Creole course highlights Haitian culture

BRITTANY BARTLETT-PINA
Contributing Writer

FIU’s Latin American and Caribbean Center has experienced a notable increase in student enrollment for its six-week course program, the Haitian Summer Institute.

Since its inception in 1997, the program was designed for people interested in learning Haitian Creole as well as further development in Haitian cultural understanding. Any student interested in learning Haitian Creole as well as further development in Haitian cultural understanding is eligible to enroll in the intensive six-week course program, the Haitian Summer Institute.

The new parking garage on the North side of Modesto Maidique Campus will offer more than just parking. PG5 Market Station will offer a variety of new restaurants, a cyber café and classrooms. Market Station is expected to open in the fall.

People tend to view Haiti in a negative way and this is a way to learn what it is really about; to shed light on the positive aspects of the culture

Jacques Pierre, Professor
Latin American and Caribbean Center

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FIU to hire more advisers as enrollment rates increase

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

Despite tuition increases and budget cuts, FIU will hire about 100 new faculty members, with one-third being incremental hires and two-thirds replacements.

Increasing enrollment along with pursuing research initiatives within the University brings the need for new faculty while replacement hires are the result of retirements and resignations, according to University Provost and Executive Vice President Douglas Wartzok.

“We’ve hired or will hire about 106 new faculty members and I don’t think you can find any university outside of Florida that is doing that this year, or the next,” said University President Mark Rosenberg during a Budget Forum at the Modesto Maidique Campus on June 2.

Among the faculty growing during the coming semesters are academic advisers. The advising staff began its increases last year with nine new advisers. Ten more will be hired this year, with 12 more being planned for next year.

“The University has placed a greater emphasis on advising over the last couple of years as the administration has looked for ways to improve the success and retention of our students,” said Charles Andrews, director of the Academic Advising Center for Undergraduate Studies. “The Academic Advising Center has focused on adding more advisers and standardizing our training efforts.”

This is the first time that they will be having this type of staff increase, as the department usually only hires one adviser at a time for several years.

“The original plan was to have all of the additional advising staff in place by next summer,” said Andrews. “The recent decision to continue increasing our enrollment means that we will continue to add more advisers each year over the next few years.”

The additional advisers “were deemed critical to achieve a workable ratio of students to advisers,” according to Andrews. The appropriate ratio of students to advisers is 300-to-1, according to the National Academic Advising Association. Prior to the new hires, the ratio at FIU was 800-to-1, though by next year it should decrease to a little less than 300-to-1.

With the introduction of new faculty also comes new job titles. A number of recently hired advisers are now called Bridge Advisers. These advisers initially report to the central advising center but are placed in the different college advising offices of the University.

“Most of the changes will focus on new outreach initiatives for students who are struggling or need
College of Business now offering Healthcare MBA

LIANAMAR DÁVILA SANABRIA
Contributing Writer

The Healthcare Master of Business Administration at FIU’s College of Business Administration has not held its first session yet it is already contributing to FIU’s global learning initiative through collaborations with Southern Medical University, one of the top medical universities in China, located in Guangzhou.

The partnership resulted from a coincidental conversation between an FIU Business faculty member, Weidong Xia and a former colleague of his at SMU, an associate dean of the School of Humanities and Management at SMU.

“It just happened that she was looking for opportunities in overseas collaboration,” said Jerard Nealon, the FIU student in the program. “I told her we just started a new HCMBM program and the opportunity to develop a strategic partnership occurred,” said Xia. The HCMBM program begins this fall and will be held at FIU’s downtown campus every Saturday over a period of 20 months. Around 50 Chinese students will be arriving at FIU in Fall 2010 to complete the second year of their studies. Most of these students are sixth year medical students who have already received their medical degrees. In China, students will take four classes at SMU during their first year and then they will finish the remaining 30 credits in the MBA program at FIU in order to receive an HCMBM degree from FIU.

Aside from an internationally diverse classroom, FIU HCMBM students will have the opportunity to travel to China to complete their Master Project by researching at and visiting Chinese health care facilities for three months.

“They’ll be able to see how large health care systems operate. Some hospitals in China have around 2,000 beds, what their care systems operate. Some hospitals in China have around 2,000 beds, what their care facilities for three months.

