Proposed puts democratic process at stake

Elzie Plug Staff Writer

A new alternative for ambitious high school juniors and seniors allows them to advance two years in college, without the cost of tuition, books or their FIU student ID.

FIU’s Academy for Advanced Academics, an initiative championed in liaison with Miami-Dade Public Schools, has opened doors to 88 high school juniors and seniors from five local high schools: G. Holmes Braddock, Miami Coral Park, John A. Ferguson, Ronald Reagan and Felix Varela.

“You should have seen their smiles in orientation, they were ecstatic to be here,” said Bill Beesting, assistant dean for undergraduate studies, who helped coordinate the effort.

According to Beesting, University President Mark Rosenberg felt that offering this opportunity to high school students is “a way to reach out to the community and build cooperation with Miami-Dade County Public Schools.”

To be admitted into the program, students must have a 3.0 GPA and have scored 50 on each section of the PSAT. The program allows gifted students to take three college classes in the morning and three

SGC-MMC, page 2

Program lets high schoolers advance in college

SGC-MMC Staff Writer

The Student Government Council at Modern Misdake Campus announced the creation of three new senatorial committees and a new structure in the cabinet at its first joint session on Aug. 26.

“NCAA tournament, the players and coaches know they need to surpass last year’s accomplishments to have a successful year. Coach Daniela Tomic is entering her fifth season as head coach and expects even more from her team this year, given that they lost a few close games in the NCAA tournament.

With a three-time All-American coach in the saddle, the Golden Panthers volleyball team has been selected to win the Sun Belt East Division by conference officials.

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FIU’s Academy for Advanced

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Designer animals carry a huge price.

Volleyball

Squad starts quest to win SBC title

LUIS ESTRADA Staff Writer

With a three-time All-American coach in the saddle, the Golden Panthers volleyball team has been selected to win the Sun Belt East Division by conference officials.

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FIU’s Academy for Advanced
Med student gets award

DIANA JORDAN
Staff Writer

One of the 43 inaugural students of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, Kailee Imperatore, has been chosen to receive a $25,000 scholarship. The scholarship was donated by the Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation and will cover the annual in-state tuition of approximately $25,000.

Out-of-state tuition is approximately $50,000 per year.

A graduate of the University of Florida and a Sarasota native, Imperatore applied for the scholarship when she first learned she had been accepted into a college.

“I applied for a scholarship through the school in my initial packet of information I received when I was accepted,” she said. “The form was in

Program creates liaison with county

“We hope they will stay here for the final two years,” Breeding said. “Our students are excited to be at the University, and said that most of their friends back in school were not so supportive of their decision to join the program. “I like that you get to walk around school, and not see the same face every day,” said Kenneth Rich from Ronald Reagan.

Although most of the students see FIU as only a possibility after the two years are done, they said they might change their mind afterward.
Exchange program in Dubai delves into the Middle East

JULIAN PINHEIRO
Contributing Writer

Students will now have the opportunity to obtain their degree while studying abroad in the Middle East, thanks to a partnership between FIU’s Middle East Studies Center and the American University in Dubai.

The Middle East Studies Center, an academic center that gives workshops, lectures and conferences pertinent to the Middle East, hosts the certificate in Middle East and Central Asian studies.

For one semester, eligible juniors can get dual certificates in Middle East studies at either campus. Students who participate will study in Dubai from Jan. 4 through April 19, 2010.

Students will take courses in Middle Eastern culture, politics, geography, history and language while students coming to the University will be taking courses that wouldn’t be offered in AUD, such as “U.S. National Security in terms of the Middle East.”

“The main purpose [of the exchange program] is to foster an understanding between the two areas and to give the students at both institutions a practical experience in their regions of interests,” said Francesco Ortolova, the program coordinator for the Middle East Studies Center at the University.

This exchange agreement will benefit both sides, Ortolova said. FIU students will learn Arabic in a cultural, political and linguistic sense while AUD students will gain an American perspective on the Middle East.

The program’s cost is the same as FIU’s tuition. However, the exchange program does not cover housing, traveling and personal expenses. According to Liza Carbajo, director of OEA, students can apply for financial aid to pay the tuition.

“No is the time for FIU students to go abroad with FIU’s initiative to turn our students into global citizens,” Carbajo said. Although the program allows up to 80 certificate students, the exchange agreement between FIU and AUD currently allows only up to five students.

The selection process will be based on academic standing. The students must be a part of the Middle East Certificate Program, must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and must go through an interview process with Melissa M. Luna, study abroad coordinator of OEA.

“It gives our center a good visibility in the academic world as to what FIU is doing in Middle Eastern studies,” Ortolova said.

Some students are already showing interest in the program.

“It’s a good opportunity for students interested in Middle Eastern studies,” said Sarah Young, international relations major.

Interested students may visit the Middle East Studies Center at DM 369-A or visit educationabroad.fiu.edu. The deadline to apply is Sept. 15, 2009.
AT THE BAY

SJMC project spreads word about HIV/AIDS
Student-produced Web series to air on local television station

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Contributing Writer

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication wants to remind the community about the social, emotional and medical consequences of HIV/AIDS.

They intend to do just that with a documentary about AIDS in Africa, a reality series about a woman living with HIV, and a Web site – all produced by students.

At the forefront of the entire project that focuses on HIV/AIDS are SJMC students, SJMC Interim Associate Dean Allan Richards, and Kate MacMillin, an SJMC adjunct professor of writing and multimedia.

