Walk for cystic fibrosis premiers on campus

ALEXANDER MILLER
Staff Writer

The FIU Wertheim College of Medicine is sponsoring the first walk for cystic fibrosis to occur at the University to create awareness about the illness and get people involved as a whole.

The national Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, there are a series of walks (called Great Strides) for cystic fibrosis that take place around the U.S., but this is the first time there will be a walk taking place at FIU. It's pretty exciting to be planning the walk and it's the first time we're having a walk for cystic fibrosis at FIU," said Rebekah Kharrari, FIU Cystic Fibrosis Foundation chairperson.

According to the organization's Web site, cystic fibrosis is an inherited chronic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system of about 30,000 children and adults in the U.S. and 70,000 worldwide. A defective gene and its protein product cause the body to produce unusually thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs and leads to life-threatening lung infections and obstructs the pancreas and stops natural enzymes from helping the body break down and absorb food.

In the 1990s, few children with cystic fibrosis lived into their 30s, 40s and beyond. Kharrari works on research directly related to cystic fibrosis in the College of Medicine's Department of Molecular Microbiology and Infectious Diseases.

MARIELLA ROQUE
Contributing Writer

The Common Reading Program for freshmen finished its first University-wide implementation this semester and will continue into this Summer and next Fall.

The freshmen-geared program has first-year students read a book chosen by the Common Reading Committee. The program, which was initiated by Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies Glenda Belote and University Ombudsman Larry Lumsford, is a requirement for incoming freshmen.

It began as a pilot program in the Summer semester of 2008 at Biscayne Bay Campus, and has received high student approval ratings since.

The program is tied to the First Year Experience course, a University Core Curriculum prerequisite, in which professors assign the students a two-page essay based on the book as well as a quiz.

The program aims to prepare students for college reading and get them used to writing and taking tests on a book. “We basically want to enhance [the students’] reading skills,” Lumsford said.

Program prepares freshmen for writing exams

HELLO SOUTH FLORIDA
Senior Staff Writer

Originally, the late Jeffrey Knapp, director of the Academy for the Art of Teaching, was placed in charge of the project. But it was handed down to Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies Valerie Morgan after Knapp’s passing.

A committee of 10 faculty and staff and two student representatives leads
Proposal includes a new council

FLU promoted through fundraiser

In the March 10 issue of The Beacon, the photo caption for picture 4 of page 6 incorrectly accredited a fundraiser to Delta Lambda Phi. The fundraiser was hosted by Sigma Sigma Sigma.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UPI office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-917-4722.

CORRECTIONS

GSA, page 1

Because of this system, graduate students who are members of graduate student organizations, which are within CGSO, have to do this to earn conference funding.

All of the graduate students in attendance were approved of getting rid of the point system.

The GSA advisory council will be made up of the four graduate senators, two student and two student professor. Graduate Student Organization coordina- tor within CSO and other members appointed by GSA, SGA and other University-wide colleges and committees.

In the proposal it will be the council’s responsibility to make executive deci- sions, such as managing graduate student open forums and Gradskullers. However, only graduate senators are able to allo- cate money.

The conference funding will be increased from $45,000 to $100,000 based on a stipend of $250 for 400 students. This model is similar to one the University of Florida currently uses, according to Rionda, and it was also one of major criticisms.

All graduate students at the town hall brought up the argument that $250 could barely cover fares for their confer- ences. Rionda said that number could increase, but then fewer students would be covered.

Several graduate students brought up the issue of GSA’s functionality during the town hall. Muhammad Saleem, one of the graduate senators, asked what the card could be used for and who can use it.

Rionda responded by saying that $70,000 of conference funding was not spent, he asked many how many people in the room have attended GSA meetings and only a handful replied and he asked who voted in the GSA elections or for their graduate senator.

Several graduate students said where their conference funding came from was not very important, what was important to them is how they found out GSA was being restructured and graduate student advocate.

As for the advocacy, Saleem suggested that instead of an immediate restructuring, GSA should name GSA for six months to one year after warning them that they are not meeting certain criteria.

Saleem did not specifically address Saleem’s idea but admitted that graduate students were not properly informed of what was happening.

The poll for the restructur- ing were a lack of travel and conference funding during the summer, the GSA office not being accommodating the schedule of graduate students and the limited or no access students at the Biscayne Bay Campus had to the resources of the GSA office.

WALK, page 1

“This is a place for education and it’s an opportunity to raise awareness and it makes it a great thing,” Kharrazi said.

Kharrazi added that the goal is to get as many people to participate in the inaugural walk, and that the event is a fundraiser.

