Master's program opens doors for new career paths

LEABONY LIVINGSTON
Staff Writer

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Search for permanent deans presses on

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RISK, page 1

and getting this degree gives them a chance to gain an edge to apply for jobs in banks, investment firms, public utilities and corporations that use these complex financial instruments,” Villamor said.

The program is composed of 12 three-credit classes and can be completed in one year.

In the three years the program has been around, they have graduated 12 to 15 students, said Florida Power & Light Company or other investment firms.

Villamor’s ultimate plan is to have about 20-25 new students a year.

Employment for financial analysts is expected to grow much faster than the average for all other occupations, according to a study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Careers in this field average an annual wage of $47,780.

Many students heard about the program through e-mail and word of mouth, which is the primary way the message is getting out. “Our marketing capabilities are very limited due to budget constraints, we practically have no budget for marketing,” Villamor said.

Solange Kouemou has been teaching for the program since the beginning and now teaches Risk Analysis and Management 2.

“The first year was successful; students are out working in their field,” Kouemou said.

Although her class remains small with only about 15 students, Professor Kouemou says her prime goal is to have motivated students, even if the number is small.

Richard Whittacker was a part of the first class to graduate from this program and is now teaching a Computer Programming Concepts component.

This particular class features computing that the students will face on the job, such as predicting the future prices of products.

There are many jobs out there for people with these skills,” Whittacker said.

Danyida Bishop, who already has a master’s in finance from FIU, decided to come back to school because she thought she could get a more technical background in finance.

“The program will definitely help me in the job market. Employers will want people with technical skills and who know how to sell,” Bishop said.

Chris Reina, who completed his bachelor’s in finance from University of Miami, also "wanted a more technical background."

“I like the classes but they are challenging. It gives me a more technical idea of how a program and market works,” Reina said.

Villamor hopes for the program to continue and grow, and officially one day offering a Ph.D program in Risk Analysis.

“Start my own investment firm,” Reina said for my future career when I finish my degree in finance from University of Miami and it will prepare me for my future career when I start my own investment firm,” Pintucci said.

“I would like it if the program had more classes, in order to get more practice,” he added.

“This program is needed on campus because it provides students with an opportunity to get well-paid and challenging jobs where they’ll have an opportunity to be creative,” Villamor said.

“Our goal is to train our students to be creative thinkers within the field of financial engineering and risk analysis, to be out of the box thinkers; people who can change the rules. Call our UP office at 305-349-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

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Students dance to be funky, fresh, fly

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Staff Writer

The Student Programming Council of Biscayne Bay Campus hosted a party called “Free to be Funky, Fresh and Fly” on the night of Feb. 5.

The dance was free for students, but people who were not University students had to pay $3 for admittance.

Donations to Haiti were also accepted. SPC hosted the event but they partnered with several other groups at BBC, according to Marie Wray, special events coordinator for SPC.

Those groups are the Black Student Union, Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Incorporated, Gamma Beta Chi, Black Female Development and Men Achieving Leadership Excellence and Success.

Wray planned the dance with the help of her co-sponsors, SPC executive board and advisor.

“Without all their help it wouldn’t have been a party,” Wray said.

This party is one of SPC’s opening events for their annual Pan-African Celebration events.

The Wolfe University Center Ballroom was the original venue for the festival but Wray said that because the lights of the room weren’t working properly, the venue was moved to Room 155.

Wray said that over 60 students attended and they did receive some donations for Haiti.

Some items were given away during the party: shutter shades (the glasses Kanye West wore during his “Stronger” video) and neon-rimmed glasses.

Front Runners Music group provided the music, according to Wray.

Richard Pierre, senior political science major, was DJ for most of the night as Polar Bear Pierre.

Robert Smith, senior construction management major, and his Gamma Beta Chi fraternity brothers did a fraternity dance for select songs throughout the night that had them going around the room doing synchronized dance moves.

Right when students seemed to be enjoying themselves the most, the party ended one hour earlier than planned.

“I feel the party went well, I just wish it lasted longer,” Wray said.

An area on the first floor of Academic II fills with donations from students, faculty and staff for Food for the Poor, Inc. collection for Haiti.

MAUREEN NINO
Asst. News Director

Concerned about the student body, the Student Government Council senate at the Biscayne Bay Campus began working on a new goal to possibly eliminate student ID fees, on Feb. 8.

During this senate meeting Nickolay Chikishev, lower division senator and speaker pro tempore, discussed the development goal.

“The new goal is to eliminate the charge for student IDs,” he said during the meeting.

