Wall of Wind teaches storm smarts at Epcot

The College of Engineering’s Wall of Wind is now part of Epcot in the Walt Disney World Resort.

“Storm Struck: The Tale of Two Homes” is a new attraction that simulates hurricane weather for fun and education. Before entering the attraction, tourists are handed 3-D glasses to watch a video demonstrating how the project came about.

Featuring the University’s “RenaissanceRe’s Wall of Wind,” the attraction is designed to help people learn about the risks of natural disasters, according to stormtrack.com. Audiences can also team up to build storm-proof houses and even create their own mini-storms at the end of the attraction.

In the video, The Weather Channel’s Jim Cantore explains how the Wall of Wind works as it destroys a small house.

RenaissanceRe’s Wall of Wind’” said Stephen P. Leatherman, chair professor and director of IHRC. “Leatherman’s Wall of Wind is the only one of its kind.

“Until you actually do it, you don’t know how these building materials and construction techniques will actually stand up,” Leatherman said in a Miami Herald article in 2006.

This wall of giant fans with wind speeds of over 100 mph was created to continue the retooling of South Florida’s construction techniques to withstand hurricanes.

The six-fan prototype Wall of Wind was funded by the Florida Department of Community Affairs and RenaissanceRe Holdings in Bermuda.

“The Wall of Wind will give us information to come up with better building designs and [construction] techniques,” said Arindam Gan Chowdhury, FIU’s lead wind engineer and researcher, in the Miami Herald article.

“We want families to know that there are things they can do when they confront natural disasters, that luck is not the best tool that they have available to them,” Henderson said during the “Storm Struck” grand opening.

We want families to know that there are things they can do when they confront natural disasters...

Leslie Chapman-Henderson, President IHRC

everybody was capoeira fighting

Opening exhibitions attract community to new building

It’s been 10 years since the idea was first conceived and the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum now occupies 46,000 sq. feet.

“It is built site responsive, meaning it is built in correspondence to the lake and curves around it. It’s also built from the outside in,” said Susan Thomas, the membership coordinator for the museum, giving insight to the architect Yann Weymouth’s reason of the building’s location and design.

In 2001, the Frost Museum signed an agreement with the Smithsonian Institution on sharing the use of its artifacts and resources with Miami.

Through private donations and local and state government agencies, the Frost Museum allows free admission to the public to all the exhibitions and public events. The Museum’s official opening was Nov. 29.

Exhibitions such as “Modern Masters” will consist of works from the Smithsonian Institution during the modern mid-20th century, focusing on 43 key paintings. These paintings depict three themes: “Grand Gestures,” which focuses on autobiographic art with bold colors; “Optics and Order,” which are balanced colored and “New Images of Man” which delves into the personal lives of the artists and search of their surroundings.

The museum will also feature an inaugural exhibition with works from its permanent collection, including FIU alumna Lourdes Marie Basaneuvo’s solo exhibition.

On Dec. 3, the museum will also have a Student Day sponsored by Target. Student Day will allow students to see exhibitions and take tours of the museum. Free food will be provided.

Along with all these new exhibitions and events, the Frost Museum is giving great opportunities to students interested in the arts to become a museum ambassador, an intern or a volunteer.

The Intern Program allows students to become tour guides to young children and teach educational workshops.

The Volunteer Program looks for people who want to help in event planning and promoting the events, which would be a valuable experience for people in the communications and public relations field.

“It is so amazing seeing the transition from a student gallery to this amazing museum with a permanent collection, exhibitions and events and involvement with the students. There is no other museum like this. I am so lucky to have such a cultural institution near me,” said Museum Assistant Nicole Espaillat, who used to be an intern.

Carol Damian, the intern director and the curator of the permanent collection, emphasized how important it is to let students know the availability of the museum’s resources.

Damian is also involved in making the Frost Museum accessible to students: she even allowed classes to take place in the museum when there was lack of space in the University.

“Students come first, this museum was built on campus for a reason, it is a museum for the students. They are our biggest focus,” Damian said.

