Study abroad programs more popular than ever

According to a recent poll by the Institute of International Education, studying abroad has increased by 8.5%, becoming a popular rite of passage for many college students. The increase reflects data comparisons from the 2007-2008 academic year, and suggests similar numbers in the coming years with the extensive financial opportunities and overall reward of study abroad.

FIU has seen similar increases. With a sum of over 500 students, FIU continues to influence students to pursue foreign study. The Office of Education Abroad offers international student exchange programs as well as the shorter length University-sponsored programs in order to encourage locals to expand and get new experiences.

“We see that especially in Miami, many students haven’t gotten out of the area; when they do international student exchange they become more self-reliant and confident. They become more aware of other cultures,” said Office of Study Abroad Coordinator, Laura Marks.

Despite the rise of less traditional localizations, sites in Western Europe hosted 56% of all American study abroad participants. Along with FIU statistics, Marks informs us that Western Europe continues to be a popular region and that the “Passport to Italy” program is still the most popular choice.

However, she also notes an increase in students going to Asia to pursue their studies, which she believes is likely to be attributed to the programs associated with the FIU Business School and the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

The increase is also seen in the IIE poll, which shows students are choosing more unconventional locations for study; places such as China, India, Japan, South Africa and Argentina.

India experienced a 20% increase in Americans visiting as part of a study abroad program. China, Japan and South Africa all saw an increase of 15% or more.

“More students are eager to study in newly popular study abroad destinations such as China, India, and the Middle East. The language and cultural skills they acquire along with their academic experience will have a profound effect on their lives and careers,” said Allan E. Goodman, president and CEO of the IIE in a press release. Raisa Kirtom, a recent FIU graduate who participated in the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management’s study abroad program in China, was surprised by how advanced Chinese are within her field.

“I gained a lot of respect for the Chinese,” said Kirtom.

While the less conventional options for studying abroad have been gaining steam, the four countries leading in hosting U.S. students are England with 33,333 students, Italy with 30,670 students, Spain with 25,212 students and France with 17,336 students.

Even though these four countries lead in hosting U.S. students, Open Doors reports that fifteen of the top 25 destinations are among the top 25 countries in numbers of American students.

Manageable roundtables encourage open debate among students

The Tuesday Times Roundtable will be returning to the Modesto Maidique Campus and for the first time ever to the Biscayne Bay Campus, after two successful semesters this previous academic year which over 600 students, faculty and staff members in attendance.

TTR, a series of weekly discussions held every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. is based off articles from The New York Times and is sponsored by the Office of Global Learning Initiatives, The New York Times and the Student Government Association.

The roundtables are moderated by faculty members who encourage those in attendance to engage in open multi-perspective discussions on a variety of topics that deal with global issues, events and trends.

Topics from some of the past 17 Tuesday Times Roundtables include: alternative energy, the justification for war, the depiction of religion in movies and immigration in the United States. The roundtables are part of the University’s Quality Enhancement Plan, “Global Learning for Global Citizenship” and are open to all students and faculty members. A free lunch is also provided to those in attendance.

“We have all the topics and all the faculty members ready to go at MMC,” said Stephanie Doscher, associate director of the office of Global Learning Initiatives. “We built such excitement that within weeks of putting out the invitation for faculty to moderate, we had a full slate.”

The excitement is part of the reason why the Tuesday Times Roundtables are expanding to the Biscayne Bay Campus, as part of a co-sponsorship with SGC-BBC, according to Doscher.

Both the MMC and BBC roundtables will be happening on the same days and times.

“We’re experimenting with that this year, and if it doesn’t work this year we’ll change it,” said Doscher.

According to Maria Cedeño, graduate assistant for the office of Global Learning Initiatives, the BBC roundtable series is sponsored by Office of Global Learning Initiatives, The New York Times, and the BBC Student Government Association, the BBC Campus Life and Orientation Office, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, the Office of the Vice Provost at BBC, and the FIU Libraries.

Among the topics being covered by the roundtables this year are: “The WHAT Generation? Defining your place in history,” “Mirror, Mirror on the wall… do you like the man you’ve become?” and “Don’t lose your culture.”

The Tuesday Times Roundtable is open to students, professors, staff and community members on a first-come-first-serve basis.

*Roundtables encourage open debate among students*
Head of controversial Cuban radio and TV station resigns

Radio/TV Martí director Pedro Roig resigned Friday after more than seven years at the head of the often controversial U.S. government stations that broadcast to Cuba according to The Miami Herald. Roig was written to his supervisors, “I hereby submit my resignation from the position of Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCH), effective Sept. 1, 2010 or at the Board’s timely convenience.” The letter was provided to El Nuevo Herald by Jorge de Cardenas, a public relations man and friend of Roig. According to The Miami Herald, other knowledgeable sources confirmed the resignation. The U.S. government’s Board of Broadcasting Governors, which supervises the Office of Cuba Broadcasting, was expected to announce Roig’s resignation to the Radio/TV Martí staff Friday afternoon and then later to the public.