However, the idea was short-lived after members in the senate examined and identified a weakness, leading to a series of questions.

“Do you know how much money in revenue comes from the ID?” said Rafael Zapata, SGC-BBC advisor. “We should do that research and find out where that money is and where it goes.”

According to Chikishev, who made some “rough estimates” during the meeting, he calculated a total revenue of $80,000 per semester.

“If there are 8,000 students and each pays $10 per ID each semester then it would be a total of $80,000,” he said.

Honors College Senator Andrea Cruz agrees that the IDs may be overpriced after doing some “mental math.”

“If students attend the University for four years that would be eight semesters, then students would be paying $80 per ID,” she said. “The ID is not worth that.”

However, Lower Division Senator Zahra Arbabi asked to continue to voice concern.

“If they don’t charge them that anymore then the money will be cut from somewhere. First we need to know what the money is going toward,” she said.

Similarly, according to Chikishev, students must pay $75 per semester for their parking decal.

“The reason every student must pay for the parking decals is because they use that money to upkeep and maintain the parking lot, therefore they need that money. So it’s not the cost of the decal that is the issue, it’s the matter of what it funds,” Zapata said.

As an alternative, Art and Sciences Senator Gregory Jean-Baptiste created a solution that could benefit students and would not jeopardize funding: by eliminating only replacement ID fees.

“They might need the $10 per ID they collect mandatory every semester, but they can’t rely on the students losing their ID and paying the $10 for a replacement card. We want to focus on that,” he said.

However, the idea still has not been finalized and the senate must still contact the appropriate faculty at the ID office.
Potential revisions in SGA voting may improve on last year’s failures

As you may have heard, this week, the American University, FIU decided to ban smoking anywhere on campus. While some have criticized the decision as nothing more than a public relations gimmick, it does demonstrate that one can implement and hope it leads to bans on other detrimental student conduct.

It is the first step on a wonderful journey toward halting bad student behavior through the moral influence of second-hand smoke, also known as peer pressure.

For too long, peer pressure has been used as a tool by the worst elements of society, forcing young people to try narcotics, drink while under age, and listen to the music of Taylor Swift. In a historic effort, FIU has taken a bold step by harnessing peer pressure for the forces of good. The smoking ban has no enforcement mechanism other than students and faculty shaming others into not smoking their cigarettes.

Though administrators made the rule, everyday people will be left to enforce it. That aspect of the ban is truly a triumph of the American spirit. If there is one thing this country stands for, it is people taking the law into their own hands.

Some have claimed that the ban is unnecessary, since pre-existing regulations stipulated that smokers could only indulge their habit 20 feet away from public buildings, a policy that, if enforced, would have protected non-smokers from the hazards of second-hand smoke.

While that may be true, pre-existing rules would have to actually be enforced to work, and with all the budget cuts, FIU can’t very well go around enforcing every single rule.

It is far more responsible to have a symbolically powerful policy carried out by students and faculty that’s 100 percent free to the University.

Other critics have said that the ban is unnecessary for the same reason that the general student population was never allowed to vote on it, and student government actually voted to support the rule, and the rule already has in place rather than imposing a smoking ban.

These critics seem to miss a crucial point. Students’ opinions aren’t nearly as valid as those of administrative officers. You see, as students, we are all still learning and our innocent minds cannot fully comprehend the greatness of every University decision. America.

I mean, who are we to demand a say in how our schools affairs are conducted? Hopefully the imposition of this ban will teach us students that our concerns and ideas are inherently illegitimate.

Improper burials dishearten Haitians

At 4:51 p.m. local time, an earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale rattled Haiti. In a mere 10 seconds, 200,000 people were left homeless. In the chaos, the government is being filled with the bodies of the dead. A day of remembrance would be a way to get somewhat of a more proper goodbye to the victims.

After the deadly earthquake that shook Haiti, the survivors and the island have been obligated to bury the dead in mass graves. A rectangular empty hole 20 feet deep, 20 feet wide, and 100 feet long is one of the mass graves in Haiti which awaits the dead.

The domestic trucks that belong to the government are being filled with the victims of the earthquake, later to be dropped off in mass graves without the naming of names, or even pictures of the dead. It is necessary but unfortunate that mass graves need to be used in order to bury the victims of the earthquake.

Along with everything else that has been stolen by the recent catastrophic earthquake, the people of Haiti have also dealt with the improper burial of its people in mass graves. Haitians hold sacred to them proper burial and are reluctant about being buried in underground. Prefering to be interred above ground in a kav, which is an elaborate multi-chambered tomb, that may cost more than the house in which the individual lived in. The people of Haiti find that the mass graves in which its victims are being buried are appalling.