For more information on the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, check out www.frostartmuseum.org.
On-campus dance classes add exercise, fun to routine

DAIANA KUCAWCA
Staff Writer

These days, students lack the time to take care of themselves and exercise without following the same routine, but the University is offering a variety of free dance classes that can break the monotony.

The Student Programming Council at the Bisayne Bay Campus sponsors salsa, ballroom and big hop classes as part of the "Dancing with the Wolfe" series, while Campus Recreation offers a Street Cardio class.

The salsa classes, instructed by Jimmy Chang, take place every Thursday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center, room 157.

The ballroom classes are on Mondays from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in WUC room 355 with instructors Richard and Karen Campbell, who have years of experience dancing professionally, according to Melissa Bines, Student Programming Council’s Hispanic Heritage co-chair.

"The ballroom class is a mix of five different styles, including Argentine Tango, cha-cha and rumba," Bines said.

The hip hop classes, taught by Ekadem Essiet, take place Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in WUC 330.

The "Dancing with the Wolfe" series was formed by SPC in an effort to promote art, dance and fun exercise to students, according to Bines.

"It’s exercise camouflageed with fun," Bines said, adding that with the growing popularity of programs like "Dancing with the Stars," people are more enthusiastic about wanting to learn how to dance.

These classes have been offered since fall 2007, and ever since, they have had no less than 20 students in attendance.

They will be open until the week before finals and will be offered every subsequent semester of school, except during the summer terms, according to Bines.

BBC Campus Recreation is also offering free dance classes for students, faculty and staff.

Similar to SOC’s hip hop class, there is a street cardio class that takes place every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at BBC’s Fitness Center in WUC room 155.

The class is taught by Celate De Palma, and is based on rhythms like hip hop, dancehall and reggaeton, according to De Palma.

De Palma is a junior majoring in biology and a certified professor of dance fitness.

She commutes from University Park to teach this dance class.

On Nov. 5, five girls joined the street cardio class. De Palma showed them the routine as they copied her moves on the large mirror wall.

She repeated the dance steps to help them catch up with her moves, and they all followed Britney Spears’ beat.

"A little bit more gracious, not like this," De Palma said.

The [ballroom] class is a mix of five different styles, including Argentine Tango, cha-cha and rumba.

"The class is a mix of fun and stress," according to De Palma.

"You’re going to use it eventually, you use at one time with a coupon. And if you have it, but it’s cheaper right now."

Unfortunately, this means students may wind up with multiple coupons for the same item, but Bodhidatta wants to assure it is not.

"You see the Sunday paper for the majority of coupons, in the sales section," Bodhidatta said.

"The main thing is to keep them organized before you go to the store."

Once coupons are organized for a specific shopping trip, it’s easier to keep a shopping list and not buy things on impulse, according to Bodhidatta, who also talks about stockpiling.

"[Stockpiling] prevents you from having to go out and buy an item at full price when you need it. Instead you already have it for less," Bodhidatta said. "It’s like buying four bottles of the shampoo you use at one time with a coupon."

"You’re going to use it eventually, but it’s cheaper right now."

Bodhidatta’s co-workers are also fully on board with her saving frenzy.

"I told my co-workers about it, and really got into it. It saved them so much," Bodhidatta said. "First, I took them to Kmart, where they were having a double coupon day. That’s where one coupon counts for double the value."

For Anoush McNamee, using coupons is a family affair.

"With this economic crisis, everyone is trying to save money," said McNamee, ISSS-BBC assistant director and one of Bodhidatta’s co-workers. "My entire family does it. My husband and daughter cut them out of the newspaper, and I organize them into my coupon organizer," McNamee said.

McNamee believes she has saved between 70 to 80 percent off her grocery bill by using coupons, which makes a big difference because she doesn’t have to go to the store every week.

"I’m the type of person that puts convenience over money, and my mom never used coupons. She always said they took too much time," Wilbers said.

Wilbers experienced the advantage of using coupons when she got a dog, and was relieved at how much money she saved on dog food and other essentials.

