President speaks
University president on expansion, funding and campus safety

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President Mark B. Rosenberg sat down with Student Media before the Thanksgiving holiday to provide updates on important issues and projects going on this year and in the future.

“There are a lot of changes coming up at the University: expansion, the health services merger, construction, new buildings and changes in state funding,” Rosenberg said. “Here are the latest updates:

Fairgrounds

The Nov. 4 election brought a big win for the University — the fairgrounds.

“We won in almost every voting precinct in Miami-Dade County,” Rosenberg said. Rosenberg said that the county and the voters’ support, the University can move forward with finding an alternative site for the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition, Inc.

The deadline is set for March 2015. Another matter to settle is what the cost of the relocation will be. Rosenberg has said in the past that he’d spend up to $50 million, but Youth Fair CEO Robert Holenstein has said that the fair relocation would cost $250 million.

The price differences, according to Rosenberg, are based on what the Fair thinks it would cost to acquire a new site and make improvements to suit the Fair’s needs.

“It’s a number that’s out there, but it would not make this workable,” Rosenberg said. “We hope to have an alternative site and an agreed upon amount by early March.”

The University is counting on the Florida Legislature to provide most of the funds needed to relocate the site.

This last summer, the state legislature gave the University $10 million for this specific project.

“This down payment was so important,” Rosenberg said. “It got the county commission to move.”

He added that the state has supported FIU growth since it was given the smallest space to build their main campus out of all the schools in the State University System.

“The state helped build this campus. The legislature gets FIU,” said Rosenberg.

Once the University selects a suitable site and raises the money for the relocation, it must give the fair three years’ notice to move.

Ideally, the University would break ground on it expansion projects in the next three years, Rosenberg said, and if things don’t move quickly, then it would take up to six years to start building on the 64 acres adjacent to the Modeste A. Maidique Campus.

The University plans to expand their programming and space in the science and technology fields by adding more labs, academic health center buildings, expand the College of Engineering and Computing and add more student housing and parking structures.

University ranks for graduates with least student debt

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Graduating with steep debt has been a national concern, but U.S. News & World Report’s 2015 edition of Best Colleges has ranked the University as number 13 in least amount of debt for graduates. The average amount of debt carried by the University’s class of 2013 was $17,893, while the national average student debt carried by the University’s class of 2013 was $25,550.

According to President Mark B. Rosenberg, 70 percent of FIU students have financial aid and less than half accumulate student loans.

“Graduating from FIU without debt is not just an option – it’s the norm,” said Rosenberg to FIU News. “We are pleased to be recognized for the work that has gone into keeping tuition affordable and higher education accessible in South Florida.”

According to Gabriela Mendez, default prevention coordinator for the office of financial aid, there are three main factors that contribute to University students graduating with less debt and changes in state funding.

- low tuition costs, local students opting to live with their parents, and high levels of financial aid.

Most of our student population is local, meaning we have a high percentage of students living at home and requiring lower costs of living which ultimately drives down the borrowing levels,” Mendez said.

FIU provides grants and scholarships that total more than $150 million a year from institutional, state and federal sources.

Also, programs such as dual enrollment, which allows high school students to take college courses at no cost to them, save local students $38 million, and the University’s Graduate Success Initiative contribute to savings by guiding students to a timely graduation.

“We are able to offer a substantial amount of gift aid for students with low-income households,” Mendez said. Gifted aids include State programs and institutional funds, such as Bright Futures scholarships, Florida Student Assistance Grant and University Grants.

“It is essential for (undergraduate) students and first-time borrowers to avoid student loans as much as possible.”

Students like Samantha, a freshman business major, is a local commuter who said she has not had to borrow student loans.

“I think my scholarships, such as Bright Futures, are sufficient enough so I won’t have to take out student loans,” Barroso said.

Barroso said many of her commuter friends also have scholarships, so a low student debt at FIU is not a surprise to her.

On the other hand, there are students who have a difficult time escaping student loans, especially out-of-state students. Shekinah Harper, a senior broadcast media major, said she works two jobs while being a full-time student.

She has also been active in student organizations.

“I feel it makes things a lot more difficult when you have to balance being a full-time student...and then work full-time as well,” she said.

“It’s very hard being out-of-state because it’s more expensive,” Harper said. She said that the University should work harder and put more initiative towards out-of-state students.

