Faculty will mix classic, innovative ways of teaching

CHERYL MALONE
Staff Writer

As the College of Medicine prepares to open in Fall 2009, the 40 students that comprise its first class will be introduced to innovative teaching strategies. Rather than auditorium-sized classes, the medical students can expect one-on-one interaction with professors and classmates in a personalized learning environment, according to Assistant Professor Dr. Daniel Castellanos.

“The idea is to really foster that creative, active, learning environment through small group instruction, virtual cases and problem based working,” Castellanos said.

Castellanos will teach the second course that students will take within their first year in the program. Each course will lead into the next relevant subject with curriculum that is more in-depth compared to the previous course.

“I’m teaching for first-year students, and I’m also co-directing in other courses that come during period two,” Castellanos said. “Period one is the foundations period where we teach [students] the basic principles of basic science as it applies to clinical medicine. Some of those courses will involve active learning environment, according to Dollinger.

The “vertical” concept allows for students to have general knowledge in one area before going into further enriched concepts. Also, classes will revolves around different aspects of one topic.

For example, Castellanos describes how one class may deal with heart conditions, while another class taken in that same week may be based on the culturally based issues that can lead to heart problems. Each lesson builds with the other, allowing for ground knowledge on a specific topic, Castellanos explained.

Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Robert P. Dollinger is involved with non-academic activities which the medical students will take part in.

Since the class will start off at only 40 students, they are at an advantage with interaction and activities. The students will work outside of the classroom within local communities, according to Dollinger.

“It is a way to bring health care into the community,” Dollinger said. “This makes FIU unique.”

The Castellanos is the interaction between students and professors and students. They believe that the student will gain greater knowledge with the combination of study and interaction between peers, professors and patients.

“We are trying to create an active learning environment where we can talk about it,” Castellanos said.
Groups show abortion, genocide side-by-side

SOLDANAYs MUJICA
Contributing Writer

The Center for Bio-Ethical Reform and College Republicans set up a display in front of GC to aware students of a genocide project.

AWARNESS: Center for Bio-Ethical Reform and College Republicans set up a display in front of GC to aware students of a genocide project.

ABORTION, page 3

Last week marked another milestone on our mission to improve your experience here at FIU. I am happy to report that the University launched its upgrade for PantherSoft Campus Solutions 9.0 on time and with great success. Thousands of you already have visited the upgraded site.

For those of you who have yet to log on, please take a moment over the next few days to visit http://panthersoft.fiu.edu/login.htm.

Make sure to explore the new site and review all the new options available to you.

As you may know by now, University President Modesto A. Maldonado set out a bold new vision for our University, which he dubbed FIU 3.0. Among its main components are an enhanced student experience and an emphasis on customer service. I believe PantherSoft 9.0 helps us toward that important goal.

I hope you will agree that this new system adds convenience and efficiency to more of the services you need to succeed at FIU.

By further streamlining the registration process, we believe this program will assist faculty members, advisors and everyone in enrollment services—from admissions to financial aid—be more responsive and efficient for you.

Among other new conveniences, this upgrade now allows you to check for time conflicts, pre-requisites and repeats before registering for a class. The redesigned site also allows you to see which books are assigned for a particular class and how much they cost.

If a course you’ve registered for is cancelled, the system will send an automatic e-mail message alerting you. Also, you will get an e-mail any time a class location changes. Be assured that we will pay close attention over the next few weeks to how the system is performing—addressing any security concerns to making sure access is uninterrupted.

A support team is on-call 24/7 to help you through Dec. 2008 to teach you how to maximize the system’s potential.

Lab times for faculty, staff and students can be found at http://panthersoft.fiu.edu/cxs/labs.htm.

If you have any questions about PantherSoft, e-mail pquery@fiu.edu and for system support, e-mail pinfo@fiu.edu.

I also want to take this opportunity to publicly thank the PantherSoft Project Team.

This upgrade is the result of a year’s worth of dedicated work by a full team representing academic affairs, technology services, enrollment and student services staff.

Many of them have volunteered their time to strengthen this system and ultimately your academic experience.

