SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY

Friday, July 31, 7:30 p.m., Coral Gables Public Library, 2633 Forster Street. The Coral Gables Public Library will host the film screening of "The Wolfman." This is a family-friendly event. For more information, call 305-226-7767.

Bbc administration

Abrupt departure paves way for change

PAMELA DUQUE

BBC Managing Editor

After the departure of two University officials, Joseph J. West, the Biscayne Bay Campus vice provost, announced his unexpected resignation.

West, who was also the former dean of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, announced his resignation from both positions five months after agreeing to stay as vice provost until August 2010.

The announcement was made through a University-wide e-mail sent June 11.

“After 10 years as dean, a return to the faculty is too tempting to further postpone,” said Douglas Watroo, interim provost and executive vice president, about West in the e-mail. “Accordingly, he has indicated that he will step down from both positions on July 1, 2009 and take his long-delayed sabbatical during the 2009-10 year.”

In an interview with The Beacon, West said his decision followed the resignation of the two administrators who initially asked him to delay his sabbatical. He tried to resign a year ago, but when a national search failed to produce a viable candidate, West told then-Provost Ronald Berkman that he would stay until reaffirmation of HTM was complete.

“Then things changed. Berkman left, we had a new president coming in, and I just decided that I would step down,” West said.

Berkman applied for the University’s presidency and withdrew his application in April. Two weeks later, Vivian Novick resigned from her position as chief financial officer.

“it was more the fact that Sanchez and Berkman left. I enjoyed working

LIFE

PICK AND CHOOSE

Concert showcases talents of veteran acts and shortcomings of semester-year events.

LIFE

PICK AND CHOOSE

Highly anticipated Brelher Madress provides the powerful euphoria of laughter.

SPORTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun Belt Conference expands media exposure and saves money by switching press conferences to an online video format.

LIFE

NEW HOME

President-designate Mark Rosenberg, accompanied by museum Director Carol Damian, toured the Frost Art Museum on July 23. He searched for student or faculty artwork for his new house, the Ronald Reagan Presidential House, where he moves in with his family in the beginning of August.

NEW HOME

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MEDICAL SCHOOL

Depression risks addressed

New lecture informs, warns medical students about disease

DIANA JORDAN

Staff Writer

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine is ensuring its incoming students’ wellbeing is a top priority in its agenda, even before the official commencement of classes in August.

Dr. Heidi von Harscher, director of the Counseling and Wellness Center at the college, presented medical students with a lecture, “Depression in Medical Students, Residents and Physicians” on July 23, which shed light on a prevalent issue affecting thousands of physicians a year.

“The [Depression] is a disease,” said von Harscher, who spoke about the impact depression could have on not only physicians but their patients as well.

Claiming approximately 400 physicians’ lives a year, depression can be detected by telltale signs including lack of personal hygiene, odd sleeping patterns and seclusion from loved ones.

Von Harscher warned, however, that detecting the disease in medical students could be more difficult due to the stress and depression-like symptoms that come with the territory.

She explained that there are reasons other than the typical stress and pressure medical school brings, such as genetic predispositions, the reason depression has become so commonplace in medical settings.

“FIU’s Counseling and Wellness Center has made it a priority to keep the University’s students aware of these issues by hosting lectures and providing counseling and medical services for students that need it,” said Susie Novoa, the director of the Counseling and Wellness Center.

MED SCHOOL, page 2

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE

Manrara eliminated from dance competition

ELSIE PUG

Staff Writer

Jeanette Manrara, one of the last eight contestants on “So You Think You Can Dance” was eliminated on Thursday along with Jason Glover after viewers gave them the least amount of votes.

“It was a big shock for me to be eliminated since I had received good commentary throughout the season,” said Manrara, a finance major.

“I really liked when Nigel Lythgoe said that it had ruined his 100th episode seeing me eliminated, he really wanted to see me win.”

Manrara, who came back to Miami on July

MANRARA, page 2

Former marching band member dies in power line accident

JORGE VALENS

Asst. News Director

Myles Davis, an FIU jazz performance major, passed away on July 23.

Davis, 21, was a former member of the Golden Panther Band and a trumpet player for the Florida National Guard Army Band.

