Classroom resources available online

A new online network aimed at providing students with study resources was launched in February by a group of recent university graduates. The site, UniversityJunction, acts as a virtual study group by offering students free access to old tests, assignments, class notes and practice questions.

On the site, students can log on to more than 1.1 million online resources, including material from MIT Open Courseware, a site that makes the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s course materials available online to anyone for free. Additionally, the Web site provides a list of courses offered at FIU where students can access and upload content.

“We basically want for students to collaborate with each other to get better grades, but we are constantly upgrading our content database,” said Alan Powell, founder and vice president of marketing for UniversityJunction.

Market research conducted by the founding graduate students has proven that more than 90 percent of university students rely on online resources to get help with studying. According to the market research at FIU, that amount is 94 percent.

Currently, UniversityJunction is being used in more than 25 colleges and universities with more than 3,500 students.

“Although it is still in its basic stage, each course students sign up for has a forum feature allowing them to upload, choose and rank content associated with the course,” Powell said.

UniversityJunction will also hire tutors from Ivy League schools to answer questions posted by students within 24 hours.

“I think it seems a very helpful tool and students who are trying to get any help they can get would most definitely use it through, personally, I would not upload any content, I know people who would,” said Ramiro Gonzalez Lorca, sophomore and international relations major.

“My students did have the impression that the Web site was useful,” said Marc Resnick, industrial engineering professor whose students assess the site’s usability and identified challenges encountered by users.

He mentioned that one of the problems with usability was related to cold. “It is necessary that content they posted or registered, but that overall it was a good tool.

Another problem raised by UniversityJunction is in its attractiveness.

Although it aims to be an ethical alternative to other test-buying and note-sharing Web sites, students who are trying to get any help they can get would most definitely use it through.
Members of the Media Board hired the leadership for FIU Student Media on April 8.

Christopher Neece, Rick Martinez and Pablo Poncio officially got the positions of leaders for next year’s Student Media.

Need of a former journalism major, was the editor in chief of The Beacon during the Spring semester, and will keep his post for one more year.

“We think we’ve come a long way on one semester,” said Neece, who has been working for The Beacon since 2005 and has served as opinion editor and production manager. “I look forward to improving the paper and making it more responsive to students.”

Martinez, a sophomore computer science majors, will still be acting as the online director for Student Media. He launched FIUSM.com on March of 2008, and in Spring 2009, he redesign his position.

“I’m very excited to continue to be a part of this groundbreaking Bayview,” he said.

Poncio, a junior public administration major, who is also a current general manager for the student radio, Radiate FM, was hired again and will keep his position for the year.

“The main focus next year is the Biscayne Bay Campus. We want BBC to be the main focus as far as promotions next year,” said Poncio, who has been involved in Student radio since 2006, acting as DJ and then trafficking and training director.

“We also want to connect more with other college major, and for them to get more involved in the radio. I am really excited to be able to do another year,” said David Barrios, current senior staff writer and Student Government Council at University Park beat for Student Media, ran against Neece, while Sean Guttentag, current Radiate FM traffic and training director, ran against Poncio for the general manager for the student radio.

“Students bring continuity to all three different parts of our Student Media and have proved themselves already in their former term,” said Robert Saro, director of Student Media and the Board of Trustees.

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The Board is comprised of members of the FIU, Student Government Association and ad revenue. They received the applicants’ resumes and questionnaires March 20.

After interviews that were held throughout April 8, the Board voted on the candidates, announced their decision.

The only criteria to be an eligible candidate for any of the three positions is to be an FIU student and enrolled in at least one credit hour.

Elected Student Media leaders provide stability

JULIA CARDENUTO
News Director

The Beacon – Friday, April 10, 2009
www.fi usm.com

Black union represented under new constitution

Online study aid struggles with ethical questions

JUNCION, page 1

Powell acknowledges that it might promote plagiarism and copyright infringement. He mentioned the Web site might encourage posting current exams, chapters from textbooks or class lectures without the professors’ consent.

“We have met with professors in order to develop features and effective methods on our Web site to deter cheating,” said Powell. “We have disabled cut and paste tool, and we allow students to report or flag in the case of plagiarism.”

