the news.

“You wouldn’t have a cell phone without Israeli technology; you’d never have a laptop without Israeli technology [and] you wouldn’t have a huge amount of medical technology.”

Hirschson discussed his views on the relations between Israel, Iran, Iraq and Lebanon and asked students to share their own views. He also spoke of Israel’s relations with Egypt as well as the country’s major trading partners. In the later half of the discussion, he openly spoke about the conflict over possession of the Gaza Strip.

The classroom visit gave international relations majors the opportunity to talk with political figures they read about in class and hear about in the news.

Students took advantage of the opportunity and openly discussed both political and personal problems.

“We can have an argument, myself and somebody from the other side, about how we got to where we are,” Hirschson said. “The question is not so much how we got to where we are, the question is how we move forward from here?”

“Israel is much more than a place where periodically in the Middle East there are wars,” Hirschson said. “You wouldn’t have a cell phone without Israeli technology; you’d never have a laptop without Israeli technology [and] you wouldn’t have a huge amount of medical technology.”

Top administration officials got the memo from University President Modesto A. Maidique on Monday: no budget crisis, big or small, will slow down FIU’s growth.

Although framed around the budget crisis, Maidique’s first leadership meeting of the year concentrated on the University’s new stage, “FIU 3.0,” and its effects on colleges, schools and faculty.

“Many of you in this room carried the burden of making the difficult choices about program and employee terminations. I know you agonized over each decision and every dollar, but the University now has to look [to the future],” Maidique said.

The University’s vice presidents, deans and directors sat through an hour-long discussion that emphasized undergraduate education, graduate and faculty research, internationally focused curriculum and improved student customer service as “FIU 3.0” cornerstones.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, FIU ranks far below both national and Florida standards for student-faculty ratios; an FIU Foundation survey finds nine percent of alumni

SDMC FIGHTS AIDS
Students work with victims

TALKING TROUBLES
Languages pose problems

INNER PEACE
Club promotes yoga

LEARNING CURVE
How volleyball found a way to win

Starts STRONG

STARTING STRONG

Victor Lynch/THE BEACON

VICTORY IS THEIRS: Setter Natalia Valentin clenches her fist in celebration after defeating Oral Roberts to win the FIU Invitational Tournament on Sept. 13.
Maidique stresses school growth

LEADERSHIP, page 1

would not recommend FIU to someone else and a University-wide survey indicates a majority of students are dissatisfied with bureaucracy at student offices like Financial Aid. FIU’s new mission concentrates highly on establishing a better quality education, customer service, and alumni affinity.

However, the most visually impactful aspects of “FIU 3.0” were the University’s fundraising and construction endeavors. Maidique made clear that with a new school, several new projects in blueprint or under construction, “FIU 3.0” is in full swing.

Expansion on campus includes the unveiling of a new school, the School of International and Public Affairs. Arquitectonica, a Miami-based architecture firm, has full reign on 56,000 sq. ft. for a new building set to open in Fall 2009. The school itself symbolizes FIU’s new international direction in which undergraduate curriculum in every major will have some type of international component.

Four sections: politics and international relations, public administration, criminal justice; social, cultural, and spatial studies will make up the school. Other possible construction includes a new hospital.

Drinking games face banishment

ONE POLICY BANS A ranges of drinking games, kegs and “beer balls,” which hold the equivalent of 55 beer cans. Other Florida universities have similar policies.

UF spokeswoman Janine Sikes said the school had four or five alcohol-related deaths several years ago, which prompted the school to revise the student code with changes that likely will take effect this fall.

“That was a wakeup call,” Sikes said. “You will see the general education, customer service, and financial aid offices like Financial Aid.

Media advertisements tell students that drinking is acceptable, sexy, fun: It looks like the place to be.”

But Mike McCoy, Orange County public safety director and co-chairman of the underage drinking task force, said attitudes about what’s unsafe could change. “Back then, we would pass beyond that,” he said. “We thought we couldn’t do anything, but I think we will pass beyond that.”

