Tuition waiver makes college a reality for Fla. undocumented students

CLAIRA-MERETAN KIAH Contributing Writer
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Members of Students Working for Equal Rights celebrated a landmark victory when Governor Rick Scott signed off on a new law that allows undocumented students to apply for in-state tuition at public colleges and universities in Florida.

The Postsecondary Tuition Bill, or SB 1400, states that undocumented students who attended a Florida high school for three years prior to graduation now qualify for a waiver that eliminates the out-of-state differential in tuition costs.

See Tuition, Page 4

Old University apartments receive face-lift

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As a coordinator in the office of Housing Facilities, Nelson Garcia.

According to Tallon, the addition of river rock solves two problems that UA's courtyards are facing. The constant sitting down on the benches killed the grass underneath and led to the loosening of dirt which would get kicked up onto the pavement. The white rocks underneath the stairs would also get kicked up near the entry ways, scratching off paint.

Building A received new LED light poles by its entrance and combination lock style mail boxes. The main building's study and lounge areas received new furnishings similar in style to those found in the room's residences.

Tallon said that there are more proposed developments on the table such as a re-imagining the uses for the front and rear spaces of Buildings A and C. As of now, Tallon says there is only one project scheduled for next summer -- roof repairs.

Financial aid opens studying abroad opportunities

Camila Fernandez and Christian Portilla
fiusm.com

The diversity of scholarships, grants, and loans the Office of Study Abroad aims to help students immerse themselves into different cultures and gain independence. "There are funds available in many places. If you go study abroad, you're going to get a different experience than if you're just taking classes here at FIU," Taylor said.

This summer, University students from different majors went abroad through different programs to gain a more international approach for their prospective careers.

According to Taylor, the University's International Student Exchange Program allows students to pay FIU tuition, rather than having to pay tuition from the host country. Program allows students to pay tuition from the host country.

The best part of my experience was interacting with real people affected by this condition," said Quiroz. "The most important thing I learned was how it is not only the person with epilepsy who suffers -- it is the entire family." Working alongside APICE, students like Quiroz, helped to secure more funding for future epileptologists who should need assistance. However, besides leaving Spain with new work-related skills, University students left as a family.

"What I enjoyed most about the study abroad experience is the relationship and bond I created with my new FIU family," said Garcia. "The most challenging aspect of my study abroad experience was balancing work and play," said FIU alum, Nelson Garcia.

As a coordinator in the office of Study Abroad, Taylor helps students understand the impact that despite the expenses that come with traveling, studying abroad can be affordable.

With possible financial aid from a wide variety of scholarships, grants, and loans, the Office of Study Abroad aims to help students immerse themselves into different cultures and gain independence.

"Getting to know people from different cultures, living in a different environment, speaking in a totally different language -- it's a kind of experience that you wouldn't get otherwise if you didn't study abroad," Taylor said.

As a coordinator in the office of Study Abroad, Taylor helps students understand the impact that despite the expenses that come with traveling, studying abroad can be affordable.

Robin Spiegel (left), goalkeeper and junior in international business, and other members of the FIU soccer team help incoming students move into the dorms this weekend.

An alumn, Nelson Garcia.

According to Tallon, assistant director for housing facilities, three local branches of nonprofits took one-third of the couches, chairs and tables. About $20,000 dollars were spent on new furnishings that includes: Goodwill Industries, Habitat for Humanity and the Miami Rescue Mission took one-third of the furniture that was being taken out.

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"I stayed out late, indulged in everything Spain had to offer, and explored every chance I got. When it was time to hit the books, I really had to focus," said Garcia.

During a three-week period, SIMC students collaborated with mass communication students in Seville to produce multimedia projects for non-profit organization clients and partners.

Alumna Maya Quiroz worked with APICE, a Spanish non-profit organization for clinical research. She was in charge of audiovisual materials and interviewing clients with epilepsy - a brain disorder that causes seizures.

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LOOK AT ME HUMAN

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CAPS CAN HELP YOU ADJUST TO THE PANTHER GALAXY!

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Victim Empowerment
MARTY’S CUBE LEAVES UNIVERSITY AFTER 16 YEARS

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On May 22, Marty’s Cube, as it was titled by sculptor Tony Rosenthal, was lifted from its spot for the past 16 years, outside Deuxieme Maison, and hauled away. It had been damaged and could have presented a danger to members of the University community passing by it, according to a statement from the University Media Relations office.

The Margulies Collection Center Katherine Hinds said that over a period of time outdoor sculptures tend to have maintenance needs. However, once it’s fixed, the cube will not be coming home to FIU.

The cube will be donated to another educational institution in Florida— one that will have the funds to maintain the sculpture, Hinds said. The real cube sculpture now sits at the Margulies Collection at its warehouse in Miami, where it will undergo any needed maintenance and renovations.

Rhiy Williams and Diego Salinas-Rojas contributed to this report.

FLORIDA VOTERS WILL DECIDE ON MEDICAL MARIJUANA

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The medicinal marijuana bill has cleared the Florida senate and will be put to a vote in November.