Send your comments to Provost Berkman at provo@fiu.edu

UPGRADED PANTHERSOFT UP, RUNNING WITH STUDENT FOCUS

POLICE NOTES
Oct. 23 - Oct. 29:

Oct. 23: Student Alan Meza advised to the police that his back driver side window had been broken. He further advised that his book bag which contained some clothing and a medical kit, had been taken from his car. Unknown person(s) used an unknown tool(s) to commit the crime.

Oct. 24: The University Park campus stated to police that she had found a black piece of luggage in the lot near the Student Union. Two officers responded to the call and detained the item. They then tried to contact the person who’s name was on the luggage name tag. This was unsuccessful.

Oct. 25: At 1 a.m. an FIU staff member next to Lot 1 on the Biscayne Bay Campus stated to police that she had found a black piece of luggage in the lot near the Library. Two officers responded to the call and detained the item. They then tried to contact the person who’s name was on the luggage name tag. This was unsuccessful.

Oct. 29: An FIU employee reported to Public Safety that a vending machine located on the sixth floor (lounge of the Lakeview North) had been vandalized the night before by unknown suspect(s). The money from the machine was removed by police and taken to the Office of Business Services.

-Compiled by David Barriot
Architect students check out their “Digital Pulse”

The School of Architecture will host a two-day conference, titled “Digital Pulse in Architecture.” The event will center on the discussion and showcase of digital design to reveal rhythmic qualities and sensations in space. The two-day conference will begin on Friday, Nov. 14 at 5 p.m. and all of Saturday, Nov. 15 at the Paul L. Cejas School of Architecture, room 135.

The conference will feature some of the most renowned designers of digital productions, including Jeffrey Kipnis, who served as architecture/design curator for the Arts and Eric Goldberg, a professor and founding partner of Monad Architects, which uses 3D computer technology for a wide range of design scales. The event is free and open to the public.

School MBA program restores prestigious world ranking

The Executive M.B.A. program was ranked among the top 85 programs in the field, according to the Financial Times. The program was officially ranked 82 out of a long list of candidates in the publication’s annual ranking of schools and their programs.

Dean of School of Journalism and Communication to step down

Dean Lilian L. Kopenhaven announced to the faculty the end of the 5(M)C, that she will be stepping down at the end of the 2008-2009 academic year. The widely respected educator will take a one-year sabbatical and then return to the post. During her term as dean of the 5(M)C, she was hailed as the “guardian of educating Hispanic communicators across the country” and in Latin America.

Kopenhaven has also worked with major publications such as the New York Times, The Sun Sentinel and The Miami Herald to increase the visibility of the program. Her leadership grants from the Scripps Howard Foundation have founded important programs meant to enhance students writing skills, such as a Writing Center and a Boot Camp.

Compiled by Julio Menache

Display upsets pro-choice supporters

ABORTION, page 2

National Organization for Women-FIU chapter, who were pro-choice, were offended and disgusted by these vivid photographs. Their counter-protest involved passing out stickers, flyers and wearing T-shirts expressing pro-choice views.

FIU NOW President Alexandra Schneider said that her organization was informed of the Bio-ethical Reform protest the day before it occurred and did not have enough time to prepare.

Midwest Region Director Mark Harrington, from the Center for Bio-ethical Reform, said the organization travels to universities across the country. “These images are not about abortion really is,” said junior Nick Chura. “These pictures look very back-al lied. Where are these pictures really coming from?”

Several members of the pro-life group argued that there were alternative methods to abortion such as adoption.

Meanwhile, the pro-choice students, the Women’s Center and FIU NOW tried to clear up the fact that they are not pro-abortion, but that no one is to make any decision on what any woman can do with her own body except the woman herself.

“The right of a woman’s choice is sacred and a fundamental right,” said freshman Diana Masa, who was on the pro-choice side.

Harrington offers a different perspective. “If you banned something like abortion, it’s not going to prevent it from happening. It’s better to regulate it than to ignore it,” Harrington said.

When asked what was the main reason for the display on campus, he said: “To raise awareness on contemporary genocide which is abortion and stimulate dialog on Bio-ethical issues.”

INVISIBLE, page 1

It’s a tough job touring the country and some days are harder than others. For us, our role is to come and introduce people to the story.