Their work, a product of months of video recording and editing, will air on Channel 2 Oct. 15, the National Latino AIDS Awareness Day.

The one-hour show will air at 10 p.m.

“I didn’t expect all of this to evolve from that assignment,” Richards said.

In Spring 2008, Richards gave his multimedia journalism class an assignment to develop a Web site about HIV/AIDS.

“Because of media cutbacks and lack of public health and involvement, I thought it would be a good subject,” he said.

The Web site is now home to a trailer for “Lessons from South Africa,” a documentary made by Richards and two of his students, Jillian Simms and Tiffany Parkes.

Last year, the two students traveled with Richards to Africa. During the trip, which was paid for by different grants, they interviewed the media on their response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in that country.

One of the students said he learned the truth about African media, despite many misconceptions.

“South Africa’s media increasingly takes a strong stand against stigmas, taboos and the overall ignorance surrounding the pandemic – an approach that the American media could learn from,” Parkes said in an essay about her experience in the Fall 2008 issue of FIU Magazine.

After their 10-day trip, MacMillin reviewed the footage and thought it would be a good idea to continue spreading the word about the epidemic.

She then created a series of webisodes.

“I was deeply inspired by the footage that Richards took and the television production people he had interviewed,” she said. “They were trying to change behaviors and trying to educate people.”

Richards and two journalists from The Miami Herald, Rick Hirsch, the senior editor for multimedia, and Karen Burket, a multimedia manager, were responsible for finding a place where the webisodes could be posted.

The task of finding someone with HIV/AIDS and documenting his or her life was given to MacMillin and the 12 students in her class.

The students spent September 2008 going to different locations throughout the city looking for someone to follow, until they found Damaries Cruz, a 38-year-old Hispanic woman with HIV.

Cruz, who was diagnosed 11 years ago, is an educator of HIV/AIDS at the Miami-Dade Health Department.

The students recorded her life for more than three months.

Once finished, it was published on Student-produced Web series to air on local television station

SEMMESTER KICKOFF
Students eat, sing for free

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, August 28:
• Games at Panther Square All Day
• Kayaking at Biscayne Bay 12 p.m.

Saturday, August 29:
• Tour of Miami 12:30 p.m. at Bay Vista Hall
• Dance Cruise 6 p.m. at Bay Vista Hall

Monday, August 31:
• Fall Fest 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

For more information, contact (305) 919-5804
Summer break-in leaves faculty members alarmed

Unknown individual steals minor items from three offices

ERIKA PEREZ
Staff Writer

A break-in in the College of Arts and Sciences has raised some concerns about the effectiveness of campus security cameras.

On Aug. 6, Camilla Samqua, office manager in the dean’s office of the College of Arts and Sciences, filed a police report after she noticed someone broke into the offices.

The break-in is believed to have taken place the night of Aug. 5.

She noticed someone had forced open her computer cabinet, according to the police report.

“But nothing was taken though,” she said.

The event caused the English department to take some precautionary measures. Before the break-in, the staff would leave at around 5 p.m., but the doors would be left open for adjunct professors to be able to enter, according to Campbell.

Now, the staff will close back doors.

The dean’s office is also contemplating closing earlier, according to Samqua.

The department is considering closely monitoring those who enter the offices, which might affect adjunct professors, some of whom don’t have keys.

“We’re not going to keep being as open, which could be a problem for people in Arts and Sciences who need access, especially adjuncts,” he said.

Although there are five security cameras installed throughout the college, no suspects have been determined in the case.

According to Captain Jesse Scott, Facilities Management already has staff members who are reviewing the cameras in each building, but future plans with the University involve installing more cameras and hiring additional personnel to review camera footage.

“The students at the school have more cameras inside and outside the buildings with police dispatchers looking over the tapes,” Scott said.

And this is not the first time Kuper has been the victim of a break-in.

“More than seven years ago when I worked for the business department, my credit cards were stolen and my checks; they took everything,” Kuper said.

The third victim of that event caused the English department to take some precautionary measures.

Before the break-in, the staff would leave at around 5 p.m., but the doors would be left open for adjunct professors to be able to enter, according to Campbell.

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“There is a plan in place with the police department by reporting any suspicious activity is essential to maintaining campus security, according to Scott, who also believes that “good community policing” could help reduce the chances people have to commit crimes.

“Crime equals more opportunity,” Scott said.

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OPINION/PIECE

Juanes concert sparks anger

JULIO MENACHE
Special to The Beacon

Thousands of young Cubans will be gathering in Havana, Cuba this September for the first Peace concert series. According to Juanes, who will be performing, the concert looks to foster “peace” and “change” without a political agenda.

“This is not about politics,” he told The Miami Herald. “Our only message is one of peace, of humani-
tarianism, of tolerance, a message of interacting with the people,” he said.

Juanes should have the right to express himself artistically, yet the reaction to the concert has brought about anything but peace.

When news of the concert broke, many within the Cuban-American community were outraged. Here was Juanes, a Grammy award-winning artist, playing in a location with massive political undertones (the image of Che Guevara will be visible during his concert from the Miami of the Interior building).

Most within the Cuban-American community have aired their complaints peacefully, while some have taken it to the next level. One exiled group based in Miami, Viluji Mundo, smashed some of the sign-
ger’s CD’s in protest. Juanes even claims he received death threats over Twitter because of this upcoming performance.