Now, media advertisements tell students that drinking is acceptable, sexy, fun: It looks like the place to be.

Carol Burkett, Orange County’s Coalition for a Drug Free Community, said binge drinking is more about college drinking.”

Hall said. “Nationally, about 23 percent of students are the extreme drinkers, so the notion that ‘everyone is doing it’ isn’t accurate. But 23 percent is still too big of a number.”

Carol Burkett, who sits on the task force and directs Orange County’s Coalition for a Drug Free Community, said binge drinking is more accepted and younger students are drinking more.

“In the ‘70s, you didn’t have high-risk drink promotions,” she said. “Now, media advertisements tell students that drinking is acceptable, sexy, fun: It looks like the place to be.”

One new policy bans activities that encourage alcohol abuse. Drinking games, kegs and the beer balls would be prohibited.

The majority of students believe binge drinking is a rite of passage, UCF’s Hall said.

But his research at the school found that 20 percent of students aren’t drinking. “That’s one of the myths we’ve been bombarding students with high-risk drinking policies, so the notion that ‘everyone is doing it’ isn’t accurate. But 23 percent is still too big of a number.”

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But Mike McCoy, Orange County public safety director and co-chairman of the underage drinking task force, said attitudes about what’s unsafe could change. “Back then, we thought we couldn’t do anything, but I think we will pass beyond that,” he said. “You will see the generation saying it’s so sensible, and we can do things about it.”
**Karate eases student stress**

**CAROLA VOGES**

Contributing Writer

Though it is only September, students are already feeling the pressure from their classes. Fortunately for a few, karate seems to be the answer to these school stresses.

For those interested, the Uechi Ryu Okinawan Karate Do School began holding classes Aug. 4 at the Biscayne Bay Recreation Center.

“This is a healthy way for students to come learn self-defense and tone their body and mind. And it’s always cheaper than a shrink,” said Sensei Gus Saul, manager of the Uchi Ryu Okinawan Karate Do School.

Classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. and Fridays from 6 to 7 p.m.

Although based at FIU, this opportunity stretches out to more than just students. Saul encourages everyone to join the class.

“We’ve gotten positive feedback,” said Andrea Reynoso, a physical therapy major and receptionist at the Recreation Center. “Although there is a discount for students, a majority of the people that attend the classes are non-students that know about the school from other sources. The program is perfect for casual members as well as beginners.

According to Saul, the class is divided into four sections: the first 15 minutes consist of kinectics, gymnastics and stretching; the next 15 minutes are devoted to rate warm-up exercises and the rest of the time is used for karate, mostly pre-arranged fighting forms.

“Nothing that a beginner couldn’t handle,” Saul said.

Though that is the basic structure of the classes, Saul does not impose this schedule on his students.

Different difficulty levels of karate are taught in the class. Three advanced students help teach the class, making sure to attend to all the different difficulty levels.

It takes approximately six months for students to graduate with their first belt, which for true beginners means the white one.

“This opportunity sounds amazing. To be able to come to school, get stressed out and then, after class, focus your mind and release the stress seems too good to be true. And it’s not even expensive.” said Khalid Kemp, a hospital management major.

The cost of this program is $79 a month for students, and $65 for faculty and staff. With the introductory promo- tion, however, students can pay $199 for three months of classes. For non-students, gym fees, which are already included in student tuition, would apply at the rate of $75 a semester, plus the $79 for the karate classes.

“Those interested should feel free to walk in during class,” Saul said. “Any student willing to try is given a first day free of charge to experience the art of empty- hand fighting.”

