ARE YOU READY... Home opener full of extras for students

MATTHEW MACKLE Contributing Writer

The excitement surrounding this Saturday’s football game presents an opportunity for the FIU Athletics Department to not only spark some frive school spirit, but, as the game falls on Sept. 11, to honor those who were affected by the 2001 disaster and show admiration to the nation’s First Responders in the Police and Fire Departments, as well as the military.

Starting at 3 p.m., First Responders will be in front of the FIU Stadium with their rescue vehicles and will be available to answer questions and take photos. There will also be a K-9 unit, a motorcycle, and a rescue helicopter. “They are here as a tribute to First Responders and the military. We want to pay respect to people who put their life on the line,” explained Heathie Wight, assistant athletic director of marketing for FIU Athletics.

The game will also be preceded by the rolling-out of an American flag as large as the field. This will be performed by students and First Responders.

Before kickoff, the Golden Dazzlers, along with Roasy the Panther, will be in parking lot 6 getting people excited for the game. Everyone is invited to this tailgate, which will feature music, giveaways, and other activities.

The Athletics Department has also been working closely with the new FIU marching band to produce an especially inspiring event. The band has been working on a new playlist and practicing for more than 12 hours a day before the start of the season.

“I’m really excited about this. We’ve been practicing extra hard, every day of the week from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.,” explained Omar Bham, captain of the new 120-person band.

The marching band and Panther Rage have also been working together to create some brand new cheers, and the clubs hope to create some new traditions this Saturday.

Additionally, the Athletic Department has developed a new incentive for students to tailgate, which will feature music, giveaways, and a rescue helicopter.

WHAT TO KNOW FOR THE GAME

Game Information:
- Time: 08:00 p.m.
- When: 09/11/2010
- First 5000 students get shirts

FESTIVITIES, page 3

2008 Record: 3-8
T-6th place in the Sun Belt Conference

2008 Record: 9-4
T-4th place in the Big East Conference

GARCIA, page 2

FIU students start first ever Quidditch club on campus

MATTHEW MACKLE Contributing Writer

Snitches, beaters, seekers and keepers; the world of Harry Potter has teleported itself into real life through the imagination and enthusiasm of its fans, with the organization of a fictional sport called Quidditch.

The University has formed the first-ever Quidditch club on campus. This will be the principal element of the Harry Potter Alliance, which is also being developed for the first time this semester. This is not a brand new concept. Many schools all over the country, including the University of Florida and the University of Central Florida have active teams.

The teams compete throughout the season with the hope of competing in the Quidditch World Cup, sponsored by The International Quidditch Association, a nonprofit company. This year’s World Cup will be held in New York City, and the FIU Quidditch team hopes to win it.

Fictionally, Quidditch is played by students who fly swiftly through the stadium on enchanted brooms, bashing against each other trying to score goals while spectators sneakily cast harmful spells on them to favor the team they’re rooting for.

In real life, non-magic people or “muggles” look forward to a time when flying on brooms is a reality, but, until that time, some adjustments to the sport must be made.

For example, there is an important element to the game known by fans as the “snitch” which is a flying golden ball that moves speedily through the stadium, and if caught, wins the game for the team who caught it.

The adaptation of this is an athletic runner dressed in gold.

“We incorporate the Snitch element by using what is called a Snitch Runner – a person who is basically a creative runner. A person that not only is fast but has the stamina to be running around for long periods of time, therefore being just as difficult to catch as a real snitch in the Harry Potter world,” explained Prutha Patel, vice president of the club and head of team Gryffindor.

The brooms remain a solid element in the real life sport and players must hold one between their legs for the duration of the game. The brooms are of regulation weight and size and are made by Allivan’s, an online store that specializes in Harry Potter replicas.

FIU Recreational Services has bought the brooms as well as jerseys for the team.

The team developed after Patel, Saul Perez and Chelsie Smith, met on Facebook about a year ago and created a page for the FIU Quidditch Club.

Over the summer, the page began receiving substantial interest from FIU students who wanted to see the club develop.

GARCIA, page 2

Garcia brings distinct leadership

GABRIEL ARRARÁS News Director

Dr. Delia Garcia applied to work at FIU in 1979 as a coordinator for a bilingual education program and 31 years later, she was named Interim Dean of the College of Education.

The appointment, effective June 14, was made after the previous interim dean, Marie McDemmond, stepped down due to personal reasons.