This is a major embarrassment for the Cuban-American community. While some may disagree with Juanes having the concert in Cuba, the destruction of Juanes’ CDs, as well as the death threats against him, reflect poorly on our community.

Juanes should not feel threatened in Miami, or in Havana, or any other part of the world. How will Juanes view the exile community after this move?

The destruction of CDs, as well as the death threats being received, are tools rampant in dictatorships like Cuba’s and should have no place in Miami.

While Juanes has said his concert isn’t about politics, he has met with the youth group Raíces de Esperanza (Roots of Hope), which advocates human rights for Cuban youth, where they discussed his concert in Cuba. The group has asked that Juanes execute the concert in a socially acceptable manner, by including artists who are regularly harassed by Cuban government officials.

He also asked the Cuban Ministry of Culture if he could include the word “freedom” in his songs, which they allowed, indicating how rampant censorship is in Cuba. Yet the fact that he is conducting his performance in La Plaza de la Revolución, which contains the Cuban Communist Party headquarters, as well as the decision to sing with two ardent supporters of Fidel Castro, does make some in the Cuban-American community, including myself, wary.

Like it or not, Juanes will still play this September. He has the right to express himself without the fear of being threatened or censored. Sadly, the same can’t be said for the 11 million Cubans living on the island, still waiting for change.

Julio Menaché is a junior in the College of Arts & Sciences. He also serves as co-president of the Free Cuba Foundation at FIU.

SOUR NOTE

Cuba performance calls for scrutiny

In a world where millions of individuals face oppression and devastation daily, people all around the world should feel privileged to have such valiant heroes like Juanes, a Colombian singer who is set to perform in the Havana’s Plaza de la Revolución in Cuba on Sept. 20 this year.

Juanes, who believes he is doing Cuba a favor by performing a “peace” concert in the famous square, appears to be completely and strangely unaware of the trials that the Cuban population has faced under the regime for more than 50 years. Juanes should realize this and cancel his concert.

Under Fidel Castro’s reign, the Cuban people have witnessed many tragic events.

In the Plaza de la Revolución Cubans have been forced to stand and watch helplessly while family members and close friends were violently executed for simply opposing the views of the oppressive government. In addition to the many murders that have occurred in this plaza, a memorial of Che Guevara, an Argentine revolutionary who worked with Castro to overthrow the original government, incontrovertibly illustrates the stubbornness of the Cuban government in opening its doors to the outside world.

This concert raises many questions due to its rarity. Why would a government that has controlled a country through dictatorship for over 50 years allow an outsider to advocate peace within its borders? It is apparent that this “Peace Without Borders” concert is simply another ploy for the Cuban government to strengthen itself and instill a toxic mixture of persuasion and fear within its people.

It serves as an instrument to manipulate and indoctrinate its population, proving that the government will protect and provide for the people. This tour has caused controversy with many of the Cuban Americans living here, especially the older genera-
tion of Cubans who have lived through and suffered from the suffering of their family and friends in the early stages of the dictatorship.

Perhaps Juanes is set on breaking barriers and is taking steps to promote peace, however, it is ironic that he wishes to do this in the very place where many innocent people have lost their lives.

The Cuban people are looking for freedom, not a concert for an intangible peace that will ultimately help its... government

The Cuban people are looking for freedom, not a concert for an intangible peace that will ultimately help its controlling government to justify its laws as well as its actions.

It is also odd that the govern-
ment allows an outsider to perform their artists from performing their music and advocating peace.

Hidden agenda, anyone?

While the artist has received many threatening letters endan-
ering his life, the concert will still take place, however, Juanes’ best bet in his “rescue mission” might be to abort.

‘Designer’ animals lead to increased euthanasia in shelters

ODETTE BARRIENTOS
Staff Writer

It’s difficult to imagine a world without pets. Americans take great pride in them – or at least, take great pride in owning them off-leash with celebrities like Paris Hilton with their miniature poodles in their designer carriages and adornments grace the pages of popular magazines.

But celebrities aren’t the only ones who do this. Average, everyday people will go to great lengths to get a certain breed of a dog or cat (a “patterbred”).

In the midst of fads and desire for what’s chic, it is not surprising that people want designer pets: engineer creations mimicking exotic animals, like tigers or leopards.

A “toyger” kitten – a domesticated version of the tiger, complete with a signature striped coat – will cost you between $800 and $5,000.

While these breeds are sought after for their aesthetics, there is something people often disregard when they decide to purchase a “patterbred” companion: millions of displaced dogs and cats are dying in shelters each year, as well as out in the streets.

Animal shelters and animal control agencies constantly face the problem of homeless animals, especially now that so many are losing their homes and, consequently, getting rid of their pets. These discarded animals are then victims to starvation and car accidents.

Euthanasia has become the major cause of death for companion animals in the United States, according to a report by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Miami-Dade County alone spent $10 million euthanizing animals in 2007. Costs are rising dramatically because of the influx of unwanted pets.

Yet, designer and pure breeds become more popular every day.

There is nothing wrong with wanting a specific breed or the act of breeding itself – there are people who genuinely love animals and dedicate their lives to preserving specific breeds.

On the other hand, there are situations in which it is only done for profit; female animals are bred to death and people end up committing atrocities like operating puppy mills. While people pay in cash, home-
less animals pay with their life.