American imprisoned in North Korea returns to U.S.

Former President Jimmy Carter assisted in the release of an American held captive for seven months in North Korea according to MSNBC. Aijalon Gomes, looking thin but joyful, was greeted and hugged by Carter, who had flown to Pyongyang to negotiate his freedom, in his hometown Friday along with his family and friends. Gomes, who had been teaching English in South Korea, was imprisoned and sentenced to eight years’ hard labor for crossing into the North from China on Jan. 25 for unknown reasons. After it was reported last month that Gomes had attempted suicide, leading his family to ask Carter if the former president came to get him. The Miami Herald reported that North Korea said this week it would release Gomes to the United States on humanitarian grounds. Gomes told the Miami Herald’s Adam Berry that he was hopeful for his release on humanitarian grounds. North Korea returns to U.S. later to the public.

Study abroad programs help GPAs

Photo Caption...

Study abroad programs help GPAs

According to a study done by the 35 institution University System of Georgia, researchers found that students who went abroad typically achieved higher GPAs upon their return. Also, these students were more culturally and globally informed as a result of their foreign study.

“The skeptics of study abroad have always made the argument that study abroad is a distraction from the business of getting educated, so you can’t enter the economy and become a contributing member of society,” said Don Rubin, professor emeritus of speech communication and language education at the University of Georgia and research director for the Georgia Learning Outcomes of Students Studying Abroad Research Initiative, or GLOSSARI, in an interview with USA Today. “I think if there’s one take-home message from this research as a whole it is that study abroad does not undermine educational outcomes, it doesn’t undermine graduation rate, it doesn’t undermine final semester GPA. It’s not a distraction,” Rubin told USA Today. “At worst, it can have relatively little impact on some students’ educational careers. And at best it enhances the progress toward degree. It enhances the quality of learning as reflected in things like GPA.”

Foreign study, which had previously been a large monetary pitfall, now envelopes a large network of financial assistance. According to the Office of Study Abroad, many programs allow students to pay FIU tuition rates which make it affordable to many. Aside from that, national awards have been implemented for some time in order to promote foreign study. Federal Pell Grants can be applied to study abroad as well as the commonly preferred Fulbright Scholarships. Another alternative to cut costs is the duration of the program. Throughout the 2007-2008 academic year, 40% of the study abroad participants did mid-length programs while the majority had elected to complete short-term programs. Conclusively, students gain experience abroad without necessarily breaking the bank.

Study abroad, page 1

Emilia Eroszegi/THE BEACON

1) The United Kingdom (33,333 up 2%)
2) Italy (30,670 up 10%)
3) Spain (25,212 up 5%)
4) France (17,336, up 0.6%)
5) China (13,165, up 19%)
6) Australia (11,042, up 3%)
7) Mexico (9,928, up 5%)
8) Germany (8,253, up 12%)
9) Ireland (6,881, up 19%)
10) Costa Rica (6,096, up 13%)
11) Japan (5,710, up 14%)
12) Argentina (4,109 up 14%)
13) Greece (3,847, up 13%)
14) South Africa (3,700, up 15%)
15) Czech Republic (3,417, up 9%)
16) Austria (3,356, up 19%)
17) India (3,146 up 20%)
18) Ecuador (2,814, no change)
19) Chile (2,739 down 3%)
20) Brazil (2,723 up 8%)

NEWLY RENOVATED BARNES & NOBLE AT FIU

OPENING EVENTS: AUGUST 23rd - SEPTEMBER 11th
weekly drawings for prizes, giveaways, and food samples - stop by the bookstore for more details!

• August 23rd - Bookstore Fashion Show, 12-2pm in Graham Center Concourse
• August 23rd - Bookstore Late Night Out, 8pm in Bookstore Café
• September 8th - Football Pep Rally, 12-3pm in Bookstore - giveaways and music
• September 10th - Children’s Center book reading and face painting event, 5pm
• September 11th - First home football game against Rutgers - get your game day gear at the Bookstore

SAVE 10% on one emblematic t-shirt
Three new associate justices confirmed at SGA hearing

VINCENT FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association began the school year this past Monday with its first Student Government Council meeting. A vote was called right away and the most important part of the meeting was bringing forward the agenda: the confirmation of three new associate justices. Associate Justices are vital to the Student Government Council. Before a candidate for Associate Justice can be confirmed, he/she is given a chance to speak in front of the Graduate Senators and is then questioned by the Senators themselves.

SGA approved its new Constitution with a vote of 201 to 46 and 49 abstained votes, which now requires that all Associate Justices sit on the bench for two years with consistency and continuity. The first Associate Justice elected was Michael Foley, a member of both Pi Sigma Alpha and the National Political Science Honor Society. Foley was elected with a vote of 13 to 8.