“Dr. McDemmond provided both stability and direction for the College and I have full confidence that Dr. Garcia will similarly provide leadership with distinction,” stated University Provost Douglas Wartzok in an email to the University community.

Garcia is currently chairperson and associate professor of the department of Leadership and Professional Studies in the College of Education. She is also the director of the Urban Education graduate program and has served as director of numerous family literacy projects that serve the needs of local schools in the area of family literacy in the South Florida community.

Family literacy and urban teacher education are two areas that Garcia has focused on throughout her career, receiving over $11 million in federal, state and foundation grants for these issues.

“That has always been my main area of research expertise, the whole notion of family literacy,” said Garcia in an interview with Student Media.

Garcia has sought out funding for several different family literacy programs that have been funded through the United States Department of Education, the Barbara Bush Foundation, the Florida State Department of Education and the Volunteer USA Foundation.

“I’ve spanned the gamut of both federal, state, and...
Quidditch club approved by recreational services

GARCIA, page 1

"We have great faculty who are really doing incredible jobs as it relates to teaching, service and mentorship," Dr. Dalia Garcia, Inrawn Dean of College of Education, said.

More recently, Garcia was awarded a U.S. Department of Education, Office of Post-Secondary Education Title V grant of $2.8 million. The five-year grant will support FIU, as a Hawaii Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSSI), to expand its capacity to serve Hispanic-American students.

"This is a unique grant because it has other components which span a number of areas within the college to help with general graduate student support," Garcia said.

The grant will give the University funding to put in place an office that can create mentoring and tutoring for graduate students while providing support as they undergo the graduate process.

The other part of the grant has funding to encourage graduate students to publish with faculty.

"We have an opportunity to focus on that level of collaboration between faculty and graduate students so they can engage in research opportunities together, and start to make professional presentations and submit to publish in journals," said Garcia.

In addition, there is also an opportunity for 11 administrators from Miami-Dade County Schools to pursue a doctorate in educational administration and supervision. Individuals need to meet certain criteria which includes being Hispanic-American and coming from a low performance school.

Garcia was grateful and taken by surprise when Provost Wartock asked her to step into the role of interim dean for the College of Education. Among her immediate goals for the position is to highlight the work of faculty in the College.

"We have great faculty who are really doing incredible jobs as it relates to teaching and service," Garcia said. "Whether it is an award-winning book or publishing articles in top tier journals; we have faculty that have received University wide awards as it relates to teaching, service and mentorship.

Students Government to host student engagement series

According to the press release, the student engagement series will begin on Sept. 30 and continue in three parts throughout the rest of the fall semester. After the student engagement series begins, Ramirez will create a number of executive directives that will be specifically designed to address issues that occur during the events of the student engagement series.

"As an integral aspect of the engagement series, SGC is doing what it can to ensure that the respective university administrators are in attendance at the relative engagement town hall meetings," said Ramirez.

 Ramirez went on to explain that the University administrator’s attendance would be solely for ensuring that student services get proper reinforcement.

Beginning Sept. 30, the SGA will hold the first of three parts to the engagement series. This first focus will be solely on issues related to Academics, and will take place in GC 140 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. SGA has also confirmed that the University’s Provost, Douglas Wartock, will attend the meetings.

The second installment of the engagement series will take place on Oct. 21. This installment will be focused on related to campus safety, and will be held in GC 150 from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. SGA hopes Public Safety Chief, Bill King, will attend these meetings so he can hear student opinions.

SGA intends to hold the third installment of the series on Nov. 9. This final installment will include advice and information about Student Services. It will be held in GC 243, from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

SGA also plans to add up to four or five more focus groups coming in spring, including subjects that cover tuition and fees, parking and transportation and others in efforts to ensure that everyone is doing everything it can to make sure their student’s opinions are heard.

"The student engagement series will provide a safe, friendly environment in which students will discuss issues of most concern to them, which is the element that I am excited about in cooperation with the members of the student body," said Ramirez.

For more information about the engagement series, please contact any of the officers, or the FIU Quidditch team on Facebook.

Quidditch club approved by recreational services

The bulk of the advertising and scheduling and editing is being done through Facebook. "We’ve been mass-inviting everyone we know on Facebook to our book meetings and practices. Unfortunately, we were only just approved for advertising as a club on Tuesday of this week. So, we were unable to do any physical advertising for the first meeting and practice, although word-of-mouth has done us wonders," said Smith.