“The rest of the world has been investing time and money into learning the American way and now it’s our time to invest in learning their ways because the language of business is changing and China is at the forefront of that, so it’s a good move,” Jose Coloma, an International Business and Economics senior.

Summer Haitian Creole program gains popularity

In order to be an effective advocate for the community, an understanding of Haitian Creole is necessary”, said Sirpal. This emphasis on Haitian culture can be seen throughout the FIU community. During the Fall ’09 semester, FIU hosted an event entitled “International Creole Day” which showcased Haitian foods and filmed dances.

The institute’s emphasis on Haitian Creole culture has given students like Ginette Clarke an opportunity to learn more about their own backgrounds. Clarke, more commonly known as Gigi, is visiting from Canada while attending the summer program and hopes to return to Canada with the skills for communicating with her family in Haiti.

“Having been adopted at age 4, Clarke, who recently found her biological family, had not grown up accustomed to Haitian Creole.

“After leaving for a better connection with her family, whose English language capabilities are limited, Clarke decided to enroll in the program.

“I felt like I lived in two worlds (Canada and Haiti),” said Clarke.
Miami Heat coup will impact neighboring teams

The unfathomable reality of LeBron James and Chris Bosh uniting with Dwyane Wade on the rising Miami Heat is settling in amongst fans and critics around the country and the world. People’s minds are still reeling with optimum optimism as they try to evaluate the team’s potential for a dynasty.

Soon, it will begin to immerse itself on the South Florida sports landscape too. The media phenomena the Heat is will heavily affect the region, whether it completely overshadows its neighbor teams or helps them by shining a light on the city, which is known for its event atmosphere and bandwagon fans.

The Miami Heat can potentially have an octopus effect on South Florida. It can touch everything. It can bring publicity, attention and something special you will get a lot of media and publicity in Miami. As it can enhance his exposure. That puts them in the spotlight being an athlete in the same city as these guys [in Miami].

There is a lot of it in Miami. Everyone wants positive attention to their sport. Every athlete wants positive attention. Do you want to play in the backyard of the biggest media circus in sports?

One of the Heat’s new monstrous limbs could touch the University as well. “What they did by signing those guys could possibly make Miami the sports town it hasn’t been,” said former FIU baseball player Kris Garcia. “But the majority of athletes and recruits look for somewhere to play where they know people will be paying attention. In this case, there’s a lot of it in Miami.”

A POTENTIAL PLUS

Garcia, a former infielder for the Golden Panthers in 2008, said that he would enjoy the opportunity to be around the glitz of the Heat, because it can enhance his exposure. “That puts them in the spotlight being an athlete in the same city as these guys [in Miami],” Garcia said. “Every athlete wants positive attention to their sport.”

Former Golden Panther quarterback Paul McCall thinks there are some parallels there. “There is some truth to that because just like Garrett Wittels showed,” McCall said, “if you do something special you will get a lot of attention because of the amount of media and publicity in Miami. As for recruiting, it makes Miami more attractive, but there are a lot more important factors to that as well.”

The other factors should be accounted for. Unlike Wittels’ unprecedented streak, the Miami Heat do not directly affect the University. But does that mean they cannot benefit? If the University wants to capitalize on the situation, they could attempt to create promotional events at FIU games, such as paying away tickets to Heat games in Golden Panther events, or inviting Heat scout Paul and former FIU alumnuus Carlos Abney to many FIU sports events as possible, which they have already done.

They could also have game night watch parties at the Graham Center’s new Chili’s restaurant. The University partnered with the Heat last season to have pep rallies at school and send large groups of FIU students to Heat games, but that may be more difficult to accommodate for next season with a higher demand for tickets.

And that doesn’t include the minor help in recruiting this unprecedented Heat team can give FIU. Golden Panthers coaches, especially in basketball, can always tell the athletes, “Do you want to play in the backyard of the biggest media circus in sports?”

RECRUITING

How could it help lure recruits to the team, but the South Florida region may have more to offer now.

Hilton, Serini and Gaitor named to preseason team

JOEL DELGADO

ASSISTANT SPORTS DIRECTOR

FOOTBALL: THREE GOLDEN PANTHERS NAMED TO PRESEASON ALL-SUN BELT TEAM

Looking at the newly released preseason All-Sun Belt Conference Team, the list is a perfect case of déjà vu for the Golden Panthers.