Is the breed of one’s pet that important? Is the lure of owning a designer pet worth not saving a reh-
abilitated animal? According to the Humane Society, 25 percent of dogs in shelters are purchased. If you look hard enough, you may get lucky. However, there is more to a pet than the breed or the color of its fur.

It is a devastating time for people everywhere as well as the many over-
crowded shelters and animal agencies in Florida – particularly Miami-
Dade. It is even more devastating to the unwanted pets that are paying the ultimate price for our troubles, living in animal shelters or aban-
doned in the streets.

The Miami Herald
"It's quite remarkable for a person ... with no greater qualification for the office than his broth- er was president of the United States and the voters of Massachusetts respected that name.

Author Stephen Haas
On Sen. Ted Kennedy, who died on Aug. 25

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Get a problem with parking? Want to give thanks to faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts in to opinion@fiu.edu or drop us a line on our forums at either theC or WUC. We’re here to listen, so be sure to include your name, major and year.

OPINION/PIECE

Weeds grow on above ground with 1/2 inch of water per week, but only 250 inches of water per acre.

Olivefarms' Chris Frank has been sentenced to five years in prison and ordered to stay at least 100 feet away from his estranged wife, Rhiana. A woman who knows that the man is not the one to be loved is not the one to be loved is not the one to be loved is not the one to be loved is not the one to be loved is not the one to be loved is not the one to be loved is not the one to be loved is not the one to be loved is not the one to be loved is not the one to be loved is not the one to be loved is not the one to be loved is not the one to be loved is not the one to be loved is not the one to be loved is

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Faculty members take the stage for a vocal performance

JANET CAREAGA
Contributing Writer

If you are looking for something different to do this weekend, the “Robert Dundas and Jennifer Snyder Faculty Voice Recital” is an option for those who enjoy classical music.

Associate Professor of music Robert Bryan Dundas, who has 30 years of professional singing experience, will be singing tenor, while voice and opera coach Jennifer Renee Snyder will be playing the piano. It will be an acoustic performance.

The first collection of songs by Robert Schumann is in German, the second collection by Francis Poulenc is in French and the last collection by Joaquín Turina is in Spanish.

“Schumann is famous for German art songs. The collection is not one of his most famous ones but it is exciting and interesting,” Dundas said.

Dundas studied Schumann’s work closely while he was on sabbatical last spring and he looks forward to finally performing it in the voice recital.

“Although the songs can be performed individually, the collection is intended to be performed together because the songs take on a great significance together. It is like having one tiny gem which is beautiful, but when you string multiple gems all together it makes a priceless piece of jewelry,” Dundas said.

Dundas is an associate professor of music and director of vocal studies/opera theater for the School of Music. Originally a native of New Hampshire, he sang for 12 years in Europe and then came to FIU in 1997. In Miami, he has performed frequently with the Miami Bach Society, the Miami Master Chorale and the Florida Grand Opera.

Snyder has been studying piano since she was five and has played her first concert as an 11-year-old. Snyder joined FIU’s School of Music Division of Vocal Studies as a coach four years ago. She has worked extensively as a solo and collaborative pianist in classical and musical theater settings.

“I haven’t been to any of the School of Music’s performances yet, but this sounds like a great opportunity to see the faculty in a different light and learn from them outside of the classroom,” said Maria Rodriguez, a junior majoring in advertising.

There will be three more faculty voice recitals this semester, as well as other piano and string recitals.

“We’re very excited for this recital because it is the first concert of the season and it is a joint recital, not just a piano accompanying the voice,” said Kristine Burns, associate dean of cultural affairs for the College of Architecture and the Arts. “Professor Dundas may be very well known because he often sings the national anthem and the alma mater so you may have already heard him, but now you have the chance to hear him in a solo recital.”

The recital will be Aug. 28 at 8 p.m. and last about two hours, including a 15-minute intermission. Admission is $5 for students, $10 for faculty and staff, and $15 general admission.

For information regarding tickets, contact (305) 348-1059.

The Beacon reviewers do not receive free food in exchange for positive reviews. The views expressed in this article solely represent those of the author.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Restaurant's great food worth driving the extra mile

Out of the many pizzerias that claim to serve authentic New York-style pizza in the Miami area, The Big Cheese is one for the books. While there are a few good pizza places near FIU, The Big Cheese is worth the longer drive.

Having long ago established itself as a local hangout for a certain rival college (hence the orange and green memorabilia), The Big Cheese is usually just as crowded with customers as its walls are with autographed photos of celebrities. One should be very cautious dining there during weekends, as finding parking within their small lot can be a hassle. In the event that you have to wait for indoor seating, you have the option of dining on the outdoor patio or entertaining yourself with vintage Pac-Man arcade unit or pinball machine. Once inside, the service is fast and friendly with a bite; be prepared for some gentle ribbing from the wait staff.

This parlor specializes in serving up generous slices of pizza that come with a bevy of toppings ranging from crowd favorites such as pepperoni, mushrooms and olives to offbeat options such as scallops, buffalo mozzarella and artichoke hearts. Specialty pies are also available, such as the standard vegetarian pizza.

One of the specialty pies worth a mention is the Miami Pie, an eclectic combination of pineapple, sweet ham, ricotta and cinnamon garnish. It may sound like an odd combination, but it tastes just right.