Bethany Bylsma, student intern

“We have been visiting churches, high schools, colleges and universities, basically anyone who will have us,” said Wallace Watkins, one of the student interns. “We traveled around in a big black van, sleep in contacts’ houses and show the film every day.” It is not always an easy task for the students.

“It’s a tough job touring the country and some days are harder than others,” said Bethany Bylsma, another student intern. “For us, our role is to come and introduce people to the story.”

When asked why this was such a worthy cause, Bylsma was quick to express the importance of the struggle the Ugandan people are facing. “The crisis in Uganda is happening right now. It’s not something you find in like a history class, it’s continuing and has been for 20 years,” Bylsma said. I think what is happening in Africa as the years progress is huge and we could see Africa fail completely or see it become a beautiful place.

Although the club is still unofficial, the group has been doing all they can to raise money for this cause.

According to Santos, it’s very easy to get involved with the club, students can donate online at www.InvisibleChildren.com in the University’s name or can just e-mail the club members at IC@fiu@aol.com for more information.

The next meeting for the Invisible Children Club at FIU will be on Nov. 13 in the Graham Center Piano Lounge at 1 p.m.
New secretary announced after student election

DAINEYS MARTINEZ
Staff Writer

Announcements about posted flyers and an upcoming Parent & Family Weekend event were among the issues discussed at the Student Organization Council’s monthly general meeting.

An election for the new secretary also took place at the Oct. 27 SOC meeting, involving members of varied clubs based at Biscayne Bay Campus.

Ye Jiang, a transfer student from the Tianjin China Program, beat two other candidates, receiving 15 out of 27 votes.

The candidate, Patricia Martinez, psychology major; Vernal Green, electrical engineering major; and Dang got a chance to present themselves to BBC club members after the SOC general meeting.

They had two minutes to talk about their previous experiences holding leadership positions.

Club members got a chance to question the candidates about their availability and time spent on this campus.

Following the questioning, members engaged in a discussion about the candidates, headed by SOC President Didier Georges, while the candidates were outside.

Each club member voted on a flash card, but only students could vote. Georges and Ivy Siegel, SOC adviser, counted the votes and then thanked all the candidates for their interest in SOC.

During her freshman year, Dang was the secretary of a student organization in China and was then elected president.

“The greatest challenge I faced was handling studying and work,” said Dang, who maintained a 3.8 GPA.

The main responsibilities of the secretary is to record the minutes of all SOC meetings, and establish and maintain all SOC files.

The secretary must also be a FLU student with at least a 2.0 GPA, and be taking at least half of their classes at BBC.

The SOC Executive Board consists of the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, marketing director and events coordinator.

It is the governing body for all student organizations at BBC, and serves these organizations through funding and coordinating activities to promote academic, social and athletic interests.

Dang said she is excited about having the opportunity to be part of the new student organization.

“I love working for students,” said the junior hospitality management major.

The main events at BBC will be the Apollo Night talent show, which will take place Nov. 3 at the Wolfe University Center Theater at 8 p.m., a Step Show in the WUC Ballroom on Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. and a Homecoming Dance on Nov. 7 at 9 p.m. in the WUC Ballroom.

Kicking off the week, the Apollo Night talent show will be a night of showcasing FLU talents including music and poetry,” according to Petra Haven, Student Programming Council and marketing senior.

The Homecoming Step Show will be a perfect place to see old friends, best friends and new friends, and enjoy the spectacle of fierce but friendly competition, according to Melissa Binns, homecoming chair and marketing senior.

This year’s Homecoming Dance

Dance’s theme: ‘Moonlit Mirage’

ANDREA CRUZ
Contributing Writer

“Get excited! Get ready! Have your energy pumping,” reads a recent e-mail sent to School of Journalism and Mass Communications students, “because we are about to accomplish something that SJMC students and faculty have never witnessed before.”

The remarks in an e-mail sent by Public Relations Student Society of America President Maria Alexandra Sanchez, refer to the newly established Integrated Communications Council.

The ICC will be a governing body for the currently active SJMC clubs: Public Relations, Students of America, Association of Women in Communications and AdScene.

It is a new project developed by the presidents of these clubs.

The three clubs came together as they realized their mutual need to contact and drive on each other for resources, according to Ashley Atillie, AdScene president.

“When you stand in a leadership position, you realize that you really need to integrate,” said Atillie, a senior advertising major.