Sun Belt coaches and members of the media honored T.Y. Hilton, Anthony Gaitor and Brad Serini for the second consecutive year. All three players were named to the Preseason All-Sun Belt squad in 2009.

Hilton, who was limited by an injury for a good part of the 2009 season, still put up good numbers when he was on the field, including opening the season with a 96-yard kickoff return for a touchdown against Alabama. In addition to being on the team as a wide receiver, Hilton was also on the squad as a kick returner.

On the defensive side of the ball, Gaitor recorded two interceptions in 2009 as opposing quarterbacks continued to look for ways to throw passes in the other directions. Serini has also been the anchor of the offensive line for FIU, starting in 36 consecutive games for the Golden Panthers as he enters his senior year.

SOFTBALL: PAIR OF SOFTBALL RECRUITS RECEIVE ACCOLADES

Erika Acriti and Mariah Dawson are finishing their high school careers on high notes as they prepare to suit up for the Golden Panthers softball squad next spring. Acriti was named a MaxPreps Softball All-American after hitting .500 during her final season as an outfielder at HB Plant High School in Tampa. She was also named the Florida 6A Defensive Player of the Year and earned a spot on the First Team All-State squad for the second year in a row.

Dawson, a record-setting pitcher who will travel across the country to lend her pitching skills to the Golden Panthers for her collegiate career, received Washington 3A All-State First Team honors. During her time at Union High School in Camas, Wash., Dawson became the Washington state high school record holder for most career strikeouts.

BASEBALL: WITTELS FALLS SHORT OF ESPY

Garrett Wittels came up short of bringing home an ESPY on July 14 as the Best Male College Athlete award went to former Kentucky basketball standout John Wall.

Wittels, who was in Los Angeles for the awards ceremony, was looking to become the first FIU athlete to earn an ESPY after hitting safely in 56 consecutive games during the 2010 season while helping the Golden Panthers win the Sun Belt Conference tournament and reach their first regional since 2003.

The Golden Panthers infielder is currently playing summer ball in Alaska with the Peninsula Oilers of the Alaska Baseball League.
Heat's buzz may help recruiting

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NIU?

Most prep athletes don't base their decisions on the city they are going to live in or the dominance of its professional sports teams, so ultimately recruiting will depend on the success of the programs and its coaches. But it could give recruits a small incentive to come here.

Like Garcia said, some players would enjoy being in a city surrounded by sports glamour and success. Freshman basketball player Dominique Ferguson believes that the city factors in depending on a players personality.

“But just because it’s Miami, and you don’t want to be surrounded by a small town like some of these schools are located,” said Garcia. “But you don’t want to be somewhere where you’ll easily get in trouble.”

That doesn’t mean Ferguson ignores the positives it could bring though: “It’s a big plus that will hopefully draw a lot more attention and hopefully more fans to the city to watch games.”

OPPOSITE REACTION

With every fan that the Heat lure to the American Airlines Arena, every team that plays on the same night the Heat do could be drowned in all the Heat’s interest.

Russo doesn’t think the University has anything to lose, however. With a fair-weather fan base in the region, and a miniature fan base of its own, Fiu could only win in this situation.

It is when the Heat’s influence stretches across South Florida, it should have a positive impact on the Golden Panthers, as well as everyone else in the league.

“We’re not even the champions but we’re competitive we’re going to be. At the end of the day, we’re a veteran type team.”

And that team will have a bulls-eye, Wade said. He expects that when the NBA schedule comes out in a few weeks, teams around the league will check first to see when they’re playing the two-time defending champion Los Angeles Lakers, then when they’ll face the Heat.

“We’re not the champions but we’re going to get that kind of attention from teams,” Wade said. “It’s a respect factor.”

“The respect factor,” he put it, is what matters more than any doubts.

“I’m not really concerned about what people say any more,” Wade said. “I’ve made my comments. Inside here, we know how competitive we’re going to be. At the end of the day, we’ve got to play the game of basketball, we’ll all see then. There’s not much to say.”

MIAMI HEAT

Wade unfazed by negativity surrounding roster

TIM REYNOLDS

AP Sports Writer

Dwyane Wade is keeping track. He’s heard analysts say this Miami Heat lineup will be a flop. He’s heard other players lash out in the wake of the team’s players and coaches.