The bill would only allow those with debilitating diseases to have access to a specific strain of marijuana called Charlotte’s Web.

This strain is high on non- euphoric canna- bidol and low in the high-inducing chemical tetrahydrocannabinol.

Drug Free Florida, a committee chaired by Carlton Turner, funded a website making false accusations about medicinal marijuana in hopes of turning away voters from Florida’s Constitutional Amendment 2.

United for care, Florida’s largest organization supporting the legalization of medicinal marijuana, is doing all they can to defend the approval of the Florida Constitutional Amendment 2.

Recently, Florida senators approved a measure that would give children who suffer from seizures to have access to Charlotte’s Web.

The legal medicinal marijuana bill includes an oil based extract, which is placed under the child’s tongue.

More than the Charlotte’s Web strain of mari- juana would be available to those with debilitating diseases if Florida’s Amendment 2 is passed, the Florida Department of Health would register and regulate the production and distribution. Though there are many on the fence about the legalization of Florida’s Constitutional Amend- ment 2, the choice lies in the hands of the voters.

FIU HOSTS PRESIDENT OBAMA’S WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP FOR YOUNG LEADERS

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In the middle of June, 25 African fellows excitedly bought their FIU gear as they would be part of the University community for the remainder of summer. Since June 14, the University has been hosting these fellows, who are participating in a six-week public manage- ment program as part of The Washington Fellowship for Young Leaders. This is an exchange program sponsored by President Barack Obama’s Young African Leaders Initiative, which brings over 500 young leaders each year, since the beginning of 2014, for leadership training, academic coursework and mentoring.

The goal is to create unique opportuni- ties in Africa to put new skills to prac- tical use in propelling economic growth and prosperity and strengthening demo- cratic institutions.

As far as academic coursework, fellows will learn about human resources as well as how to handle buildings and grounds.

At the completion of the six week program on July 26, the fellows will attend a summit with President Obama in Wash- ington D.C. before returning home to put their experiences into action.

The goal of the program, according to Webster, is for the young leaders to have a better understanding of public manage- ment as well as a better understanding in learning to deal with their constituents, either people they work for or those who may work for them, in a diverse manner.

WHITE HOUSE ISSUES NEW GUIDELINES TO COMBAT SEXUAL ASSAULT IN UNIVERSITIES

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Reacting to publicized rapes on college campuses across the nation, the White House has released new guidelines requiring colleges to comply with new campus safety and security requirements aimed at curbing sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.

Under the regulations, institutions would be required to compile statistics for incidents of dating violence, domestic violence and stalking, in addition to the currently compiled statistics for sexual assaults and other crimes.

Among the many recom- mendations, the White House urges universities across the country to ensure that reports of sexual crime cases remain confidential, as well as to conduct anonym- ous surveys and adopt anti-assault policies.

Other notable changes include: adopting the FBI’s revised, more inclusive defi- nition of rape; requiring institutions to ensure that their disciplinary proceed- ings in response to alleged incidents of dating and domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking are prompt, fair and impartial; specifying requirements for university programs to prevent sexual crimes; and strengthening protections for victim confidentiality.

The University’s sex assault numbers have remained low since 2010, according to the Univer- sity Police Department annual security report. However, the most recent sex offense case, according to the online police crime log, was this past April in the Green Library, and the case remains an open investigation.

COUNTY SETS DEADLINE FOR YOUTH FAIR RELOCATION SITE, BOTH SIDES LOBBY

REBECA PICCARDO AND JULINETTE REYES
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As the County sets a deadline for the fairgrounds relocation debate, both FIU and the Youth Fair have started their lobbying efforts.

At the memorandum from Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition Inc. on July 24, CEO Robert Hohenstein said the fair “has no need or desire to relocate,” citing a 22 percent increase in attendance as a sign that fairs are growing in popularity.

FIU’s approach lead to a website titled, “FRU Must Expand.” As previously reported, while the Univer- sity has appraised the relocation efforts to be within $50 million, the fair says it could be over $250 million. Due to this disagree- ment in value, the fair says that the Univer- sity still does not have the funds to relocate the fair and the counties will not spend taxpay- er’s money towards this initiative.

However, the University recently received $10 million in support from the State Legis- lature for the land acquisition initiative.

In his open letter to the community, Presi- dent Mark R. Rosenberg said this University expansion will create jobs and allow student enrollment to continue increasing.

On Sept. 3, the commission will meet to again discuss the University’s land acqui- sition initiative and all parties involved will present a final recommendation to the County’s new site.

The relocation of the fair will be presented in a countywide voter referendum during the General Election on Nov. 4.
Florida law grants in-state tuition for undocumented students

Tuition, Page 1

While the University became the first public institution in Florida to offer a non-resident tuition waiver to undocumented students during Fall 2013, SB 4005 makes this policy a statewide standard as of July 1, 2014.

