Lobbying in ‘Tally’ may save med school

JULIA CARDENUTO
News Director

Insufficient funding has been at center stage for quite a while, and on March 11 University representatives went to the state’s capital to try to secure the future of the University.

Held annually, FIU Day saw university administrators, students, alumni and trustees go to Tallahassee and lobby for the University.

The main issue addressed this year was the College of Medicine for which FIU representatives lobbied to secure the $11 million funding for the college, informing state lawmakers about the importance of the college for the community and the revenue that it will generate for Florida.

“Given the circumstances, it was a very good day,” said President Modesto A. Maidique, “But we are fighting some very serious odds because the budget keeps getting worse but we keep insisting that our medical school must be funded.”

Students react to tech fee proposal

JULIA CARDENUTO
News Director

A new technology fee, which may be implemented in the Fall, was the subject of two hearings on March 9 and 10 at the Biscayne Bay and University Park campuses respectively.

Chaired by Cathy Akins, assistant vice president of student affairs, the Technology Fee Committee held the hearings and took note of student input regarding the new fee. This same committee will eventually decide whether to implement the fee and, if so, how much the fee should be.

The tech fee would expand the University’s wire-less capabilities as well as the creation of a virtual student lab that would grant access to high-cost applications such as Photoshop to students connected to virtually all University computers.

“We are here today to explain to students how FIU Day with Maidique, Provost Ronald Berkman and Steve Sash, vice president of governmental relations.

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Students to volunteer during spring break

About 250 students will volunteer to help others during spring break. FIU’s Alternative Spring Break, a program that gives students a chance to volunteer all over the world, will be held from March 13-22.

Alternative Breaks is a student organization founded nationally in 1991 and at the University two years later.

Their mission is to send college volunteers throughout the world every year.

FIU Alternative Spring Break are going to Los Angeles, Talahassee, Peru and Thailand, among other locations.

In their mission, they will fight homelessness, work with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual issues and help disadvantaged children.

FIU

About students to volunteer during spring break

According to Richard David Barrios, senior staff writer, “we pushed the voting dates back a day to allow for a days worth of organizing and of promotion of the actual elections.”

The results of the election will be announced the following day in the Graham Center. The campaign will only be eligible to cast their votes toward candidates who ran.

Students may vote for positions including lower division senator, student representative, college, honors college, senators for specific colleges, honors college representative, housing representative and graduate student representative in accordance to the student’s enrollment status.

President pleased with outcome

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Marine affairs certificate program awaits approval

MELISSA BOON Contributing Writer

The proposal for the University’s certificate program in coastal and marine affairs is moving toward approval.

“Certificate programs don’t require any special resources, unlike departments and majors,” said Peter Craumer, associate professor for the Department of International Relations and director of the Coastal and Marine Affairs Certificate Committee. “Therefore, we are optimistic that the University will approve it.”

The certificate in coastal and marine affairs is designed to include a variety of environmental courses from different schools at the Biscayne Bay Campus, while taking advantage of the campus’ coastal location.

According to the University’s course catalog, certificate programs are structured combinations of courses with a common base of interest, from one or more disciplines, into an area of concentration.

The proposed certificate will require 18 credit hours: at least three credits of core science courses, three credits of core policy and law courses, three credits of other primary courses and zero to six credits of electives.

Some of the courses that would count toward this certificate include Marine Biology, Oceanography, Ecology of South Florida, Biology of Coral Reefs and Environmental Journalism.

“Some courses from disciplines other than physical sciences will also count toward the certificate, including courses in social sciences, the arts and humanities,” said Peter Craumer, associate professor for the Department of International Relations and director of the Coastal and Marine Affairs Certificate Committee. “I am honored and thankful for this great opportunity to help to develop the program.”

The Faculty Senate consists of 60 senators, elected proportionally by the faculty of schools and colleges, serving as the faculty’s voice in decisions, policies and academic matters that are vital in academic governance, according to its Web site.

The Coastal and Marine Affairs Certificate Committee hopes the proposed certificate will attract students from all over the country to come to FIU for this and other programs relating to the coastal environmental theme of the campus.

“I think it is an amazing program. The green initiative is quite a large factor, and in the next few years, I believe there will be a growth in environmental sustainability,” said Shanal Patel, a first-year hospitality master’s student. “If the certificate is approved, the committee needs to sell the idea to the counselors and advisors of each school because students would probably be interested but unaware of it.”

Twelve courses, including Coastal Environment in Rhetoric and Literature, the South Seas in Fiction, Film and Culture and Ocean and Coastal Law for the Hospitality Industry have been added to develop the program.