“While you are in AdScene, you are also learning about PRSSA, you are also learning about journalism, just because you are in one club doesn’t mean you have to strictly see in one direction,” Sanchez said.

“In the past, there hasn’t been an interaction or connection that would bring us all together; because everyone want to target their own people,” Sanchez said.

“ICC is going to bring everyone together to do events in unison. According to Sanchez and Atillie, they have been working on ICC since August and the new council has a calendar of scheduled events that goes as far as spring 2009.

The first event was an ICC social, which took place Oct. 22 at Badrutts’ Place on South Miami Avenue.

“ICC social was a success,” said Eileen Sinconegui, the AdScene editor and a junior advertising major. “Considering it is my first semester in FLU and AdScene, it was an amazing opportunity to get familiarized with the ICC,” Artiles said. “It will give students the opportunity to be known and seen.”

The main objective of ICC is to give students the opportunity to be known and seen. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in communications-related fields is highly competitive. The latest edition of the Bureau’s Career Guide to Industries reports that there are more job openings than there are job seekers.

“From what I have learned from all of the professors, communications is a very competitive field,” Artiles said. “You should be networking from the time you get into college, because when someone that is (considering) hiring you looks at your resume, they want to see an internship.”

The purposes of AdScene include providing a better understanding of advertising, stimulating advertising professionalism and promoting fellowship and exchange of ideas between members. PRSSA serves its members by enhancing their knowledge of public relations and providing access to professional development opportunities and AWC provides interdisciplinary networking through information exchange, educational leadership development, and technology, according to their web sites.

These are the only active SJMC clubs, since other organizations like the National Association of Hispanic Journalism Students and Media on Demand are currently inactive, due to low student participation.
Funds approved by SGC-BBC for future activities

BARBARA QUIJANO
Staff Writer

The Finance Committee of the Student Government Council - Biscayne Bay Campus has approved two allocations of money, totaling $780, which according to Rashida Cohen, finance committee member, was the largest sum allocated this year.

It is the responsibility of the Finance Committee to review and make recommendations to SGC for the expenditure of all reserved and unallocated funds of the SGC voting members, according to the SGC-BBC by-laws of the Student Government Association constitution.

"Everyone has their own budget, but since the budget cut took place, everyone has been coming to us for additional funding. Because of this cut, they need to conserve their money and seek alternatives," Cohen said.

The Finance Committee, which is part of the senate, can fund financial requests under $500 without having to take the request to the senate for a vote, Cohen said.

A sum of $450 was allocated for International Education Week 2008, which is primarily sponsored by the International Students and Scholar Services department.

"We are funding them because it would be beneficial to the FIU community as a whole," said Cohen, "to bring international and domestic students together, to inform them about the options that the ISSS program has available and educate them about international places and study-abroad programs.

The second allocation, amounting to $330, was for the Watch Party, co-sponsored by the Black Democrats and SGC-BBC, to watch the elections taking place Nov. 4 in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre.

The Finance Committee currently holds $12,000 in its budget, according to Shalom Neistien, speaker of the senate at SGC-BBC.

"We are vehemently trying to get the $50,000 SGA didn't use from previous years left over in the reserve account, to offer more to the student body," Neistien said.

The event will be hosted by the Black Democrats. It will take place Nov. 4 from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. in room 100 at the Wolfe University Center.

All students are welcome; there will be free food, giveaways and live music.

Guitar Hero Tournament
Students can sign up at the front desk in the Fitness Center in room 160 at the Wolfe University Center. The event is Nov. 19 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. in Panther Square.

For more information, contact 305 919 5678.

Sisterhood Retreat
Students can sign up in the Women's Center at room 256 in the Wolfe University Center.

The event will be on Nov. 21 to Nov. 23.

For more information, visit fiu.edu/~women.

The entrance fee is $15.

International Education Week takes place at BBC from Nov. 17-20. The event will provide a variety of programs for each day, including the appearance of consultants from five different countries, a club fair and an international-themed dinner.

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Amendment 2 is overkill, discriminates

Faculty members were asked to take down political materials from their offices by their deans. This set a very apt stage to discuss what is appropriate, and not, for professors to engage in during a campaign season, as well as where the line is drawn between a professor’s role as a facilitator of free thought and that of an employee of the state.