According to The Miami Herald, Davis was killed after trying to move a downed power line with his bare hands after a storm.

“I always admired his talent as a trumpet

DAVIS, page 2

PAGE 3

PAGE 3

PAGE 4

PAGE 4
The Beacon – Wednesday, July 29, 2009

www.fiusm.com

NEWS FLASH

FIU

University to pay tribute to Maimide

The University will offer a ceremony to Modesto A. Maimide on August 3 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

The entire University community was invited to the event and tickets are needed in order to attend.

According to an e-mail sent by Jaffie Handrick, vice president for Human Resources, the event will “attract dignitaries and community leaders from throughout the state.”

Maimide announced his resignation last November after 23 years of service to Florida International University.

He will continue with the University, however, as the director of the Center of Leadership.

Mark Rosenberg, former FIU provost and chancellor of the Florida Board of Governors, was voted by the Board of Trustees and approved by the BOG to replace Maimide. His term starts on August 4.

For more information contact Division of Human Resources at (305) 348-2181.

LOCAL

Florida will begin its two-day lobster mini-season this week

The mini-season will last from 12:01 a.m. July 29 to 7:59 a.m. July 30.

According to CBS4, lobster mini-season leads to higher than usual activity in Florida’s coastal waters.

“Lobsters are being harvested in large numbers,” said Captain Scott Hulbert, a lobster captain from Key Largo.

“Lobsters will continue to be harvested at the ideal size,” he added.

Divers are limited to six lobsters per person.

According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the seasonal catch of lobsters is expected to be 10 to 15 million.

The season is expected to bring in $50 million in revenue for the state.

“It’s a perfect catch,” said Hulbert.

The fishing season begins at 12:01 a.m. on August 3 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For more information call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-348-2732. Discover Bay Campus is 350-919-4322. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Friend: Davis was adventurous

DAVIS, page 1

player and his ability to make people laugh and smile regardless of the situation,” said Ernesto Fernandez, former Golden Panther Band drum major and Davis’s friend. “He was adventurous, energetic and full of life.”

Services for Davis were held on July 27.

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated July 22, the editorial titled, “CLAST repeat indicates financial smarts, but students will suffer” stated that students would be forced to take additional classes due to the cancellation of the CLAST. In fact, most of the classes are basic requirements and only students who didn’t get a minimum grade (C) would have to retake the class.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

...
with them. We were a good team, and I made a promise to them, and then they turned around and left,” West said. “So I decided it was time for me to leave.”

West also said that if both Sanchez and Berkman had stayed, he would still be holding his position.

“I would’ve stayed, because I promised them I would,” West said. “I’m in a man of my word.”

Since July 1, the vice provost position has been filled by a faculty member of HTM.

Steven Moll, associate professor and faculty chair in HTM, agreed to serve as interim vice provost. Moll has been a professor of accounting, finance, operations management, and management for the past 32 years, with a bachelor’s degree in hotel administration, and a master’s in hotel and food service management from the University. He is no stranger to the school.

“I’ve witnessed it from birth until today,” Moll said. “I’m excited about this job, and I think it is an extraordinary challenge.”

As vice provost, West started a customer service initiative in January. The entire staff at BBC was given the option to participate in a series of classes to improve their customer service skills.

West also helmed a series of initiatives to make the campus greener and more environmentally-friendly, including the hiring of Jennifer Grimm as environmental coordinator in November 2008.

Following West’s footsteps, Moll’s goals for BBC include making the campus safer, working closely with all the schools for better student participation and continuing to make the campus greener.

“My job is to help create an environment where learning can take place,” said Moll. “The classrooms have to be clean and comfortable. We’d like to have more shade trees with tables and chairs underneath, and nicer walkways. If we do this, it would be a much nicer place to be. It needs to be user-friendly to the students. That’s the key.”

Moll feels his involvement in the University throughout the years will help him accomplish his goals, but he said he will still work one step at a time.

“It won’t happen overnight, but eventually we will have more academic programs, more students, more facilities, and it will slowly happen,” he said.

West’s assessment of what makes an effective leader could also serve as unofficial advice for the new vice provost.

“Vice provosts, as to use persuasion, tact and politics. I had no problem,” West said. “Plus, I had a great staff. You can do it if you have a great staff.”