“Plagued by injuries for the past few seasons, the Fiu women’s basketball players are knocking on the hardwood in hoping the team starts playing better,” said Russo. “In fact, she’s won over 600 games in her 33 years of coaching, 31 of them with the Panthers.

Including last season, Russo has only had six losing seasons. The coach says she has unfinished business, until she sees this team back in the national spotlight.

She is also looking for a healthy group of players next season and hopes to make a return to the NCAA Tournament.

MIAMI HEAT not considering retirement; Rodgers ready

IGOR MELLO

Contributing Writer

“Russo is not used to losing. In fact, she’s won over 600 games in her 33 years of coaching, 31 of them with the Panthers.

Including last season, Russo has only had six losing seasons. The coach says she has unfinished business, until she sees this team back in the national spotlight. She is also looking for a healthy group of players next season and hopes to make a return to the NCAA Tournament.

“Russo and the rest of her team are poised to change the program late last season when they recorded about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a glorified exhibition of about 15,000 fans in a
FISTFULLS OF TECH!

It’s not your iPhone 4, it’s me. I need to try new things.

I am sitting here writing my column, staring at my iPhone 4. I’m a little sad. This sadness though isn’t because of what you think. My iPhone 4 has actually been pretty good in the reception department. My attempts to “death grip” the iPhone 4’s reception to hell have been unsuccessful for the most part. Sitting in my office here at The Beacon, my desk at my other job, my home, I can get it to drop, but never below two bars. Again though, this is not why I’m sad.

I am sad because in my mind, the iPhone and iOS 4.0 for the most are starting to get a tad bit predictable. Let’s go ahead and assume for a moment that the iPhone 4 is absolutely flawless, no reception problem, no proximity sensor problems, just perfect.

Holding it in your hand, you know how much of a massive design feat this was for Apple. The industrial design, the glass body, everything is built with an amazing amount of detail. Even the faulty antenna is a bold step in design. But once you get passed the design, it’s basically the same phone. Sans a few software features like multi-tasking and FaceTime, the whole experience still feels the same to me. When I bought my iPhone, I came to the understanding that this would be my last one. As my mouse hovered over the “buy now” button for the last time; no more iPhone for me.

Don’t for a second think that this was an easy decision for me or anyone making a switch from an iPhone.

The problem with leaving the iPhone, much like leaving the Corleone family, is that once you are out they’ll find a way to pull you back in. Aside from leaving someone you have used for three years, the sheer investment I have made in the platform alone sends chills down my bank account’s spine.

The average iPhone user has no idea how much money they have dished out to developers and Apple while they’ve tapped away on their iPhones.

One dollar for an application here, three dollars for a game there; after a while it adds up to a lot. In the three years I have used an iPhone, I have spent over $100 in apps and ringtones. That’s a lot. To start fresh on a new platform seems mad, but there is a method to this madness, which I’ll get to in a second.

So where will I end up? Well for me, Android seems like the logical choice. All the Google features and services I use would integrate best with the Android OS, obviously.

Though Android is iterating at an alarming rate, with some phones being obsolete in a matter of weeks in some cases, I think the Android experience overall is on the right track.

Not only does the company plan a complete OS refresh in the fall with their performances to tell the tale of a doomed love story. Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Ellen Page are great in their respective roles, but Tom Hardy really brings humor to the tension-filled and serious film. Inception employs several fascinating special effects that include Gordon-Levitt walking on walls and ceilings while fighting a bad guy, DiCaprio and Page having a calm conversation with explosions going off around them and the city of Paris folding in on itself.

Inception hit theatres nationwide July 16.

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It was an article about the reception issue of the iPhone 4 and the cost of using it over 3 years. It was written by Jorge Valens on Wednesday, July 21, 2010.
CONGRATULATIONS TO FIU’S GARRETT WITTELS

All-American infielder, A Record-Breaking Season, 56-Game Hitting Streak, Sun Belt Player of the Year, Member of the 2010 Sun Belt Championship Team, 2010 ESPY Nominee for Best Male College Athlete

FIU is proud to celebrate Garrett Wittels, a Worlds Ahead student-athlete who finished the 2010 season with the second-longest hitting streak in Division I history and earned a place among college baseball’s greatest players.
We deserve the government we get

POLITICS & ECONOMICS

Without an informed and energized public to hold officials accountable, our government will be a pale imitation of democracy.