Edilberto Roman, professor at the FIU College of Law, says the push for the University to offer the waiver early came not only from the need for education equality in South Florida, but the courage and foresight of university leadership, including former Provost Douglas Wartzik and professor of linguistics Edward Eraso.

While undocumented students previously had to qualify for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to apply for the tuition waiver at the University, the new law allows all undocumented students to apply, regardless of being "DACAmented." Starting this fall, undocumented students will only have to pay in-state tuition, which is one-third the cost of out-of-state tuition at the University.

A student who qualifies for in-state tuition at FIU will pay $203.59 per credit this year, which amounts to $6,506.48 total for 30 credits, including annual fees.

An out-of-state student will pay $616.89 per credit, or a total of $18,965.48 for 30 credits.

"When we got out of high school, our counselors told us we couldn’t go to school or get financial aid—it made me feel like I couldn’t do anything. I was afraid to even try to go to school,” says Francis Tume, a sophomore international business major and SWER’s treasurer. “But the new law will make it easier for people to go to school and achieve their dreams.”

Along with their political efforts, SWER offers a variety of services to undocumented students on campus.

With the help of Law Professor Juan Gomez, the University’s chapter holds clinics to help students apply to become DACAmented. The organization also offers retreats where students in the group learn leadership skills, politics, and share their stories with one another.

“One of our plans now is to give workshops to help students apply for the tuition waiver,” says Jorge Tume, a sophomore majoring in film production at Miami-Dade College and chair of SWER’s board of directors.

Before the law passed this summer, members of SWER travelled to Tallahassee and Washington, D.C., multiple times to advocate for immigration reform at both the state and federal level.

In the wake of their victory with SB 1400, members of SWER at the University feel it is time to pursue a federal law guaranteeing in-state tuition for undocumented students everywhere.

“The time is right, but there is only so much citizenship can do,” Roman said. “This is a classic D.C. stalemate that’s been going on for decades. Now we must ask senators like Marco Rubio to push for comprehensive immigration reform.”

Florida black market for ivory drives slaughter of African elephants

More than 100,000 African elephants were killed for their tusks during a three-year period, reflecting persistent demand for illegal ivory that threatens the pachyderms’ long-term survival, a conservation study reported this week. At the rate elephants are being slain, their birth rates will not keep pace with the massacre, threatening the pachyderms’ long-term survival, according to the findings published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

Pedro Bravo was found guilty Friday, August 15 of first-degree murder in the killing of University of Florida freshman Christian Aguilar at the close of a two-week trial. Bravo stated straight after a court clerk read the verdict aloud in room 1B. The Aguilar and Bravo families were ahead after a court clerk read the verdict aloud in room 1B. The Aguilar and Bravo families were present, both in tears. Sentencing was set to begin immediately. Along with first-degree murder, Bravo, 20, was convicted of false imprisonment, poisoning, providing false information to law enforcement officers and other charges.
Five reasons to cycle in South Florida

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It’s summer, it’s hot and it’s a perfect day to ride a bike. I started cycling earlier this month after my parents bought me a powder blue, 700c Schwinn Admiral Hybrid as a gift for my 21st birthday.

Since then, I have discovered a series of benefits from riding. Here are my top five reasons biking beats driving in Miami.

1. No more traffic

While riding bike on a trail or in a bike lane, you have the ease of peddaling at your own pace and can maneuver around traffic congestion and roadblocks.

Although Florida’s bike law states cyclists must adhere to the same traffic laws as people driving in cars, cyclists will never have to suffer another traffic jam on Biscayne Boulevard due to a car accident, rush hour or the infamous people texting while driving.

2. Less costly

The bike I own cost about $150, which is less than a monthly car payment for most people, but also much cheaper than fancier bikes which can range above $1,000. Within two weeks of riding, I ran over a metal wire and had to replace the wheel’s inner tube which was a tiny $6 repair – compare that to the cost of repairing or even replacing up to four tires.

Treachorous parking fees are way behind me, as are the pressures of searching for an empty space.

Last, but most certainly not least, you save on gas. Additional costs would include a helmet and lock, but those are optional and minimal at that.

3. Better for you

We spend all day sitting down at work or school, then sit in our cars to go grab lunch – where we also sit – and again at home either on a sofa or at a desktop for the remainder of the day. All that sitting is incredibly bad for your health and wellbeing. Yes, you are still sitting down while riding bike smart ass, but you are also increasing blood flow, producing sweat, exercising muscles and burning calories – which are all things people in today’s tech-savvy society do not get enough of.

4. Better for the environment

You have all heard this speech way too many times, so I will keep it short. Go green.

5. Embrace nature

Riding outside under blue skies, while passing butterflies, birds and palm trees – the occasional road kill – is one of the luxuries we have in living South Florida. Yet many of us would much rather ride in our cars with the windows up, AC blowing, radio blasted, and while talking or texting on our cell phones. I too am guilty of doing this, but I balance those travels out by cycling to Haulover Beach every morning; soaking in the sun, gazing at the pier and appreciating the beauty that comes with living in paradise.