“Whatever people feel like they can raise would be great,” Kharrazi said.

The planning committee for the walk is composed of students and professors, including College of Medicine students.

Other organizations have been instrumental in the planning and promotion of the walk, such as Beta Beta Beta, an honor society for the students of the Biolog- ical Sciences Department at FIU and for those interested in biology and related fields.

“It’s nice to be a part of the walk because the people involved are so passionate,” said Maria Donayre, member of Beta Beta Beta.

Donayre also said that they are urging all professional students to get involved with the walk as well. They have reached out to the Council for Student Organizations as well to help advertise to students on campus about the walk and get them involved.

“This event will put FIU’s name on the map and we are very excited,” said Dr. Kalai Mathe, faculty member of the Department of Molec- ular Microbiology and Infec- tion Diseases at the College of Medicine.

Mathe added that the event will introduce people to FIU and knowledge of cystic fibrosis as a whole. Mathe has formed a team with her lab that has participated in this walk in past years, and like Kharrazi, her research deals directly with cystic fibrosis.

The walk, held on April 3, will begin at the College of Medicine (between buildings HILS I and II at the Modesto Maidique Campus) and will go around the campus.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. and the opening ceremo- nies will begin at 9 a.m.

Anyone is permitted to register for and participate and it is free to register for the walk as an indi- vidual or a team.

For more information and to register for the walk visit http://www.cff.org/AboutCFI and http://cff.org/great_fi_u_a_walk/site/index.cfm.

Books to meet QEP criteria

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Rahalah Kheiranzar, FIU/cyclist Miami charpersoner

Colleges of Medicine

[The article continues with other sections and topics discussed in the document.]
Team gives BBC a positive evaluation

MIKIALA C. TENNIE  
Staff Writer

FIU is being pushed to make the most of the “I” in the middle of its name by a team from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Visits by this association generally strike fear into the hearts of schools, as SACS is responsible for the accreditation and evaluation of colleges and schools in the Southeastern U.S.

Edwin Rugg from Kennesaw State University and Terry McCready from Louisiana Tech University are volunteer members of the SACS team that visit schools based on a federal government requirement.

This visit in particular was to discuss the new initiative FIU is planning on launching in the Fall called the Quality Enhancement Plan. The University’s QEP is Global Learning for Global Citizenship.

“We’d like this to be an open conversation,” McCready said. “SACS visits are not supposed to be ‘gotcha’ visits.”

Members of student support personnel from Student Affairs and the library met with the team to discuss the Biscayne Bay Campus and the QEP.

“It used to be that anything less than 30 miles off of the main campus was a part of the campus, but your campus here is considered an off-campus operation,” Rugg said. “What makes this place special?”

The consensus was that BBC had an intimate community feel and that its environment made it a beautiful campus.

After getting a feel for why BBC is important to the University, the team focused on an aspect of the QEP that will bring more interdisciplinary courses to the school, with classes being taught by multiple professors from different areas of expertise.

According to Rugg, the school was supposed to have more than one of these types of classes up and running by this point. At press time, only one existed.

“What ways can the campus improve?” Rugg said.

One of the answers given was having additional courses on this campus and having more start-to-finish programs offered so students don’t have to travel betweenMMC and BBC as much.

The SACS team was guided through a brief tour of the campus, ending with a three-course lunch hosted by students from the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. The lunch split the SACS team up between two tables, where they interviewed an array of BBC students from different programs at the undergraduate and graduate level.

In the next meeting of the day, the SACS team utilized the information they received from the students in a discussion with the deans from the campus.

“You should know your students are very happy with your faculty,” Rugg said. “Keep up the good work as you grow bigger and better. Keep to your roots of success as best you can.”

The final meeting consisted of faculty from all over the campus discussing how the University can go global with the QEP by being intentional about putting global aspects into courses, by linking academics with extracurricular activities and by focusing on end-of-program results rather than end-of-course results.

“We don’t just want it to be ‘Here’s a class, and here’s an extracurricular activity,’” said Elena Cruz, director of Upward Bound and meeting attendee.

“We want to integrate the two and SACS challenged us to go beyond just activities and class.”

The QEP is a five-year initiative to make the University live up to its name and be international-minded with its approach to learning.