Although The Beacon believes academic freedom is an invaluable right within the classroom, professors should not articulate their personal views on a specific election issue or candidate while on duty, unless they’re beliefs somehow tangentially relate to the course content. We do have a concern with the fact that while professors are teaching, they are employees of the state, paid by the students to teach.

It is a simple matter of whether or not the employee is fulfilling their duties and not using their office or position to further personal agendas.

Many classes do involve political discussion, and instances will occur that a professor brings up his or her political inclinations is relevant to the class and subject.

Even in this situation, however, the professor should only be discussing his or her views to encourage class debate, and not to promote their own ideologies.

No one should ever feel like they have to change their views (or appear to), in order to please a professor.

A student’s freedom of thought should be protected. Of course, grey areas abound here, and this is the central issue of the situation that is currently taking place.

The Beacon received this response from Media Relations, in an effort to clarify their policy on political materials on public buildings:

“Political expression on campus is not prohibited, but the use of state facilities for political campaigning and using work time to engage in such activities is prohibited.”

The University policy stems from Florida Statute Section 101.33, which states, “No officer or employee of the State ... shall use his or her official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with the election of any candidate for office or coercion or influencing another person’s vote or affecting the result thereof.”

Currently, due to the ambiguity of the difference between political “campaigning” and “expression,” and when discussing politics in class is “using work time” or simply sparking collegiate debate, deans of individual colleges have been interpreting the rules in different ways.

It needs to be a uniform policy that clearly defines what is allowed and not – and the Florida Board of Governors should be responsible for developing this policy.

Since the policies of individual universities are based upon a state law, a mandate from the BOG would be the most appropriate institution to coordinate such a ruling.

Faculty have rights and responsibilities when teaching.

It’s only fair that they clearly know what both of these are.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Amendment 2 is overkill, discriminates

In the article about Florida’s Amendment 2, “Same-sex marriage amendment heightens controversy,” the writer Sergio Bonilla expounds on what the amendment’s purpose actually is.

Bonilla says, “A Amendment 2 is a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriages on the Nov. 4 ballot.” In actuality, the amendment allows the State of Florida to waive the benefits of same-sex marriages in other states, and Floridians currently part of domestic partnerships and other types of civil unions.

Same-sex marriage would not become legal if the amendment is not passed, and would not become illegal if the amendment passes, as is explained by the writer of the amendment: “This amendment protects marriage as the legal union of only one man and one woman as husband and wife and provides that no other legal union that is treated as marriage or the substantive equivalent thereof shall be valid or recognized.”

The actual legislation that bans same-sex marriage is actually already in effect, in the form of two dozen state laws.

While this amendment, which I am personally opposed to, is a huge setback for Florida, it solidifies the allegion that Florida is simply trying to institutionalize bigotry and discrimination against seniors, homosexuals and countless others engaged in similar civil unions.

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THEOCRACY

President’s religion a concern

JONATHAN ALPERT
Asst. Sports Director

I would like to think I am not prejudiced, but maybe in denial. With both parties in the presidential election set to make history when a winner is appointed, I am curious about John McCain’s age and Sarah Palin being crazy.

I’m worried about how Middle America would react to having an African-American president.

This is an issue this election, but the whole issue of Obama’s middle name got me thinking: I would be uncomfortable voting a Muslim into the Oval Office, or any publicly elected position.

Over the last number of years and most likely the upcoming years, America will be dealing with the Middle East and Arab countries on many different fronts.

America will have tough decisions to make, having to do with oil, the War on Terror and Israel.

If a Muslim was president, I would think he or her point of view and agenda.

Sept. 11 really screwed people of Muslim faith over in the U.S. Probably, I don’t have problems with someone from any faith, as long as they don’t try to hurt me or my family. I know Muslims that are CEOs, doctors, lawyers, etc., but I wouldn’t be able to vote one into office publicly because of 9/11. I know and fully understand there is a 99.9 percent chance 9/11 was an isolated incident, but it still is strong in everyone’s mind in America.

As an atheist, I suppose it’s easier for me step back and assess Islam in the same light as Christianity and Judaism.

At their bases, all three religions are peaceful in nature, but all three can also be interpreted and justified whatever actions you want against heathens and nonbelievers.