“They bury you like a dog,” said Pegles Fleurigine, 51, in an alleyway where he has built coffins for more than two decades. “They don’t bury you in caskets.”

Some mass graves are even located on the hills of Titanyen, a place where once it was the preferred dumping ground for Haiti’s brutal rulers. It is considered a cursed ground by most Haitians, but now it is a land mixed with victims of a deadly earthquake, and the bodies of despised past rulers.

For Haitians, usual funerals are important social events that typically involve several days of social interaction; but due to the circumstances in Haiti, such important traditions have to be ignored.

The island of Haiti has gone through one of its worse natural disasters ever; now it is affecting the beliefs of many Haitians and causing them to bury their people in lands that are considered by them to be cursed.

Because of Haitians’ strong funeral beliefs, I feel that a day of remembrance could be a way to get somewhat of a more proper goodbye to the victims of the earthquake.

Although a day of remembrance to the victims won’t ever change the fact that thousands of Haitians were not buried the traditional form, it will be a way to get something back from a disaster that took too much from Haiti and its people.
The event will start at 5 p.m. and go until 9 p.m. It is $10 entry into the block party, which may seem a little steep for college students but, remember folks, it is for a good cause.

On Feb. 8 the University Health Services held a Sex Carnival in the Graham Center Pit. Using distorted goggles, students sift through colored condoms and won prizes for being the first to properly put it on a dildo. The carnival informed students about safe sex practices.

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“Queen of Hearts” in their philanthropy work.

After speaking with several brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon, many of them say these two events are somewhat experimental for them, since both events are new for them this year and some are a little nervous about pulling it all off.

However, the odds seem to be in their favor since many fraternities and sororities hold pageants throughout the year for their philanthropy and generally make well over $2,000 for their charity. Since they will be raising money both at the pageant and at the block party, the skies are looking clear for them.

Plus, who can resist a good party in college, especially one with live music, food and dancing?

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Having been recently stripped of his title as The Sorcerer Supreme, Doctor Strange finds himself in an extremely mundane setting. Starting off the story at a baseball game, he relaxes and just happens to stumble onto an attack on Earth by demons.

Where the old Doctor would simply recite an incantation and wish the demons away, without his title of Sorcerer Supreme, he is much less powerful and must find a new way to defeat his enemies.

What I hoped would be an extremely inventive mini-series that shows Strange dealing with his loss of power turns out to be a goofy fight with random demons. Toss in his new apprentice for "relatability to the fans" and you get an idea that Marvel doesn’t really know how to use their characters. Doctor Strange has been the most powerful guy on the mystical block for decades and he was always prideful of his position.

This mini-series should focus less on him dealing with his new status and more on him fighting to get it back. The art is interesting, but a bit dodgy on the story-telling side. The comic is an exciting read with lots of action, and if you’re a newcomer to the world of Doctor Strange, it could serve as a good jumping on point. Older fans would simply be disappointed.

Some not-so-terrible Valentine’s Day ideas

- Tell everything with a good friend!
- Say everything with a good friend!
- Be...uhhh...daring!
- Be a sweetheart/creep!

Diversions

To solve the sudoku puzzle, every row, column and 3x3 box must contain the numbers 1-9 only once.

Check your answers in Friday’s issue!

Difficulty: Easy

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FIU looks to return in time for closing stretch

Duo looks to return in time for closing stretch

been without their second leading rebounder for five straight games. Freshman Finda Mansare and junior Maja Krajacic have been able to contribute in the front court, but it is Adley who will provide the depth that Russo covets in time for the tournament.

“This time of year you either drop out or keep going,” Russo said. “We have a tough road ahead of us and these teams play hard.”

Heading into Wednesday’s game against South Alabama (13-11, 8-5), FIU (11-13, 6-7) will once again play with an injury stricken roster.

Russo, however, has confidence that her team can handle the pressure as they have all season long.

The team will also travel without the experience of senior Ashley Traugott who is dealing with the loss of her grandmother. Traugott has not played in five of the last six games, which Russo says is due to illness.

“These kids have been truly magnificent,” said Russo. “They’ve dealt with a lot of adversity. Most of our games we have played without three or four major players but I think they’re still hungry.”

FIU looks to close out strong

second on the FIU freshman list, after last week’s solid performance. Freshman Josh Castaldo also had a very strong showing in the weight throw, with a mark of 13.88.