Powell vows that University-Junction pays a license to a copyrighted content on its Web site.

University-Junction opened at FIU in March, but hopes students from other universities students will make use of the site.

Rosenberg garners student support

Correction

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The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP.cmp at 305-348-2700 or B-Mich at 305-4722.

NEWS FLASH

FIU

Garcia reprimanded for bad behavior

Athletic Director Pete Garcia was reprimanded by President Modesto Maidique when a university report stated Garcia conducted “unprofessional management and poor leadership style,” misuse of resources and created a “hostile work environment,” “The Miami Herald reported April 7.

Athletic employees confirmed the allegations that Garcia was intimidating, used profanity and lost his temper.

Garcia admitted he lost his temper and said working on improving his behavior and apologized to the department, according to The Miami Herald.

Maidique could not be reached for comment and Garcia declined to comment following the Wednesday meeting.

Compiled by Sergio Bonilla and Julia Cardenuto

Flashpoint

JUNIOR BOARD

Abby Davis
The Beacon office is located in the Graham Center, room 210, at the University Park campus. Questions regarding display advertising and billing should be directed to the Business Manager at 305-546-2020. Mailing address: Graham Center, room 210, Miami, FL 33199. Fax numbers: 305-348-3124. Business Office Grant Street, 305-519-4112. Office hours are 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. E-mail: newsdesk@www.thebeacon.com.

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The silent chant: a movement to fight the injustice

BARBARA QUIJANO
Asst. News Director

Students came together to participate in the Day of Silence to make a statement: break the silence at the Biscayne Bay Campus.
The Day of Silence's purpose was to bring attention to anti-LGBT, gay, bisexual and transgender name-calling, bullying and harassment, according to the project's official Web site.

This project was founded in 1996 by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, becoming the largest student-led action toward creating safer schools for all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

StoneWall 2 BBC, a student organization and sponsor of the event, is the BBC-LGBT Queer Questioning Straight Ally.

"Day of Silence is to raise awareness of the silencing of the LGBT community," said Alexis Sanchez, president of StoneWall 2 BBC.

"In many situations, we feel we are unable to speak, and this is to create a visual representation of that silence.

The third annual Day of Silence started at 11 a.m. on April 8 in Panther Square in the Wolfe University Center with members of StoneWall 2 BBC welcoming and signing up students who wanted to be silent, followed by a discussion with keynote speaker Luigi Ferrer.

Ferrer is the current executive director of Pridelines Youth Services, an organization "dedicated to educating and empowering Florida's GLBTQ youth and their straight allies in a safe and diverse environment," according to its Web site.

Ferrer talked about growing up in a hostile latino community in Puerto Rico, where "there were certain roles you had to adhere to and things you were supposed to talk about, and that's a way of being silenced."

"I think we may be silenced by both fear and shame, fear of physical force and fear of aggression. There are all of these norms and expectations thrust upon us by the culture and there is no denying that force," Ferrer said. "This holiday season we had eight kids kicked out of their homes for being gay."

After a question-and-answer session with Ferrer, Mindy Spitzer, a junior Spanish education major, reminisced about her past.

Spitzer spoke about embracing her sexuality as a lesbian woman, showing pictures of her involvement at rallies and publications of older magazine and news articles supporting women's rights.

"I've never fit into the roles, but as feminism came along there was a major paradigm shift from the butt-feminism movement to the lesbian-feminism movement," said Spitzer.

"I had a button that said, 'I'm a feminist,' a lesbian feminist, because I don't understand how you can love women and not be a feminist."

The "silence" began at 2 p.m. and represented the silence caused by the harassment, prejudice and discrimination faced by LGBTs.

The purpose of Day of Silence is to bring attention to this problem, letting students who experience bullying know that they are not alone and giving students the opportunity to work toward improving school climate for all students, according to its Web site.

After two hours, the silence was broken with student participants, such as Sanchez and Juan "JC" Remedios, student services chair for Student Government Council at BBC, recounting stories followed by a poem performed by Student Government President Kertas Touissant.

The Day of Silence was also a sponsor of the event, providing StoneWall 2 BBC with a grant of $3,000.

