LARGEST PUBLIC HOSPITAL IN FLORIDA

FOOD FOR THE POOR

The interviewers ask themselves if you’re the type of individual they are comfort-
able having as their physician.

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. News Director

FLU’s physician forum, hosted by several student organizations, drew hundreds of prospective doctors ranging from FIU undergraduates to high school students on Sept. 26 in the Graham Center Ballrooms.

The forum was geared toward addressing the academic and extracurricular activities required for students to become strong medical school applicants.

Besides needing a minimum 3.5 GPA in all science and math courses, the forum addressed leadership skills, community service, shadowing a practicing physician and research, which are also components in the applications.

“It’s not enough to be a 4.0 stu-
dent,” said Professor of Chemistry and Director of Office of Pre-Health Professions Advising and Undergraduate Research John Landrum.

Obtaining above average Medical College Admissions Test scores is also crucial, according to Landrum. The median score of accepted medical school students is 32.

College of Medicine Director of Admissions and Records Betty L. Monfort said the mean score of the thousands of students applying to the College of Medicine is above 30 as well. Although MCAT scores weigh heavily during the admissions process, Monfort said no portion of the application is overlooked.

“I read applications cover to cover,” Monfort said. “Essays need be reading.”

Monfort suggests undergraduates apply to medical schools during their junior year. The complete application process includes an American Medical College Application Service, a secondary application for each individual school and letters of recommendations.

“You need to get to know your professors because it’s hard to write a letter for someone you can’t identify in a line,” Landrum said.

Once the applications are cleared by the Admissions and Records department, an interview is scheduled. The interview may be conducted by a physician or professor. According to Monfort, interviewers evaluate communication skills and how well applicants process thoughts.

“The interviewers ask themselves if you’re the type of individual they are comfort-

able having as their physician,” Monfort said.

Senior biomedical engineer-

ing major Konstantinos Sebekos said that the University needs for the new security system.

Sophomore Chris Rodriguez said if FIU can afford more cameras on campus, it would make him feel more at ease.

“If we have the money to install security cameras, I’d be for it 110 percent,” Rodriguez said. “I always worry that I’m going to come back to a broken window or flat tire in the parking garages.”

Other than auto thefts, some students are concerned with smaller possessions such as laptops and book bags.

“My laptop and books are really important. I would be really mad if someone stole them,” said sophomore Gilbert Flores.

King attributed the on-campus robberies to the fact that there are more people at FIU during the beginning of each semester.

“They [larceny numbers] tend to trend up typically toward the end of the semester because we have more people on campus and new people on campus that haven’t acclimated themselves to the University community and are not protecting their property,” King said.

The chief of police also said the same trend of increased larcenies at the beginning of each semes-
ter mirrors the trends for auto thefts at FIU.

“We have some people who come onto campus who have crimi-
nal intent and are looking for things left in cars, or actually taking them,” said sophomore Gilbert Flores.

King was unaware of the expenses needed for the new security system.

“We would have better cam-

eras for the cameras,” King said.

“We need to have better cam-

eras,” Landrum said.

“We have some people who are not protecting their property,” King said.

As of April 2008, The Beacon reported that 20 cars had already been burglarized, robbed or vandal-
ized at FIU.

King emphasizes the need for students and faculty to secure their belongings including laptops, cell phones and other personal items in their classrooms or while on campus.

“Don’t leave things out of your sight,” King said.
Satellite building team competes for top design

OLGA VELEZ Staff Writer

When electrical engineering student Chris Rodriguez grew tired of seeing the same projects offered at FIU last fall, he decided to start a project that could result in having a satellite launched into space. He teamed up with his friend Henric Boiardt, a public administration major, to enter the Florida University Satellite Design Competition. NASA’s Florida Space Grant Consortium runs a competition that challenges Florida students to build an amateur satellite.

I have always had an interest in tinkering and building things and when I [Chris Rodriguez] came to ask me to join the program, the idea intrigued me,” Boiardt said.

Despite the fact that the team of two students was competing against teams of six students with more experience, Rodriguez and Boiardt won second place with their design, along with $2,000 from the Florida Space Grant Consortium (FSGC) to further fund their project idea.