“This is a small campus and this program could help us work toward the environmental and coastal theme we have been trying to develop for the last two years,” said Craumer. “Not many university campuses throughout the United States are situated on the coast, and among them, we are unique in having this combination of marine sciences, hospitality and journalism on the same campus.”

John Thomas, adjunct lecturer in the School of Hospitality Management, will teach Ocean and Coastal Law for the Hospitality Industry. “I am very interested in the program,” said Thomas. “This is an amazing location and we ought to recognize and utilize the value of being on the water.”

Jennifer Grimm, BBC environmental coordinator, has been working on making this campus more environmentally friendly.

She began her work at BBC about three months ago, when the University was granted a $140,000, two-year grant from Jane’s Trust for Environmentally Friendly Education. However, the biggest concern for the success of this environmentally-friendly movement is student involvement, according to Craumer and Grimm.

A lot of students think that if they aren’t in marine biology or environmental science, they can’t get involved with the program,” Grimm said. Some feel that if students get involved, however, the incentives for participating in the program may differ.

“By offering the certificate to students as an extension to their degree, I worry that it would become a cynical way for them to make more money after college, rather than being environmentally friendly,” said Peter Borrebach, a creative writing master’s student. “If students don’t absorb the content of the classes, it’s just another trend.”

Marine affairs certificate program awaits approval

INVINCIBLE

Jane’s Trust, established in 2002, awards grants to programs that help to aspire and assist in protecting the environment and conserve natural resources, according to its official Web site.

“We are on the bay, so everything we do impacts the ocean,” Grimm said. “We want people to understand where they are living and have a little bit more responsibility in terms of protecting the environment and conserving it, and I think the key is education.”

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Former Miss FIU crowned Miss Miami ‘09, looks ahead

LORENA ESTRADA Staff Writer

Dressed in trendy dresses, evening gowns and bikinis, 18 young women took the stage March 1 to compete for the title of Miss Miami 2009 at the Miss Miami Scholarship Pageant.

But only one young lady — former Miss FIU Jenise Fernandez — was the woman of the evening. Fernandez is currently a graduate student. “She is my older sister,” Fernandez said.

As Miss Miami, she will spend a year attending community events and will also be preparing for the 2009 Miss Florida USA Pageant, which will take place on July 11 in St. Petersburg, Fla.

“The moment they announced her name, I knew longer road to Miss Florida was ahead of her,” said Robert Borgmann, Fernandez’s boyfriend and a graduate student. “She has made her family and me very proud.”

The Miami native won a $500 scholarship from the Miss Miami Scholarship Pageant and has received more than $7,000 in scholarship money from previous pageants, which include Miss FIU 2007 and Miss Fort Lauderdale 2008.

Fernandez is currently an intern at WPLG Channel 10 and said that she aspires to become a television reporter and news anchor.

“Being able to give a voice to the voiceless really attracts me to journalism,” Fernandez said. “I love meeting and helping people, and I hope one day I can do just that by telling people’s stories.”

CLASSIFIEDS

JOBS

SUMMER JOBS: Recreation Camp Counselors/Supervisors for summer recreation program 6/8/09-7/31/09 for children ages 5-14. WRL/Lifeguard and Maintenance Aides (509-3099). Esp. desirable. City of Plantation (west of Ft. Lauderdale) 400 NW 73 Ave., Plantation, FL 33317 or www.plantation.org to download application.

PAGEANT

Caribbean Pageantry is seeking contestants for their 4th Annual Miss Miami Carnival Pageant, being held Sunday September 20, 2009. For more information please call 786-356-0869.
SEXIST ADS
Product marketing taking a more ‘macho-centric’ approach

VANESSA ESPINEL
Staff Writer

You probably either drive or walk by it every day. Occasionally you feel the urge to take the detour inside. All it takes is one look through the window at all those burgers and you want to keep coming back for more. If you guessed the gym, then that is precisely where you should be heading afterward; with burgers reaching almost 1,300 calories, Burger King is the ruler of fatty fast food.

But it’s not the calories that are so intriguing to one – it’s BK’s commercials. Have you noticed that BK’s advertisements harken and other alleged abuses of power by the Bush administration. “In addition, there is the use of torture and other means of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of those held captive in the name of national security. Whether or not one is aware or believes that these actions may have actually been allowed to go on under our noses (or behind our backs I should say) is not what is important; the fact is that these are serious allegations that are, at the very least, in need of an investigation. So what does President Obama have to say about all this? The answer: Not as much as people would like him to.

In an interview with the Huffington Post, he states, “My view is also that nobody’s above the law and, if there are clear instances of wrongdoing, that people should be prosecuted just like any ordinary citizen... I will take the Leahy proposal, but my general orientation is to say let’s get it right moving forward.”