Join Our Staff!
The BEACON is always looking for talented individuals. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don’t be shy. Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124 or apply at fiusm.com.
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All but two of the United States Presidents since 1825 have been Fraternity Members.
As undergraduates, Greeks raise approximately $7 million per year for charity.
The overall fraternity and sorority GPA is higher than the overall college GPA. Of North America’s 50 largest cooperations’, 47 are led by Greeks.
These numbers are astounding, yet only 4.5% of the population at FIU is currently Greek but after Greek BBQ, I went home, ever before,” Gallardo said.
“I was convinced I would never go Greek but after Greek BBQ, I went home, signed myself up and I’m so thankful I made that decision.”

This year, the FIU Sorority and Fraternity Life Welcome BBQ will take place on August 26 at 7 p.m. in the Betty Chapman Plaza.
All four councils will be represented, and hundreds of both affiliated and nonaffiliated members are expected to attend.
There will be free food, free refreshments and an opportunity for those interested in Greek life to ask any and all the questions they would like.
“By partnering with various student organizations on campus, Campus Life accommodates the vast and diverse interest of students looking to get involved on campus.
“Student groups want to make sure that students are aware of what they do as well as recruit,” Borgmann said.
WOW kicked off on Saturday, Aug. 23 with the Splash Pool Party in the Housing Quad. The event was sponsored by ARAMARK, IFC, RHA, and SPC. On Sunday, President Rosenberg along with FIU college deans and faculty hosted the Freshman Convocation, a formal induction to welcome all freshmen and their families to mark the beginning of a brand new journey and their college career. The event took place at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.
The National Panhellenic Council Yard Show will take place on Monday in the Graham Center Ballrooms at 7:30 p.m.
Students can get a front row experience of the NPHC’s Divine Nine as they perform their signature stroll—the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity’s famous Ape Walk and the notorious men of Kappa Alpha Psi will show off their best shiny.
For students interested in all things Greek, FIU Sorority and Fraternity Life will be throwing a Welcome BBQ on Monday Aug 25 where students can come out and meet FIU’s Greek Community plus enjoy free food, music and giveaways.
On Wednesday, the Student Programing Council Comedy show will be featuring Erik Griffin from Comedy Central’s popular hit TV show “Workaholics.” Hypnotist extraordinaire Sailesh is the SPC’s featured entertainer on Thursday night where the audience can look forward to enjoying an outstanding performance from one of the best entertainers in the world. Sailesh is no stranger to FIU and has become a favorite regularly requested by the Panther Community.
BSU’s Open Mic Night will take place on Friday in GC Ballroom at 7 p.m. while doors open at 6 p.m.
Week Of Welcome will come to an end on Saturday Aug. 30 with the kick off and official start of the 2014-15 football season. FIU’s first home game opponent will be Bethune Cookman University coming from Daytona Beach. The game starts at 7 p.m. and students can expect free food, giveaways and great music as they show their Panther Pride and cheer our Panthers to victory.
It’s never too early to plan Finals Week

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Something that won’t cross a student’s mind for a minimum of 14 weeks is one of the most anticipated events for the Student Government Association.

“Recharge for Finals,” or, better known as “Cram Jam,” is an ongoing event during finals week that gives students a chance to recenter.

“As soon as one Cram Jam comes to an end, the next one is already being planned,” said Mary Corbin, chief of staff for SGA at MMC and junior studying Political Science and Broadcast Journalism. “We try to collaborate with as many departments as possible to make sure we provide a relaxing week for the students.”

Recharge for Finals happens the official week of finals designated by the University and usually kicks off with the “Midnight Breakfast.” From around 11 p.m. to 1 a.m., the Fresh Food Company “Midnight Breakfast.” From around 11 p.m. to 1 a.m., the Fresh Food Company

“Midnight Breakfast.” From around 11 p.m. to 1 a.m., the Fresh Food Company serves over 500 students who come hungry and leave happy.

The most exciting part of it all? You might have Dr. Rosenberg serving your breakfast. SGA gathers volunteers who include the President himself, the Student Body President, the Student Body Vice President, the Vice President of Student Affairs and more.

“It has been a tradition for more than 12 years and we hope to make this semester’s better than ever,” Corbin said.

Students have lined up as early as 9:30 p.m. in the years past; scared the food will run out. Breakfast items served include eggs, sausage, bacon, biscuits and toast.

But the midnight breakfast is just a component of “Recharge for Finals,” as the week is planned in efforts of helping students balance a healthy study schedule.

Even when I don’t have finals, I love taking advantage of the services offered, especially when they are free,” said Steven Gonzalez, junior majoring in Marketing and Public Relations. “It’s a nice way to end the semester on a high note.

Some Recharge for Finals activities include a 24-hour study hall in the Graham Center; free massages in the GC pit, yoga on the lawn, free smoothies, healthy snacks, free giveaways, free printing and maybe some new offerings which are currently being planned by SGA.

“Closer to the date, a website will be launched with all the information of extended hours on campus and the free services being offered,” Corbin said. “The ultimate goal is help the students succeed, as we know it may be a stressful week for them.”