Next to stand in front of the Council was Erica Estrévez, a sophomore double majoring in Political Science and Criminal Justice. Erica received the Academic Excellence Scholarship in 2009, as well as a Presidential Education Award in 2009. She became an Associate Justice with a unanimous vote from the Senators.

Finally, Associate Justice Jessica Medina was brought to the stage and confirmed by the Senators. Jessica is a 4L student at the College of Law and also served as an Executive Paralegal in a law firm.

“I am very confident in the new Associate Justices and their analytical skills,” Chris Cabral, senator of the College of Arts and Sciences, said. SGA's judicial branch has many responsibilities that the Chief and Associate Justices must adhere to. The justices must hear grievances, which can include any charges against any SGA official, group of officials, or body of governo.

The Judicial branch is also in charge of overseeing petitions for legal review, which are requests for the evaluation of SGA laws to determine the constitutionality and consistency of other SGA laws. The justices must also oversee appeals from the election board or any of the governing councils.

Health education program to aid 36,000 households

MARIELLA ROQUE
Staff Writer

Second year medical students will get first-hand experience in working with biological and social issues of Miami-Dade communities beginning Sept. 1.

The Green Family Neighborhood Health Education Program (Neighborhood-HELP) is a University-wide program aiming to educate households in all health-related needs they may have. Every medical student enrolled must participate in the 3-year program, taking preparatory classes in their first year.

“We hope that participants will have an increased understanding of their own medical condition and how to appropriately access the healthcare system,” said Luther Brewster, assistant professor of Humanities, Health and Society, in an e-mail interview.

Students are divided into four “Panther Communities” which represent different areas of Miami, these being North Miami-Dade, Miami Gardens, Opa-Locka and a section of Unincorporated Miami; a total of about 36,000 households.

“I initially thought we would be doing normal stuff—it’s all come to incorporate a lot more than that,” said Trine Engbersten, a second year medical student.

Juan Lozano, professor in the Section of Research, Data and Information at HWCOM supported Engebreten by stating the goal of the students will “learn things not experienced in class” and “have a broader perspective of health.”

“The areas were chosen based on a survey conducted by the Edward J. Wertheim College of Medicine on Aug. 18, discerning the health problems in lower-income neighborhoods. “One interesting thing [about the survey] is the response rate (over 70 percent) which suggests that the community was very willing to provide their information,” said Lozano. “We are still in the process of analyzing the final data.”

All of the households involved were referred by a community-based organization like church, school or clinic and went through a screening process to confirm a medical condition in the home and ensure the safety of the students participating. This was conducted by asking a series of questions and signing a document to confirm accurate information.

“There is minimal health risk as the students will not be performing medical procedures in the homes,” Brewster said.

“We wanted to work with these communities based on knowledge, not assumptions,” said Associate Professor of Human and Molecular Genetics Juan Acuña. Acuña explained that the program was intended to study infant mortality rates. The program is part of a course of Medicine and Society courses culminating in “Community, Culture and Health”—the hands-on course when the students begin working with the households.

“We got a lot of background on what resources are available for the household by the health needs,” Engbersten said.

“Our expectations are that students develop relationships with these households,” said Chief of Family Medicine and course director David Brown. Each household is assigned three students: one nursing, one medical and one from social work, along with a faculty member. These students are expected to visit the same household once to twice a month until they graduate to address the health needs and educate the members of the home.

“We want to see communities with more residents empowered to address his or her own health and social needs,” Brewster said, “less reliance on the hospital emergency rooms.”

According to a July 2010 study conducted in California, the national average for emergency room visits is about four hours, half an hour less than California’s state average.

“We understand now that the social determinants have a huge impact,” Brown said.

In the three-year period students are not only expected to address medical problems but also work with families at a biological-psycho-social level; not just treating the illness but also their overall health through managing social factors and education.

"FIU is trying to get us to focus on the patient long-term by educating them instead of simply prescribing," said Engbersten.

First roundtable on Aug. 31

ROUNDTABLE, page 1

I look Hispanic at all?“ and “Social Media: Privacy vs. Community.”

The first roundtable at MMC, titled “Are Africans Responsible for the Transatlantic Slave Trade?” will be held on Aug. 31 and moderated by Jean Mutseba Rahier, associate professor of anthropology in the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies.

The MMC roundtables will be held every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. in GC 150, while the BBC roundtables will be held at the same time in the Wolfe University Center, room 159.
HOME COOKING

Sorzano one goal short of hat trick in convincing win

MATTHEW WITTYNHAM
Contributing Writer

With quality passing and dominating possession, the FIU Golden Panthers (2-2, 0-0 Sun-Belt) won their home opener against the Delaware State Hornets (0-3), 4-1.