For more information, contact Sensei Gus Saul at gussaul@hotmail.com, or visit www.uechiryukaratedo.com.
THE SOAPBOX: An Op-Ed Column

Students can change the world through a single vote

HECTOR SUCO Special to The Beacon

If you were to bet on a competition and you knew that the sides were 37,000 vs. 537, which one would you put your money on? In the year 2000, 537 won. In 2008, it was our whole ball game. As most of you already know, President Barack Obama won the state of Florida in 2008, giving him enough electoral votes to win the White House by 537 votes.

That election changed the world and it came down to our state. This semester alone, there are nearly 37,000 students at FIU. A good number of those students are not registered to vote.

If you’re saying to yourself, “My vote doesn’t matter,” or “I don’t care about the election,” then think again. If 537 FIU students and 1 other different way about voting in 2000, it could’ve changed the world.

Your voice can change the world! This election, 537 is just 1.45 percent of this year’s enrollment at the University.

Imagine if 5 percent or even 10 percent of FIU students vote this year.

What kind of impact do you think it will have on a large swing state like Florida? Florida has picked the winner of the presidency nine out of the last 10 elections. Still think that your voice doesn’t matter?

It takes two minutes to register and if you do you’ll avoid any problems there will hardly be a line at the polls. If you don’t want to wait in line by yourself, take a friend.

There are many reasons why you would want to register (or re-register) to vote.

If you need to have your card replaced, do so as soon as you can. Your voter’s registration card tells you where you’re supposed to go to vote.

There are many people like us who are always around on campus asking students if they are registered to vote, because we know how important this election is and how one vote can make a difference. Don’t let another election year go off with a shrijn.

As Mahatma Gandhi said, “Be the change you wish to see in the world.”

Hector Suco is the president of FIU Students for Obama.

[Suco] helped eviscerate our state’s education budget, and in the process, forced our school to lay off 200 people.

CHRIS CABRAL Staff Writer

We are all witnesses to one of the greatest things to ever happen to FIU. Every once in a great while, administration at this University deem it necessary to amaze us.

As you walk through the halls during this semester, you may notice they seem a little emptier; the classrooms may seem a little more crowded and your major may have disappeared. Nine yellow students do, not be behind these cuts being paid with our tuition money?

The answer is that Rubio is a great and noble man. His hiring is a sign of the changing times. Why? Because our school’s administrators say so. And what they say is always true. I think I read that somewhere. You see, just because we love students may find this hiring to be audacious, despicable, horrifying or even offensive, doesn’t make it so. Just because the “facts” say that Rubio is responsible for these budget cuts doesn’t make him a bad guy. In fact, I’m sure he feels really bad about the whole thing. Instead of criticizing this decision and expressing our outrage collectively, and doing all we can to force FIU to reconsider its decision, let’s take a moment to instead admire this man we now call Professor Rubio.

I imagine the courage it must take to spend 15-20 hours a week among students and professors who are forced to suffer through the financial crisis he helped create. Imagine the guilt he must feel, spending 15-20 hours a week teaching in a class that was likely once occupied by someone he helped get fired. It is that kind of unabridged audacity that makes a great man.

Just think of the things we could learn from him. Everyone who saw their potential majors eliminated could take Professor Rubio’s DIS 1225: “How I made your majors disappear.” Or we would all benefit from taking SCM 1101: “How to work only 20 hours a week and still make $68,000 a year!”

And as Rubio recently told The Miami Herald in August, he may teach more than 20 weeks a year if he “likes” it here. So please, do all you can to make his brief weekly visits to our school as pleasant as possible. Please don’t tell him stories about how your major was cut or how your little sister’s teacher got fired or your club’s adviser got laid off. That will probably make him really uncomfortable.

Remember, we want him to like us. He’s also still in the state legislature, and he’s probably busy thinking about how much they’ll be cutting from education next year. So please, leave him alone, and just bask in his magnificence.

行车,” he says. If you don’t, please don’t call the department responsible for employing him, the Metropolitian Center (353-349-1251). And don’t write to The Beacon, The Miami Herald and The Sun-Sentinel to express your outrage. Because if you do, that our school might start to consider hiring him.