Camera vans

Traffic lights near campus outfitted with cameras

IVAN FLORES
Staff Writer

Students who run red lights on their way to campus may now get caught, get their pictures taken and receive a fine of more than $100 in the mail.

The City of North Miami enacted its Red-Light Safety Camera Program at the entrance of the Biscayne Bay Campus, where cameras can capture drivers running red lights.

Cameras have been installed at the intersection of Biscayne Boulevard and 151st St. and drivers who run red lights may face $125 fines.

“This is a slippery slope to a loss of privacy,” said Rafael Angel, a senior English major. “I don’t run red lights because it is dangerous.”

But there are students who don’t mind the new cameras.

“I feel that the cameras are a necessary evil and they prevent people from running the lights,” said Maria Santella, a senior anthropology major.

American Traffic Solutions, a company that has installed almost 1,000 cameras around the country, installed cameras in the intersection of Biscayne Boulevard and 151st St., which is currently under the jurisdiction of the North Miami Police, the North Miami Beach Police and the Miami Dade Police Department, according to Kevin Kennison, a police officer for the City of North Miami.

The Red-Light Camera Safety Program was started by former City of North Miami Mayor Kevin Friedman, as well as the North Miami Police Department.

The active warning phase, during which warnings were issued to offenders rather than citations, ended July 21.

“I’ve already found myself slowing down at yellow lights,” said Scott Galvin, City of North Miami councilman and City of North Miami police officer.

CHEMICAL REACTION: Priscilla Torres, president of the BBC Science Club and an engineering major, performs an experiment with water, oil and baking soda tablets at the SOC Club Fair hosted on July 22.

 Dean resigns, interim chosen

PAMELA DUQUE
BBC Managing Editor

With the sudden resignation of Joseph West as dean and vice provost for the Biscayne Bay Campus, the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management has a new leader.

Joan Remington, former associate dean of HTM, is the new interim dean as of July 1.

Remington has a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Hawaii in Manoa, and a doctorate from Willamette University’s College of Law in Salem, Oregon. She has worked for the University since 1990, first as a visiting professor in marketing and travel law in HTM, and then as director of career development. She has been associate dean of HTM since July 2005.

“I chose her as an assistant dean and then as associate dean. She has worked with me for six years, and she has been my right hand,” West said. “That school is in good hands.”

As the new interim dean, Remington said she is looking forward to expanding the school, creating new international programs and increasing the student body.

“I am taking it one step at a time,” she said. “Let’s see how it goes.”

With her predecessor leaving, Remington said she will continue working and maintaining what West accomplished throughout the years.

West became dean of HTM on July 1, 1999. He said he found a school that lacked equipment, money and history. As dean, his goals, but he said he will still work one step at a time.

“It won’t happen overnight, but eventually we will have more academic programs, more students, more facilities, and it will slowly happen,” he said.

West’s assessment of what makes an effective leader could also serve as unofficial advice for the new vice provost.

“Vice provosts, as to use persuasion, tact and politics. I had no problem,” West said. “Plus, I had a great staff. You can do it if you have a great staff.”
Online music pirating will not be deterred

OLGA VELEZ
Staff Writer

The Swedish software firm Global Gaming Factory X is in the process of purchasing the previously illegal file-sharing Web site known as The Pirate Bay in an attempt to turn it into a profitable business.

Global Gaming Factory X Chief Executive Hans Pandeya told the Associated Press that the firm is planning to introduce a monthly fee to use the Web site that could be worked off by the increased content and lending storage capacity to others on their PCs.

The money received from monthly fees would then be given to both the content providers and copyright holders.

“We know that unless we’re able to create revenues for the filesharers they’ll just move on to the next free site,” he said. “Filesharers are our best friends.”

As a friend to many who are involved in file-sharing and illegal downloading, I know this will never work.

If there was a way for the users to make money from selling content or storage on the Web site, this plan could possibly work. However, can filesharers make money by providing content that they don’t have the authority to provide in the first place?

This plan just doesn’t make any sense. It would only work if there was a way to get rid of all of the illegal file-sharing Web sites and crack down on the majority of illegal downloaders. That way, everyone would be forced to pay the monthly fee for the products that they desire or share storage space instead of paying a monthly fee.