“We do think you’re on to something, especially with the ‘I’ in the middle of your name,” Rugg said. “You’re doing tough work, but you’re doing good work. Make the QEP show that.”
Every summer, hundreds of music fans gather for South Beach Music Festivals across the country to enjoy live music, food, and fun-filled days in the sun. Among the top festivals is the Miami Beach Jazz Festival, which has been a staple in the area since 1984. With a range of performances from well-known and up-and-coming artists, this festival is a must-see for music lovers. The festival takes place from March 12th to 14th, and tickets are available for purchase online or at the festival box office. Whether you're a seasoned music fan or a first-time attendee, the Miami Beach Jazz Festival is sure to leave you with lasting memories.
Pepsi deal an investment to University's future goals

On Feb. 1, The Beacon published an opinion column, written by myself, entitled “Rosenberg’s Salary Comes Well Deserved.” Toward the conclusion, I affirm that “…the University brilliantly executing a recent $8 million deal with beverage giant Pepsi…” is a plausible means through which the University bridges the budget gap, and hence timely.

A recent presentation to the University’s Board of Trustees held on June 1, 2009 discussed the University’s financial crisis, forecasting that for fiscal year 2011-2012, state cuts will equal roughly $35 billion.

The presentation discussed solutions, citing a plan spanning three years primarily consisting of academic restructuring and incremental revenues to conserve $35.7 million, while $13.7 million can be salvaged through an incremental, three-year process of relying upon other funding and revenue sources and lowering operational costs.

In layman’s terms, the University can achieve a balanced budget through a combination of raising tuition and fees, reducing administrative functions and departmental costs comfortably, and most importantly, through corporate and private sources of funding the University's ventures, creating 8,300 jobs.

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine is a prime example of how donations have positively impacted the growth of the University. The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine’s impact on the economy is exponential, to the tune of $1 billion.

The aforementioned presentation asserted that the Medical College was 100 percent funded, with $10.9 million in spring funding, $53 million in donations to date and $14 million in donations estimated during fiscal year 2009-2010.

The University’s administration has changed some-what since Rubio was hired under previous Pres- ident Modena “The Campus” Madera. Currently, FIU should promptly swap Rubio for Charlie Crist, not ‘pursue knowledge’ or ‘be better citizens.’

A $20 million donation from Herbert Wertheim made this a reality, with an inaugural class set to graduate in 2013.

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine is America simply is that it is a growing company, with many universities budgets struggling to maintain balance.

Donations like that of Herbert Wertheim to the College of Medi- cine and the multi-million dollar contract between FIU and Pepsi are examples of how officials put students first. By soliciting funding and donations instead of relying on the dwindling state budget and taxpayer funds, University offi- cials are ensuring that FIU remains a research university — an institution where a quality education can be sought.

The aforementioned budget presentation re-affirms that despite the financial crisis, FIU is investing in quality educational profes- sionals, research and employees, to the tune of $17.4 million.

Whether it is via a corpora- tion, a family, or an individual funding the University’s ventures, it is inevitable that advertising is brought into the realm of University life. Such advertising doesn’t hamper the educational process.

If it weren’t for private contri- butions, FIU, Miami’s only public research university, would just be Primera Casa and a small library, or even worse, a landing strip and a concept in the minds of many.
Barrett earns SBC award for third consecutive week

**STEPHANIE GABRIEL**
Asst. Sports Director

FIU Pitcher Kasey Barrett (7-2) has put up staggering numbers this season as the Golden Panthers have enjoyed their best start to a season since 2005.

The Sun Belt conference has noticed.

The senior, who boasts a 0.37 ERA, has recorded three straight Pitcher of the Week nods from the SBC.

Her efforts last week include two complete games, a shutout, and two saves. In 20.0 innings of work, Barrett struck out 31 batters and allowed just five hits and a single run.

“I really think that our defense and knowing that there’s defense behind me to make all the plays has helped me out a lot,” Barrett said on March 3, after earning her second consecutive SBC award, “and then I think she’s going to get a three-run shot to defeat Eastern Michigan 6-1. “Thank God for Rojas when I have run support that definitely allows me to relax.”

Sophomore Jennifer Giadek (6-1) has also been trying to improve in the circle. Although she currently has a 3.02 ERA over 44 innings, McClelland says that Giadek has been working on some fundamentals to help improve her approach.

“The walks are coming down and I think she’s going to get there,” McClelland said on March 4. “We’re just working on some different pitching things like her legs, lower half, and trying to stay balanced; different focuses for her.”

**FRESHMAN PHENOM**

Before the season even began, McClelland told student media that Bri Rojas would be “the crowd favorite”.

She was right.

The freshman has shown outstanding ability early in the season and has turned heads with a team-high four home runs, while also paces FIU with a .483 batting average. In FIU’s most recent outing, a 3-1 loss to Bradley on Mar. 7, Rojas went 1-for-1 at the plate and recorded two walks.