And why would you want to?
The one-year anniversary of the club at FIU.

The yoga club at FIU, which is facilitating all events and seminars. The week-long retreat at the yoga club at FIU, which is facilitating all events and seminars. The cost of the program is $200. This price allows those who have participated in the program once to participate multiple times on a donation basis and also includes follow-up sessions.

Along with renewal retreats, the organization is working closely with the FIU community and on the world around them. The club's main goal is to promote an internal balance within each of its members and teach about the impact humans have on others in the community and on the world around them.

The yoga club is free of charge to students and open to anyone wanting to try something new. A Divinity and Femininity Luncheon and exposition, was held on Friday, Sept. 5 in the Graham Center. It will also be sponsoring free yoga sessions on Wednesdays from 12 to 1 p.m. on the lawn in front of Graham Center.

The club stresses that beginners are more than welcome to come try a session. In addition to finding an inner balance, members also improve their posture and breathing, are more relaxed in general and find they can handle situations with positive, confident attitudes.

The organization's ultimate goal is for members to realize they can make a difference in the world. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the founder of The Art of Living and current World Wisdom Scholar in Residence, will also be on campus on Nov. 4 and 5 speaking about finding inner peace and giving back to the community through charitable acts such as food drives. FIU is the first school he will have visited.

The organization is working closely with the FIU community, which is facilitating all events and seminars. The week-long retreat at FIU will be a joint effort by the two groups and will be a way to initiate the beginning term of a new president, Leonor Mimas, and celebrate the one-year anniversary of the club at FIU.

The word yoga means union in Sanskrit - an appropriate origin because yoga is the union of the body, soul and mind. The club's main goal is to promote an internal balance within each of its members and teach about the impact humans have on others in the community and on the world around them.

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A mascot believes that through yoga comes clarity, which is followed by choice and ultimately, power.

By practicing yoga, students will not only improve physically but also mentally, and will gain a newfound sense of awareness.

The yoga club is always searching for students who want to learn a new form of exercise, find a sense of inner peace or simply wish to make new friends.

Together, the Art of Living and the yoga club will teach participants and members how minor changes to their lives can result in a greater awareness of the world around them and how they can be integral components in aiding those in dire need on local and international scales.

The Art of Living is an internationally recognized organization interested in promoting community service and dedicated to helping all individuals find clarity and peace.

The Yest + division of the organization, which will be visiting FIU, is committed to helping college students and professors.

The retreat is open to all students and will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 23, through Friday, Sept. 26, from 7 to 10 p.m.; on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 4 to 10 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 28, from 7 to 10 p.m. Problems confronting university students, such as time management, will be discussed and students will be given the opportunity to unwind from their hectic schedules.

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Art show brings politicians under the big top

Politicians may not be the most artistic of people, but that doesn't mean politicians can't be art. Last Friday, I went to Florida Atlantic University to view the latest art show on display at the Ritter Gallery, Boca Raton Campus. The exhibition's theme, “Political Circus,” intrigued me because of all the controversy this year over Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, as well as the band of Republicans including John McCain and Sarah Palin.

In previous presidential politics races, there were controversies, spoofs, pastiches and parodies, all highlighted and simplified into satirical stickers.

In “Political Circus” there is quite an array of graphic designers on display and how they can be integral components in aiding those in dire need on local and international scales.

Art show brings politicians under the big top

Art show brings politicians under the big top

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Due to the exorbitant amount of must-play video games released every fall, it’s not uncommon to find gamers who overdo their bank accounts, stay locked indoors for weeks at a time or have to explain to their significant others that going out on Saturday night is no longer an option. Here are a few stellar titles to look out for when selecting an option. Here are a few stellar titles to look out for when selecting an option.