The Panther attack was surprisingly led by two freshmen. Chelsea Levia and Nicole DiPerna were the driving force of the attack, constantly supplying efficient passes towards the finishing players. Levia being one of those finishers. Chelsea finished the match with a goal, netting a red-carded cross from DiPerna herself. DiPerna was a presence in midfield, muscling Delaware State players off the ball and controlling the tempo of the play. In addition, senior Kassandra Sorzano was short of the first FIU hat trick since 2003 by one goal, netting herself two.

Linn Thune, Senior goalkeeper, talked highly of the freshman impact of Levia and DiPerna.

"Both of them are very confident players," Thune said. "It seems like they just love the game of soccer and they get excited when they get to play."

Thune added that the team is gaining confidence and a higher morale with two consecutive wins, including a double overtime thriller at Florida Gulf Coast on Aug. 26. In that overtime win, Levia netted herself first FIU regular season goal. With the goal scored against Delaware State, she has scored in two consecutive games.

Chelsea radiated a smile when responding to how it feels to score at home in front of her parents for the first time as a Golden Panther.

"Every goal is for them, I tell them every time," Levia said.

Levia performed confidently, taking four shots and hitting the goal with two of them.

BIG GAME

The game was not to be anunedone without a stand-out performer. Kassandra Sorzano, a senior captain at midfield, was a presence throughout the game. Holding possession, slowing down play, feeding her fellow teammates. Sorzano was the play-maker in the middle of the field, causing havoc in the Hornet defense. The Golden Panthers had an impressive 30 shots. There was potential to score more than four goals, however, as the team also missed on a slew of opportunities.

When asked how the team could be more clinical in finishing, Sorzano replied "Well just working on it in practice."

"The team is gaining confidence and a higher morale with two consecutive wins, including a double overtime thriller at Florida Gulf Coast on Aug. 26."

The final Golden Panther goal was scored by another freshman, Kim Lopez. The goal was scored on a short corner. Lopez received a pass high in the box, allowing her to dribble her way into the Hornet defense and finished with her left foot.

The Golden Panthers, who scored just one goal in their first three games of 2010 before the breakout. Katrina Rose, an All SBC First Team selection last season, did not play for fourth consecutive game. Chestnutt cited the reason for her absence as "getting back to full fitness."

Chestnutt expects Rose to be a ‘force’ when she is prepared to play, and she is not injured.

FOOTBALL

Wesley Carroll should be named starting quarterback

When Wesley Carroll made the decision to transfer to FIU in early 2009, it sent some serious shockwaves across the program and a lot of exciting optimism for the FIU faithful.

When the season opener starts and the fans come out makes the win that much more special," Chestnutt said. "The fans out makes the win that much more special."

"Things are looking up and it should make the win that much more special."

"Things are looking up and it should make the win that much more special."

Wesley Carroll...
VOLLEYBALL

Valentin, Bjelica earn SBC preseason honors in poll

JONATHAN RAMOS

Sports Director

FIU setter Natalia Valentin is approaching this season enthralled as the team’s leader, but with the graduation of former FIU great Yarimar Rosa, Valentin is in position to not only lead the team, but replace Rosa as the best player in the Sun Belt conference. SBC head coaches agree.

As announced by the conference on Aug. 26, Valentin was named the SBC Preseason Player of the Year, becoming just the second FIU player to ever receive the honor, as Rosa earned it in 2008 and 2009. The Puerto Rico native was one of two FIU players to start all 36 games last season, while being named to the SBC Championship All-Tournament team.

Valentin led the team in digs and aces in 2009, helping the Golden Panthers to a 16-13 record and a spot in the SBC Championship. The senior setter was also announced as a member of the All-SBC Preseason squad, where she was joined by outside hitter Jovana Bjelica, who won the SBC Freshman of the Year last season, was third on the team with 344 kills in 2009.

In the 2010 SBC Preseason Poll, Middle Tennessee was selected to finish at the top of the East Division with 66 points on six first place votes, while FIU was picked to finish second with 63 points and five first place votes. The Golden Panthers also received national recognition with three votes in the AVCA Division I Coaches Top 25 Preseason Poll.

The rest of the East Division is comprised of WKU with 51 points and one first place vote, Troy with 28 points, and Florida Atlantic and South Alabama with 22 points apiece.

FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK

Freshman White cleared

IGOR MELLO

Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers may be getting a big addition to their defensive line. But before he can contribute, he must get smaller.

Jordan White, a 6-foot-3, 350-pound giant, participated in Thursday’s practice for the first time this season. The freshman only had upper pads on and didn’t take part in full contact drills. He missed training camp due to academic issues.

White was originally recruited at 330 pounds. He will have to shed some weight if he wants to see any time on the field.

“We’re not holding, we are making sure he loses a bunch of weight and becomes functional,” said head coach Mario Cristobal. “A man that size has to lose a certain amount of weight and be able to move the weight that he has to be functional.”