This is, of course, the danger of taking the work of men as dogma.

Barack Obama has had to face false claims about his ethnic and religious background throughout the entirety of his presidential campaign, and it is a cheap tactic by his opponents to play on the real fears of the populace.

But the fact that their fears are real in the world, it is a decision that will have ramifications for many years.

People should think twice about voting for anyone connected to or part of the Muslim faith.

I know most Muslims in America aren’t evil, but the presidency is serious business.

The ironic thing about it all is that President George Bush is in bed with the Muslim elite, and took where that’s got us.

Jonathan Alpert can be reached at jonathan.alpert@flsun.com

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All candidates created equal

CHRIS TOWERS
Asst. Life Editor

Almost two years ago, CNN’s Glenn Beck had the first Muslim U.S. congressman, Keith Ellison, on his show following his election to Minnesota’s 5th district.

In one of the more uncomfortable moments in an increasingly awkward cable news climate, Beck opened his interview by asking Ellison, “Sir, prove to me that you are not working with our enemies. And I know you’re not. I am not accusing you of being an enemy, but that’s the way I feel, and I think a lot of Americans will feel that way.”

While I initially thought this was just a poorly-worded question on Beck’s part in order to cause controversy, apparently it represents a real fear among a significant portion of the U.S. population.

I understand full well the emotional and reactionary nature we all have when it comes to the attacks of 9/11 and there is a natural human need to apply the blame to someone.

It is only natural for humans to react that way, since we are, at our core, still driven by our logically flawed “fight or flight” way, since we are, at our core, still driven by our logically flawed “fight or flight” way, since we are, at our core, still driven by our logically flawed “fight or flight” way, since we are, at our core, still driven by our logically flawed “fight or flight” way, since we are, at our core, still driven by our logically flawed “fight or flight” way, since we are, at our core, still driven by our logically flawed “fight or flight” way. But the fact that their fears are real in the world, it is a decision that will have ramifications for many years.

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How can you vote anyone into office even minimally related to an incident as horrific as 9/11 and (with a conflict of interest in dealing with the war on terror)?

I know what the reader is thinking. It’s unfair to group people together based on faith. I understand that and I sympathize, but the reality is, people do.

The nation is hiring a person, just like you and me. Who is the most powerful person in the world. It is a decision that will have ramifications for many years.

People should think twice about voting for anyone connected to or part of the Muslim faith. I know most Muslims in America aren’t evil, but the presidency is serious business.

Do you think a Jew in Germany would vote someone into office in Germany whose third cousin’s best friend’s grandmother had the slightest connection to Nazism? I doubt it, and that is my point exactly. I try to be as open minded as possible, but voting anyone into office of the Muslim faith, or connections would be detrimental to America.

The ironic thing about it all is that President George Bush is in bed with the Muslim elite, and took where that’s got us.

Jonathan Alpert can be reached at jonathan.alpert@flsun.com
Guitar Hero tournament lets participants flaunt their skills

CLAUDIA SANTANA
Staff Writer

Green, Red, Yellow, Blue, Orange.
These may seem like a simple list of colors, but to fans of a popular video game, these colors can be the tabs to Guns N’ Roses’ “Welcome to the Jungle.” “Guitar Hero” fans, it’s time to step up your game.

Play N Trade, a new video game retail franchise, is sponsoring a “Guitar Hero 3” tournament throughout the month of November. The first and second rounds will be in-store tournaments held toward the middle of the month.

Currently, there are Play N Trade stores open in the South Florida area in The Hammocks, Miami Lakes, Pembroke Pines and Weston. Soon, a Kendall location will open as well.

To participate in this local contest, guitar heroes should be 18 years or over, unless accompanied by an adult. After paying a $35 entrance fee, any person willing to play will be able to participate. The fee includes tickets to the final round at the Bank Atlantic Center during a Florida Panthers game - a bargain compared to its usual $42 value.

Although anyone can play, the competition will be tough. The songs will be played on the expert level, with limited selections in song choice.

Reenacted financial crime encourages career change

On Oct. 23, I was an IRS criminal investigator and special agent - well, I was one during the Special Agent Experience event at the University.