“It was a proud moment for us and for FIU, but no one ever found out except for a few FIU students we took to the competition as guests,” Rodriguez said.

This year, they are entering the competition again, creating a satellite that will analyze space weather, a growing concern of several organizations including NASA, the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Defense.

Space weather is the effect that space and solar flares in particular can have on the environment, according to the official NASA Web site.

Rodriguez said research in this area is vital because communication satellites in space are in danger, such as current GPS satellite constellations.

The concept of the satellite will be disclosed to the public this upcoming January through a presentation at the Engineering Center. The final presentation location and time is still to be determined.

Building a satellite requires between $10,000-15,000, but with the team receiving just $2,000, the two students will need funding from external sources to make their design come to life.

“This is cheap by satellite standards, but a burden for students to raise,” said Rodriguez. “Many institutions, like the University of Florida, are funded fully or partly by the school.”

The deadline for students to join this competition team in September and Rodriguez is looking for mechanical and physics students to join.

“You can’t get closer to what you will see in the job environment than this. This is an emerging technology that is getting popular. The people involved in these satellites are pioneers into a world of bringing costs drastically down and increasing the availability of space research,” Rodriguez said, when asked why students should join the program.

Boiardt said that with more people helping the team, FIU would continue to receive more awards and possibly more funding.

“Space weather and other related phenomena are a big concern for the government and it’s a good way to get a foot in the door,” Boiardt said.

For more information on the satellite design competition, e-mail cruz0218@fiu.edu.

BECOMING A LEADER

ENGAGE: Angel Garcia from the Center of Leadership presents ENGAGE Leadership Workshop in GC 314 Friday Sept. 26

FIU

FIU opens new media lab

FIU’s School of Journalism and Mass Communication is in the process of building a brand new media lab. The lab will be funded for the most part by the Scripps Howard Foundation, which gave the SJMC $250,000 to build the new media lab.

FIU to host unique Rabbi, renowned scholar

Chabad FIU, the Center for the Study of Spirituality and FIU’s Judaic Studies Program will be featuring Rabbi Manis Friedman as a guest lecturer to speak about the topic of existence on Oct. 2. The lecture will be held at the Green Library room 220. Friedman is a renowned Biblical scholar, known for his ability to relate Jewish mysticism and apply it to modern society. His first book “Doesn’t Anyone Blush Anymore?” has received a great deal of positive reviews from various media sources.

Florida looks to alleviate housing crisis with federal aid

The state of Florida will receive $541 million in federal funds to prevent home loan defaults. The funds, called community development block grants, must be used by the state and local governments to buy property and offer down payment assistance to lower middle class families. President George Bush signed the housing recovery package back in July to save the housing market at the time. Since June 30, the state of Florida had the highest percentage of foreclosures in the country.

POLICE NOTES

9/18/08 – 9/19/08

Sept. 18: A 59-year-old female parked her vehicle at Red Garage, returning to it late in the evening to discover that unknown subject(s) had taken her two side signal lights.

Sept. 19: A male FIU student reported to police that as he slept on the second floor of the Green Library at one of the cubicles, unknown suspect(s) had taken his iPod and its carrying case.

Sept. 19: FIU student reported to police that after departing from class at the Green Library, he went to Panther Hall, only to realize that he left his Sanyo recorder on the desk of classroom 100-B. The student went back to the classroom to discover his recorder was gone. At this time, he also realized that his wallet was missing.

The student told police that he last saw his wallet in his pocket when he was in the classroom.

- Compiled by David A. Barrios
Poetry fundraiser brings relief to Haiti

MIKALIA C. TENNIE
Staff Writer

This year’s hurricane season left people homeless and starving in Haiti, and Biscayne Bay Campus students decided to do something about it. Sept. 25 at a food drive and poetry recital

Donna Weir-Soley, English professor, came up with the idea to combine poetry with a fundraiser. She partnered with Steve Switzer, BBC access services librarian, to host the Food Drive for Haiti and Poetry. Read-Out in the gezo from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Switzer has participated in other events at the library that involved poetry, such as Banned Books Week and Poetry Week. “[Weir-Soley] adopted the model the library has used in the past to provide [poetry events] on the BBC lawn. I’m very pleased with how she’s doing,” Switzer said.