CHRISTOPHER DIAZ
Opinion Editor

Politicians pull strings and we dance. We curse them, yet we allow ourselves to be puppets.

We do so every time an important issue or bill comes before Congress or the Senate and we are oblivious. We accept our strings every time we are moved by speeches with no substance and quick sound bites that appeal to our emotions.

For some, time isn’t the primary factor. They say they don’t like politics. They are discouraged by how inept, slow, and corrupt some officials have been. But this is all in part to our failing to be responsible citizens.

Without an informed and energized public to hold officials accountable, our government will be a pale imitation of democracy.

When some do get involved in politics, many rally around talking points and rhetoric. Instead, we ought to demand officials to have substance when they speak about issues and bills. They need to do so in ways that most people can understand.

The Health Care Reform Bill that passed earlier this year, and now The Wall Street reform bill that passed on Thursday, July 15th, are complicated and hard to follow. Yet, politicians failed to explain either one.

While we shouldn’t look to politicians to tell us what the truth is, if citizens do their due diligence, then they can compare what they’ve learned with what their representatives are saying.

We are at fault when we elect politicians solely because of their party affiliation and when we respond to their appeals to our emotion. We are at fault when we don’t show up at the polls and when we don’t write to our representatives. We are at fault when we leave politicians to their own devices, free of the public’s leash.

A politician is going to work towards his or her own self-interest, therefore we must arm ourselves with knowledge and make our wants or her chief concern.

I understand many of us lead busy lives. However, despite the policies of our officials, we have a government that doesn’t serve in our best interests. Instead, it will serve our shallow expectations.

Freshmen groups limit, stifled growth

BRANDON THOMPSON
Contributing Writer

Florida International University’s First-Year Interest Groups are not the way to go when entering college as a freshman, unless you want their hand to be held during their first semester and be given an inconsiderate schedule in which your options are limited.

Beginning in 1999, FIU found a way for incoming freshmen to branch out, make new friends, and make their first experience in college a little easier than it would be if they were thrown out of the window, because the classes you may want to take may not be an option.

Furthermore, when registering for a FIG your choices are limited especially if you are leaving high school with AP or Dual Enrollment credits. Even though it is a summer term, there should be more course options available for freshmen. Being stuck with two liberal arts classes and a First-Year Experience course isn’t fun for all students such as myself.

Personally, I think taking two liberal arts classes is pointless at this time because I will satisfy my liberal arts credit requirement and receive elective credits for the other class that I did not want to take in the first place.

Another advantage that FIGs are supposed to be communication amongst your professors. This is supposed to help your various professors understand your schedule and make sure that tests or assignments are never due on the same day.

Two of my professors did not even know my class was in a FIG until we told them. This discredited the guarantee that all of our professors talk with each other.

Although FIGs try to provide freshmen with an easier transition from high school to college, they seem supposed to be about doing everything on your own.

Isn’t college about trying new things and being independent? Enrolling in a FIG shelters freshmen from going out and experiencing FIU for themselves.

When freshmen participate in a FIG, they won’t be exposed to other classes in classes that are not in a FIG, in which they may have college experiences in which they may be able to learn something new.

As long as we are satisfied with soaring rhetoric, sound bites, and minimally responsive officials we will have a government that doesn’t serve in our best interests. Instead, it will serve our shallow expectations.

Florida International University’s First-Year Interest Groups are the same number of classes, depending on semester, with twenty-four other students.

The University encourages all incoming freshmen to participate in a FIG to make the transition from high school to college easier and to streamline the registration process so they can just throw students into a group and be done with it.

Due to what seems like the picture-perfect program for freshmen is the number of FIGs that are offered to students here on campus. In college they tell you that you get to pick your own schedule, and that you get to choose the classes you want.

If a freshman registers in a FIG, all of those choices are thrown out of the window, because the classes you may want to take may not be an option.

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Without an informed and energized public to hold officials accountable, our government will be a pale imitation of democracy.

Student Green fee welcome, but need answers and continued student input

In our July 14 editorial, The Beacon discussed the referendum that passed on June 30 which approved the consideration of the Student Green Energy Fund by the Board of Trustees. If approved, students will pay an extra 25 cents to a dollar per credit hour to support this effort, which could potentially raise $900,000.

We briefly mentioned that this fund is one that should not be the responsibility of the students. However, if the students are to assume the obligation for this fee, The Beacon believes that the following must occur in order for the green energy fund to be a fair and advantageous investment for students for the University at large.