Acting as adviser for the club, FIU English Professor Kenneth Claus shares a tremendous enthusiasm for the idea. “Most people have buried their inner child by age 22. [Quidditch] will be a great way to have some good old-fashioned fun.”

Kenneth Claus, Professor, English Department

Claus has incorporated Harry Potter into some of the literary analyses. The Harry Potter Association had their first meeting last Thursday, when students were assigned to “the houses” in which the books divide the students based on their personalities and specific interests.

Instead of a magical "sorcery hat" to do the work for them, the club used a specialized questionnaire that included questions such as “what would you do if someone called you a mudblood?”

Anyone interested in the Quidditch team or the Harry Potter Association should contact any of the officers, or the FIU Quidditch team on Facebook.

2.8 million dollar Title V grant to support University

GARCIA, page 1

"We have a very strong commitment to the process of bilingual education, and the needs of English language learning students were the focus of my own education," Garcia said. "I was a student who came to this country without knowing the language so I understand the experience of what it is to be in a classroom where you don’t understand anything that is being thrown at you because of just the language."
The Golden Panthers open the season at home for the first time since their inaugural season and will look for their first win against a BCS team.

Team looks for redemption against Rutgers

IGOR MELLO  Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers defensive unit will finally get a chance to debut its new schemes on Rutgers (1-0) tomorrow. Although there may be a level uncertainty on FIU’s side, the players and the coaches do believe that the defense has improved from last season.

One thing is for sure, Mario Cristobal’s team is eager for the season to start. This will be FIU’s first season opener at home as a NCAA Division-I school and their first home opener since its inaugural season in 2002.

“We’re anxious but we’re making sure we’re not over-anxious,” said Cristobal, who has utilized his bye week for another scrimmage. “You can never really simulate that three and a half hour battle that you have on Saturdays.”

FIU will look to avenge Rutgers, a BCS school that has won four consecutive bowl games. The Golden Panthers had their third best defensive performance overall last season against the Scarlet Knights, allowing only 394 yards on defense. FIU trailed 23-0 before scoring two touchdowns in the last seven minutes of the fourth quarter to make it a close affair, losing 23-15.

While it was one of their best defensive performances of the season, giving up 394 yards isn’t saying much defensively. In fact, FIU gave up an average of over 492 yards on defense, last in the Sun Belt Conference.

They will have to stop a Rutgers running game that went wild last week against Norfolk State, rushing for 268 yards. Joe Martineck accounted for bulk of the load, gaining 109 yards. Rutgers shut out Norfolk State 31-0.

“They establish the run well. And it helps open up some things for them in the passing game,” Cristobal said.

Rutgers quarterback Tom Savage, who has the most starts of any quarterback in the Big East Conference despite being only a sophomore, threw for 148 yards and has raised some concern for Cristobal.

“Sanu presents some problems, especially in the wildcard package. He’s effective because people always focus on his run,” Cristobal said. “You watch him last year and he can throw the football too.”

QUARTERBACK QUESTION

Although Wesley Carroll may be FIU’s starting quarterback for the contest, Cristobal may opt to use Wayne Younger and utilize a two-quarterback system for Saturday. If that happens, Younger has experience against Rutgers, giving him another crack at defeating the Scarlet Knights. Last season he came in for Paul McCall, who was injured for a football game.

RUTGERS V. FIU; SEPT. 3, 8 P.M.

The Athletics Department expects the game to sell out fast so anyone interested in tickets should order quickly at rutgersports.com. They are offering free tickets to all the other FIU football home games to people who buy a $40 ticket for Saturday.

Fans to have a chance to win prizes

Rutgers’ football team is over 100 years old and if the Golden Panthers win, they will likely gain courtesies respect. “Rutgers is a high-profile opponent... on Saturday we will gain a national audience’’ said Heather Wight, “I am hugely excited. We have a chance to make a big upset.”

The game will be broadcast on ESPN Plus. For those hoping to watch the game at home, be informed that the game will be shown on a four-game package. The only way to get the full experience is to be there in person, cheering on the Golden Panthers.

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CRISTOBAL, page 4

FOR SOME FOOTBALL?