The School of Accounting, in collaboration with the IRS Criminal Investigation department, hosted the previously named Adrian Project, now known as the Secret Agent Experience. The event was brought to the University.

I received my bachelor’s and my master’s in accounting from FIU, and I know the high caliber and quality students that the University turns out,” Special Agent and recruiter Joseph Perera said when asked why the event was brought to the University.

The event gave us a glimpse into solving financial crimes as a federal agent. We had the opportunity to role-play as seasoned special agents.

Our case started with a tip: The informant walked in asking compensation for information.

“I received my bachelor’s and my master’s in accounting from FIU, and I know the high caliber and quality students that the University turns out,” Special Agent and recruiter Joseph Perera said when asked why the event was brought to the University.

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Arthur C. Vandesande, a special agent with 21 years of field experience, usually cases are started by whistleblowers, tips, ex-wives, research, random audits, follow-up cases and observation. In SAE, both the informant and the witnesses were role-played by seasoned special agents.

Our case started with a tip: The informant walked in asking compensation for information.

He told us about a woman, Courtney Gambler, who goes to this casino and spends thousands of dollars per week there, and she wears a ring that is pretty much as large as a rock.

“She also looks flashy, but does not dress the part as she dresses as if she shops at Goodwill. She also drives a Hummer (which we were given the license plate of). The problem is that she spends more than she wins.

So where is she getting all this money from? Through the license plate we managed to recover a photo ID, address and other statistics. Since Gambler is a big gambler, she must have a file at the casino, thus also having a player representative. We then interviewed her player representative and discovered that she uses cashier’s checks to pay for her gambling as well as send some of it to a bank.

The winner of the tournament will receive $1000, a signed Panthers jersey and, of course, bragging rights.

The two finalists from the preliminaries will show off their star power in front of hockey fans at the Florida Panthers game on Wednesday, Nov. 26.

The winner of the event will receive $5000, a signed Panthers jersey and, of course, bragging rights.

For more information on the tournament or Play N Trade, check out http://www.playntrade.com.
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EMPOWER YOURSELF TAKE PART IN DEMOCRACY

VOTE

NOV. 4TH

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It is also suspicious that she works although she spends the majority of her time at the casino. She also does not look disappointed if she loses - this was quite strange to the investigative squad.

We then managed to follow her paper trail from her file at the casino to several other companies linked with her money.

During this time, we learned a great deal about tax and property law.

Apparently, a company called Goldmember Enterprises sent checks to another company, and the latter wired money to another one - the last two companies under Gambler’s address.

Since the bookkeeper of Goldmember Enterprises should know where the money is coming from, we decided to interview her. It turned out that the bookkeeper was being kept in the dark. She knew nothing.

We then staked out Gambler to see if she would meet with anyone related to Goldmember Enterprises, such as Chief Executive Officer Alex Gold. Sometimes, agents stake someone out for weeks and get absolutely no information at all, but we were lucky enough to get evidence within the first five minutes.

We witnessed her meeting with another woman, whom we also took the license plate number of, and exchanging what appeared to be casino chips, which is against casino policy.

We then re-interviewed the player representative and found out that Gold and Gambler had been together in the casino before, and they had gotten into a fight because Gambler owed Gold money. We also managed to get a physical description of Alex.

All that was left to do was interview Gambler and Gold.

During the interview, Gambler was very evasive and was not answering questions directly. She constantly lied to us. We only managed to find out that the woman she spoke with was Alex’s wife.

He was not cooperative and very rude. But we already had enough information on him to arrest him, so it did not matter.

We got an arrest warrant from a federal judge and proceeded with the arrest. With the arrest, both the investigation and our fun ended.

Many accounting students took part in this exciting and eye-opening event. The majority of students attended the event either because they were interested in the field or they would like to apply for the positions.

I did it because being a special agent is just pretty damn cool.