Save the date, because Recharge for Finals is happening Dec. 8 - 12, 2014.
**Week of Welcome**

**Fall 2014 | August 24th - 30th**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH**
Freshman Convocation - 2 PM | MMC - US Century Bank Arena
BBC Library Bus pickup times: BBC to MMC - 9:30 AM & MMC to BBC - 5 PM
President’s Welcome Reception - 3 PM | MMC - US Century Bank Arena Plaza

**MONDAY, AUGUST 25TH**
Ask me Info Tables - 9 AM to 4 PM | AC1 Atroim & Campus Life Hallway
Welcome BBQ: Food, Fun & Entertainment - 11 AM to 2 PM | Panther Square

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 26TH**
Ask me Info Tables - 9 AM to 4 PM | AC1 Atroim & Campus Life Hallway
Blue & Gold Breakfast - 9 AM to 11:30 AM | Panther Square

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27TH**
Restaurant & Business Fair - 12 PM to 2 PM | WUC Ballrooms

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 28TH**
Panther Luau (formerly known as Freshman Luau) - 11:30 AM to 2 PM | WUC Ballrooms

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 29TH**
Panther Packed Fridays - 10 AM to 11 AM | WUC Courtyard
BBC Panther Plaza & Sculpture Unveiling - 12 PM to 2 PM | Panther Square & Panther Plaza

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 30TH**
WoW Retro Series Triathlon - 7:30 AM | BBC Aquatic Center

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**Panther LUAIU**

**BBC’s Polynesian Kingdom!**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2014**
**11:30 AM TO 2:00 PM**
**WUC Ballrooms | FIU - BBC**

**Presented by the Office of Campus Life and the Vice Provost Office at Biscayne Bay, Division of Student Affairs, FIU/BBC. Funded by SGA.**
**Qualified individuals with a disability requesting an accommodation to attend an event must make the request no less than five working days in advance by calling 305-919-5804 or TTY via VRBS 1-800-955-8771. Food is based on first come, first served. For additional event information please call 305-919-5804 or visit WUC 141.**
Welcome Back Panthers

Stop by our office (WUC 301) to find out more about SGA-BBC

#fiusgabbc

Panther Sculpture Unveiling

August 29, 2014
12pm-2pm
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Inside the city: Wynwood’s best places

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The Miami Parking Authority has its eyes fixed on Wynwood, the city’s hipster haven. Although met with resistance and disdain, the Parking Authority feels that due to the popularity and growth of the neighborhood, regulating parking is something that needs to be done.

“Art Basel last year was one of those critical times where people just parked their cars in the middle of the street and walked away. And not only was it inconvenient for visitors, it was a life safety issue,” said Rolando Tapanes, the agency’s director of planning and development during Wynwood Art District’s association meeting earlier this month.

Regulated parking is scheduled to go into effect on October 1, and despite locals who say the changes will limit neighborhood’s growth, Wynwood still stands as one of the city’s trendiest areas. With the Fall semester commencing, students from all over are returning to the University—some just beginning—looking to explore Miami’s social scene.

Although some may want to stay closer to FIU, venturing to bars and lounges a few minutes away, Wynwood, located north of Downtown Miami, has a few places that are well worth the drive.

Wynwood contains over 70 art galleries, museums and art collections, and hosts “Art Walk,” a monthly art festival held every second Saturday. During this event, art galleries open their doors to the public for viewing. The neighborhood has a lot to offer. Here then, are five places worth visiting:

Wynwood Kitchen & Bar is located on 2550 NW 2nd Ave. This location serves dishes that can be considered works of art, while offering an extensive list of beers and wines. They offer discounts on different days and times of the week, on Mondays-Fridays from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. — 30% off all house liquor, wine and beer.

Wood Tavern, located on 2531 NW 2nd Ave, has an indoor and outdoor bar. The open spaces allow patrons to enjoy craft beers, cocktails and a menu of tacos (free every Tuesday evening for Taco Tuesdays), burgers or quesadillas. Even better, Wood Tavern is open into the late hours of the night. With cheap prices and a friendly staff, it’s definitely a go to for college students who want to have a night of drinks and discussion.

Another bar that received phenomenal reviews and ratings is Gramps. This bar serves multiple types of cocktails and craft beers, but what makes it truly memorable and special are its two stages where both local and touring bands and artist can play a setlist of songs.

To students looking for something a little calmer, they should venture over to SUGARCANE, Raw Bar Grill. Here, friends can indulge in a delicious menu, ranging from raw clams to cooked and delicious chicken meatballs, all while enjoying savory cocktails and wines.

SUGARCANE, Raw Bar Grill also has a happy hour that can be useful when student’s pockets are aching but they still want to go out.

Last but not least, the Electric Pickle. The Electric Pickle is a lounge/club that resembles a 90’s South Beach, electronic music and booming bass serving as its welcoming committee for attendees.

Although they serve excellent cocktails and drinks, one may want to check if an international DJ has made a reservation for the night to avoid crowds, and head down to a lesser known bar.