There are many Web sites and Internet groups that people use to trade coupons, according to Bodhidatta.

The coupons one person cannot use are traded with someone who has a need for them.

"I don’t have kids, so I trade any coupons for kids items with someone who maybe doesn’t have a need for the coupons for cat items, since I have a cat," said Bodhidatta.

She is also interested in starting a coupon-trading parties on campus for interested students.

She is open to suggestions for things to discuss at the upcoming coupon workshop.

Bodhidatta can be reached at (305) 919-5813 or in WUC 367.
New players to make immediate impact

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

In FIU head coach Sergio Rouco’s five seasons as men’s basketball coach, he hasn’t seen anything quite like it.

“This is the group of kids, I think, I am the most pleased with coming into a season,” he said.

The intangibles the team has coming into the season with the additions of center Freddy Asprilla, guard Michael Dominguez, forward J.C. Otero, and guard Harley Fuller have given Rouco something to beam about.

“They like each other. They respect each other. They are very giving to each other. Selfish,” he said. “I really enjoy them, they make it very enlightening to come to practice every day.”

Besides Otero, who will miss the start of the season with an injury, the group will be looked upon to play heavy minutes on the floor. One of the new Golden Panthers, Dominguez, showed exactly in what capacity he will contribute to FIU in the team’s lone pre-season contest.

“SHARPSHOOTER”

Dominguez netted four 3-pointers in a 51-57 victory against Nova Southeastern on Nov. 6, including a decisive one to win the game for the Golden Panthers.

The shooting guard from Northeastern Junior College is expected to be a mainstay on the perimeter, especially with forward Alex Galindo out indefinitely. With Otero considered a complementary scorer who can defend, the team’s two outside position additions will play off of each other.

“[Otero] is a slasher who can defend,” point guard Josue Soto said. “And [Dominguez] is going to be able to really open up the floor for us.”

Otero will be asked to fill departed senior Chris Fuller’s shoes, who was a dependable defender for the Golden Panthers.

When Rouco was asked about Dominguez’ role in the lineup, he only had to reference to the amount of minutes he played in the lone exhibition.

“He played 39 minutes, I think that answers that question,” Rouco said about his new gunner playing all but one minute.

Perhaps the biggest inclusion to the team, literally and figuratively, is Asprilla.

The mammoth post player from Patterson Prep school might be behind the depth chart to veteran big’s in Nikola Gacesa and Russell Hicks, but there is no question in his potential.

“I’ll go out on a limb and say that Freddy is the most talented and touted basketball freshman ever to sign here,” Rouco said.

The Colombian native is listed at 6’10”, and is probably generating most excitement of any of the newcomers this fall.

Harley Fuller, a heady point guard, will be forced to contribute right away for FIU, who is dealing with the loss of Soto for an extended period of time with an injury.

“I’m exited to contribute immediately,” Fuller said. “Josue is a great player so I’m going to have to step up my game.”

A GOOD MIXTURE

Fuller also see’s the Golden Panthers creating opportunity’s by depending on each other. When healthy, the Golden Panthers have a chance to exhibit a solid amount of depth.

“Freddy just brings a post presence besides [Hicks] that teams are going to have to make a tough time matching up against,” he said. “Mike is a great three point shooter who is going to stretch out opposing defenses and make it harder to double down in the post.”

Dominguez senses a unity.

“From what I’ve heard and what I feel like, this is more of a team and we all look out for one another,” he said.

“It feels good, I came from a junior college team and we had a good team but a lot of people had there own agendas and wanted to do their own thing. It feels good to come here and fell more like a family.”
Loss of top guards leaves inexperience in backcourt

AUDRENA BIGOS
Staff Writer

Ending last season with a 13-18 record was considered successful for the women’s basketball team after losing three starters to injuries.

Senior guards and team leaders will be missed, but the Golden Panthers have a wealth of talent in assets and a first-rate selection that ranked third in scoring average for the conference.

As the Golden Panthers head into the season with 10 returners and 1 newcomers, head coach Cindy Russo is focusing on developing the team and maximizing their potential.