Weir-Soley encouraged hers students to bring canned goods and other non-perishable items to ‘reduce stress of the immediate hunger that is rampant in Haiti. She also asked them to prepare poetry to read during the event.

“I am a poet, so naturally, I wanted to do something on campus for students to be involved in,” Weir-Soley said.

Food for the Poor is the second-largest international relief organization in the United States, and serves the 16 poorest countries in the Caribbean and Latin America. Food for the Poor’s headquarters is located in Coconut Creek, Florida.

“We trust Food for the Poor because I’ve worked with them in the past. You don’t have to worry about people running off with your money,” Weir-Soley said.

Based on Food for the Poor’s annual financial report, 32 emergency relief tractor-trailers were sent to Haiti after Tropical Storm Noel in 2007. Wendy Bourgault, a representative from Food for the Poor, came to the event to speak to students and raise more awareness about the situation in Haiti.

“Imagine four days of rain and no place to put your head because you sleep on the dirt floor. All that’s been washed away,” Bourgault said.

She was referring to a river that overflowed, washing away sleeping women and children in the night, and people that had to wait four days for help because the bridges were washed out.

We took helicopters and dropped food to people on roofs,” Bourgault said.

Some students around campus gathered closer as Bourgault shared how aid could be provided in the situation.

“When you bring what you can, it may seem like a drop in the bucket, but it’s a drop that wasn’t there before.”

Weird Bourgault
Food for the Poor Representative

Poetry fundraiser brings relief to Haiti

ATTENTION JOURNALISM MAJORS

Student Media is currently looking for a proficient, hard-working individual to fulfill the assistant news director position for the BBC campus.

Interested? E-mail Daniella.Bacigalupo@fi usm.com with your resume.
THE BEACON | Editorial
Clause necessary for University finances

Head coach Mario Cristobal has a clause in his contract that guarantees admission for any scholar-athlete meeting the minimum grade point average and SAT score requirements set by the NCAA.

This is a case of the athletic department undermining the academic integrity of the University, but the reality of the situation is that there are more factors in place than simply lowering the standards for a select group. The clause states that the University will admit all-student athletes meeting the NCAA Academic Eligibility requirement, provided “the student-athlete has been cleared through the NCAA clearing house and been approved by the Athletic Director.”

This statement included within Cristobal’s contract certainly grants Athletic Director Pete Garcia an incredible amount of power and control over whom he allows on the University’s football team. This power is unprecedented within other universities and college athletic programs.

The power granted to the athletic director does offer the department a greater degree of flexibility than the rest of the University, but it may allow the athletic department to become a serious financial benefactor the University so desperately needs.

The University is still in the midst of a serious budget crisis; many academic programs and services have been eliminated as a result of this crisis. However, over time, the admission of these student-athletes who may not meet University requirements would not equate to an academic downturn. The clause in the contract allows Cristobal to terminate his contract if the University decided to raise admission standards for athletes.

So even though 1,000 high school graduates are being turned away because FIU has capped its freshman enrollment, student-athletes need not worry about this admissions freeze as long as they meet minimum standard. Although each individual athlete is bringing a coveted talent to the University, it would be encourage coaches to recruit players who can only make the minimum?

At most, 70 or so students (out of 1,000) would be admitted – and that’s a high estimate – because of possessing what could be called “an extraordinary talent.”

Bringing these students in would only serve to enhance the University community, from an athletic standpoint. It would be doing a service to some students who might not otherwise have an opportunity to even attend university, or others who did not think much of an advanced education before.

The University is more than capable:
Ms. Ivanka Trump – chosen over Bill Cosby and affordable at $30,000.

THE SOAPBOX: An Op-Ed Column

MORE THAN CAPABLE: Ms. Ivanka Trump – chosen over Bill Cosby and affordable at $30,000.

Ivanka Trump selection worth the price for students

BEN F. BADGER
Special to the Beacon

The Student Government Association exists to better the students at FIU. It provides numerous services to the student body, such as its lecture series. On Sept. 17, SGC-UP was able to bring Ivanka Trump to speak at University Park as part of that series.