Despite all the freshman success, junior Pedro Bigorra may have had the most impressive achievement all week.

His time of 1:53.66 in the men's 800-meter was the fastest time ran in the SBC this season.

Next week the track and field team will travel to Grand Rapids, Mich. in a final attempt to prepare for the Sun Belt Conference championships later this month.

CLASSIFIEDS

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ON THEIR WAY
Streaking Panthers getting healthy

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

Having notched three wins in a row, FIU head coach Cindy Russo has a reason to feel that her team is improving late in the season.

Russo has even more reason for optimism, as two key players in her rotation will return from injury to help the Golden Panthers down the stretch.

Senior Marquita Adley and sophomore Rakia Rodgers have both been hampered by injuries in the latter part of this season, but are hoping to be healthy in time to help their team make some noise at the Sun Belt Conference tournament on March 6 in Hot Springs, Ark.

“We’ll look forward to the return of Rakia Rodgers and hopefully Marquita Adley soon. We hope to be even better [when they return],” said Russo. “We’ll be really strong and deep.”

Rodgers, who suffered a sprained MCL on Dec. 29, went out as the team’s leading scorer with 15.5 points per game and has missed 11 games.

According to Russo, Rodgers will be traveling with the team to Alabama this week, but will be unavailable when the team takes on conference opponent South Alabama on Feb. 10.

She will, however, most likely be able to play on Feb. 13 when they face Troy.

Meanwhile, Adley, who has been dealing with a shoulder injury, is being evaluated week to week, according to Russo, and will not play against South Alabama or Troy.

Russo hopes to have Adley back before the end of the season which is coming up quickly with just five games remaining.

With the forward sitting out the next week, the Golden Panthers will have

WOMEN’S, page 7

Weather worries cause schedule reshuffling

SPENCER MANLEY
Contributing Writer

The major snowstorm that hit the Northeast last weekend even found a way to affect FIU.

The Golden Panthers were scheduled for a two-match weekend in Virginia, facing Virginia Commonwealth University (4-2) and William & Mary (3-3), but were forced to reschedule because of the weather.

The matches have since been rescheduled to Friday, Feb. 12 at 2 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 13 at 3 p.m., respectively.

The team would then play its first conference road game of the season when it visits South Alabama on Feb. 19.

FIU, 3-1 on the season, were ousted 4-0 by No. 8 University of Florida at the ITA Indoor National Qualifiers on Jan. 31.

The Golden Panthers were looking to bounce back from the humbling loss, but anxiety will continue to build as they must wait another week before getting back into action.

Both No. 31 FIU and No. 43 VCU went 1-1 at the ITA Indoor National Qualifiers held Jan. 29-31, where the Panthers handed Southern Methodist University a loss before falling to UF in straight sets.

VCU’s loss came from No. 1 Duke, 6-1, after beating Wake Forest 4-2 the day before.

On Feb. 13 FIU will be going up against No. 50 William & Mary, who also went (1-1) at the ITA Qualifiers and is on a two-match losing skid, most recently a 5-2 loss to Ohio State.

The Golden Panthers are 22-4 against teams ranked below 25th in the nation, dating back to last season.

On their way

Freshmen lead FIU to success at invitational

TOM DEAN
Staff Writer

For the second time in three weeks, the FIU track and field team went to New York.

This time, the Golden Panthers participated in the New Balance Invitational at the Armory Track and Field Center on Feb. 5 and shared success in a slew of events.

The highlight of the event was freshman Lakeisha Kelley beating out over 80 other entrants to secure a first place finish in the women’s 200-meter dash.

Kelley’s time of 24.84, just .37 seconds off of the freshman FIU record, ranks fourth in the Sun Belt Conference this season.

Freshman Dennison Long placed fifth in the men’s 200-meter dash with a 22.13 finish.

In the 60-meter dash, freshman Dennison Long broke the school record by clocking in with a time of 6.78 in the preliminaries before finishing at 6.88 in the finals to come in eighth.

The 4x200-meter relay team also had a record setting performance, breaking a record that had stood 17 years previously with a time of 1:36.05.

Freshman Tai Canady finished the 800-meter run in a time of 2:18.75.

The team ranks seventh in the conference this year.

Freshman Andrew Mattox, coming off his destruction of the FIU freshman record in the shot put, threw a 13.74, which ranks

TENNIS FIU VS. VCU

- Time: 10 a.m.
- When: Feb. 13
- Where: Virginia
- Broadcast: None

Christine Seredni and the Golden Panthers were forced to reschedule.