Such forward progression means fulfilling campaign promises and meeting the expectations of his constituency – the most pressing concern of the issues being the economy, of course. I fully understand and appreciate the president’s determination to this and other vital national issues, but it causes me to wonder: If we aren’t going to seek the truth about the past now, will we ever? His statement does not ring true.

Rather it is the only way to grant us citizens the truth and the return of accountability, which is the use of torture and other means of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of those held captive in the name of national security. Whether or not one is aware or believes that these actions may have actually been allowed to go on under our noses (or behind our backs I should say) is not what is important; the fact is that these are serious allegations that are, at the very least, in need of an investigation.

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The healing of our wounds will require the people to insist that they will not forget and forgive without ever truly knowing.
If you like road-trip movies and sex comedies, then Miss March might be a movie that will satisfy you. Miss March tells the story of a young man named Eugene (Zach Cregger), who falls into a coma and wakes up to find his former girlfriend posing naked in Playboy. His and his sex-crazed best friend, Tucker (Zach Cregger), go to a screening of the film and decide to embark on a cross-country road trip in order to crash a Playboy Mansion.

On their way to the Playboy Mansion, Moore and Cregger have written with the majority of the episodes of “The Whitest Kids U Know” companions. They also performed at a local comedy club with their “Whitest Kids U Know” comic strip. Fox Studios approached the comedic duo with a script, and they were entertained about two sex-crazed guys breaking into the Playboy Mansion.

“We were not crazy about the script,” says Moore. “It just wasn’t something we would do.” The studio then told Moore and Cregger that they could rewrite the script, as long as they kept the founding premise that Cregger’s character falls down the stairs, slips into a coma and wakes up to find his former girlfriend posing in Playboy. The screenwriting team of Moore and Cregger changed the conception of the characters so that one guy (Cregger) is terrified of sex and the other guy (Moore) is obsessed with sex. They are polar opposites, but share the same problem as they tailor the script to their sense of humor and write something the fans of the show Moore and Cregger have written with the majority of the episodes of “The Whitest Kids U Know” would like. It is basically a road trip sex comedy for people who are sick of road trip sex comedies,” Moore said.

Additional reporting by Eddie Sevilla
The 26th annual Miami International Film Festival will come to an end Saturday night. All the stars and filmmakers will come in droves on Award Night as the final big film will be showcased at the Gusman Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Miami.

El Nido Vacio (Empty Nest) starring Cecilia Roth (All About My Mother) and Oscar Martinez, is about a middle-aged couple (Roth and Martinez) looking for ways to escape their empty nest syndrome when their youngest adult child moves out of their home.

Before the film begins, the MIFF will present awards to films that have been placed in a competition category. There are many awards to be given out on Award Night, including some new competition categories. The World Cinema Competition category showcases the latest works by new, up-and-coming filmmakers from around the world. Ibero-American Competition is a competition showcasing dramatic features by first and second-time directors from Latin America, Spain and Portugal. Winners of the World Cinema and Ibero-American Filmmakers are eligible for a $25,000 Knight Grand Jury Prize. The Shorts Competition category features documentary films from around the world where social issues, diverse cultures, iconic and inspiring people are an integral part of this category. The Shorts Competition category features three programs of the best short films from around the world. The winners of the Dox and Shorts Competition will be eligible for the new Miami Dade College Grand Jury Prize, which is worth $2,500. One new competition category this year is the Jordan Alexander Ressler Screenwriting Award, which is presented by the Jordan Alexander Ressler Charitable Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego. The prize of $5,000 will be awarded to “the writing screenwriter in the Ibero-American Competition.”

Another new competition is the International Film Guide Inspiration Award presented by Wallflower Press and The Criterion Collection. This award will go to the winning emerging Ibero-American filmmaker. Prizes awarded to the winner include a special Awards Scroll, a copy of the 2009 edition of the International Film Guide and various series of films on DVD and books.

A film that was showcased at MIFF is a documentary called Celia the Queen, which was directed by Mario de Varona and Joe Cardona, an FIU graduate. The legacy and larger-than-life presence of the great Celia Cruz fuels this tribute to one of music’s and Cuba’s true groundbreakers. Filled with powerhouse performances, candid backstage moments and rare historical footage, the film features interviews with musicians that were inspired by Celia Cruz and fans, including Andy Garcia, Gloria Estefan, Quincy Jones, David Byrne and Wyclef Jean. Celia the Queen is a documentary that is told by Celia’s peers, fans, close friends and family. What made this film interesting is that it showed how Celia Cruz’s music influences everyone in the world. There is a scene in the film where “the filmmakers go to Japan where there is a salsa club and several people dancing to the music of Celia Cruz.” The filmmakers also managed to sit down with the Queen herself, Celia Cruz, before she passed away in 2003. Some scenes shot in black and white feature a young Celia Cruz played by former American Idol competitor Christina Christian as she moves around somewhere backstage, approaching people that have impacted Celia Cruz’s life. Celia the Queen is a well-told biography of a life that is as colorful and energetic as the subject of this film.
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**BASEBALL: FIU 11, FLORIDA MEMORIAL 4**

**MID-WEEK WIN**

Grand slam makes up for big FMU first

**CHARLIE GRAU**
Senior Staff Writer

It looked like it was going to be one of those games where nothing went right for the Golden Panthers.