The predecessor was hyped by its creator Peter Molyneux as the greatest role-playing game of all time, yet the original Fable fairly good game, did not deliver on its promise. With Fable II, Molyneux hasn’t made statements as bold as his previous ones, yet he is still aiming to give fans of the role playing genre a truly unique experience. Taking place 500 years after the original title, this ambitious role playing game introduces guns into the world of Albion, a pet dog that acts as the player’s companion throughout the game and online cooperative play. Fable II hits shelves Oct. 21.

PRINCE OF PERSIA (XBOX 360 & PS3 & PC)

The war against the Chimera continues. Continuing this fall’s sequel trend, Epic Games plans to blow our minds on Nov. 7 with the release of Gears of War 2. This game has been dubbed by lead designer Cliff Bleszinski as, “bigger, badder and more badass” than the first iteration of the franchise. Epic hopes to deliver not only a bigger, “badder” single player experience, but a more polished, less glitch-heavy multiplayer experience, after the original’s online multiplayer was plagued by several bugs.

Players will again fill the shoes of chainsaw-wielding main character Marcus Fenix as he leads his squadron into the next chapter of the war against the Locust. Besides new weapons and new enemies, everything about Gears 2 looks bigger, “badder” and – you get the point.

GEARS OF WAR 2 (XBOX 360)

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Resistance 2 (PLAYSTATION 3)

Resistance 2 takes place right where the original left off – with main character Nathan Hale left stranded in a snowfield, armed with only one grenade. Resistance 2 will feature two campaigns: a single player campaign and a cooperative campaign. The cooperative campaign can be played with up to eight of your buddies online via the PlayStation Network, or two players on a split screen. The online fun doesn’t end there. Resistance 2’s multiplayer offering will boast unprecedented online matches containing up to 60 players. Yes, that is a six and a zero.

PRINCE OF PERSIA

The follow-up to the highly successful PS3 launch game, Resistance 2 features new battle systems in which the player will only fight one enemy at a time and a new supporting character, Elika, who is intrinsically woven into the gameplay.

Choose to go with a more Saturday morning cartoon appearance, the new Prince, which releases on Nov. 18, looks like a masterful work of art in the making. Aside from the change in graphic style, the next Prince features a new battle system in which the player could rewind time in order to escape death. Now, the player only has Elika as his aid. Don’t let the change scare you. Prince will still contain the absurdities and puzzle solving that fans of this third-person adventure game love.

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The Golden Panthers were on a roll. After Marcos Balladares scored his first career goal to tie the game against USF in the 81st minute, FIU (0-4-1) could finally step back as the game was tied for the first time since the 27th minute in the first half.

Less than 200 seconds later, the Bulls (2-1-1) scored again, and kept FIU winless on Sept. 13, despite having three more shots on goal than the host Bulls. FIU will continue its search for a first victory when they host Fairfield on Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. The up-coming game will be the first two home games for the Golden Panthers.

The Golden Panthers lost their seventh straight game on Sept. 14, as Caly Poly scored five unanswered goals. FIU (0-7), allowed four goals in the first half as Poly quickly put the game out of the Golden Panthers hands.

Despite goalie Melanie Raimo’s seven stopped shots, Poly’s offense was too overpowering for the defense. The Golden Panthers have not scored a goal five meetings, as they enter a two game home stand beginning Sept. 19 when they host Middle Tennessee.

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Editor

MEN’S SOCCER

Golden Panthers get it together, ORU defeated in final round

JULIAN, page 8

build the momentum 6-1 in the second set. That’s when things went south. That’s when the wheels came off and the adversity started. A moment later the set was tied at 6, and another moment later Oral Roberts had a 1-0 lead.