Any type of debt such, as student loans, will have a high impact on student financial health, said Mendez.
President on University matters

Coast Guard plane brings 193 rare sea turtles to Florida

A Coast Guard plane touched down in Orlando at dusk Tuesday, hauling a cargo of the world’s rarest sea turtles, rescued by volunteers from the lethally chill waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

Weighing only 2 to 10 pounds, the young Kemp’s Ridley sea turtles are among the first of an astounding wave of arrivals to succumb to hypothermia in the “bucket” of the Massachusetts bay.

“They’re so small,” said Alyssa Hancock, a SeaTurtle Inc. volunteer who was among the first to peer into one of 101 banana boxes holding 193 turtles.

Turtle rescues happen every year in late fall in the Northeast, but for reasons not yet known what’s happening this year is “epic,” said one of the nearly two dozen volunteers passing boxes of turtles like a bucket brigade.

Key provincial capital in Iraq may be about to fall to Islamic State

Islamic State fighters on Tuesday penetrated to the core of Ramadi, the provincial capital of Iraq’s largest province, prompting local officials to warn that the city was on the verge of falling to the extremists.

Such a gain would be the Islamic State’s most significant victory in months.

“Terrorism is long over,” Daniel Hudec, the director of the Peace and Conflict Studies Center at Florida International University, said Tuesday. “It’s been the entire world against the Islamic State. It’s time for the world to wake up to the realities of this situation.”

“I think we are seeing a significant improvement in the Islamic State,” Hudec said.

He said that the Islamic State fighters launched their push to Ramadi last week when the Iraqi government began to retreat from the city.

“The Iraqi government is through with Amur and the Islamic State is through with Iraq,” Hudec said.

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Protesters are fighting the wrong way

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The grand jury that focused on the Michael Brown vs. Darren Wilson case has reached the decision that the officer will not be indicted and the case will not go any further in court. The jurors do not believe that, according to the evidence presented, there is reason for Darren Wilson to be charged and prosecuted in court.

Michael Brown’s family, shortly after, released a statement that read, “While we understand that many others share our pain, we ask that you channel your frustration in ways that will make a positive change.”

While the family pleaded for only peaceful protests as they mourn their son’s life, the protesters in Ferguson had other plans. It was no surprise that the verdict was announced Monday as everyone geared up. Even with so much preparation, the city was not ready for what was to come once the verdict was presented. Regardless of what the outcome could have been, the city should have expected the unexpected and, sadly, the worst.

In the hours following the verdict, blocks in Ferguson, Missouri, were lit on fire, looted and vandalized. Although the National Guard and police force were there, they could not do much. These incidents and riots occurred because of police brutality; we clearly cannot expect police officers to feel they can use force to stop the riots in the streets without feeling they will be targeted next.

The riots that followed the announcement that Darren Wilson would not be indicted could have been predicted. After all, schools were closed for the remainder of the week, the National Guard was sent in and the decision was not presented until much later at night.

The city thought of giving people enough time to leave work and arrive home safely; however, if this was done in order to keep the community safe, why wasn’t there more done to prevent the riots? The city should have created a curfew and rather than waiting until late at night for the group of protesters to grow—the streets would have been empty. If the community had been told that anyone found on the street after a certain time would be arrested, there would not have been the terror of government officials not being able to do their job against an angry mob. Those who would be found on the streets would endure the consequences set beforehand. Riots are exactly what took place and calling it anything other than that is mindless. Whether or not the people agreed with the decision, setting a community on fire will do absolutely nothing.

In fact, destroying the community in which you live, your children go to school and your family has employment is only making matters worse. Fighting violence with violence will never result in peace and looting a liquor store will not bring attention to the real problem at hand.

Lighting an innocent person’s business into flames will not raise awareness for what occurred to Michael Brown. If the rioters want to create justice, they should find another way to do so.

Home is where the heart and turkey are

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In the fast-paced world we live in, it can be hard to take time out of our lives to spend time with family. Luckily, the holiday season gives us time to do this. It also gives us time to reflect on how the hustle of life, don’t forget to appreciate the little things matter how much they irritate you at times. Your family is a group of people who will always be there no matter what.

When I moved away from home, I couldn’t be more relieved. All I wanted to do was get away from my hometown and start over. All of my friends told me how much I would miss home and want to come back, but I never believed them. After being away for almost six months, I finally realize how much I miss not only the town I grew up in, but also my family who lives there. I have never looked forward to family dinners and holidays with the whole family around, but this year will be very different.