While SGC-UP feels the lecture was a complete success and a fantastic start to the lecture series, the Sept. 22 editorial in The Beacon listed many downsides to the lecture.

Many of the viewpoints in this editorial were based more on misinformation, lack of information and a general misunderstanding of the lecture rather than its merits.

In the future, SGC-UP does not consider the $30,000 used to contract Ms. Trump as “liberal spending.” In fact at $30,000 Ms. Trump was one of the more affordable speakers available.

Other persons who were considered include the Reverend Jesse Jackson at $35,000, Maya Angelou at $40,000, Chris Gardner at $50,000, Donald Trump at over $200,000 and Bill Cosby at over $100,000.

While it is a valid opinion, SGC-UP values quality over quantity. Ms. Trump is a young woman who graduated from college only a few years ago. But more importantly, the SGC-UP brought the students who they asked for.

SGC-UP would rather invest student funds in one spectacular speaker whom students asked for, rather than many who would probably not draw such a large student crowd.

It is also important to note that the $30,000 spent to bring Ms. Trump to FIU did not exceed any budgetary limits. The Beacon stating that SGC-UP would have to beg other organizations for additional funds to continue the lecture series is unfounded.

While the various budget cuts have started to impact various organizations, it is important that SGC-UP provide its services to the entire student body and not specific groups.

If SGC-UP were to arbitrarily hand out checks to the various organizations that it already funds, it would quickly deplete its resources and not be able to fulfill its purpose of bringing quality services to FIU students.

While The Beacon may disagree with the validity of Ms. Trump as a speaker, no one does not lie. The Graham Center Ballrooms were filled with students who were very engaged in the lecture.

In fact, students were so interested in Ms. Trump’s input her lecture was interrupted by students eagerly asking her questions.

Ms. Trump was definitely the highlight of this year’s lecture series. SGC-UP wanted to set a standard of excellence for the rest of the lecture series to follow. And while the names may not be as big, the substance of all future speakers of our lecture series will definitely live up to Ms. Ivanka Trump.

Ben Badger is press secretary for the Student Government Council at University Park.
People are accustomed to purchasing textbooks every semester and struggling to find someone to sell them to when they finish with the course, but now a new site is looking to change the way people obtain their course materials. Skoobit, the brainchild of recent University of Miami graduate Christopher Blythe, follows the Netflix style of renting, but instead of movies, it ships textbooks to students across the country.

“When I had the idea and Netflix showed me how it could be profitable,” Blythe said. “I knew I could do it.”

A business major fresh out of college, Blythe set out to develop his idea. Through extensive focus groups and interviews with students from various universities, Blythe came to hone the afforded potential by dealing directly with the customer.

AJR Partners saw potential in the project as well and have been working with Blythe in product development.

About four months ago, Skoobit launched. The base plan is $10.99 a month per book, with other plans available as more textbooks become necessary throughout the school year.

“Designed by students, for students” is the message David Gil, one of the protest leaders was later found in contempt due to two groups: the National Mobilization of 1968, riots plagued the streets of Chicago that fall, and the protest riot itself. The archival footage features members David Dellinger, Abbie Hoffman, William Kunstler, Jerry Rubin, Bobby Seale, and the protest riot itself. The Emmy-winning, 70-minute film will be shown in Graham Center 150 on Tuesday, Sept. 30 before it is shown on PBS on Oct. 22. The event, which is held in cooperation with PBS, SPC, Hands on Miami and Independent Lens, will be available to both FIU students and the local community.

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KING HERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

Directed by Brett Morgan, the film explores the events leading up to and unraveling of the protest riot itself. The archival footage features members David Dellinger, Abbie Hoffman, William Kunstler, Jerry Rubin, Bobby Seale, and the protest riot itself. The Emmy-winning, 70-minute film will be shown in Graham Center 150 on Tuesday, Sept. 30 before it is shown on PBS on Oct. 22. The event, which is held in cooperation with PBS, SPC, Hands on Miami and Independent Lens, will be available to both FIU students and the local community.

“The purpose is to promote civic engagement and create awareness,” said Patricia T. Lopez-Guerrero, associate director of the Center for Leadership and Service, when asked why the series has been brought to FIU. “It addresses so many different topics [and] I think we are very fortunate to be able to bring the film series on campus.”