For those who aren’t quite ready to extend their palates that far, I recommend the Big Cheese Supreme, a combination of three meats (including meatballs) olives, bell peppers, onions and extra cheese. In short, all of the elements that make a pizza delicious.

Although The Big Cheese is well known for its pizzas, its additional offerings are worth trying. Their pasta dishes are more than generous when it comes to serving size. Take, for example, their seafood pasta. This dish is loaded with shrimp, mussels and clams laid over linguini in a savory white cream sauce. Also, their take on the classic stuffed shells – three large pasta shells stuffed with a liberal amount of ricotta smothered in marinara – will be sure to satisfy your pasta craving. Additional offerings, such as lasagna, veal marsala and even chicken marsala, are also available.

Apart from the pizza and pasta, The Big Cheese has a somewhat extensive sub menu. Although the Big Philly Cheese Steak was a miss (the slices of beef were a bit too thick for my taste, and I could do without the mayonnaise), they did manage to do well with their Italian Sub, which layers salami, ham, mozzarella and the ever-present lettuce and tomato with a spattering of Italian dressing (a welcome break from mayo and mustard). Their take on the Meatball Sub held much more substance than I was accustomed to, but perhaps the sub falling apart in my hands was part of the experience.

So, what about the prices? The individual entrées at The Big Cheese will rarely go over $15. In fact, a slice of pizza and a drink can be had for well under $10. If you’re purchasing a pie, non-specialty pies are $20.95 and under, while specialty pies may go up to around $30, but only if you order one with seafood items and, by then, you should be splitting the cost with a few friends.

All in all, The Big Cheese is a budget-friendly option with a high-energy ambiance and great food to be had.

The Beacon reviewers do not receive free food in exchange for positive reviews. The views expressed in this article solely represent those of the author.
THE SOUND UNDERGROUND
Campus radio station puts spotlight on the unknown

DAIANA KUCAWCA
Asst. News Director

Deep in the heart of the Graham Center, just past the student government office, lies the "Radioactive Underground." Since 1987, Radiate FM has been FIU's student-run radio station. Billing itself as the "Radioactive Underground," Radiate provides music and news to students in a forum where they can call in, making it an interactive experience for listener and broadcaster alike.

The station can be found at 88.1 FM, 95.3 FM and 96.9 FM. Students can also tune in online at WRFPG.org. The station plays 24/7 and has news, music and sports during the day and specialty programming starting at 7 p.m., with different music genres every afternoon. Musical categories include old school hip hop, metal, 80's rock and world music, among others.

"Radiate FM plays a diverse blend of music not played on mainstream radio," said Jorge Valens, Student Media assistant news director. "No matter what time you tune in you will find unique songs from both familiar and unfamiliar artists."

Valens is the host of PantherWire, a campus news program about University, local and national news which runs Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to noon.

"The show is for the students, so I try to have guests and programming that will interest them," Valens said.

According to Radiate FM General Manager Pablo Penton, the station’s name and motto is "Radiate FM, the radioactive underground." He said it was a play on words because they are an active radio music station whose music "radiates" from listener's speakers. For Penton, the radio is an essential part of the University because all major universities have one, which he said helps them develop their image.

"It is a university's most immediate and visible liaison to the community," Penton said. According to Penton, the radio is more than a communication outlet. It is an art form.

"A radio station is an integral part of developing a university's personality and character," Penton said.

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication is also a direct beneficiary of the station, according to Penton.

"It's a good tool for students at the SIMC to learn how to really broadcast over the air so they can get an opportunity to learn before they get out into the world," Penton said.

Students can also listen to the live broadcasts of many FIU sports games.

According to Sergio Bonilla, sports director of Student Media, students can benefit from these broadcasts.

"If students want to know what's going on with the game as it's going on, we are the sole providers of that," Bonilla said.

While Bonilla admits the sports show, which runs Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., sometimes features heated discussions, he thinks it's a good thing for the radio.

"People can get into arguments and playfully fight each other but at the same time have fun," said Bonilla, adding that segments in the show like "Crossfire," where two hosts role-play a coach and a player who get into arguments are an example of the kind of fun sports are for students.

Another show that is interactive with students is "The All Gravy Show" with Hikmat Kilzi – a.k.a. DJ Drastic X – which runs Saturdays from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The show features new hip hop not usually heard on commercial radio stations where students can make live requests, while including guest appearances of artists like Rick Ross and Pitbull.

"I think that my show is an open door for artists to come in and showcase their music," Kilzi said. "I open doors for people to come and make themselves known, whereas in a commercial station if you don't have label backing they won't even take you."

Radiate FM is currently working on a brand new Web site which will allow listeners to request songs live, see playlists of previous shows and download podcasts of talk shows. Students can participate in all music and talk shows by calling in. The number to call in is (305) 348-3575.

Radiate FM Schedule

Monday nights: Hip Hop/Funk
Tuesday nights: Electronica
Wednesday nights: Metal/ 80's Classic
Thursday nights: Classic Rock/ Alternative
Friday nights: Industrial/Dance
Saturday nights: Street Hip Hop
Sunday nights: World Vibes

SUMMER, page 1

Wandering hearts may find a home in downtown

Ribbons and recreate the sounds of New York dance clubs in the ‘80s with modern electro remixes thrown in for a dance scene that will put rhythm into the stiftest of spines. And if that doesn’t work, there are always those drinks specials to get the sweat pumping.