FOOTBALL, page 4

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Friday, September 10, 2010

RUTGERS V. FIU; SEPT. 3, 8 P.M.

FOR SOME FOOTBALL?

FOOTBALL, page 4

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Friday, September 10, 2010

FOR SOME FOOTBALL?
Team keeping quiet on starting quarterback

FOOTBALL, page 3

As of right now for field goals we’re going to use Jack Griffin. Even though we are starting with Jack [Griffin] today, all of those guys have done really well,” Cristobal said.

While he has named Griffin the starter for the opener, he has not yet put him in charge of kickoff duties yet.

FAUCHER A GO

According to Cristobal, tight end Jonathan Faucher will be ready to play this Saturday. Faucher has been limited most of the fall training camp. “He’s ready for as many plays as he needs,” Cristobal has praised Faucher’s athletic abilities so much that he has even considered playing him on defense. “As much as he is on the offensive side of the ball,” he said. “He’s such a good athlete that we even thought about using him on defense.”

Golden Panthers continue rivalry with UM

Golden Panthers will play a turbu-ent last season. They dropped two of three matches in the regular season tournament action will come

ROBERTS SHAPES UP

FIU brings back a slew of rotation players from last season, including Phil Gary Jr., Stephen Weaver, Martavious Kee, and last season’s leading scorer Marvin Roberts. Roberts led the Panthers by scoring 15.6 points per game while shooting 41 percent from the field. Roberts was constantly battling minor nagging injuries last season, but played through almost all of them. This offseason he encountered some of those same injuries. Roberts has come back this offseason 12 pounds lighter and feeling better than ever. “I’m lighter, quicker and more agile,” Roberts said. “Injuries shouldn’t bother me this season.”

This drew him many double teams and forced him to take difficult shots due to the lack of scoring from all other players on the team. Last season FIU shot a measly 41 percent from the field and 28 percent from 3-point range.

RUTGERS’ BLUEPRINT

As an assistant coach at Rutgers from 2001-2003 under Greg Schiano, Cristobal went through three seasons in a similar rebuilding process. The Scarlet Knights went 8-27 in Schiano’s first three seasons at Rutgers. “I’m disappointed because I didn’t feel like we were... We have our game plan ready...”

MEN’S BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK

Thomas starts with stretch at center

JOEY CRUZ
Asst. Sports Director

Thomas and the men’s basketball new schedule has been released. The Golden Panthers will put a turbu-ent last season. They dropped two of three matches in the regular season tournament action will come

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FISTFULS OF TECH

Ping disappoints as Apple’s social media experience

Ping is such a pleasant word. Say it, I dare you not to smile.

However, one thing that Ping isn’t is a viable social media experience, at least not yet.

The service is pretty simple. When you activate Ping inside your iTunes program, it allows you to follow your friends and other artists, and you can comment on their purchasing activity and which artists they “like.”

Aside from that, it lets you keep up-to-date with your favorite artist’s concert schedule and also gives you a customized top ten list of songs and albums that is sourced from purchase history of everyone you follow.

“Ping is for social music discovery,” said Apple CEO Steve Jobs at the Sept. 1 iPod launch event.

Keeping in mind that the social service is still young and having used it for a few days, it’s safe to say that Ping isn’t letting me discover a damn thing. Ping is so superficial; it almost seems like Apple tried real hard to incorporate features from other services but didn’t find a way to link them together and make them usable.

For example, Jobs touted Ping’s ability to create friend groups and let the user determine whom they want to follow. What’s missing though is how to find friends in the first place.

Ping only lets you search for users by name. Most social media sites offer you services that will scrub your online address book or your list of Facebook friends or Twitter followers to find friends off the bat.

It’s little features like this that make it easier for users to acclimate to another service and justify staying there. Either help me find my friends and build up my list or I’m gone.

Ping was rumored to have Facebook Connect at launch, however this feature was a no-show. Not having integration with Facebook is a major fault of Apple’s new service as it could have had one-click access to 500 million users at launch and, again, made the service easier to migrate to.

I am not upset at the fact that Apple created a social media service, I am upset because I know they could’ve done better. Especially with services like Last.fm around as an example.

Last.fm began in 2002 and is more of an accurate definition of what “social music discovery” is.

The site integrates with your MP3 player and computer media player and tracks what you listen to and shares it with friends. It also listens to the music and generates suggestions based on what you listen to.