Cristobal isn’t even ready to determine on White’s contribution to the team this season.

“Hasn’t even been in full gear yet. Until he is in full gear, we won’t be able to even predict that,” said Cristobal.

RUNNING BACK CAROUSEL

Cristobal would love to have one running back taking over a game, but he isn’t seeing that so far.

“We just need a couple of guys that can really rise up as home run hitters,” said Cristobal. “You’d love a guy that for three quarters he can wear the defense down and can take it over in the fourth quarter.”

Although he would like to see one of his backs to become that “home run hitter,” Cristobal is still comfortable with five of his running backs to make a contribution. Robert Boswell, Jeremiah Harden, Darrin Mallary, Darriet Perry, Kienklund Rhodes are the five expected to contribute.

“They add a dimension to the offense that we really haven’t had in a while,” said Cristobal.

Cristobal feels even comfortable with a big back like Brandon Bennett, who is listed at 205 pounds to contribute to the offense.

INJURY

Senior running back Trenard Turner did not participate in practice and could miss some time due to an injured shoulder.

“That shouldn’t be hurting him. We’re just waiting to see what the test shows,” said Cristobal.

As it stands now, Turner’s status is unknown.

Kevin Van Kirk’s recovery timetable still has not been announced yet. What Cristobal does know though, is that it all depends on his rehab.

“It’s a matter of how he rehabes and how fast he can get back. Only time will tell,” said Cristobal.

According to Cristobal, it depends on how deep in to the season they are regarding a decision on possibly red-shirting the sophomore right guard.

FLORIDA MARLINS

Morrison shares with dad

MIKE FITZPATRICK

AP Sports Writer

Logan Morrison’s father remembers exactly what he said when the doctor told him he had inoperable lung cancer.

“I am going to be around long enough to see my son get his first big league hit?”

Oh, he’s seen that and much, much more. Morrison and his dad, both choking back tears, sat side by side in the Florida Marlins’ dugout Wednesday trying to describe their emotions during a cherished reunion at Citi Field.

Words, in this case, could never be enough.

“I chose to live,” Logan Morrison said of his battle with Stage 4 lung cancer in April. “I chose to live another 1, 2, 3 years. I’m not going to just kick it up a little bit. He’s the reason I’m here.”

Logan Morrison was in the lineup again Wednesday on his 23rd birthday. His dad was back at the ballpark, too, purple-tinted sunglasses sitting upside down on the bill of a black Marlins cap, with about 20 other family members and friends in attendance.

A birthday cake awaited after the game. “Baseball has kind of brought the family together,” Logan Morrison said.

Morrison is hitting .307 with no homers and seven RBIs, and nobody is happier for him than his father.

“Anytime he’s in the stands I kick it up a little bit. He’s the reason I’m here,” Morrison said.

After the game, the Morrison clan met up in a corridor before heading out for a postgame dinner.

“It’s kind of surreal. The kid’s living his dream,” Tom Morrison said before the game. “He’s a good kid. He deserves it.”

Logan Morrison said it’s not hard to concentrate on the field, but he often thinks of his dad during batting practice and when he’s away from the ballpark.

Outside hitter Natalia Valentin was the Golden Panthers’ third consecutive preseason SBC player of the year award. FIU is expected to finish second in the East Division.
“A book may be over a hundred-dollar at the bookstore and you can find the same book somewhere else for like 45 dollars. It’s not worth paying bookstore prices when you only use the book for one semester,” said Ferguson, an international relations major.

Booksmart, located across the street from FIU, is a proponent sold online textbooks. The textbook prices range anywhere from a few dollars cheaper than FIU bookstore prices to 50 dollars per textbook. According to Ferguson, it is important to find the lowest price because the cost of one textbook is on campus at the bookstore and you can find the best deal online. Students can highlight and take notes electronically. There is also the option of printing some of the pages that are limited. The books that are sold online are in good condition and they even plant a tree for every textbook rented.

“You really don’t need to keep textbooks when the semester is over, so the good thing about Chegg is you can just send them back without paying shipping. It’s easy,” said Grzanek, a sophomore majoring in international relations.

There are many options when it comes to purchasing textbooks and it is important to stay around to save a couple bucks—sometimes hundreds. The key is always to research before buying to know where to get the best deal.

Textbooks for Cheap

So you’ve been in the dorms for about a 5-6 days at this point. You know you’re planning pretty well at this point, and you’ve probably met a few of your floormates. Enter the familiar college situation: you’re in your corner of the hall with your flip phone and your Facebook open. And while everyone’s likely setting a new schedule and trying to figure out their new professors, you’re trying to figure out where to get the cheapest books.

You might spend a little more time at that time of the year, but in the long run, you’ll save a lot of money. You have to pay attention to your professors and how they handle your textbook, but if you play it right, you can save hundreds of dollars a semester.