My favorite night is Saturday night. The Vagabond hosts Backdoor Bambi, not a certain transsexual in the red light district, but an actual night of beat-driven moves.

This is the kind of place that welcomes a mix of crowds, and if you’re attracted to someone of the same sex you don’t have to worry about gettingashed: the people are generally tolerant and open-minded. Where else can a guy with teal pants do the running man to too much for food.

If you get hungry, the outside bonfire is where you can sit and grab a hot dog or burger because the owners of this joint wouldn’t have you leave the venue to pay too much for food. They’d rather you stay and pay too much for food.

Friday nights and Tuesday nights are open to our friends under 21, but Backdoor Bambi is strictly for those who can pay for their own drinks. Although I don’t believe that you, our clear-minded readers, need lecturing, I would be a bad citizen of humanity if I did not point out that you should always have a designated driver.

Accepting the fact that my watch was probably off in someone else’s covering hands, I let myself believe the next owner would treat it better than I did. I walked back to the grass lot (where parking is $7) and noticed some of my friends had befriended a homeless man named “Ali.”

My friends were just as interested in Ali as he was interested in their change. While shouting Ali away — and hoping he wouldn’t pull out a crack pipe on me — I was happy that tonight was sufficiently eccentric to call it a good night.

Lace up your boots, or pour yourself into some brightly colored pipe jeans and be like everyone and no one. It doesn’t matter who you are when you come to the Vagabond. Here, you are part of a nation of dancers.
MOVIE REVIEW

A look back at August’s best and worst in film

STEVE MESA
Staff Writer

If you were too busy during the summer to check in to your local cineplex, here are some highlights from the movies that were released in August. Most are still in theaters, for better or worse.

DISTRICT 9

One of the most original science fiction films since The Matrix, District 9 is set in Johannesburg, South Africa in an alternate reality in which aliens have been forced to live in a ghetto just outside the city. According to the film’s version of history, aliens landed in Johannesburg 28 years ago and the South African government moved them to a messy, crime-ridden shant known as District 9.

After the local community is fed up with living with these “prawns” as they’re called, an office drone (Shardul Copley) is charged with the task of evicting the aliens so they can be moved to a camp farther away from the city. All seems to be going according to plan until a mysterious freak accident renders him an outlaw. Director Neill Blomkamp’s story reflects South Africa’s sad racial history while maintaining a gripping science fiction storyline.

G.I. JOE: THE RISE OF COBRA

This movie is check full of action-packed scenes, but the bad news is that it’s also rife with choppy CGI scenes and bad acting. Based on the Hasbro action figure, TV cartoon series and comic book series, the film shows how Duke (Channing Tatum) and Ripcord (Murkan Wooyan) join the elite military team in order to stop a dangerous arms dealer (Christopher Eccleston) and his evil organization from destroying the world.

I can tell you this much: This is a lot better than director Stephen Sommers’ last summer outing, the Vehicle. Brad Pitt plays former Tennessee moonshine turner-turned-soldier Lt. Aldo Raine as he hires several Jewish soldiers (aka “The Bastards”) to kill Nazis, and take their scalps as macabre trophies. French starlet Melanie Laumet plays a Jewish woman who puts a plan in motion to avenge the death of her family at the hands of “Jew Hunter”, Col. Hans Landa (Christoph Waltz). Tarantino employs well-written dialogue for humor and dramatic effect in much the same way he did in Pulp Fiction. Look out around awards season, as Waltz’s portrayal of the diabolical and charismatic Landa is likely to receive accolades and possibly an Oscar nomination.

THE GOODS: LIVE HARD, SELL HARD

Unfortunately for Jeremy Piven, he does not have the goods. Piven gives his character an Art-Gold-like personality, as if he was afraid to leave his comfort zone. It is like he just walked right off the set of “Entourage,” and someone gave him a script and told him to do Art-Gold as a car salesman.

Though he is surrounded by a cast of hilarious actors, Piven is either not ready to take leading man roles or he’s just not trying. Produced by Will Ferrell and Adam McKay, the movie is about a car salesman (Piven) and his group of associates hired to rework a failing auto dealership. The movie has one silver lining in the form of a surprisingly funny performance from Ying Rhames as one of Piven’s associate who has never made “real love.”

THE MARC PEASE EXPERIENCE

This movie is bizarre – and not in a good way. Jason Schwartzman plays Marc Pease, a former high school musical star who embarrassed himself when he ran off stage crying and walking in the middle of a high school production of “The Wiz”. Eight years later, he stills drops by his old high school, has a successful limo service, bothers his former mentor (Ben Stiller) to produce his a cappella group’s demo and dates a high school student (Anna Kendrick). If it doesn’t sound very funny, that’s because it isn’t. Nearly every joke misses its mark.

For more movie reviews by Steve Mesa and friends, check out www.fuusm.com.
Golden Panthers went from underdogs to goats

TOWERS, page 12

The University of Florida isn’t the only team toAdding to UF’s woes is the firing of coach Billy Donovan, which has raised concerns about the program’s future. The firing was controversial and raised questions about the university’s decision-making process.

 authority or the influence, and it perpetuates a negative image of Thomas as egotistical and afraid to face high-level competition, fairly or not.