It is also not the first time that an illegal file-sharing Web site has been made to collapse under the weight of corporate interests, or the legal impetus to make its business legitimate. File-sharing Web sites like Napster, Grokster and Kazaa all suffered this same fate.

According to an article from *The Economist*, the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, an organization representing the interests of the recording industry worldwide, suggested in a report conducted in January of this year that 95 percent of all music downloads remain illegal.

So, despite the crackdown on file-sharing Web sites and the creation of legal alternatives, the amount of illegal downloading remains high. Until a way to eliminate illegal downloading from the internet is found, there will always be another Pirate Bay or Kazaa lurking in the corner and waiting to become the next largest illegal file-sharing Web site.

None of these legal formats will ever be able to convince pirates to change their ways.

Microsoft plays up affordability in anti-Mac commercials

ODETELLE BARRIENTOS
Staff Writer

Over the past few years, we’ve seen in front of our television sets and watched the entertaining (though often annoying), never-ending rivalry between Apple Inc. and the Microsoft Corporation.

Apple began the “Get a Mac” campaign in 2004, attempting to persuade PC users everywhere to switch to the Mac OS X. The first of many ads featured a young, hip, hoodie-wearing guy as the Mac, while the PC was an old, frumpy, office employee who admitted that Macs were “the better choice.”

They were brilliant, simplistic ads – mercilessly attacking the PC and all its weaknesses (namely “crashes, viruses, and headaches”). Not only were they humorous, but they were also effective: There was a 51 percent Mac sales increase in late 2008 – the strongest sales increase in two decades, according to Macworld.com.

For two years, Microsoft ignored their attacks and retaliated with dry campaigns that did not harvest as much attention – one of which was the “I’m a PC” campaign. But Microsoft has finally punched back:

Their most recent “Laptop Hunter” campaign has caught my attention, and that of many other Mac enthusiasts.

By directly emphasizing the flaws of Macs (which, according to the ads, is the overpricing of the product), Microsoft has done exactly what Apple did since the genesis of this rivalry: attack.

The “Hunter” ads show people shopping for laptops in stores, discussing features and prices they can afford.

When a Mac (although aesthetically prettier) is too pricey and a PC has everything they need, they go for the PC. The point is to prove that the PC is the better value proposition.

Many Mac enthusiasts believe this isn’t fair. “As Apple slashed its MacBook price to $999 in June … the company is reported demanding that Micro-
soft stop running the commercials,” according to an article in the *Daily News*. You reap what you sow.

It was only a matter of time before Microsoft launched a response – a real, carefully-calculated one.

Although Apple slashed prices since the ads began running, Microsoft did start running altered versions of their ads, still managing to prove their point.

As a Mac user myself, I believe these ads are fair because I feel that the product’s difficult to find things that can only be done on OS X.

While both have their pros and cons, the main differences are price and trends. Macs are trendy and more visually appealing than the PCs.

The argument that PCs get viruses and Macs don’t has nothing to do with the operating system itself. PCs aren’t weaker; they’re only logical targets. Most of the world uses PCs, why create a virus for Mac users?

Microsoft has finally punched back: Their most recent ‘Laptop Hunter’ campaign has caught my attention, and that of many other Mac enthusiasts.
Dependable favorites keep the tour’s punk spirit alive

“Passion before Fashion” was printed on a T-shirt at Warped Tour, and it pretty much summed up this year’s festival.

On July 25, with heavy rain clouds looming in the distance, the tour made its yearly visit at the Cruzan Amphitheatre, bringing with it a diverse group of punk/indie/dance/(and sort of odd) rock music.

Upon entering the venue, it was apparent that many bands as well as concertgoers on this year’s tour stuck by this principle. Having just missed the heavy downpour of rain that brought the festival to a short stop, there was no problem spotting the attendees who were there to hold up an image of “cool and hipster” apart from those who wanted to enjoy a good old punk rock show regardless of their appearance.

First on the list of bands to check out were Canadian rockers Alexisonfire who took the Hurley Stage by storm, performing in South Florida for the first time in about six years and with their lead singer wearing short Canadian flag print shorts. The band showed that Canada can rock.