The Golden Eagles kept pressing … 16-9, then 21-12. ORU took the set 25-13, the Golden Panthers lost 2-1 overall, the first half as Poly quick-

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The Golden Eagles kept pressing … 16-9, then 21-12. ORU took the set 25-13, the Golden Panthers had a 1-0 lead.
The 9-1 start isn't a surprise to some, after all, the Golden Panthers ranked third in the pre-season Sun Belt poll, boasted two all conference selections and the pre-season player of the year. The biggest surprise may have been the loss, and not so much losing on the road to Iowa State on Sept. 6, which began the season ranked No. 18 by the American Volleyball Coaches Association, but how the Golden Panthers played. Considering FIU was coming off an impressive road victory over the then No. 19 Clemson Tigers (25-21, 25-22, 23-25, 26-24), to win Clemson's home tournament, the Big Orange Bash, was quite a perplexing finish at the Blue Raider Bash in Murfreesboro, Tenn. The Golden Panthers dropped their contest against Iowa State, in straight sets, 25-18, 25-9, 25-6, in a contest where stating that FIU faded down the stretch would be a tremendous understatement. The Golden Panthers turned in the worst performance of the season at a curious time, with only 24 kills, and attack percentage of .071. The defense wasn't much better, only blocking three shots and allowing the Cyclones a sizzling .451 attack percentage. Some of the blowout could be chalked up to fatigue. It was FIU's third game in two days; some of their performance to the caliber of opponent. The Cyclones (8-3) were a ranked opponent, and are still, receiving votes in the AVCA poll. I think the majority of the issue was not being able to recover when faced with adversity on the road. In every college sport, consistency and composure are at an absolute premium, and although some would say the phrases are over used, it truly is difficult to get up for every game, and win on the road. Throw in the loss of five seniors, and only having two fourth year letter winners on this year’s team, and that makes finding leaders that much more difficult. Add all that together and set the stage for the FIU Invitational, a weekend where the Golden Panthers hosted Oral Roberts, Penn, and UCF, with a chance to bounce back. The first two matches, sweeps against Central Florida and Pennsylvania, allowed FIU to get back into their rhythm, moving to 8-1, but the most interesting match took place against Oral Roberts. FIU dropped the first set (20-25), for only the second time this season (see Iowa State), but rebounded to win the second 25-17. FIU found itself in a dogfight, and for just the second time this season, FIU was in a match tied at a set apiece. The Golden Panthers looked to

CONTINUED SUCCESS: The Golden Panthers (9-1) continued its strong start by defeating Penn, UCF and Oral Roberts in the first FIU Invitational Tournament since 2006.

The Golden Panthers Women’s volleyball team won the FIU Invitational tournament on Sept. 13 at the FIU Arena. Led by two-time All American, and tournament MVP Yarimar Rosa (JR, Vega Baja, Puerto Rico), FIU captured the championship, after failing to do so the last time FIU held its home tournament in 2006.

FINALS: The Golden Panthers (9-1) continued its strong start by defeating Penn, UCF and Oral Roberts in the first FIU Invitational Tournament since 2006.

FIU swept its first two matches, Sept 12 against UCF (25-23, 25-17, 25-19), getting contributions from all around. Rosa led the way in kills with 13, and Natalia Valentin (SO, Caguas, Puerto Rico) registered 21 assists and 11 digs.

In the second contest, on Sept 13, FIU toppled the Penn Quakers in straight sets, (25-11, 25-19, 25-19). Three Golden Panthers registered double-digit digs, Mariana Drumeva (SR, Sofia, Bulgaria) had 15, a season best, Valentin had 12, and junior Isadora Rangel (Sao Paulo, Brazil) tied a career high with 11.

FIU took on Oral Roberts in the third match, and it was the Golden Panthers’ first five set match of the season, as FIU struggled at times in the match, but ultimately prevailed 25-23, 25-17, 13-25, 25-23, 15-11.

Drumeva and Rangel were named to the all tournament team.

FIU will be in action Sept. 19, when they travel to Birmingham, Alabama for the UAB/Samford Invitational. The other participants in the tournament will be Tenn.-Chattanooga, Memphis and hosts UAB.

JULIAN, page 7

ANDREW JULIAN
Sports Director

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