Worse, Garcia’s signature is on the contract, so despite seeking legal advice (at the time of printing, Athletics declined to comment because they were seeking legal counsel), it isn’t clear they have any ground for their decision to attempt to opt out of the contract, and would unquestionably lose the home games they are hosting on Nov. 20, 22, and 23 for the tournament. The inevitable end of this ordeal is FIU travelling to Chapel Hill and playing North Carolina anyway, but now nobody’s going to be looking for the upset. Any potential goodwill that could have been generated by this matchup is being erased by this.

If you are upset by how this was handled by the organizers, handle it in private. And if the plan is to pursue legal options, it might be best not to comment publicly in the first place. And if the plan is to pursue legal options, it might be best not to comment publicly in the first place.

While it was to be expected with the hiring of a controversial high-profile figure like Thomas, Athletics would do best to not create any extra negative publicity on their own.

NO LEG TO STAND ON

FIU is making demands where they don’t have the

Gazelle: Contract is with FIU, not Isiah Thomas

MEN’S BASKETBALL, page 12

FIU has the last 24 hours,” he said. Giles left Thomas a few messages on Aug. 26 but did not receive any calls back.

The Gazelle Group’s decision to choose UNC and not Ohio State had nothing to do with Thomas being the Golden Panthers’ head coach, Giles said in the same interview with Student Media.

“We thought it would be great for FIU to open the season at UNC and have it broadcast on ESPNU,” Giles said. “It’s our decision. We decide who plays who just like we decided Albany vs. Syracuse. The scheduling depends on what is best for the tournament. Our contract is with FIU, not Isiah.”

-Chris Middendorf

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GETTING READY: Defender Katrina Rose will face the Gators that managed to amass 13 shots on goal vs. the Miami Hurricanes.

Defense will face team with offensive firepower

SOCcER, page 12

players in her country, Jackson is hoping that the intensity of both camps will help her become an invaluable asset to the team. “I’m trying to use what I learned and use it with the team this season so hopefully I can continue being a bit of an asset to the team,” Jackson said.

NO EASY TASK

The University of Florida team is ranked No. 10 in the nation, and is coming off a season opening 1-0 win over the University of Miami. Even though the Gators were out-shot 15-13, goalkeeper Katie Fraine made five saves on route to her first shutout of the season.

For Coach Thomas Chest-nutt, the match vs. UF is a chance to show some of his mentors what he is made of. “For me, it’s a little bit different experience because I’m a graduate student of UF and that’s where I first got involved with college women’s soccer,” said coach Chest-nutt. “I have a good relationship with Becky [Burleigh, UF women’s soccer head coach],

Vicki Campbell, assistant head coach, and Alan [KirKP, assistant coach] there, and they have been great mentors to me as a coach and I have great respect for them.

For Jackson, there is only one goal, and that’s to enter the first home game of the season vs. Florida Gulf Coast University with a 2-0-0 record.

“We had a really strong first place, so hopefully our fitness levels will be at our peak when were playing UF and hopefully we can take it as a second, she corrected. “Actually, we will take it to them.”

COACHES VERSUS CANCER CLASSIC TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Game</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 11</td>
<td>Syracuse vs. Cal</td>
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<td>North Carolina vs. Ohio State</td>
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<td>FIU vs. North Carolina</td>
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<td>Murray State vs. N.C. Central</td>
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Starting August 24, 2009
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9am – 6pm

http://parking.fiu.edu
Roster gained experience from last season’s tournament

And she might be better than last season? SunBelt Conference championships don’t have players like Rosa. Perennial Sweet 16 caliber teams have players like Rosa leading their squads. Rosa alone guarantees the Golden Panthers a winning record. So fans, take your sight off the regular season and fast forward to the postseason.

EXPERIENCE SERVES WELL

When a program reaches the national stage for the first time, nerves just come with the territory. In what ended up being the team’s last game last season, Rosa was one of the few players who showed up. She recorded 22 kills while the rest of the team combined for 23 kills. No. 22 Colorado was no scrub, but the Golden Panthers seemed more overwhelmed by the game itself rather than their opponent. Before last season’s tournament, the Golden Panthers had a roster with no NCAA experience. Now, two-thirds of the team lived through a high pressure postseason game. A coach cannot simulate that type of scenario for players. Luckily for Tomic, she managed to give her team an NCAA postseason crash course. If the Golden Panthers receive another bid, they will lose some of those detrimental pre-game jitters to defeat a top-25 team. Put it on the board, this team will win against another ranked opponent this season.

COMPETITIVE NATURE

For the first time since Coach Danijela Tomic became the program’s builder, she signed an all-freshman class this summer. She had to sign many transfer students to quickly dig the program out of the ditch it was stuck in. As the team became a winning program, Tomic was able to sign the Golden Panthers’ most accomplished player in program history. "I learned to be more calm out there, little details on hitting, to look for the block ... just to play the game smarter, to be more mature on the court and show some attitude when I have to show it," Rosa said. "It’s a different game at that level." "Finish strong" has been the team’s motto all throughout the preseason practices and workouts, and the girls even left that hasn’t been said about the three-time All-American. Rosa led her home nation of Puerto Rico in several tournaments this summer, including the Pan-Am Cup held in Miami. She has a chance to become FIU’s first four-time All-American selection in any sport, not to mention to go down statistically as the Golden Panthers’ most accomplished player in program history.

"The sky is the limit for Yarimar. She’s always play at and win a championship."

But is it possible? "None of our girls had been to the tournament last season."

"It’s kind of different changing a position that you have been playing for four years, but I’m adjusting, and we feel good out there together," she said.