Belting old classics like “Boiled Frogs” as well as new songs from their new album, Alexisonfire managed to make grown men scream like girls at a Miley Cyrus concert; those from who wanted to enjoy a good old punk rock show regardless of their appearance.

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Having abandoned all hope for these Warped Tour newcomers, it was time to once again jump into the sea of humanity and try to slowly and painfully make way to the main stage to watch tour vets Bouncing Souls. The Bouncing Souls put on a show that schooled all other bands on what it is to perform in front of hundreds of sweaty punk rock kids.

Docked out in dirty jeans and sweaty T-shirts this band showed that they indeed put passion before fashion and their fans appreciated every bit of it. 3OH!3 followed and after one song my brain began to yell “Flee!”

Remember that scene in The Lion King where little Simba is trying to run in the opposite direction of the stampede of wildebeests? Well that’s exactly what it was like trying to fight through the 3OH!3 fans, although instead of wildebeests one had to dodge screaming 15-year-old girls.

By the time they played their radio hit “Don’t Trust Me,” I decided to give up and give in to the dance party going on all around me. Despite the enthusiasm of their adolescent fans, their performance was less than stellar; the band actually barely sang for much of their set and seemed more interested in looking cool than in putting on a passionate performance.

The festival had its disappointing moments, but also some wonderful highlights. The best performances came from bands like Senses Fail who left everyone with an intense musical rush and Streetlight Manifesto who solidified the presence of ska music on this year’s tour.
Undersized venue creates frustration

Traffic light violations may cost up to $125

CAMPUS, page 3

University alum.

A City of North Miami press release stated that three additional intersections will have camera systems installed: N.W. 135th Street and N.W. 7th Avenue, N.E. 135th Street and N.E. 6th Avenue, as well as the N.E. 125th Street and N.E. 6th Avenue.

The camera systems are leased per contract, and the equipment remains owned and maintained by ATS, according to Josh Weiss, director of communications and public affairs for ATS.

They do not cost the taxpayers any money because the program is paid for entirely by violators.

However, it is unclear exactly how the money is divided up between ATS and the City of North Miami.

“I’m unable to speak about local programs and their details,” Weiss said.

To catch violators, there are sensors installed before the crosswalk at each intersection.

As a vehicle rolls over the sensor while the light is red, the camera system is triggered and two pictures are taken.

The first shot is a picture of the vehicle before it enters the intersection, and the second is the vehicle at the intersection while the light is red.

The original image is then cropped around the license plate.

A 12-second video is also recorded along with the still images.

The evidence is then sent to the local municipality for review.

“Both shots must show that the light is red, as no citations can be issued if the light is green or yellow,” Weiss said.

ATS chose to install cameras at the intersection of Biscayne Boulevard and 155th Street, due to the high number of citations during the testing phase, according to Kennison.

Violators who receive the citations in the mail have an option to pay online.

Even when citations are issued, some drivers will not have points added to their licenses.

The citation may also be contested by requesting an appeal.

However, an extra charge of $50 may be applied if the violator is found guilty.

“If the City of North Miami is so concerned about our safety, why don’t they place a speed trap by the David Lawrence Jr. K-8 Center rather than a camera system?” Angel said.

The set (coupled with key lighting) economized the space given in DM 150. It’s surprising to see the show translates to a small stage, but the cast and crew managed well. The room’s smaller seating capacity makes the play more intimate, and audience members are granted more access to the cast.

The biggest surprise of the show came with the appearance of Jesus (Fernando Lambert). In the song, “Listen to Jesus, Jimmy,” Jesus appears to our fallen protagonist and tries to convince him to “stop indulging like a Roman” and put down the joint.

This is, by far, one of the best numbers in the show, featuring angels and a charismatically well-oiled Jesus Christ.

The show is so good in fact that the Theatre Department would be wise to produce the show for the FIU student body: it’s fun, raunchy and hilarious.

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But the most memorable performance is Dobarganes as Jimmy. Watching him perform, it’s obvious he’s having an absolute blast. His performance is not only funny – at times reminiscent of Jerry Lewis – but also incredibly genuine. His exaggerated facial expressions and dialogues epitomize what Reefer Madness is really about: not the dangers of marijuana, but the dangers of propaganda, mingled with the philosophy of “the ends will justify the means.”