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We easily take for granted the little things we have been given. Friends, family and a home-cooked meal from your mom are all easily overlooked when you have it in front of you everyday. Friends will come and go from your life, but your family is a group of people who will always be there no matter how much they irritate you at times.

This holiday season, while you are enjoying a break from the hustle of life, don’t forget to appreciate the little things that life has given you because it can so easily be taken away without a moment’s notice.

JUST SAYIN’

SEND US YOUR LETTERS
Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinions@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUET 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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UNITY IN THE FACE OF TRAVESTY

Orange Your Neighborhood: 16 days of domestic violence awareness

FERGUSON, USNC supports the global work of UN Women. Nations responsible for promoting women's empowerment and gender equality.

Your Neighborhood” campaign. USNC for UN Women is the entity of the United Committee for United Nations Women hosted an event to kick off the UN “Orange

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and the FIU Dreamers Defenders

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The decision whether to indict officer Darren Wilson, the Ferguson police officer who shot and killed Michael Brown on Aug. 9, was released and presented Monday night by the Saint Louis County prosecutor Robert P. McCulloch.

After months of hearing testimony and hours of deliberation, the grand jury — composed nine whites and three blacks — concluded that there wasn’t enough substantial evidence to indict Wilson on the charges. A rarity, officials say. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, in 2010, U.S. attorneys prosecuted 162,000 federal cases — grand juries declined to return an indictment in 11 of them.

The details of the hearing — alongside McCulloch’s direct role and rationale for the decision — escalated tensions in Ferguson even further. In some areas, the city is still boiling over the shooting of Brown. Wilson’s testimony, describing Brown as a “Hulk Hogan” figure and himself as a helpless “5-year-old,” have also been the source of backlash.

“The only way I can describe it, it looked like a demon,” Wilson said, recounting the events of Aug. 9 to the grand jury. “That’s how angry he looked.”

The failure to bring charges against Wilson was expected by many, but lead to series of protest and demonstrations held across the United States.

On Tuesday, Nov. 25, students at the University marched in solidarity with Ferguson. At the rally, members of the FIU chapter of the Dream Defenders and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People led the demonstration that started in front of the Graham Center ballrooms.

Laura Hernández, the vice president of the National Organization for Women at FIU, says the protest was peaceful and under campus police supervision, but she was uneasy regarding a University employee response.

“A student had chalked ‘RIP Mike Brown’ in front of the demonstration and around 16-20 minutes later, FIU employees mopped off the chalk,” Hernández said. “A lot of the students demonstrating found this disrespectful seeing as how random companies chalk all over FIU seeking students to fill in jobs and are never erased.”

Hernández adds that she noted more non-participants recording the demonstration rather than actually participating, another thing she found troubling.

Later in the day, University students joined other protesters in the downtown area. The march was peaceful demonstrations; however, Hernández said a car nearly struck a demonstrator and police made one arrest.

“Earlier, the police monitoring the demonstration had tackled and arrested two participants who had crossed a ‘police line’ which was on public property,” she said.

“One of those arrested included the brother of Trayvon Martin’s (family) lawyer,” Jeremy Shaw, the brother of Martin’s lawyer, and Phillip Brian Agnew were charged with failure to obey a lawful order and arrested on the steps of the Richard E.

Germstein Justice Building in downtown Miami.

Shanequa Castle, a second year African diaspora studies major, fell into a leadership role with the Dream Defenders, an organization systemic inequality.

“I just want to make sure and for us to go on basis black people, not just this specific group of people,” Castle said.

“Anytime an African American is killed, it affects us all,” Castle said.

“I’m not special, but it’s a source of backlash,” Castle said.

“we need to be the problem to get the problem out of the way.”

On Tuesday, Nov. 25, the University chapter of the United States National Committee for United Nations Women hosted an event to kick off the UN “Orange Your Neighborhood” campaign. USNC for UN Women is the entity of the United Nations responsible for promoting women’s empowerment and gender equality.

USNC supports the global work of UN Women.

This year, under a new president, Trulac’s via Newberry, the University chapter became the second chapter recognized nationally.

The event titled OrangeUrHood is a 16-day national campaign to fight against domestic violence worldwide. Daniela Velasco, the first of four vice president of special events, says orange is the international color that represents domestic violence.