VOLLEYBALL, page 1

matches to end last season. "I didn’t think we finished strong last season," Tomic said. "We lost in the semifinals of the conference tournament, and even though we received an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament, we did not play well in that game. It left a bitter taste in our mouths."

HITTING AGAIN

"Finish strong" has been the team’s motto all throughout the preseason practices and workouts, and the girls even left that hasn’t been said about the three-time All-American. Rosa led her home nation of Puerto Rico in several tournaments this summer, including the Pan-Am Cup held in Miami. She has a chance to become FIU’s first four-time All-American selection in any sport, not to mention to go down statistically as the Golden Panthers’ most accomplished player in program history.

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Athletics threatening to drop out from cancer charity tournament vs. UNC

JONATHAN DAVILA
SERGIO BONILLA
Beacon Staff

The Golden Panthers men's basketball team will commence their season against the University of North Carolina Tar Heels on Nov. 9, according to the NCAA championship schedule, which was released on Aug. 25 by the Atlantic Coast Conference.

But Athletics Director Pete Garcia feels the Golden Panthers were “bullied” into the matchup by the New Jersey-based Gazelle Group, the organizers of Coaches vs. Cancer, a tournament Garcia signed to be a part of in November 2008.

Garcia wanted to play Ohio State instead. When contacted by Student Media, Athletics declined to comment. The department told Student Media it is seeking legal counsel before making any more comments.

“Would they do what they’re doing to us to Duke, or to North Carolina? No,” Garcia said yesterday in an Associated Press interview.

“A school spokesman for UNC told the Associated Press the school is not involved with making the tournament’s schedule.”

“We’re being bullied into that game. I’ve told them today, we’ll play Ohio State, we don’t want to play North Carolina,” Garcia said.

Garcia said the Golden Panthers are still committed to playing in the tournament, but they are still examining how to get out of the matchup with UNC.

The contract signed by Garcia stipulated the Golden Panthers would play Ohio State or North Carolina between Nov. 9-13.

Throughout his 15 years of working with Gazelle Group, Garcia said no team has ever boycotted a scheduling decision.

“We’ve never had a team react the way the group ‘the sole authority’ over sites, dates, times, teams and opponents in the tournament.

In a phone interview with Student Media, Garcia said he contacted Garcia on Aug. 6, letting him know FIU was going to play UNC. Garcia told Giles on that day that he preferred the Golden Panthers play vs. Ohio State and that he would opt out of the contract if FIU played against UNC, according to Giles.

“All of the teams are cooperative in adjusting to the time and scheduling,” Giles told Student Media.

If the Golden Panthers refuse to play against UNC and pull out themselves out of the tournament, they will also forfeit games vs. James Madison, Murray State and North Carolina Central.

Nobody wants to be jerked around. Nobody wants their weight and make demands they don’t have any place to make.

But this is absolutely not the right time or place to be taking a principled stand, despite having a legitimate gripe here.

PICK YOUR BATTLES

Going to UNC was going to be a win-win scenario for FIU. The hiring of Isiah Thomas as head coach has put some-what of a target on FIU now, as there are many people out there who would like to see them fail, and this was a rare opportunity for Thomas to play the lovable underdog in a high profile game.

Going in with some humility would have engendered the type of public support FIU and Thomas need here.

Instead, FIU is trying to throw around its insignificant weight and make demands they don’t have any place to make.

“I understand and sympathize with the sentiment expressed by Garcia on behalf of Athletics. Nobody wants to be jerked around. Nobody wants their

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Following season opener, team faces No. 10 UF

CHRIS GREEN
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers women's soccer team wanted to start its season in a way no player on the roster had experienced at FIU.

“It was really upsetting going through so many losses to start in the beginning of the year [in 2008], but it’s great to start off with our first win,” goalkeeper Melanie Raimo said.

Coming off their first opening game victory in over eight years against Stony on Aug. 21, the Golden Panthers are looking to carry their momentum on to a tough road game vs. the University of Florida Gators.

“We’re practicing really hard,” said freshman Thaisa Moreno. “It feels better [after the win] because we believe in ourselves.”

RISING INTENSITY

After only allowing one shot on goal during the game, the sophomore goalkeeper Raimo said that clear communication is key to the upcoming matches.

“If I can communicate with my defense and we’re on the same page, then nobody can get by us,” Raimo said.

Senior midfielder Mayara da Fonseca Bordim was able to communicate with her team to score the first goal of the year.

Being a midfielder, you always expect that you’re serving people instead of scoring goals,” said Bordim. “I’m always there if they need me, so I land the opportunity and I did it.”

In addition to the intense preseason camp and exhibition schedule, FIU standoff Amy Jackson received some top-level advice over the summer when she was invited to participate in the multi-day training camp with the Australian national team.

Being able to play with some of the greatest

VOLLEYBALL

It’s Sweet 16 or bust for Golden Panthers’ season

I now seems like a distant memory, but the Golden Panthers volleyball team could barely win a game in 2004. Their 3-23 season was harsher to stomach than the opening scene from Saving Private Ryan.

Five years later, the same program is expected to not only be the Sun Belt Conference contenders, but to receive another NCAA Tournament bid.

Five years later, the team has a three-time All-American senior and a coach with a career .863 record.

Five years later, as the Golden Panthers open their 2009 season on the road today, anything other than an NCAA tournament run should be considered an absolute failure.

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