“I can’t tell you how glad I am that she picked FIU,” McClelland said on Mar. 4, after Rojas knocked out a three-run shot to defeat Eastern Michigan 6-1. “I thank God she’s on our team.”

For Rojas, although the big hits come often, she says it’s always about having a good at-bat.

“It’s about quality at-bats every time,” said Rojas, who has eight walks this season. “I go to the plate feeling confident and I just think, ‘I have to help my team out.’”

UP NEXT

The Golden Panthers will host four games this weekend, beginning with a double header against Michigan State (7-12) today at 4 and 6 p.m. FIU will look to continue their dominance at home, where they have a record of 9-2.

Leading the Spartans offensively is Lindsey Hansen with a .382 BA while Kelly Confer (2-5) leads the defense with a 2.06 ERA on the mound.

Meanwhile, George Washington University (2-6) will face the Golden Panthers on Sunday at noon and 2 p.m.

The Colonials showcase a weak pitching staff that includes two players, Heidi Penna and Kara Clason, with an ERA over 5.00.

Both hurlers have just a win apiece on the season and have allowed a combined 46 runs to opponents. The Colonials’ offense may become stagnant against FIU’s defense, as they have not a single player batting over .300, with Julie Orlandi leading them with a .286 clip.

**UP NEXT**

**FIU VS. MSU, GWU**

- What: FIU vs. Michigan State
- Where: FIU
- When: Mar. 12, Mar. 14
- Where: FIU
- When: 2 p.m.
- When: Noon

**FIU 18, BOSTON COLLEGE 14**

Boston College shortstop Biagio Ravelo enjoyed a breakout campaign in 2009 after slipping through his first few seasons as a Golden Panther, and credited Thomas for turning his career around, saying he would be “nothing” without Thomas. The veteran coach is an offensive expert, in a college game where the coach does more than fill out the lineup card and switch in defensive replacements. If Thomas doesn’t get swayed away by a big program, potent offenses and a strong pipeline of recruits will continue to run through FIU.

**SOFTBALL NOTEBOOK**

**FIU SHORTSTOP JUNIOR ARROJO**

Arrojo, a senior student at FIU, but Thomas has done an admirable job in filling the lineup card and getting a pair of tremendous classes already. And it is on pace to continue.

“I saw the pitch and I just exploded on it,” Henry said. “He hung a curveball and I just took it out.”

Boston College retook the lead in the fourth inning, but FIU quickly jumped back in the lead, taking a 14-6 lead going into the sixth inning, but the Eagles picked up eight runs in two innings to tie the game in the seventh inning.

Pablo Bermudez hit a two-run homerun to give FIU the lead for good, as the bullpen held on to give the Panthers some momentum going into their weekend series against Rutgers.

“That showed a tremendous amount of heart by our bullpen,” Thomas said about the team’s ability to answer the Eagle comeback.

“That’s about as good as it gets.”
Golden Panthers split home series with BC

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers (9-3) split a two-game weekday series with Boston College (5-6) after struggling to produce runs when they needed them in the first game, but lit up the scoreboard in the series finale.

BOSTON COLLEGE 11, FIU 5

Most times it is the first out which is the hardest to get. Usually, it gets easier after that. But for FIU, taking on Boston College on Mar. 9, it was getting the third out that caused headaches for as the Eagles ravaged the pitching staff, scoring all 11 of their runs with two outs already recorded.

“We didn’t swing the bat very well in Arizona and we didn’t swing it well tonight,” coach Turtle Thomas said.

FIU posted two runs in the bottom of the second to open up the scoring, but BC responded with their own two-run inning in the top of the third.

With two outs, Robbie Antonatto tattooed a pitch by FIU starter Daniel Desimone into centerfield that tailed away from FIU outfielder Pablo Bermudez for an RBI double. Matt Hamlet followed with a single to right field to tie the game.

Things got dicey for FIU from there on out. Hamlet came back to haunt DeSimone again with another two-out RBI single to give the Eagles a 2-1 lead and then Mickey Wiswall smashed a three-run home run to tie the game. Things got even diceier after that, with two outs, Robbie Antonatto tattooed a pitch by FIU starter Daniel Desimone into centerfield that tailed away from FIU outfielder Pablo Bermudez for an RBI double. Matt Hamlet followed with a single to right field to tie the game.

FIU made a change of possession at 10:00 p.m.

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“It was basically a match of will and endurance. In the end we wanted it more and came away exhausted by the end of the first half and

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