The event, hosted on campus next to the Green Library, conducted surveys for students regarding different facts about domestic violence. “A lot of people, once they were done, were mind blown,” Velasco said, adding that most people are unaware of how many women and men are affected by domestic violence.

According to USNC, one out of three American women experience domestic violence at least once in their lifetime. An estimated 1.3 million women. The statistics surrounding domestic violence, because, according to Velasco, is because domestic violence; the same applies.

“We try, not to be aggressive...
Orange Your Neighborhood: 16 days of domestic violence awareness

Violence at least once in their lifetime. Worldwide, the numbers fall to one out of four women. An estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner. Only 25 percent of these cases are reported to the police.

The statistics surrounding domestic violence are sometime hard to account for because, according to Velasco, men who can be victims rarely report the crime out of embarrassment; the same applies to women in a relationship with their abuser.

Velasco says with so many affected by domestic violence, an overwhelming subject in itself, information and awareness is key.

“We try, not to be aggressive, but to lay out the facts,” Velasco said.

-Diego Saldano Rojas, a staff writer for FIUSM and contributor for WLRN, contributed to this report.
STOP THAT SHOT

Freshman forward Larry Dennis blocks a shot by a Florida Memorial player on Friday, Nov. 21. FIU plays Kennesaw State on Tuesday, Dec. 2.

The Warriors lost at North Texas; finish season 4-8

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The Panthers could not pull out a win in their final game of the year, falling 17-14 to the North Texas University Mean Green. The Panthers entered as winners of five straight games against North Texas before the loss.

The Mean Green got things going with a 54-yard touchdown run by running back Reggie Pegram on the second play from scrimmage. After a punt by the Panthers, the Mean Green marched right back down the field for another score. This one, a 4-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Andrew McNulty to tight end Marcus Smith.

Down 14-0, the Panthers needed a spark. They got it in the form of a 74-yard touchdown return by cornerback Richard Leonard. It was Leonard’s fourth touchdown of the year and his first score on a return.

The teams traded punts until late in the second quarter. After quarterback Alex McGough threw an interception to give the Mean Green the ball deep in Panther territory, cornerback Jeremiah McKinnon snatched it back with a 71-yard interception return for a touchdown. The score evened the game 14-14 headed into halftime.

The third quarter was uneventful. After back-and-forth punting for most of the period, Mean Green kicker Trevor Moore nailed a 26-yard field goal to give his team a 17-14 lead, a score that held up through the final whistle.

The story of the afternoon was the lack of offense for the Panthers. They only managed 147 yards of total offense. McGough had one of his worst games in his freshman campaign. He was 11 of 25 through the air for 56-yards and three interceptions. The run game was slightly more effective. Running back Anthony Samuel rushed for 99-yards on 14 carries.

The Panthers finished the 2014 season 4-8 overall and 3-5 in conference play. That’s a three game improvement from a disappointing 1-11 2013 season.

“STOP THAT SHOT” is the Beacon’s Monday, December 1, 2014
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Swimmer Silvia Scalia looks to break more records

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The swim team has jumped into an impressive start (4-0) and are only looking better as the season goes on, thanks in part to Italian freshman swimmer, Silvia Scalia. When asked why Scalia chose to attend FIU, she said, “I chose FIU because of its reputation as a high-level balance of studies and sports. FIU will allow me to reach my highest swimming and academic goals.”

Such goals are already coming to fruition. According to FIUSports.com, “Scalia comes to FIU as a multiple Junior Representative for Italy, including participation in the European Junior Championships, the Milan Trophy and the Multination Games. At the 2013 Summer National Youth Championships, she won the gold medal in the 50 backstroke, clocking a personal best long course time of 29.11.”

All season, Scalia has been clocking impressive times on backstroke. On Thursday, Nov. 20, at the Mizzou Invite hosted by the University of Missouri in Columbia, she broke the school record when leading off the 100 backstroke in the 400 medley relay.

Look for Scalia to continue performing in the Mizzou Invite Friday, Nov. 21 and Saturday, Nov. 22. Against Illinois State University, she received an NCAA B qualifying time of 1:58.77 to win the 200 backstroke. This broke her previous record when she swam for Florida Atlantic University on Oct. 4. This time is the best in C-USA, and ranks 29th in the NCAA.

Her strong performance against Illinois State would reward her. On Nov. 1, Scalia was named the Conference USA swimmer of the week. This is her second time receiving this award.