"We cover a lot of ground, we try to fight for equal rights for everyone," said Sanchez. "We try to provide a safe space for people to be able to come and feel accepted and to have fun."

Reward offered for designers of April Fools' Day worm

SERGIO MONTEALEGRE
Staff Writer

An updated strand of an already existing worm was expected to be released April 1, so computer security firms are urging Windows users to install or update their antivirus and firewall software.

Conficker, a malicious self-replicating computer worm that affects security functions on computers, was first detected in October 2008. It is also known as Kido, Downup and Downadup.

The worm targets computers running on Windows operating systems, specifically Windows 2000, Windows XP, Windows Vista and Windows 7 Beta; and servers running on Windows Server 2003, 2008 or 2008 Revision 2 Beta by disabling access to antivirus programs or Web sites known for providing computer security services.

According to United Press International, as many as 15 million computers globally have been infected by the worm as of January 2009. The way it infects machines is through a vulnerability in Microsoft operating systems patched in October 2008. This may be attributed to users who disable the auto-updating functions of the operating system.

Although the worm was scheduled to harm computers on April 1, coincidentally on April Fools’ Day, it remained dormant on its payload date, the day a worm becomes active.

There’s no specific source as to where the worm got its common name, but Internet specialists speculate that Conficker is a combination of the word configure with the German word for a common four-letter expletive.

American based security firm Symantec, maker of Norton Anti-Virus, stated on its official blog that despite the high rate of infections reported around the world, the number is relatively low in the United States and Canada.

"China, India and Russia all have a high percentage of pirated software in use and these countries also feature in the top 10 countries ranked by Downadup," wrote Patrick Fitzgerald on his Symantec blog on Jan. 20, 2009. "The lack of patching due to piracy may be a contributing factor to high infection rates in those countries."

According to Symantec, four variations of the worm exist: ConfickerA, B, C and D. In versions B and C, the worm has the capacity of infecting a computer through a USB storage device due to Windows’ ability and opportunity to run them. The United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team offers users a guide on how to disable the feature, through its Web site, www.us-cert.gov.

Version D of the worm creates a network between computers infected with it.

It’s still unknown what the network could be used for, though many antivirus makers like Symantec and McAfee speculate it to be used in many ways. From a spambot network, which would be a new use of spam e-mails, to using it to cause Denial of Service attacks, also known as DoS, which is the constant reloading of a Web site from several computers to overload and slow down the server.

According to an alert from Microsoft titled “Virus alert about the Win32/Conficker.B worm,” symptoms of the worm include the Windows Security Center and Microsoft Update programs ceasing to work and the user being blocked from accessing security-related Web sites, such as Symantec or McAfee.

Jason Bastian, a graduate student in Management Information Systems program and a coordinator at University Technology Services, recommends keeping all programs updated.

"It’s following general security steps: Don’t go to malicious Web sites, don’t download strange attachments, etc.,” said Bastian.

"But to avoid malicious Web sites and for your antivirus program to detect them, fire-wall or antivirus programs must be up to date or there is no way of you knowing."

Currently, Microsoft offers a way to remove the worm as well as a patch for the system to prevent reinfection, but it’s only for users running on Windows Vista, or Windows XP with Service Pack 2 (SP2), Service Pack 3.

Microsoft recommends users running on Windows XP Service Pack 1 to upgrade immediately to SP2.

The severe potential threat of the worm prompted Microsoft to form a large coalition to combat its effects with organizations such as Symantec, AOL, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers and MID Global, as well as to issue a $250,000 bounty for the capture and arrest of those responsible in creating and distributing the worm.
MARCHING AWAY

University can’t risk losing athletics band

FIU Band Director Carla Geiger claims that the ensemble has received money from the College of Architecture and the Student Government Association and the Athletics Department. Due to budget cuts, CARTA – the athletic band’s main contributor – has withdrawn funding.

Athletics claims Geiger’s statement is false and that they have not funded the athletics band. Outgoing Student Government Council at University Park President Arthur J. Meyer feels SGA should fund the marching band only if the other bodies contribute as well.

Programs always suffer when cuts are made. Former CARTA Dean Jean Bueno stated, “We don’t have that in the budget and we are about to lose another $800,000 now.”