Wynwood, Miami’s hipster haven, is home to several venues, bars and galleries that provide a platform for the arts.
FOOTBALL

Head Coach Ron Turner (right) runs drills at football practice. Turner hopes to improve after a dismal 1-11 season.

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Football Head Coach Ron TurfFootball Head Coach Ron Turner is entering his second season as leader of the Panthers and looking to improve on last year’s 1-11 mark; the fewest wins since the 2007 Panthers who also went 1-11.

“We’re a completely different team, both on and off the field. We have to keep building a culture and keep holding eachother accountable,” said Turner.

Accountability is a big part of the culture that coach Turner is trying to instill, the idea of players doing their job and also making sure their teammates do theirs. Accountability is the first step towards becoming a successful football team; and Turner believes that this 2014 squad has the potential to be just that.

“First meeting I had with [the team] this year, I told them we are gonna be winners,” said Turner. “But we’re not gonna win on the field until we learn to win off the field. I didn’t know how bad it was [last season] to be honest with you. We had so many guys that were academically ineligible or struggling with off the field issues. There’s no surprise that we went 1-11. We didn’t deserve to do anymore than 1-11. But that is changing. These guys are doing everything we ask them to do and that’s going to show through their play on the field”.

This season, the Panthers will be helped by the return of several skill position players that were sidelined last year. All returning players and incoming recruits will be eligible to play. Turner looks to also use his extensive experience to help turn around the football program.

“Since I was in sixth grade I knew I was going to be a coach. My plan,” said Leiva. “I just want to stick to my plan,” said Leiva. Nevena Stojakovic, international goalkeeper from Serbia and a recruit from this past offseason, participated in a full practice Wednesday. Her aggressiveness was on full display, especially during one corner kick into the box. Stojakovic estimated her turning correctly as she charged off her line to make a sweeping grab at a ball that would’ve landed right at the feet of an opposing teammate.

Sophomore defender Pat Tomanon executes a crossball preparing for the first match of the season against the University of Arizona.

SPORTS

Women’s soccer forms new defense for new season

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Friday marked the beginning of the season for FIU against the Arizona squad. After last season’s 7-12 record, the Panthers look to gain double-digit wins and hold the losses to single digits this season.

Everyone starts 0-0. Everyone has a championship opportunity on the line,” said assistant coach Kyle Schroeder. “It’s fun to see how everything plays out.”

Putting last season in the rear-view mirror is one of the many goals for this team, but perhaps the most important goal is improving their defense. During Wednesday’s early morning practice, Head Coach Thomas Chestnut ran many set piece drills and emphasized attacking the ball, and clearing it out of the penalty box. Not only were the defenders required to challenge the ball, but the attacking players were also trained to defend.

“I think a lot of people get this messed up, but attackers need to defend, as well. From top to bottom of the field, everybody has defensive responsibilities,” said Lauren Singer, third year assistant coach who spent her time in college playing at the University of Miami.

Throughout practice, the team looked locked in, anticipating the match-up against Arizona, who scored 38 goals last season, the second most in Pac-12 Conference play.

When asked what Ashleigh Shim, senior forward, was looking for in Friday’s match, she didn’t mention Arizona’s ability to score goals. Instead, she laid out her team’s expectations.

“We’re going to win. Well, we expect to win. We’re going to [focus] on defense,” said Shim.

One of the most important storylines for this season will be redshirt senior Chelsea Leiva’s return to the field after missing last season due to an injury. Being a player who scored a team-high 11 goals in her junior year, Leiva is anxious to get back to action.

“I definitely miss the field a lot after being out a full year. I’m excited, and I’ve said this before; this team has a lot of potential,” said Leiva.

After sitting back and hearing what others have said of her, Leiva made it a point to address that she doesn’t pay attention to what the outside crowd expects from her.

“I just want to stick to my plan,” said Leiva. Nevena Stojakovic, international goalkeeper from Serbia and a recruit from this past offseason, participated in a full practice Wednesday. Her aggressiveness was on full display, especially during one corner kick into the box. Stojakovic estimated her turning correctly as she charged off her line to make a sweeping grab at a ball that would’ve landed right at the feet of an opposing teammate.

With Ashley Westberry, a 5 foot 3 inch freshman goalkeeper out of Jacksonville, FL, and Stojakovic, 5 foot 9 inches, a starting goalkeeper will be tough to choose as both bring the tenacity needed. “I think [Ashley and Nevena] have really come along and developed throughout the preseason. I’m anxious to get them out there for their first college match,” said Schroeder.

After practice, Leiva mentioned her and Shim’s friendship on and off the field, which allows them to be a more dynamic duo, and no duo goes without common interests. Leiva’s pregame routine, which involves her praying highlights one of her common interest with Shim, as the two are both religious. Shim’s favorite Bible verse is Luke 9:24 (“For whoever decides to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it”).

As the players stretched, rehydrated and huddled up, there were plenty of smiles. The sun beating down on each of their faces did not reveal anguish from a hard day’s work—it revealed an eagerness to get the season started off on the right foot here at home.