If the Panthers feed off this hot start, they will have their paws on the C-USA Championships Feb. 18 - Feb. 21. Scalia will be an undoubtable force if she is able to lead her team to that success.

Not far from that, the NCAA Championships takes place Mar. 19 - Mar. 21. This will test Scalia if she were to make it, swimming against the best-of-the-best in her successful style.

Scalia has proved to be an asset for the Panther swim team since day one. Already breaking records in her first year of swimming in the NCAA, Scalia will only continue doing so throughout her career.

University launches study of bonefish in Florida Keys

TNS STAFF

Captian Tim Carlile polco his skiff against the ocean side of the Lower Florida Keys, scanning the flats for “nervous” water, tails, or wakes. “I’ve seen a lot of bonefish on this flat,” the 65-year-old Sugarloaf Key guide said. “It wasn’t long before Carlile’s observation was borne out, as a school of about 100 of the silver speedsters maddled the shallows, then swam calmly toward the boat.

Carlile seized the estimated 5-pound, one slightly heavier than the others. It was a glorious day of fishing.

That experience earlier this month was very different from what many guides and anglers are finding some 60-plus miles to the north in the Upper Keys particularly in Florida Bay. The grass and mud flats in the bay back country that once teemed with bonefish numbers are way down _ as much as 90 percent since the 1950s, according to octogenarian captain Bill Curtis.

Carlile, a Keys native who has guided light-tackle anglers full-time since 1976, said he noticed a big drop in bonefish numbers in the lower and middle Keys following the prolonged statewide cold blast in early 2010 that sent water temperatures plummeting into the 40s in the back country shallows. “It wasn’t any good for two to three years after that front,” Carlile said. “Bonefish have come back a lot in the last year.”

As evidence, he pointed to results of the Marathon International Bonefish Tournament, held annually in September for 55 years. In the 2010 edition following the deep freeze, the fleet released only a couple dozen bones compared to 100-plus in past tournaments, Carlile said. But this past September, numbers were way up, with captain Albert Ponzo guiding client Gene Ford to the release of a record 33 fish in a single day.

Like his fellow guides, Carlile is concerned about the overall health of the bonefish stock and hopes Florida Bay’s woes don’t spread south.

“Fish move,” he noted. Prominent South Florida fisheries scientists are taking the complaints of guides and anglers very seriously. At the fifth Bonefish Tarpon Symposium held Nov. 7-8 in Dania Beach, Jennifer Rehage, associate professor of the Southeast Environmental Research Center at Florida International University, announced the launch of a comprehensive, three-year study to examine in fine detail what’s going on with the Keys bonefish population, particularly in Florida Bay. The study is being funded by the non-profit Bonefish & Tarpon Trust.

“Catches reported by guides have decreased by half since 1980,” Rehage said. “We’re going to link what we know about bonefish with things that have happened in the bay.”

Rehage said her FIU team will examine teams of research conducted since the 1960s by the U.S. Geological Survey, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Audubon Florida, Everglades National Park and other institutions on pollutants, sea grass cover, fresh water delivery, prey, climate and rainfall patterns, fishing pressure and other factors. Scientists will interview anglers and guides, examine their log books and photos, and overlay their accounts with the scientific information to see if “there is a match in time and space,” Rehage said.

“There are probably 20 studies that go back to 1962,” she said. “We know the bay is changing. It is not in good health. We want to make the best of the data and put it together.”

A lot is riding on restoring bonefish populations in the Keys. A recent economic study shows the fishery pumps about $427 million annually into the local economy.

Rehage said that when the study is completed, “we’ll know what happened and how it happened to bonefish in the bay.”

FOOTBALL

Aaron Hernandez double murder trial delayed

TNS STAFF

A judge Tuesday granted a motion to indefinitely delay a double-murder trial for Aaron Hernandez scheduled for next May, although the former Patriots star still faces trial on another charge of murder early next year.

With a prosecutor a spokesman for Suffolk County District Attorney Daniel F. Conley, the judge granted a motion by Hernandez’s attorney to continue the trial Tuesday, but did not set a date for a new trial. Hernandez was scheduled to begin trial for allegedly killing Daniel Abreu and Safiro Furtado on May 28.

Prosecutors say Hernandez “stalked and ambushed” the victims after one of them bumped into Hernandez at a nightclub causing him to spill his drink on the night of July 16, 2012. Hernandez has been held without bail in Massachusetts since June 15, 2013 for the murder of Odin Lloyd, a friend of Hernandez who was dating the sister of the former player’s fiancée.