With so many cuts, it is no surprise that CARTA has cut off funding to the band. CARTA was left with few other choices.

But it is essential that the University fund the marching band somehow. A possible solution is for the Office of the Provost to allocate funds to the band. A direct line would not only solve the band’s funding issues, but also protect the band from elimination.

The athletics band has been at the mercy of its contributors for too long, and that failed policy is what has led us down the road we are on today. If the University directly funds the band, the ensemble could continue its operations.

However, it would be unwise for the University to give the band money with no strings attached.

The band should receive less funding than it previously has. At a time where our University has less money, this is more than necessary.

If the band feels it needs more money than the University can provide, it would need to begin to generate income. Reaching out to sponsors within the community would lessen the burden on the University’s finances.

As we strive to grow as a university, we must remember that along with education comes the college experience. In order to grow as a university, we must keep what separates us from smaller colleges and universities.

The athletics band is a key part of that separation.

Gay marriage rights gaining territory

Mohamed Abbahim
Staff Writer

“For an immense step? Now, at least in Iowa and other states, equal rights has prevailed,” said Ashley Barkley, co-founder of Your Right, My Right, a small civil rights group in Jacksonville, Florida. California’s Proposition 8: Iowa recently decided to void the gay marriage ban upheld by 46 other states.

“We are firmly convinced the exclusion of gay and lesbian people from the civil institution of marriage does not substantially further any governmental objective,” wrote the seven-member Iowa Supreme Court. The gay and lesbian community has indeed won an important battle in the fight for their right to be recognized – in the eyes of the civil institution – and one would suppose, the right of marriage. The ecstasy of the moment was all but almost palpably apparent when looking upon the relieved faces of the plaintiffs against the ban.

On the other side, there was a somber and overall significant reaction. Local activist groups in Iowa, several lawmakers and even a few members of the seven-judge panel have claimed they will fight the decision, but have no means to immediate action at the moment. “A court decision doesn’t change what is right and what is wrong,” said Bryan English, a spokesperson for the Iowa Family Policy Center, a group against the idea of same-sex marriage.

The only way to punch back at the ruling would be to set on a path toward a constitutional amendment, though the process can take a minimum of two years. The issue here lays in the groundwork for defining the term “marriage,” or rather, who falls under the right to marry. To the gay and lesbian community.

Therefore, Iowa’s reaction is more and more like an exclusive privilege and less like a right of all citizens.

“Marriage should be between two people who love and care for each other.”

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Group aims to be University team

MELISSA VARGAS
Staff Writer

FIU may not have a wrestling team but there’s a club who would like to be.

The FIU Wrestling Club was started in November last year when adjunct professors Ronald Lopus and Kevin Tejilllo decided to put a table in the Graham Center and promote the new club. That day 60 students signed up interested in the opportunity to wrestle.

“I started the club to promote the sport in FIU and allowing for competition and continuing the sport from high school,” Lopus said. “We have recruited many more members. There’s a great awareness of the high school students to enroll in FIU to become members of our club. We also have many Miami-Dade students who will be transferring to FIU in the Fall.”

Lopus said he felt it was time for a wrestling club at the University and because of students like Alexis Garo, a sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering, who was looking forward to joining the FIU wrestling team only to find out there was none, until he heard about the opportunity to join the club.

“I have done other martial arts my whole life, [but] I have never done wrestling. Now I have some idea of what I’m doing,” said Garo, who is the current club president. “Myself and another guy have never wrestled before and we entered the competition.”

Members are accepted from all levels, even those who do not know how to wrestle yet.

“We have registered with the National Collegiate Wrestling Association,” Lopus said. “I would like for the club to compete extensively in the NCWA and work toward future membership in the National Collegiate Athletic Association.”

Wrestling is a NCAA sport popular in northern colleges, unlike the southern schools where the sport doesn’t have that big of an impact, according to Garo. The NCWA is the equivalent of the NCAA for wrestling, and the club’s intentions are to become an NCWA Division I team.

“This is not a sport for people that are not going to dedicate themselves,” Garo said. “If you are part of this club, you are a part of this club and you are going to practice. This is not for people that just want to work out.”