After the feature presentation, there will be a question and answer session including an unverified speaker that is associated with the film. “[The film] was highly successful last year,” Guerrero said.

The Center for Leadership and Service hopes the “highly successful” film has as much of an impact this year as it had last year, when Hands on Miami showcased the film locally.

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Series of events help create awareness for breast cancer

KASSANDRA POOL
Staff Writer

In the United States, breast cancer is expected to be diagnosed every three minutes and a woman dies from breast cancer every 13 minutes. Oct. 1 will kick off breast cancer awareness month. University Health Services and the Student Health Advocate for Peer Education have come together to coordinate a series of events that encourage students to examine themselves and prevent breast cancer.

To launch off the month, UHS and SHAPE have themed their first event as “Breast in the City.”

“Sex and the city was huge and we wanted something catchy to make students read the title and react with a ‘huh’ or ‘what’ as they walk by a poster,” said Mariela Gabaroni, Assistant Director of UHS.

Serving non-alcoholic cocktails, the event will take place on Wednesday Oct. 1 in the Graham Center room 305 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

At the event, students will be given the opportunity to ask any questions they have, in addition to meeting survivors as well as fellow students.

Those who attend this event will be given a free “I Love Boobs” shirt while supplies last. Over the past two years, students may have seen their fellow peers wearing these shirts incorporated by the Wellness Center. Some may have gotten offended without reading the back of the shirt, which states: “Breast cancer affects everyone.”

For students such as junior marketing major Robert Quintana, the month of October is a great way to help promote cancer awareness among the university.

“There are female college students that have been diagnosed with breast cancer and I think that if women who are in college start getting yearly mammograms, they can stop breast cancer before it starts,” he said.

The Women’s Center will be having free screenings on Oct. 17, 24 and 28. Students who want to take advantage of this opportunity can be screened by making an appointment by calling UHS.

SHAPE members will be tabling throughout GC during the month. At the tables, there will be fake breast models so students can feel the difference between a healthy breast and a breast with a tumor.

All events lead up to the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure walk that will take place on Oct. 18 at Bayfront Park in downtown Miami. Running on its 25th anniversary with over 1.2 million participants around the country, Recreation Services graduate assistant Jacqueline McMillan hopes to get the FIU community more involved with the walk.

“The walk is a great opportunity to support such a great cause that helps women who have been affected [by cancer],” McMillan said.

“I personally haven’t been affected, but it has affected many other people around the country,” freshman Kathleen Izquierdo said.

Students interested in attending “Breast in the City” must reserve their seat by calling UHS at (305) 348-2401.

For more information visit www.studentshealth.fiu.edu.
Students allowed one guest at remaining home games

For the remainder of the football season, students will be allowed to bring one guest with them to every home football game.

The next home game will be against Sun Belt Conference opponent Middle Tennessee on Oct. 11 at 8 p.m. Student can get in free, along with their guest, by presenting their Panther I.D. at Gate 6 before kick off.

“The students are our biggest partners and supporters and that’s why we’re doing this for the last four home games,” said Athletic Director Pete Garcia.

The game against Middle Tennessee will also be Employee Appreciation Night for all FIU faculty and staff. Faculty and staff can purchase tickets for $1 each for themselves and each member of their family.

Tickets must be purchased at FIU Arena’s ticket office or can be purchased Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Graham Center. Cash will only be accepted for the ticket purchases. Details are still being worked out to sell tickets at Biscayne Bay Campus. There is no limit for the amount of tickets faculty or staff can purchase. The first 500 faculty and staff will also receive free food and drinks at a tailgate party.

Athletics will also be matching season ticket purchases. Fans who purchased season tickets will receive matching tickets in the same price range. In order to receive a matching ticket, fans must contact the ticket office.

FIU graduates who are not members of the Alumni Association can receive two free tickets, while annual members can request up to four tickets and lifetime members request up to six tickets. Alumni who reserve their tickets can pick them up at the Panther Tailgate which starts at 5 p.m. the day of the game. Alumni can reserve their tickets or get more information by calling the Alumni Association at (305) 348-3334.