The one thing I learned from my special agent experience? Don’t mess with the IRS. You’ll end up paying back every dime with time.
**SUN BELT FOOTBALL STANDINGS**

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**ALL records up to date as of Oct. 19**

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**INDIVIDUAL SEASON STATISTICS**

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**RECEIVING**

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**Men’s Soccer vs. SMU**

- Second run in the 41 minutes
- Player of the year, made a C-USA offensive preseason
- Junior Guerra wailed toward
- Senior Juan Guerra wailed
- Opponents against Tulsa
- Goal, the Golden Panthers
- portunities against Tulsa
- NCAA offensive preseason
- Opponents of the goal
- FIU nearly prevailed in the 66 minute of the game
- Then again, ASU is also...penalties for 50 yards.
- This cursory evaluation shows two very distinct truths about the FIU season.
- The first being that when FIU doesn’t turn the ball over, they put themselves in excellent position to win, and the second is perhaps more pertinent to the remainder of the season, mostly because the former is a well regarded fact of the game, and it is that the penalty problem is not new, rather the Golden Panthers had been winning in spite of their propensity to commit infractions.

**For perspective on how this stretch would rank nationally for the Golden Panthers, who currently rank 157th in penalties per game, lets allow for a comparison to those national standings."FIU’s 76 penalty yards per contest would rank 138 out of 119 full Division I FBS members, and the 10 penalties per contest would rank last, by almost a full flag.**

---

**Infractions infringe on improvement**

**JULIAN, page 12**

- Of course the argument could be made that penalties do not a successful team make.
- After all, Oklahoma St., Boise St., Florida Tech, USC, TCU and Georgia are ranked in last week’s BCS (top 13, all within one game of their conference lead, and all serious contenders for major bowl games are ranked below 100 in penalties per game.
- Also, FIU hasn’t got the veritable glut of high school All-Americans that the other seven schools have, so it’s a tad more difficult to overcome the loss of 76 yards per game, or for a direct relationship, exactly 29.14 percent of what FIU gains, offensively in a whole game. It’s about overcoming the lack of focus and lack of discipline with, well...focus and discipline.
- How then, is that achieved, and particularly at this part of the season, how does a team become one that avoids the yellow handicaper that has become such a part of its seas
- son thus far?
- I haven’t got those answers, but somebody on the home sideline had better hope it was Arkansas St.
- *comes calling this Saturday, otherwise more mistakes could lead to another deluge, like the one that inundated the Golden Panthers in Lafayette.

---

**Golden Panthers fall to Tulsa at home**

**STEPHANIE GABRIEL**

- Staff Writer
- The men’s soccer team faced several scoring opportunities against Tulsa.
- Despite twelve shots on goal, the Golden Panthers ended up scoreless against the No. 9 team, resulting in a 2-0 loss at home on Oct. 29.
- Tulsa was there to grab the lead early on.
- A “soft goal early in the contest didn’t help matters because then you have to play catch up and we’re not a very good defensive team,” head coach Munga Eketebi said.
- Tulsa exceeded the Golden Panther defense in the 53 minute when Jovahn Sande beat an FIU defender on the goal line and found Chas Taylor inside the box.
- Then again, ASU is also...penalties for 50 yards.
- The loss set FIU’s record at 7-10-4 in penalties (7.63/game 110), and penalty yardage (70.13/game 110), they’re on the road, so perhaps their student newspaper is prattling on about its teams propensity toward infraction.
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Ragin’ Cajuns end Golden Panthers SBC title shot

Just penalties...OK; penalties and turnovers...not so much

A nother possession, another yellow flag. The Golden Panthers have lost more than just the last two games on their road trips to Troy and Louisiana-Lafayette over the past three weekends; they’ve lost their composure. The back to back losses are not simply a product of strength and conditioning problems that are more mature than FIU, or the other teams having waves of fourth- and fifth-year players, although those aspects of physical maturity have plenty to do with FIU’s losses, rather than a combination of bigger opponents, playing on the road, and shooting itself in the foot. A profusion of turnovers and superfluity of penalties have all added up to a prolonged run FIU could make to a post-season game, but, with some regrouping, could still make a run at a .500.

They ran the ball hard, but it wasn’t nothing that we haven’t seen before,” safety Jeremiah Weatherspoon said. “We have played teams that run the ball hard. We just have to know that bad things are going to happen. We have to react to it and be more resilient.”

The Golden Panthers are now an even 2-2 in Sun Belt Conference play, leaving Louisiana’s Ragin’ Cajuns undefeated and in first place in the SBC, while placing FIU fourth in the conference overall.

With three conference games remaining, FIU has been mathematically eliminated from the conference championship.