“Even though it is more expensive, I buy my books at the bookstore because it’s convenient and I have to use my book advance there,” said Albertus, a sophomore business major.

“Rip-off,” said senior Lorenzo Ferguson. “You really don’t need to keep textbooks when the semester is over, so the good thing about Chegg is you can just send them back without paying shipping. It’s easy,” said Grzanek, a sophomore majoring in international relations.

The season for this is because, of course, but if you’re asking on hand to buy textbooks for the first time aren’t exactly overflowing with common sense.

Don’t follow that lead.

It may sound like a critique, but really, it’s a great thing to experience, and I would recommend it to everyone. It was a good choice. You’re with like-minded people who are trying to make a better profit from selling online rather than selling on hand to buy textbooks for the first time aren’t exactly overflowing with common sense.

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Don’t follow that lead.

I’m not exactly sure I buy this line of thinking; how sad would it be to peak at 18?

You often hear older people say, “College is the best time of your life.”

But there’s something unique about the multitude of opportunities laid out for you as a freshman in college, and it’s not something you’ll experience often. Take advantage of this time.

Take advantage of being on campus, and do as much as you can around school. Whether you actually want to join an organization or not, you’ll find you just may develop a much greater affinity for the school if you are opened minded about new experiences.

You know your roommates pretty well at this point, and you’ve probably met a few of your floormates.

All students are allowed free access to every athletic event on campus with their Panther ID.

Notes

When choosing to purchase textbooks online it is important to buy the lowest price because the cost of one textbook is on campus at the bookstore and you can find the best deal online.

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Week of Welcome kicked off the fall semester with loads of activities for new students, welcoming them to a revamped campus. Events on both campuses [right; top MMC, Bottom BBC] included FIU’s oldest tradition, Trail of the Torch, led by FIU baseball player Garrett Wittles [top left], a Freshmen Luau at BBC [top right] and a comedy show featuring Arvin Mitchell [Bottom].

“Week of Welcome serves as an appetizer, so to speak, for all of the amazing events we have planned for our students this year. It’s a perfect opportunity to get to know us and kick-off your semester with some free, fun entertainment,” said Cristina Rodriguez,
Spirit Week introduces students to Greek life

In addition to service, these organizations are known for stepping and strolling, and Tuesday’s event, Blast from the Past, will cover why they perform and where those traditions come from. There will be a question and answer portion and questions can be asked anonymously. The event will be held at 9 p.m. in GC 140.

On Wednesday the council will breakaway from the seriousness of informational presentations with Nerd Day. One thing all NPHC organizations have in common is a commitment to scholarship. In honor of that, they will be dressed as nerds all day and well into the evening for a nerd themed step show on the PC steps at 9 p.m.

“It is a good atmosphere at their events and it is entertaining,” said junior Kani Howard, who is not Greek but has many friends in different NPHC organizations. “You can see the connection between the different organizations and it is interesting to see the brotherly and sisterly bond between them,” she said. Thursday, the council will have people seeing double with Twin Day. Every organization will be matching like twins. In the evening, the University community is invited to their Divine Gala, where they will recognize exemplary members of the council as well as other FIU talent. Entrance to the gala, which is at the Biscayne Bay Campus at 8 p.m., will be a pair of shoes that will be collected and donated to Haiti.

The week will conclude with a spirit day pool party in the housing quad at 5 p.m. co-hosted with the Black Student Union and the Caribbean Student Association, a day of service on Saturday, and a church service in Coral Gables Sunday.

Major new game releases storm consoles this September

With the first week of school now a memory and the days of summer waning, September brings the true start of fall, slightly cooler weather, and plenty of new games.

They popped up in Europe a couple of summers ago and have slowly sneaked into the American market: first as a Japan import on the Gamecube and Wii.

Now in the Las Vegas-esque city of Fortune City, new series hero Chuck Greene has to outrun by zombies of obese tourists and Elvis Presley impersonators, among others.

New to the game is a mechanic to combine weapons to form even more brutal weapons to tear into the undead. For example, take a motorcycle and attach two chainsaws to it, a combination possible in the game. Have fun driving that bad boy into a mob of zombies.

Press Start is a video game column that runs every Monday. The columnist receives no payment or gifts for favorable reviews.

MONTREAL

FASHION FINDS

Rompers: adult onesie or cool option to beat the heat

I’ve always been really torn about rompers. They are a strange cross between overalls and adult onesies.

It took me two years to finally fall into the rompers trap. Once I bought one, it took me two months to finally wear it. I’m still on the fence about how they look on me, but I can’t resist their practicality.

What I like about rompers is the fact that they are easy to wear. It works the same way a dress does: one piece: up and go. It’s the perfect travel outfit because it’s light and easy to pack into a weekend bag or carry-on.

Rompers are revealing so if you aren’t comfortable with that, throw on a boyfriend cardigan to keep some mystery.