By Spring 2011, the tentative time in which students will vote to approve the green energy fund, the Sustainability Committee should have a clear plan in place for how the funding will be spent and should share this plan with the student body when the voting takes place.

If this is not done, then there is no reason why students should support it, as they have the right to know where the money is going.

Furthermore, the money should be put towards eco-friendly improvements that have a direct and tangible improvement on the quality of student life. The University may argue that a certain item or service will save them money, but what difference does it make if it doesn’t benefit the benefactors of this fund?

According to Cara Cooper, president of Students for Environmental Action, there is no outline for how the green energy fund will be spent; the only stipulation is that the funds must be used towards “energy efficient and clean energy technology.” For the committee to know what eco-friendly initiatives will directly benefit the student body, student input should be a major part of the plan’s development.

Hopefully the Sustainability Committee will not echo the evasive behavior of the Steering Committee, which was charged implementing smoking ban policy.

Instead, they should encourage student opinion by making this option readily available by way of open forums and allowing students to submit suggestions either in person or via email. Granted, students may propose unreasonable or unaffordable ideas that should not be ignored or lost in the shuffle of the more extreme requests. Conversely, they should encourage student opinion as to how the green fee welcome.

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According to Cara Cooper, president of Students for Environmental Action, the University has complained about budget woes recently and is looking to make cuts in every area to balance the budget. If these cuts are approved, significant cuts will have to be made to the proposed budget.

If approved they would not be able to pay the $900,000 that was projected to be raised, in addition to the debt the University is already carrying.

Furthermore, we demand the following for this fee be returned to the students.

1. Prior to any vote on this proposal the students should be given a clear plan on how this fund will be spent.
2. A student input committee should be established.
3. The students should have the right to refuse this fund.
4. The fund should be given to students for the purpose it was raised for.
5. The students should have the right to choose what type of projects it will fund.

The implementation of the student green fund will undoubtedly be a success, but only if the students are given the right to control where the money goes.
Millions reinvested into school

JACQUES ROZIER Contributing Writer

When the Florida Wine Extravaganza debuted on a Sunday afternoon in 1997, it lasted a few hours at the Koves Convention Center and raised $23,000. Today, years later, the name is now South Beach Wine and Food Festival, it lasts four days and the 2010 festival raised over $2 million.

In the earlier years of the festival, the school received only the funds needed for the event. Around $800,000 ensures the event is ongoing. However, according to Mohammad A. Qureshi, assistant dean of facilities and administration for the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM), most of the money is used for scholarships and school renovations - almost $1.6 million in scholarships to University students, to date, including over $400,000 from this year.

The remainder of the money that is not reinvested into the event given in financial aid has been set aside for improvements to the facilities of HTM.

"We want the building to reflect the quality level of the school and the quality level of Southern Wine and Spirits as well," said Joann Remington, interim dean of HTM. The school is currently waiting on a Cortelis match approval [please explain what a cortelis match is.] from the state for their funding. Even with out the match, they have just exceeded $800,000 saved. The money will be used to build a 190-seat restaurant at BBC. The school is also renovating and expanding the Advanced Food Production lab, which will include replacing and upgrading all equipment.

The Southern Wine & Spirits Beverage Management Center will also benefit from the funds. For their beverage management classes, they will build a new, full service bar. They also plan to renovate the barista station, allowing them to incorporate coffees and teas to the classes.

In addition to these two projects is a new brewing science lab. Students currently create their own beers, which are available at the Wine and Food Festival alongside the other vendors. With the new lab, there will also be a new entry for the school. Future funds will be directed towards renovating the kitchens. Most of the design and planning phase is complete and the renovations and expansions are set to finish by the end of 2010.

The 2012 festival will include a dedication to the new facilities, sponsors, vendors, and families who have made it all possible. They are also planning a groundbreaking ceremony in mid October.

There are interdisciplinary fundraising projects at the University, but the Wine & Food Festival is one of the things that agents, were paid $50 to $100 a day for recruiting new patients. Wire transfers captured hundreds of kickback payments doled out over time to doctors paid off by a man who did nothing but pay bills totaling $1.6 billion. The number that is not reinvested into the event given in financial aid has been set aside for improvements to the facilities of HTM.

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