Starting pitcher R.J. Fondon (1-0) loaded the bases in the first inning after hitting two batters and walking one. The freshman righty’s outing was short-lived after giving up three runs on 18 pitches and hitting three Florida Memorial batters.

But the Golden Panthers’ fortune would change in the next inning.

Down 3-0 after the top of the first, the Golden Panthers made up for their early start by scoring five runs on three hits. Most of those runs came on a grand slam by freshman Greg Waddell.

After the grand slam, the Golden Panthers’ (7-3) ugly start was quickly put it behind us and moved on,” said head coach Turtle Thomas. “He brings so much to the table from a recruiting standpoint.

Thomas. “He brings so much to the table from a recruiting standpoint.

He lasted 1.2 innings to shut out the Lions, striking out six and giving up one hit. “We had a rough first few innings, but our pitching stepped up, guys stayed and kept pushing. Any game you come out, anyone can beat anyone. It’s a good team win,” Waddell said.

Between both teams, 75 pitches were thrown in the first inning. Mason McCoy, Andre Vazquez and Tim Jobe pitched four combined innings to shut out the Lions, striking six and giving up one hit.

“Tonight we are going to try to give some playing time to underclassmen and a chance to get some live action. Seven out of the 10 starters on the field were freshmen,” Thomas said.

“The biggest thing we wanted to do tonight was to play some guys that had been working hard in practice and deserved to play. A lot of them stepped up and did a really nice job for us. I was pleased with several of them and the job they did,” Thomas said.

**SBC contenders set to tangle in Arkansas**

**SERGIO BONILLA**
Asst. Sports Director

The last time the University of Arkansas-Little Rock Trojans faced the FIU Golden Panthers, they scored 37 runs in a three-game span.

The 2006 Golden Panthers’ pitching staff posted a 7.12 team earned run average (ERA). As both teams bump heads this weekend, the Golden Panthers’ revamped staff is stifling opposing batters and sporting a 2.53 ERA. Head coach Turtle Thomas expects to start Scott Rembisz, Tom Ebert and Corey Polizzano.

**GRAND SLAMMIN’**

Greg Waddell hit his first home run with the Goden Panthers, a first-inning grand slam that put FIU ahead for good.

“We had a rough first few innings, but our pitching stepped up, guys stayed and kept pushing. Any game you come out, anyone can beat anyone. It’s a good team win,” Waddell said.

**Former assistant coach leads surprise WBC team**

**OMAR MARRERO**
AP Writer

A scrappy Netherlands team caught the Dominican Republic and the rest of the baseball world by total surprise.

Twice.

Now, all those Dominican stars are done at the World Baseball Classic.

Eugene Kingsingle singled in the tying run and scored the game-winner in the 11th inning Tuesday night as the Netherlands rallied for a 2-1 victory over the heavily favored Dominicans, earning an astonishing spot in the second round.

“This is a miracle. The Dominican Republic is one of the best teams in the world,” Netherlands manager Rod Delmonico said with tears in his eyes. “It is difficult to describe what took place. These kids have fought for three days. It has never been a team with this much passion.”

Delmonico was an asst. coach on the FIU baseball team last season. Head coach Turtle Thomas hired him during the 2008 summer, but he took over the Netherlands national team on Jan. 1 2009. He didn’t leave FIU until the program developed young talent and recruit future All-Stars.

Netherlands players were still on the field celebrating 15 minutes after the game ended.

The Netherlands (2-1) will face Puerto Rico (2-0) on Wednesday for first place in Group D. Puerto Rico needed a late rally to win the first game between the teams, 3-1 on Monday. Both clubs begin second round play Saturday in Miami.

“Tonight we are going to try to rest, even though it will be difficult with all the emotion,” Delmonico said.

Before becoming an assistant coach, Delmonico was the head coach of the Tennessee University Volunteers for 18 years where he compiled a 699-396 record. When coach Thomas first hired Delmonico he knew the 50-year-old was a special hire.

“When you hire staff members you wonder whether you’ve hit a single, double, triple or home run,” the Dutch manager said. “We hit a grand slam with the hiring of Rod Delmonico,” said coach Thomas. “He brings so much to the table from a recruiting standpoint.