And always wear them with sandals. It just doesn’t look right when worn with closed-toe shoes. It cuts off your legs in an awkward place and makes you look stumpy.

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Abstinence still holds major value

MELANIE M. MARTINEZ
Special to the Beacon

I’m writing in response to an article printed in the Aug. 23 issue of The Beacon titled “Virginity overrated by unrealistic expectations” by Taina Fernandez.

I wholeheartedly disagree with the author’s point of view that sex is just a “test drive” for a marriage and that “casual sex” is nothing more than the exchanging of body fluids that houseflies need the same amount of time to truly get to. Without love, sex is nothing more than a messy exchange of body fluids. The act of sex is nothing more than a test drive for a marriage and that casual sex is nothing more than the exchanging of body fluids that houseflies need the same amount of time to truly get to.

In fact, studies show it’s that very lack of commitment that carries itself over to life after marriage. “Casual sex” in particular is a lowly mark and when I approached the author, he will still be collecting a sizeable paycheck from FII, nearly $50,000.

“Sex is nothing, sex is okay, everyone’s doing it” is something fed to us by every form of media conceivable, no (duh) we’re going to have crappy marriages without a shred of attachment to hold them. No duh there’s going to be a 50 percent rate of divorce in America. We are what we showed down our throats.

Last semester we were assigned to write a paper on a belief that we held that was contrary to what society believed. I wrote about my belief in chastity and patience and love which I hold quite strongly. When I got the paper back, I received a lowly mark and when I approached the professor about it, I was condescendingly informed that chastity is, in fact, a widely held belief.

Thank you, Taina, for proving him wrong. Melanie M. Martinez is a sophomore majoring in International Business and English.

Capable governor candidates ignored

ANDREW MEYER
Special to the Beacon

In America, the race for president of the country is so consuming we tend to overlook our other elections, even the race for governor. As governors are presidents of the state they cause quite a bit more attention. A disparaging Facebook message concerning one “frenemmy” for Governor of Florida motivated me to do a bit of research. It turns out there are some amazing candidates for governor in Florida.

With the help of private investors, Michael E. Arth turned an infamous crack town in DeLand, Florida into a vibrant historical district by buying crack houses and renovating them. Calling the war on drugs “a war on the poor” in Florida, Arth offers a plan to cut down on the spiraling cost of prisons; build cost effective shelters for the homeless.

Arth’s “Village for the Homeless” would relieve the swollen prison population and add millions back to Florida’s budget by providing cheap housing for a different type of homeless. “There are many in prison without anywhere else to sleep.”

Furthermore, dorms of further studies have shown that couples who live together before marriage have up to a 50 percent higher risk of divorce than couples who don’t. That’s a whopping 50 percent chance of divorce for couples who are intimate enough to the point of cohabitation before marriage. Seriously, did the author look at any sources other than Wikipedia and the latest episode of True Blood?

But despite the unsupported claims and the fallacies of her argument, there are just a few facts both the author and I agree on: “At the end of the day, you’re going to live with yourself forever.” Exactly, so why should we give up something that’s rightfully ours to vote? Go out and distribute as we please.

And, if you want to get technical, the author is right in her claim that virginity is an ideal. Yet, ideals are the core foundations that have helped this country, shaped the world as we know it. If politicians argued on cold hard reality, they’d be exiled for the skewed bastards they are within the first round of polls.

If we keep being force-fed the nonstop sex is nothing, sex is okay, everyone’s doing it” chatter fed to us by every form of media conceivable, no duh we’re going to have crappy marriages.

The Center for Leadership itself has been a point of mystery to The Beacon, as we struggle to understand its role in the College of Business and in the University’s research arm.

The center’s website describes itself as “committed to becoming the premier center for global leadership research, development, and training in the nation.” It further adds that one of its missions is to “engage in cutting-edge research in the area of leadership development.”

What is leadership development and why isn’t it mentioned anywhere in the center’s mission statement? Moreover, how does Maidaigue, post-presidency, fit in to this center and the University’s overall strategy? The Beacon believes that Maidaigue’s role has not been clearly defined. Despite this he has accepted a new role at another institution.

Faculty Senate Chair Thomas Breslin stated in March 2009 that the BOT may revisit Maidaigue’s contract if the economic crisis worsens.

Sent in the economic crisis, the economy has worsened to the point that FII lost over 12,000 jobs in the past year. On top of that, classroom sizes have increased as tuition for students has spiked.

The Beacon understands the major contributions made to by Maidaigue during his 23-year term as president. He was instrumental in the growth of the University, including both College of Medicine and Law.

Maidaigue’s contributions have garnered him respect and a solid reputation in the local and national community.

With both in hand, he could serve as a valuable asset to the University both in fund raising circles and even in government, representing the University’s interests in legislatures.