“We are a very experienced team, especially after the loss of our two top guards,” said Russo. “However, if we can stay healthy, I think we can make it far this season.”

As the team works with younger players to prepare them for college play, others on the team are returning to lead the team into a rebuilding phase and fill the voids created by the two seniors.

FIRST COURT

The front court is stocked with experienced returners.

Leading the team with 220 rebounds last season, 6-foot-2 forward Jasmina Tucek is expected to continue to score and defend. Tucek started in 30 of the team’s 31 games and averaged over 20 minutes per contest. She also had the conference in blocked shots, with 41. Tucek’s first-year teammate Marquita Adey is in her second year of play.

Junior forward Monica Bosilj is returning after a season-ending thumb injury six games into last season against the University of South Florida. At the time, Adey was averaging 9.2 points and 8.5 rebounds per game. Elisa Carey, 6-foot-2 junior, after her knee surgery in 2007 that ended her season against the University of Miami to face their cross-town rivals. Adey’s return will strengthen the front court and make it play a large part on Fuller. On average, 8.4 points per game at SUNY-col- last season.

A four-year player, Fuller is similar to Taylor in his steady demeanor at the point. With three seasons left to play, he will step into his role and likely start every game. Fuller averaged 1-3 against the conference last season.

SCHOLARSHIP

The Golden Panthers will host Wisconsin-Green Bay on November 14 at 8 p.m. in the season opener. The Phoenix’s injured team in scoring back-to-back seasons.

Veteran forward has led the team in scoring back-to-back seasons. Out due to dislocated knee surgery, the 6'3" guard will be a valuable addition to the backcourt.

POWER FORWARD

This position has been upgraded by adding two players with experience at the position. Diarra, a point guard, will have opportunity to start in the backcourt.

SHOOTING GUARD

Rouco calls him the most im- improved player. Penciled in at a starting role, he will be one of the key players.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

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From 5240 miles away, a leader emerges for FIU

AUDRINA BIGOS
Staff Writer

Monika Bosilj's ten-ure as a Golden Panther women's basketball player is only a foreshadowing of what is to come for this junior shooting guard.

Her career began at FIU in 2006 after being scouted while playing for her country of Croatia during the European Championships at the end of the 2005-2006 season.

"I was playing for a na-tional team in Croatia and last year's team manager, Gordana Bedalov, recom-mended me to the coaching staff at FIU," said Bosilj.

During the 2005-2006 season with PGM Ragusa, Bosilj helped the team to a third-place finish and was Named MVP of the "Vludi Kup" in 2003 and 2004. Bosilj competed with a club team in Croatia beginning at age 14. She continued her career with the PGM Ragusa for six years until she moved to the United States to become a Golden Panther at age 20.

"I miss my family, my mom's food, and my friends, but I came to Miami to follow the dream of becoming a better basketball player," said Bosilj.

Language barriers and alternative playing styles were some of the most difficult aspects of her transition to the United States.

"I knew English before I moved here but it is hard to understand and speak all the time in English," said Bosilj, "but luckily I received help from friends and teammates that came to the states with me."

Former teammate Eva Makela along with current teammate Maja Krajacic are also from Croatia, and according to Bosilj, played an essential role in transitioning to an English-speaking team.

Bosilj began at FIU with an undecided major, but now, she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

She hopes to gain experience at a local police station instead of traveling home to Croatia in the coming year.

"Because of the sched-ule I have, I usually only go home once a year to visit my family during summer A," said Bosilj, "but this year I'm going to stay here [in Miami] and focus on getting an internship," said Bosilj.

Although she is spend-ing the year focusing on her degree, Bosilj first priority is preparing for a post-col-lege basketball career.

"Well, my dream is to become a CSI agent but with practices and traveling I have no time to focus on forensics, which is im-por-tant for my major," said Bosilj.

Instead, she is fulfill-ing her desire to play in the WNBA upon graduation or maybe even playing professional basketball back home in Croatia.

For now, Monika is fo-cused on the season and fulfilling her role as a team leader after the loss of two leading scorers during the off season.