Services like Last.fm and even Pandora offer a more personal experience for discovering music online. It’s custom-tailored to you, and people like that.

Launching a social media service at a time when three or four giants dominate the market is hard. But Apple has the resources and the know how to do it and decided to take the easy route.

Right now, Apple needs to take a step back and take a look at the bigger picture and ask itself: how can Ping stay relevant?

They need to give users an excuse to use this service, something more than just exclusive Lady Gaga videos and a concert date.

Once they figure that out they also need to make it easy for users to migrate over because if you only follow one friend, it can be a pretty lame story.

Apple always talks about the effort they put in to their products, and in the grander sense I agree that they do. But Ping runs contrary to their mantra of quality first.

It’s a half-assed attempt at social media that merely exists as a vessel to peddle online music sales.

Fistfuls of Tech is a weekly technology column.
Discount tickets offered at festival

**FESTIVAL, page 5**

As Carol Damian, director and chief curator at the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum highlighted, “[Festival for the Arts] is part of a community art event and we want to participate with all the other cultural institutions. It brings us recognition within the group that will include every major institution in South Florida.”

The Wolfsonian Museum will participate with two-for-one admission passes, tickets for purchase and membership brochures. The upcoming season includes the exhibition, Speed Limits, which asks critical questions about the impact of speed on our daily lives, as well as Very Wolfsonian Weekend, an event celebrating the museum’s 15th birthday.

Be sure to pass by their table to pick up a student membership packet and more information. If students are interested in volunteering throughout the day, they may be eligible to earn “service learning hours,” which can count toward coursework.

During the day, student group discounts will be offered by the ArtLab Center for Pandemoniumus - a new show from STOMP - as well as for most Broadway shows.

Plus, for each Broadway production there are free student group pre-shows, where students have the opportunity to learn more about the show and meet cast members.

Another fun element is an epicurean adventure. Thirteenth street will be shut down with a parade of gourmet food vendors, hosted by Burger Beast, offering a delicious array of food for purchase – culinary treats from burgers to tacos to ice cream.

In addition, Fall for the Arts will feature two outdoor performance stages with music and dance performances running all day long.

Grammy Award-winning Latin funk band OZOMATLI is headlining the festival.

The performances will be varied, including break-dancing, folkloric dance and music from Peru, local Miami reggae superstars like Million Dollar, designed for shoppers but no Fashion’s Night Out discounts because the event is made to celebrate fashion in its true form: regular price.

The Wolfsonian-FIU is throwing a joint event with the Emilio Pucci store to celebrate the launch of the coffee book, Pucci.

Last year in New York City and other fashion capitals around the world, designers, celebrities, movie stars, models and fashion editors held unique and exciting fashion inspired events and performances in shopping open late to the public. In 2009, retailers saw a surge of new shoppers and increased sales for Fashion’s Night Out and shoppers enjoyed the street-party atmosphere while providing the fashion industry a much-needed lift.

The 2010 edition of what is being called the biggest fashion party in history promises to be just as grand, spurring inspiration and fulfillment of even more stylish surprises.

Fashion’s Night Out was created by the fashion industry and Vogue magazine and each participating city by the fashion industry and Vogue.

We’re involved with it because it is something we are such a big name in fashion.”

BCBG along with dozens of other stores in Aventura Mall will be providing champagne, gifts for purchases over a certain amount, extended store hours, and special preview emails to those customers on their email mailing list.

“Our New York stores do it and Miami compares to any other fashion capital,” said Milica Vilikovich of Betsy Johnson at Aventura Mall. “We’re involved with it because it is good for fashion.”

To build the hype and spread the word on news and events leading to Fashion’s Night Out, they have their own Twitter page as well to trend the topic.

The event is meant to be a celebration of fashion and help the retail industry. There will be goodies for shoppers but no Fashion’s Night Out discounts because the event is made to celebrate fashion in its true form: regular price.

One of the biggest preview events was Fashion’s Night Out: The Show fall preview fashion show on Sept. 7 at Lincoln Center in New York City. Alessandra Ambrosio, Gisele Bündchen, and Naomi Campbell are just a few of more than 150 top models who appeared in the show hosted by Vogue Editor-at-Large Andre Leon Talley and Model Hanneli Mustaparta. It was webcast live for those who could not make it to the sold-out show in NYC.