“This is our way of trying to get the entire FIU back on this campus at once,” Garcia said. “We’re trying to create something for our all students that live on campus and for even the students that don’t live on campus, that they have reason to come back on weekends and hang out here and for our alumni to come back.”

For more information about tickets for the Middle Tennessee game or for the rest of the season, call the ticket office at (305) 348-4263.

Women’s soccer breaks scoreless drive, falls to Middle Tennessee at home

Even after out-shooting Middle Tennessee 17-8, the women’s soccer team was not able to pull out a win on Friday night in their first game in Sun Belt Conference play.

The Blue Raiders dominated the first half and were able to score twice against the Golden Panther defense. An early lead was taken in the 23rd minute, when Heather McDonnell shot off a cross from Shan Jones who has five goals and one assist on the season.

Following the 1-0 lead, FIU could not stop a second score in the first half when Jones shot in a rebound in the 44th minute...

The Golden Panthers picked up the momentum in the second half.

Freshman Katrina Rose cut the lead in half in the 50th minute when shot a free kick from 40 yards outside the goal.

“It was my first home game out of a knee injury all season, so I wasn’t expecting to score a goal, especially not on defense,” Rose said.

The goal was not enough though, as FIU could not get the ball in the net, even after numerous chances in the second half.

“I think we play well as a team but we need to work on finishing in the forward sections,” Rose said.

With a dominating second half for FIU, the loss was disappointing after a two week break and two losses on the West Coast in early September.

“Everyone was really up-beat and positive coming into the game after the bye week and I think we played really hard,” said Rose, “but it just didn’t work out for us.”

The Golden Panthers will continue Sun Belt Conference play with the return of midfielder Amy Jackson. Jackson has missed the first seven games of the season due to a back injury.

The Golden Panthers will take on Western Kentucky on September 28. The Hilltoppers have a 6-0-1 record and are led by sophomore Megan Meinke.

The Golden Panthers need to defend like they did in the second half against the Blue Raiders if they are looking to win their first game of the season.

FIU will travel to Denver to face the Pioneers on October 3 and then to North Texas on October 5th.

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On a cool night in Toledo, Ohio, it was the Golden Panthers (1-3) who broke through with a 35-16 victory over the Toledo Rockets (1-3) on Sept 27 to capture not only their first victory of the season, but their first road victory in the Football Bowl Subdivision as well. It was also their first non-conference victory at the top level of collegiate football. "That was a team that went to double overtime against Fresno State last week [ranked No. 25] but we came out emotionally high, executed well and won the football game," said head coach Mario Cristobal, who with the overall record of 1-3 for a developing head coach; his overall record stands at 2-14. The surprising victory is likely to be remembered as one of the highlights for a developing football program that expects to be a major player in BFS in the coming years.

"You watch them on film and there as good as anyone that we’ve played so far," Cristobal said of the Rockets who put up 541 and 41 points respectively in their two previous contests. The Rockets’ high-octane offense looked as if it would put the game out of reach in the early going. On the fourth play of the game for Toledo, wide receiver Nick Moore took an end around from quarterback Aaron Opelt and found receiver Stephen Williams for a 74-yard punt return against the Golden Panthers lone victory last season on a 74-yard punt return against Kansas on Aug 30. "We’ve been practicing that play all last week and this week and I was like ‘Paul you got to pull it one time’ and the one time he pulled it, he saw me," Hilton said of the score. The Golden Panthers proceeded to take their first lead of the season at 14-13 on a 2-yard run by senior running back Julian Reams but it was short-lived when kicker Alex Steigerwald recorded his third field goal, this from 41 yards, with a minute remaining in the first half. The kick was all the Rockets would muster for the remainder of the game.

On the flip side, McCall finished 6-of-13 for 98 yards and a touchdown. The junior played all but one of the downs as he was momentarily shaken up after being tackled by a Rocket defender following an attempted pass in the third quarter and was relieved by senior quarterback Younger has appeared in 13 games, but Younger has appeared in a statistical perspective.

POWER PANther: Senior cornerback Robert Mitchell draggs down Toledo quarterback Aaron Opelt in the Golden Panthers’ 35-16 victory at the Rockets on Sept. 27.

"That was a team that went..."