Lloyd’s bullet-riddled body was found in an industrial park blocks from Hernandez’s home in North Attleboro, Mass. Two other Bristol men, Ernest Wallace and Carlos Ortiz, also face murder charges in the case.

Jury selection in the Hernandez trial is scheduled to begin Jan. 9.
SGC talks student leadership summit, Teens for Jeans, appoints new members

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Next year, University student leaders will have the opportunity to network with professionals, build communication skills, and workshop social responsibility and event management with faculty and staff.

On Monday, Nov. 24, Larissa Adames, advisor of the Biscayne Bay Student Government Council, discussed the annual FIU Student Leadership Summit.

“I highly encourage all members to attend,” Adames said. “It’s a great opportunity to work on your leadership skills.”

The event is on Saturday, Feb. 5, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with registration opening next week.

Vice President of SGC-BBC, Camille Williams, and Arts & Sciences Senator, Faedrah Mahotiere, asked students to help inspire and motivate children in pediatric wards suffering from cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.

“Some of these kids are always in the hospital and don’t get to leave very often,” said Mahotiere.

“We’re trying to get these kids motivated to keep fighting,” Mahotiere said. “Anything you can give helps them.”

Mahotiere and Williams asked members to donate toys, candy, clothes, as well as any old denim for a “Teens for Jeans” initiative. Volunteers are also needed to help make gift baskets for the kids.

SGC-BBC also appointed three new members.

Poula Bayron, a broadcast senior with a minor in communication arts and criminal justice, was selected as a new justice. “I realized I needed to become more active in school,” said Bayron, who wanted to join a prestigious community and understand laws in a practical way.

“It’s a great opportunity to get more experience on my new career in crime reporting,” Bayron said.

Peiwen Jiang and Shaoan Dong, who have experience in marketing and event planning, were appointed as the new Marketing and Public Relations Planners.

[SGC-BBC] is a good way to get involved with campus activities,” said Jiang.

On Saturday, Dec. 6, the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre in WUC theatre will show “Where Did I Go Wrong,” a production that chronicles love, obedience, wisdom and faith.

Mahotiere, a cast member, encouraged students at the council meeting to attend the play.

The theatre hopes to raise at least $2500 from the show for the New Hope International Ministry Church.

The play was directed and written by Wissland Letang (also known as Wes Lotus), a junior broadcast journalism and author of “Bare,” a compilation of inspirational love poems that can be found on FIU’s own bookshelves, and online at Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

“You’re going to laugh and you’re going to cry,” Mahotiere said.

All proceeds of the play are being donated to the NHM church.

FIU student tickets are $10, non-FIU tickets are $20, and there are VIP tickets for $25, which include reserved seating, goodies bags, drinks, appetizers and photos with cast members after the performance.

“It’s a great event to come out to and it’s going to be really interesting, and it’s for a great cause,” she said. “These people worked really hard to put this together.”

In celebration of Thanksgiving, SGC-BBC held a members’ potluck on Wednesday, Nov. 26, instead of their monthly General Meeting.

Student members are encouraged to bring something unique, and celebrate and relax for a change.

HOSPITALITY CLASS PARTNERS WITH NON-PROFIT IN HAITI

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This year, University students will be cruising to Haiti right from the Biscayne Bay Campus. Rather than a paid vacation, the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management will be hosting a Cruise to Haiti themed charity event for the less fortunate children of Haiti.

Professor Bill Hansen and his catering management class have partnered with the Timoun Lakay Foundation, a non-profit organization that serves the cause. The Timoun Lakay Foundation, some include the Bnai Zion Foundations - some include the Bnai Zion Foundation and His House Children’s Home. This year, he chose Timoun Lakay because Rachelle Sylvain-Spence, a board member of the foundation, reached out to him two years ago.

According to Hansen, the money will go to health screenings, healthy meals and even scholarships for the children.

He said the foundation is fairly new and that there is no administrative overhead. This is beneficial because it allows Sylvain-Spence to personally take the money to Haiti. “Whatever we make actually ends up in front of these children,” Hansen said.

He wasn’t able to partner with the organization when he was contacted, but he had always kept them in mind. “I became enamored with what [Sylvain-Spence] was doing and that she was giving it straight to the kids,” he said.

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JOIN OUR STAFF!

The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don’t be shy.

Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124 or apply at fiusm.com.