“We want to win every home game,” said Shim. “We have to win every home game.”
The football team has to make an almost impossible climb out of the depths of mediocrity from their 2013 season that produced a 1-11 record.

The only win was gained against Southern Miss, who had a combined 1-23 record from their last two seasons. Saying that Head Coach Ron Turner has an uphill battle in his second year as FIU’s man in charge is an understatement.

Any time you replace a successful head coach as he did when FIU parted ways with former Head Coach Mario Cristobal, it’s hard to instill your philosophy with guys you did not recruit.

One of the players that is set to make a big impact with this new era of Golden Panther football is junior Ya’keem Griner.

Griner is a 6’5” 235 lbs tight end from Starke, Florida. He attended Bradford High School where he was a star athlete on the football and basketball teams.

Football was his first love; Griner began playing around seven years old and hasn’t stopped since. For Griner, sports is the greatest teacher of life because one nevers get through it well. “said Griner.”

“Sports was a big part of my life in high school, it kept me out of trouble and helped my time management skills,” Griner said.

After starring in football throughout high school and a great senior year at Bradford, Griner was earned the attention of many Sun Belt Conference schools. He ultimately chose FIU after his visit in the spring.

“First off, it was in Florida. I didn’t want to play basketball at a small school or play football at a school up north, that’s not my environment. Also FIU had a great season in 2010 which helped my decision as well.” said Griner.

Cristobal brought in Griner just before he was relieved of his duties. Griner was excited to play and learn under Cristobal but the relationship was short lived.

“Man, it was tough but I understand that college football is a business and I have no say in what goes on with coaches,” Griner said.

Fast forward to last season, the first with Turner as head coach and the implementation of the pro style offense, which was a new adventure for most of the guys on the team since Cristobal ran a spread offense.

The learning curve was steep and the record showed it. Only winning one game all year, it can be very easy for players to lose focus on the goal.

“It’s not about the losses, last year Turner taught us to be better people. Yes we lost, but we took a lot away from the losses, we became stronger as a unit,” Griner said.

Turner brought in an entirely new coaching staff with him after the transition; Griner had nothing but great things to say about all of the coaches, including the tight end coach Kort Shankweiler.

“I like Coach Shankweiler a lot, I look up to him. He teaches me how to be a better person. It isn’t all about football, the whole coaching staff is preparing us for life after football.” Griner said.

The season is closer than most realize, and now that they have gone through camp and are gearing up for the season, Griner expects a different team this upcoming year.

With another year of the pro style offense under everyone’s belt and Turner executing his philosophy and game plan with guys he recruited, the team seems to be in store for an improvement in their record.

“My gut feeling is that we’re going to have a pretty good season this year. What we do in the weight room, the stuff works hard and everyone is working hard together and putting in maximum effort.” Griner said.

Griner gave his prediction for the upcoming season, whether it be stats or what the team can do as a whole.

“I think we’re going to improve from what we did last season, I think we’ll have more than six wins.” Griner said.

Griner hopes that life after football isn’t coming too soon, as a college athlete he wants to hear his name called in the draft of his respective sport.

“Even if I don’t get my named called, I’m still going to work out for NFL teams.” Griner said.

Look out for Griner and all of the panther football team this season, hoping to elevate from the 1-11 hole that they were in last year, as they try to shock the world and get back to another bowl game.

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The Beacon – Monday, August 25, 2014

**ALEXI C. CARDONA**
Staff Writer
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The Biscayne Bay Campus’ Student Government Council approved the bills allowing the FIU Broward Pines Center to represent itself last month, during the final senate meeting of the summer.

Eight of the 11 senators who attended the meeting voted unanimously on the bills.

SGC-BBC previously took the responsibility of representing the Broward Pines Center, because the campus did not have their own senators to represent them in last year’s student government.

Alfian Mejia, speaker of the senate, felt the Broward Pines would be better off if it had its own set of senators which lead him to write the bills offering a higher quality student government representation.

Before this bill was passed, SGC senate members needed to complete seven office hours a week, have half their courses at the Biscayne Bay Campus, attend weekly senate meetings and monthly general meetings in person, and join two committees within student government.

Mejia proposed four changes to the requirements for students applying for senator, solely affecting those at the Broward Pines Center, all of which were approved.

Now, Broward Pines senators will be able to complete their seven office hours under the Coordinator of Student Life, attend two of the four monthly senate meetings via Skype, video conference in committee meetings, and half of their classes can be at Broward Pines Center rather than BBC.

The council also nominated and assigned chair positions for four of the five SGC committees. Ana Correa, senator for the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, is the new Student Advocacy chair.

Eli Jean-Mary, a lower division senator, was appointed for the Operational Review chair position. Jean-Mary will verify that student government council funds are being spent efficiently and distributed evenly among senators.

Christopher Morisset, senator-at-large, is the new Finance Committee chair. His previous experiences as comptroller and finance chair made him the ideal candidate.