She will not have a problem with this after finishing in the top 20 of the Sun Belt Conference scor-ers with an average of 11.4 points per game.

Her performance last season also place her among the top 10 in 3-point field goals made.

Bosilj is fully recovered from a shoulder injury that plagued her throughout the end of last season.

A torn labrum in her shooting shoulder did lit-tle to limit Bosilj's scor-ing although I did slow her down in practice. Bosilj av-eraged 15.6 per game after being injured, more than four points higher than her season average.
THE BEACON – 7

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OPINION

HUMAN EXPLOITATION

Emancipation Proclamation only made a dent

ODOETE BARRIENTOS
Staff Writer

We exist in a world full of secrets and disguised horrors. After the American Revolution, the nation took the first steps to voice an opposition to slavery in the United States. The American Civil War paved the way that later abolished chattel slavery – or so we thought.

To date, we regard slavery as a thing of the past. Unfortunately, it is not. We have yet to realize that slavery grew to be more than a mere dark chapter in American history. It is a universal chapter, and modern-day slavery – known as human trafficking – is a hidden secret in the world today.

Slavery is alive and thriving, and in fact, there are more slaves in the world today than there ever were in history.

Research conducted by Free the Slaves, a non-profit organization dedicated to liberating slaves around the world, suggests that the modern-day slavery industry is among the most profitable in the world. Evidence suggests that in 2007, slave traders made more money than Google, Nike and Starbucks put together – all on the backs of 27 million people.

These 27 million are comprised of child slaves, labor slaves, sex slaves and child soldiers – mostly found in India and African countries. One of the most difficult aspects to swallow is the magnitude of the success behind these occurrences.

The United Nations estimates that human trafficking generates $7 to $10 billion annually for traffickers, making it the third largest profitable activities, behind arms dealing and narcotics trafficking.

A cross a sea, children are sold into prostitution or hard labor, sometimes by their own poverty-struck parents. According to the International Labor Organization, at least 1 million children are prostitutes, with the largest numbers in Thailand, India, Taiwan and the Philippines.

The ILO also indicates that Africa has the highest percentage of child laborers in the world with 80 million or 41 percent of African children. That’s almost half of all the children in the entire continent.

In Burma, some are actually kidnapped by the state and forced to become soldiers. Over 300,000 children under 18 are fighting in wars in over 30 countries.

The facts sound even darker if we can envision this occurring in our own backyards. Although some may assume atrocities of this nature only occur overseas, they are mistaken.

A additional research conducted by Free the Slaves with the University of California, Berkeley found documented cases of slavery and human trafficking in over 90 cities across the U.S.

The figures are disheartening because I, like many others, naively thought this kind of thing could only happen within corrupt countries and governments; it is not a matter of having a crooked government or having the perfect democracy. It is a matter of becoming aware and taking action.

Simply put, governments are not stepping in, including our own. The situation is being ignored and the modern-day slavery industry becomes bigger and stronger every day.

In Africa, traffickers face a low risk of arrest and punishments. They exploit the lack of law and enforcement of existing anti-slavery laws. These loopholes allow perpetrators to go unpunished.

Weak government systems and the ignorance of poverty-ridden people also help allow these atrocities to happen. No one takes action – not in their own country or any other form of intervention.

While the most cited statistics on trafficking comes from the U.S. State Department’s annual reports on trafficking in persons, specific data on sexual exploitation is not provided. The U.S. State Department has undergone criticism from anti-trafficking advocates for failing to cite government complicity in trafficking and for failing to evaluate the effectiveness of the programs that exist to help victims.

The governments are not playing the role they should, it is up to international organizations, businesses, and individuals such as you and me. The first step is knowledge becoming aware and helping others become aware of the problem at hand.

There are things we can do to improve the world we live in. By informing others about organizations like Free the Slaves, including antislavery.org and child-soldiers.org, you can help spread the knowledge about modern-day slavery and what is happening to victims worldwide.

Finally, write to your senators, representatives and other officials. Holding them accountable can lead to action.