But the most memorable performance is Dobarganes as Jimmy. Watching him perform, it’s obvious he’s having an absolute blast. His performance is not only funny – at times reminiscent of Jerry Lewis – but also incredibly genuine. His exaggerated facial expressions and dialogues epitomize what Reefer Madness is really about: not the dangers of marijuana, but the dangers of propaganda, mingled with the philosophy of “the ends will justify the means.”

With a great cast and supporting ensemble, ASTF’s Reefer Madness is the perfect show for the FIU student body: it’s fun, raunchy and hilarious.

The show is so good in fact that the Theatre Department would be wise to produce the show during the school year. It’s a worthy “alternative” to shows like The Birds and more people deserve the chance to see it. It’s a show that shouldn’t be missed.
Heat continues to pursue Odom; Moon to Cavaliers

JONATHAN DAVILA
Staff Writer

Free-agent forward Lamar Odom has yet to make a decision on where he'll be playing next season, but the 10-year veteran is supposedly leaning toward coming back to Miami, where he spent the 2003-2004 season.

According to an article on Yahoo! Sports, Odom is “leaning strongly toward accepting the Miami Heat’s contract offer and leaving the Los Angeles Lakers.”

The news comes after the Los Angeles Lakers withdrew their four-year, $36 million deal. The Heat is currently offering the forward a five-year, $34 million deal.

One FIU student doesn’t think Odom joining the Heat would help the team.

“They need someone who can score like [Dwyane] Wade. [Odom] doesn’t put up the numbers he should be,” said freshman political science major Garrett Cottom. But another student thinks Odom would be a good addition.

“I think it’s not a bad idea. Odom is pretty talented. Maybe [Michael Beasley] can learn something from him,” said junior psychology major Eric Martinez.

CAVALIERS SIGN MOON

Meanwhile, restricted free-agent Jamario Moon will be joining the Cleveland Cavaliers after the Heat decided not to match the Cavaliers’ contract offer.

The Cavaliers used its mid-level exception – about $3.2 million – to sign the 6-foot-8 forward.

“We declined to match because we want to stay true to our plan of not adding salary to our 2010 cap, and matching it would have reduced our flexibility,” Heat president Pat Riley said in a statement to the Associated Press. “Michael Beasley will be getting significant minutes at both forward positions, and this opens up more opportunities for him to become the player we all expect him to be.”

The remaining forwards on the Heat’s roster include Beasley, Dorell Wright, Udons-Haslem, James Jones and Yakhouba Diawara.

But Martinez doesn’t seem to like the thought of Beasley playing significant minutes.

“I don’t like Beasley at all. I think he’s a ball hog,” he said. “But he’s still young. He has a lot to learn.”

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

SUMMER B INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL STANDINGS

MEN’S OPEN LEAGUE

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Intramural basketball league standings are up to date as of July 20. Playoffs begin this week.

NCAA grants Munera fifth season of eligibility

FOOTBALL, page 8

Free-agent kicker Carlos Munera got the green light from the NCAA to return for a fifth season. The punter had petitioned the NCAA for a medical redshirt after transferring to FIU before last season. Munera averaged 41.1 yards per punt last season in his first season in Division I. Munera is expected to once again be an anchor for a strong special teams unit.

BACK AGAIN

Second team All-conference specialist Carlos Munera got the green light from the NCAA to return for a fifth season. The punter had petitioned the NCAA for a medical redshirt after transferring to FIU before last season. Munera averaged 41.1 yards per punt last season in his first season in Division I. Munera is expected to once again be an anchor for a strong special teams unit.

CAMP DATE SET

The Golden Panthers will begin camp in preparation for the season on Aug. 10. It will be the first opportunity to see the incoming class of freshmen, as well as the whole team together since the end of last season.

Conference saves over $30,000 from football media day changes

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According to an article on Yahoo! Sports.

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Golden Panthers boast three preseason SBC members

**PRESEASON PRAISE**

**JONATHAN RAMOS**
Ass't Sports Director

Wide receiver T.Y. Hilton, center Brad Serini and cornerback Anthony Gaitor were selected to the 2009 Preseason All-Sun Belt Conference team, as voted on by the leagues nine head coaches and selected media members.