Faedrah Mahotiere, an arts and sciences senator, will make sure all senators complete their office hours and fulfill other membership requirements as the Internal Affairs chair.

The Rules, Legislation and Judiciary chair appointment was tabled for the next senate meeting, taking place on Sept. 8.

**The ‘n-word’ up for discussion this fall**

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“I want to open up their minds about how they think about the word,” he said.

Throughout the years, the n-word has changed both in meaning and even to the way it’s spelt.

The question that arises may be: what’s the difference between the two variances (one is spelt -iga as opposed to -igger)? Are they both equally harmful? Is it harmful when Black people or African American uses it? What about other races?

The n-word has a lot of racial history behind it, which is a reason a lot of older people take offense to the usage of the word, “he said.

The ‘n-word’ up for discussion this fall, not only because this is for years before and after slavery.

The event will be held in WUC 155 at 4pm. Tuesday, September 30th they will be having an event for the people that like to put stuff off till the last minute called Conquering Procrastination.

That will be on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus in GC 216 at 1pm. There will also be a Diversity Day that Tuesday on the BBC in the Wolfe University Center which is going to be held all day.

The event is expected to last an hour, but because of the nature of open meetings and discussions, it may last a little bit longer. McNamee warns that the the n-word will be used throughout the discussion and advises those uncomfortable with the word to be aware; however, McNamee says, “I think this is a discussion that has not happened at FIU,” and despite it’s touchiness, is long overdue.

The MPAS office has more diverse events coming up this fall: The LGBTQ+ will be having a Welcome Reception on the 3rd on the MMC on September 3rd in Panther Suite at 4pm and on the 4th on the BBC in WUC 135 at 4pm.

American man who had just graduated high school and was confronted by a Caucasian police officer and as accused of a robbery that happened moments before their encounter.

During their contact the police officer shot Mike Brown 6 times; Mike Brown was unarmed. Ferguson, Missouri is also to be known as one of the most segregated cities in Missouri.

The event will be held in WUC 253 on the Biscayne Bay Campus.

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PEDAL TO THE METAL

New program allows students to rent bikes

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A speedy commute across campus in the form of a recreational sport will be offered in a bicycle sharing program this semester, allowing students to rent bikes and safety gear for free.

Biscayne Bay Campus Recreation is launching the Bike Share Program this fall.

Mydel Clozin, (left) an electrical engineering junior, and Sabrina O’Keefe, (right) assistant director of the women’s center, rode a mechanical bull at the BBC summer picnic on July 31.

What I like is we provide you with everything.

Jonathan Torrey, Coordinator Adventure X

Offer yet another outdoor activity to students. Campus Recreation has increasingly utilized the unique topography of BBC through the popular Adventure X programs, offering recreational day and night kayaking and paddleboarding trips along the Biscayne Bay. Also unique to the campus is a 3-mile bike path, used for various competitions such as the Night Color 5K, FIU Aquathlon and FIU 2575 Triathlon.

With the Miami bike scene heating up due to events like Critical Mass in Downtown, an event occurring the last Friday of each month attracting hundreds of cyclists; and its environmental and health conscious appeal, the rec center decided to add cycling to their list of services.

However, unlike the previously mentioned activities, the Bike Share Program is fully covered by the activity and service fee students pay each semester and additional fees.

To rent a bike, students will first provide their FIU OneCard at the front desk. Then they will complete a waiver and additional paperwork stating students will be liable for any broken or missing items.

Finally, they will visit an electronic key box before receiving a bike and all necessary equipment.

“What I like is we provide you with everything,” said Coordinator of the Adventure X programs Jonathan “JT” Torrey.

The bikes come equipped with a water bottle cage, bell, cargo rack and a self-powered bike light which students can use during their rides from sun up, until sundown.

Later this semester, the rec center plans to host safety workshops for students who hope to rent a bike.

Bardawil and Torrey said expanding the program by re-fencing the area under the Aquatic Center to house additional bicycles will be assessed a year after the program launches.

BBC brings racial term to forefront of discussion

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Tuesday, September 23 at noon, FIU’s Multicultural Programs and Services office will be hosting a discussion called “The N-Word Discussion.”

MPAS’s Associate Director Jeffrey McNamee will host the talks. This discussion will not be like any other lecture series in that there will not be a key speaker coming in and giving their thoughts and feelings on this very controversial topic, but rather, the key speakers will be the students, public and faculty — those who would like to hear each other’s reasoning behind using or not using the n-word.

“I didn’t want this [event] to be a lecture where you have an older person shaking their finger at people,” McNamee said.

This discussion is set to be informal, because the n-word is a current issue that needs to be spoken about amongst all people, especially among blacks African-Americans.

Today, the n-word is thrown around generously in the hip-hop community and used almost colloquially among blacks and even non-blacks. Young people have taken ownership of the n-word and are using it in a different way from the way older people did.

Jeffrey McNamee says he wants students to be verbal about their perspective on the word and why they may feel it’s usage is acceptable.

SEE RACE, PAGE 14