It is not fair to the University to foot the bill for his generous golden parachute while he is bringing another university 1200 miles away, particularly one that the University cannot afford.
Tony Horton will speak about his 11 laws of fitness

Horton in Miami and ready to bring it,” said Fernanda Bressan, outreach director of Get Moving Catalog. “Tony is an iconic figure in the battle to improve America’s health, and we’re glad to be able to bring him to Miami to both help raise awareness and offer people a chance to meet and workout with him.”

Horton said he designed the P90X workout for regular gym users not getting results. Horton wanted to give people a trainer at home they can use.

“I tried the program and it was effective,” said freshman prelaw philosophy student Bernard Vasquez. “I am excited to see him in person; he has a very high energy level.”

“I have always wanted to try P90X,” said Frank Arredondo, a senior and nursing major. “I have heard great things about this workout.”

The six-day P90X workout uses 12 different exercises such as yoga, kenpo, plyometrics, and cardio. What makes P90X different from other workouts is that it provides a technique called muscle confusion. The regimen introduces new routines, preventing the body from adapting to exercises over time.

“Choosing to exercise five to seven days a week and eating healthier will dramatically change your life to be infinitely better,” Horton said.

College students normally have a heavy workload whether it is with school, work or both.

First discussion to focus on ‘unintended consequences’

ROUNDTABLE, page 12

professor in SJMC, will be moderating the initial roundtable discussion topic is “Unintended Consequences.”

Veraldi, in an interview with Student Media, mentioned the designer of the Range Rover sport-utility vehicle, Charles S. King.

King designed the Range Rover to be the pinnacle of performance from an engineering perspective, but “watched in dismay as his creation became an international symbol of gas-guzzling conspicuous consumption,” according to an article in The New York Times.

More information on the topic wasn’t given as Veraldi said she would open the roundtable with the story of King in an effort to spark the debate. Veraldi did not mention a full plan for the roundtable. If you have any ideas for a topic you would like discussed, or if you are interested in becoming a moderator, you can contact Maria C. Cedeno, graduate assistant for OGLI, at mc0604@fiu.edu.

The discussion series is designed to provide students with an opportunity to interact with professors and administrators outside of the classroom, in a more informal setting, according to the same flyer.

Additionally, the series will introduce the opportunity to explore topics of international importance during a time of undeniable globalization.

UPCOMING TUESDAY TIMES ROUNDTABLES

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<tr>
<th>OMG, IDK Who’s Reading my Texts</th>
<th>Can Saving our Oceans, Save the Planet?</th>
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<td>Time: 12:30 p.m.</td>
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Gay, Whatever Dude!

To Be Announced

Time: 12:30 p.m.
When: 09/21/10
Where: WUC 159

SAVE 5% off basic monthly service charges with a qualifying plan

Spend $49.99 or more on accessories

Join our staff!

The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. Don’t be shy; Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.
Over 550 students at annual Freshman Luau

LIAMAR DAVILA SANABRIA Asst. News Director

The faraway lands of the Polynesian Islands paid a visit to the Biscayne Bay Campus on August 24th during the 11th Annual Freshmen Luau as part of the Week of Welcome festivities with a promise of tropical themed foods and activities to make revelers want to lei their heads.

The afternoon featured Polynesian dancers engaging students in learning to dance, a caricature artist offering free portraits, a themed picture stations, arts and crafts stations, games and giveaways.

“I’m enjoying myself, this is really good and I’m really looking forward to all the events at the BBC campus,” said Leanne D’Souza, a nominal head of BBC, delivered a brief speech who oversees the Wolfe University Center.

“Today everybody is Hawaiian,” Olson said.

Interim Vice Provost Steven Moll, who is the nominal head of BBC, delivered a brief speech welcoming the freshman and upperclassmen alike to what he said was the “finest institution in the Universe - FIU!”

He urged students to get involved on campus and in cultural and sports activities as well. He said doesn’t want MMC and BBC to be seen as two separate campuses, rather as one university serving the greater population of South Florida.

RECREATION CENTER

The event was presented by the BBC and MMC. It is the first of the new series of collaboration between the two schools.

The event started with a welcome speech by Provost and the FIU Library.

“The rest of the Luau was marvelous according to attendees Georgena Riviere, a freshman studying biology.

“The food is great and the lines are fast, so everything is nice. I’m looking forward to the SPC Comedy Show and the Movie Nights,” said Suyapa Boliere, a freshman studying biology.

“The event was presented by the BBC and MMC in preparation for the day’s movie at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.”

One of the main things that always attract lots of college students is the free food. Panther Dining Services provided the Hawaiian-themed menu with dishes such as Hawaiian aloha chicken, mai-tai orange beef, ambrosia fruit salad and coconut rice.

“I like the free food and I’ve also gotten to meet people, so I think it has been really good,” said Karlene Davis, a freshman studying accounting.

“I think the Luau is a great way to start the year, which was the record according to Moll.

“It will makes the experience that much more enjoyable,” Moll said.

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