According to Garo, the University of Central Florida’s wrestling team, being the second best team in the NCWA, is not an official team and is on the verge of becoming a team after seven years of being a club.

Garo, however, is confident the FIU team will take much less time due to their establishment with three coaches, 60 members and three state champions.

The club has joined the organization and attended an exhibition event in February 2009 in Freestyle Fight Academy, located right across from FIU, where they had matches against students from the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne.

The club works out and practices like any other FIU team and considers that the only difference between them and an official team is the lack of funding received by the school.

There are no requirements to join the club and they are willing to train and teach the sport.

“This is something that you want to do because it is in you. You want to teach it, it’s healthy, it releases stress,” said Raul Dominguez, a member and junior civil engineering major.

The club will begin training through the summer to prepare for the Fall season.

Practices are held at G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Conditioning is Tuesdays in the FIU Recreation Center from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. as well.

For more information, e-mail fiuwrestling@gmail.com or join the FIU Wrestling Club group on www.facebook.com.

THE CINEMATIC

A look at Observe & Report ‘con Pena’

STEVE MESA
Staff Writer

What would happen if you combine the attitude of “Dirty Harry” Callahan, the personality of Travis Bickle from Taxi Driver and a hint of Paul Blart: Mall Cop?

You get the main character of the latest raunchy dark comedy, Observe and Report.

Ronnie Barnhardt (Seth Rogen) is the head of security at the Forest Ridge Mall, where he combats unruly customers every day. He takes his job seriously and frowns at the idea that unruly customers might be unruly customers.
the mall’s security staff are not allowed to carry firearms.

When a menacing flasher strikes fear into the hearts of all mall shoppers and Brandy (Anna Faris), a woman that Ronnie has fallen for, Ronnie chases his dreams of becoming a police officer. Meanwhile, Ronnie is also waging a turf war on local police, headed by Detective Harrison (Ray Liotta) to see who handles crimes committed at the Forest Ridge Mall.

The Beacon had the chance to talk with actor Michael Pena (Crash, World Trade Center) who plays Ronnie’s second-in-command, Dennis, at the Lowes Hotel in South Beach.

Pena auditioned for the movie because he was a fan of Observe and Report’s director Jody Hill’s last film, Foot Fist Way, a dark comedy about an inept karate instructor (Danny McBride) struggling with marital troubles and an unhealthy obsession with a fellow karate fighter.

“He thought that it was an awesome movie and I hoped that I would do a movie with this guy,” Pena said.

When it came to working with Hill, it was different than when Pena worked with Paul Haggis on Crash and Oliver Stone on World Trade Center.

"Haggis is such a stickler for every freaking time." Pena said. “But with Jody Hill, it is different because he comes up with lines so quickly.

When it came to working with Seth Rogen, Pena said that it was cool because Rogen is an improvisation genius.

“Observe & Report star talks film, role

CINEMATIC, page 5

Observe & Report star talks film, role

He has been doing stand-up comedy and writing jokes since the age of 13,” said Pena. “It was pretty intimidating at first, then I kind of got settled down and it was cool.”

In the film, Pena’s vision of the character involved aviator glasses, a perm and an accent that is reminiscent of a pimp.

Pena was inspired by the Hughes Brothers’ 1999 documentary, American Pimp, which details the lives of African-American street pimps. He watched one of the subjects being interviewed and was able to pick on that person’s speech pattern for his character.

Pena also prepared for his role by practicing in his car and listening to a lot of rap music. “Bad rapping enabled to clearly realize the character,” Pena said.

When it comes to what Pena wants moviegoers to take away from Observe and Report, he just hopes that they laugh and that they are entertained.

“I think it is cool and I hope that the movie sticks with them for a while,” Pena said.

The next film Pena will be working on is My Son, My Son, What Have Ye Done.

The film will be directed by German filmmaker Werner Zehog (Grizzly Man, Encounters at the End of the World) and features an all-star cast that includes Oscar nominees Willem Dafoe (Spider-Man) and Michael Shannon (Revolutionary Road).