PEACE OUT: PERSUASIVE SYMBOL HAS HISTORY OF ACTIVISM

VANESSA ESPINEL
Contributing Writer

The peace sign turned 50 this year, and with age comes a few facelifts. Its skeleton has been beyond complementing your jeans. In other words, weavers were rebels with a cause: an active anti-war promoting cause. Some history might help to put the flashback into perspective.

In 1955, it was designed by Gerald Holtom and adopted by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

“Symbols are adopted and used in society to galvanize members of society and unify individuals concerned with a cause,” said Felix E. Martin, professor of international relations, specializing in war and peace.

“This is done by using a very simple graphic symbol that entails a host of concepts, precepts, socio-political positions and message.”

According to the Aug. 2008 issue of National Geographic, it was purposely never copyrighted, which has made the symbol an easy target for commercial use.

“I want to believe that it still has the same meaning as it did 40-50 years ago but I really don’t think it is so,” said Natalie A. Rias, a junior majoring in hospitality.

“I think that it is just popular now and everybody is going along with the trend because of the high popularity in Hippos and the counter culture,” Rias said.

“Symbols keep their original and intended meaning but become diluted by other individuals who use them for to profit from them, particularly when the urgency and intensity of the message have ceased or when the historic meaning has faded into the annals of history,” said Martin.

The peace symbol has certainly come a long way from its initial intent. However, despite all the exploitation of the peace symbol, the meaning has been skewed with time, but it has not lost its value.

To read the full version of this article, with a more extensive history, visit fi usm.com/news.
If you’ve been itching for a new notebook computer but have a limi
t colony in your pockets to comfort, then an ultraportable Netbook might be for you.

Starting at $350, these tiny computers are made for those with budgets and needs in mind. Weighing between two and three pounds with 7 to 10-inch wide screens, Netbooks are small enough to fit into a snug backpack and powerful enough to handle a full day of notetaking, paper writing or presentations for class.

Before you run out to buy one, there’s a crucial thing you need to know: These are not substitutes for full-sized notebooks. They’re called Netbooks, as in Internet Book, because they’re designed for light Web surfing and text based work like e-mailing and writing. You won’t find CD-ROMs, more than one gigabyte of upgradable RAM or high screen resolutions here, just a basic machine to get work essentials done—ideal for the easily distracted. (Yes, I’m looking at you pointedly, World of Warcrafters.)

But these limitations should mean nothing next to saving a few hundred dollars to those for whom “disposable” and “in
come” won’t play nice in the same sentence. Fellow students, I give thee a list of the lat-

TECHNOLUST

Net-minded notebooks
go easy on the wallet

ACEC: ASPIRE ONE

Other than its 8.9-inch screen, Acer’s Aspire One is all about options. You can pick between eight and 16 GB solid state or 120 and 160 GB hard disk drives and five fashionable colors: black, blue, brown, pink or white. Your drive choice, however, will depend more on your work habits than your wardrobe: Go SSD if you work long hours and store your data externally, HDD if you work shorter periods but prefer keeping files at hand.

Likewise, you have an operating system choice between Linux and Windows. Aspire, Asus’s baby brother into space saving by abbreviating its mid-nineties box-top inspiration and prefers SSD economy to HDD bloat but goes fur-

DELL: INSPIRON MINI 9

Dell’s Inspiron Mini boasts a sleeker wedge design compared to Acer and Asus’s mid-nineties box-top inspiration and prefers SSD economy to HDD bloat but goes fur-

HP: MINI 1000 SERIES

For those still clinging over how small these previous Netbook screens are, HP’s Mini Series wants you to stop. Offerei ng both 8.9 and 10-inch screen size options, HP’s Netbooks understand that not everyone may be ready to sacrifice too much desktop space for form just yet.

HP Mini’s preference for Windows over Linux and choice between eight or 16 GB SSD and a 60 GB HDD makes them the ca-

EASTERN FEAST: Frank Gualchi, a Yoga club member, serves vegetarian food to students outside of the Green Library on Nov. 10.