Hilton got the honor after a decorated freshman season in which he was named to the Freshman All-American team as a punt return specialist by the Football Writers Association of America. Hilton, who had an FIU record seven touchdown receptions last season, was the only sophomore named to the team. The 5-foot-10 athlete also got the nod as a special teams performer, as he accumulated more than 2,000 all-purpose yards in his first year. Gaitor and Serini were two of only five juniors to be selected, and Gaitor was the only defender listed who is not a senior.

Gaitor led all SBC players with four interceptions in conference play. He had five interceptions overall for the Golden Panthers, including two vs. Middle Tennessee State on Oct. 11. The former Miami Northwestern High star has started all but one game in his career.

Serini has been a starter for FIU since he arrived in 2007.

Troy led the way with eight selections, and ASU has five representatives. Quarterbacks Rusty Smith (FAU) and Corey Leonard (ASU) were tabbed as Co-Preseason Offensive Players of the Year. And ASU’s Alex Carrington was voted on as the preseason Defensive Player of the Year.

**ONE LOVE**

The Golden Panthers received one vote to finish first in the SBC, marking the first time they have been picked to do so.

New economical approach goes well for Sun Belt

**SERGIO BONILLA**
Sports Director

In order to expand media exposure and save money during the economic recession, the Sun Belt Conference changed the football media day on July 20 to an online video format.

With public universities across the country trimming costs, the Sun Belt’s move to shift the format online was agreed upon a few months ago.

“We’ve been looking at the switch for a while now,” Sun Belt Commissioner Wright Waters said to Student Media on July 27. “The reality is that we’re seeing a decline in the traditional media.”

Sun Belt spokesman John McElwain told the Associated Press the Sun Belt and its football programs likely saved more than $30,000 combined over last year’s event, which included not just travel to the Big Easy but receptions as well as a steamboat cruise on the Mississippi River.

In a phone interview with Student Media on July 27, McElwain said more than 50 reporters registered to cover the two days of media sessions online, compared to around 30 last summer at a downtown New Orleans hotel.

The hope was that making it more convenient and less costly for the media might improve coverage for the Sun Belt, which began sponsoring Division I Football Bowl Subdivision programs in 2001.

Six of the conference’s nine football teams took part in online interviews on July 20, with the other three, including defending conference champions Troy, on July 21.

The conference also arranged for coaches to call into sports radio shows that might otherwise have recorded interviews in person had events been held in New Orleans.

The Sun Belt intends to use the same online format for basketball media days in the fall.

“We’re not sure if we’re going to include more sports,” McElwain said to Student Media.

The event was not without its glitches, however, as video and audio was interrupted from time to time.

When Golden Panthers head coach Mario Cristobal first began to speak, there was no video of him. When Louisiana-Lafayette coach Rickey Bustle appeared on screen, his lips moved but there was no sound.

While North Texas coach Todd Dodge spoke, a recorded message repeated several times in the background. Later, Mean Green linebacker Tobe Nwigwe could be seen shrugging his shoulders and sighing while a pulsating, static-like feedback overwhelmed the audio feed for about 30 seconds until conference operators broke in.

Waters was still pleased with the way the media day was conducted.

“It worked,” Waters said. “The reaction that we got from media and coaches has been positive.”

Still, the interview sessions of about a half hour for each team remained on schedule, with coaches and one player from each team speaking at length as they responded to questions about the coming season.

Several coaches agreed the format saved time, giving them about two more days to be on campus with their coaching staff and prepare for training camp when they might otherwise have been on the road.

Some coaches and players expressed disappointment over not going to New Orleans.

The Daily Advertiser reported that Arkansas State coach Steve Roberts wished that his school’s player representative, defensive end Alex Carrington, had gotten the chance to eat the food in New Orleans.

Carrington was sad that he missed out on that experience.

“I would have liked to go down there [to New Orleans] and burn his pocket up a little bit,” Carrington told the Daily Advertiser. “But I do have business to tend to here, and it’s a little more efficient.”

The efficiency was appreciated by most of the league’s coaches.

“I think this is a great way to do it,” Louisiana-Monroe head coach Charlie Weis said to the Associated Press. “We’re maybe