The Cinematic is a weekly column about all things movies. Look for it every Friday.
Saturday Nights section:

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BASEBALL: FLORIDA GULF COAST 11, FIU 9

Ninth inning grand slam defeats Panthers in second straight loss

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

It was another tough night for the Golden Panthers’ bullpen.
Reliever Aaron Archuleta started the game and head coach Turtle Thomas needed seven pitchers to get through another loss against the Florida Gulf Coast University Eagles.

Right fielder Tyler Townsend made sure the bullpen would get some support when he launched two home runs. It was his fifth home run in his last three games.

But it wasn’t enough.
The Eagles’ offense scored five runs in the top of the ninth to give the Golden Panthers their second straight loss 11-9 at University Park Stadium on April 8.

Mid-week games sometimes get to be high scoring, but we have to do a better job of holding down the opposing team and having less hits and runs scored,” Thomas said.

For the second game in a row, the Golden Panthers used more than five pitchers, including starters Tom Ebert and Corey Poliziano.

Townsend hit his second home run of the game to get through another loss against the Florida Gulf Coast University Eagles.

Instead, he allowed five runs to put the Panthers in an 11-8 hole.
The key at bat was against Josh Chester who faced Marban with the bases loaded and a 5-2 game. At this point the Panthers were still up, but Chester kept on hitting off pitchers with two strikes.

Marban could not put him away, and Chester won the battle with an eventual game-winning grand slam.

This was the final tune-up before facing the No. 2 team in the Sun Belt Conference, the Middle Tennessee University Blue Raiders. The Panthers will travel to Middle Tennessee for a three-game series from April 10-12.

Coming into the two mid-week games, coach Thomas expected tough games, and he expected to use many pitchers.

“We only have 10 pitchers on our staff, so we’re trying to use everyone of them that we can,” Thomas said.

Even though starters Ebert and Poliziano pitched, they will both be used against the Blue Raiders on April 11-12 respectively.

“It was a very disappointing game to say the least. We had some guys that threw a good game,” Thomas said.

But it wasn’t enough against a Stetson team that put 13 runs on the board.

The decimated bullpen had to use designated hitter Mike Martinez and outfielder Ty Main to pitch.

Main was the best pitcher of the night as he recorded 1 1/3 innings and gave up no runs and just one hit.

Starter Daniel DeSimone began strongly but faltered in the fourth when he gave up four runs. He finished the night with 4 1/3 innings pitched and allowed six runs, five earned.

INSIDE THE NUMBERS

• Team ERA 11.50 during last two games.
• Tyler Townsend has five home runs in his last three games.
• The bullpen has a 14.25 ERA over the last two games.

GETTING BACK: Florida Gulf Coast baserunner makes its back to first on a pick off throw.
FGCU scored 11 runs against the Golden Panthers.

FRATERNITY SOCCER

SigEp captures title in last five minutes

JOEY CRUZ
Contributing Writer

Sigma Phi Epsilon had to win the Sports Cup twice. After advancing to the fraternity intramural soccer championship, SigEp was all but secured the Sports Cup award, which goes to the overall leader in points among fraternities competing.

But coming into the final game, Pi Kappa Alpha regained points by technicality, which opened the field up for a final that not only defined a soccer championship, but a Sports Cup as well.

SigEp waited until the final minutes of the contest to win, by scoring two goals with only five minutes left in the game for a 2-1 victory on April 8 at the intramural fields.

“It was even better the second time because we had enough overall points to clinch it, but due to technicalities it was up for grabs,” said SigEp forward Julian Arango after scoring the game-winning goal.

“To come back and score two goals with five minutes left on the clock made the victory sweeter.”

Arango’s goal ignited the crowd with roughly five minutes left, giving SigEp momentum to win the game and setting the stage for a game-winning goal with a minute left by Esteban Nicollini.

Arango believes that a regular season loss to Pike helped them become mentally prepared to win the rematch.

“It always feels good to win a championship,” Arango said.

“The loss at the beginning of the season woke us up and showed we weren’t there yet.”

SigEp also captured the volleyball title, while Pi Kappa Phi won the football championship. Pike was also victorious in the basketball and softball brackets. Ultimately, SigEp clinched the Sports Cup this year and probably could have won it last year as well if it had not been canceled due to fighting.

“It was a rush of adrenalin,” Arango said. “And a big sigh of relief toward the organization and our fans.”