Everyone is invited to the fashion party tonight but for those who can’t make it out or those who can’t get enough, CBS will be airing a Fashion’s Night Out primetime special on Sept. 14 at 10 p.m.

The special will be hosted by Emmy-award winner Neil Patrick Harris and take an in-depth look at Fashion’s Night Out, interviewing celebrities like Justin Timberlake, designers like Oscar de la Renta and Diane Von Furstenberg, and going behind the scenes at the fashion shows and store events.

Top fashion icons, the fashion industry’s most promising new talent and well-known names from movies, music and modeling will be among those to be featured in the special.

Any fashionistas should not make the mistake of missing out on the Fashion’s Night Out events, whether it be in the stores or in the comfort of the living room. Fashion history will be made tonight and everyone can be a part of it.

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**FIU SOCCER**

**FIU SOCCER**

**FIU VOLLEYBALL**

**FIU FOOTBALL**

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**FALL FOR THE ARTS**

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**FALL FOR THE ARTS**

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**SUNDAY, SEPT. 12**

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**SUNDAY, SEPT. 12**
Online fees pricey and discouraging

GOVANNI GONZALEZ
Contributing Writer

Online classes continue to grow in popularity and the University continues to mistakenly charge for them. In recent years thousands of students have opted to take their classes online instead of showing up on campus.

According to Deanne Butchey, FIU’s Assistant Dean, over 44,000 students have enrolled in online classes at FIU since the university adopted the online class style in 2001.

FIU currently charges a fee of $199 on top of regular tuition to take a class online instead of in a classroom on campus.

Furthering your education through the web is a convenient alternative for countless reasons but such a large fee isn’t necessary.

With a selection of over 100 mostly undergraduate classes, it can be enticing to lighten the commute to campus or never have to worry about being late to class.

Yet the fee is likely to discourage many students from taking the plunge into a web based learning experience. At nearly $200 the fee appears exaggerated and comparing it to other state campuses only reinforces this. Universities such as FSU and UM have no extra cost for choosing to take a class online instead of on campus while UF charges about $100 and MDC only $55.

The fees could be in place to recoup the cost of converting a class to web based format, teacher training and course development, or even regain from previous budget cuts.

With class sizes up to twice as large as on-campus classes, most grading done automatically and no physical attendance on campus, it seems the university would be saving money using online classes after the initial conversion investment.

Other campuses have found ways to deal with their costs while maintaining a lower or nonexistent online class fee. FIU’s budget management should revise their strategies if they want the online class trend to keep growing, such as using the newly implemented “Tech Fee” for these purposes.

Those who pass on the online learning trend won’t have to deal with the lack of face time with teachers, flimsy structure that online classes offer, and lack of interaction with other students.

Yet, it seems counter intuitive that a learning system with less structure and interaction would actually cost the student more.

Still, it is easy to see why taking at least some classes online is convenient and beneficial to students.

With tuition as high as it’s ever been it seems unfair to place the burden so heavily on students who may have no other choice than to take their classes online due to schedule conflicts or class availability.

Every university student knows how frustrating it can be when necessary classes are full or not available until next semester, or even next year.

The registration process used by FIU further impedes students without early registration. Students may attempt to register for a class at the first available opportunity only to discover the class is full, and find the online version to be their only other option.

Online class fees, as they are now, can put distance learning students at a financial disadvantage and deter students from attempting an online class entirely.

FIU’s budget management should find other ways to make up their online costs, as the fee isn’t justified, unnecessary, and causing the University harm by missing an opportunity to help deal with overcrowding.

Universities such as FSU and UM have no extra cost for choosing to take a class online instead of on campus while UF charges about $100 and MDC only $55.
**United States**

Minister set on 9/11 Quran burn

Terry Jones, pastor of a church in Gainesville that supports anti-Islam philosophy, said on Sept. 8 he was determined to burn copies of the Quran on Sept. 11.

**United States**

US ranked 5th in charity index

In a first of its kind survey ranking 155 nations on the willingness of their citizens to donate time and money to charity, the United States tied for fifth.

**Bahamas**

Remains found in shark’s belly

Bahamian police said on Sept. 7 they are trying to identify human remains found in the stomach of a tiger shark caught off the Exuma islands.

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**School of Hospitality and Tourism Management**

**Wine & Food Festival to be held in Tianjin, China**

**Jacques Rozier**

Contributing Writer

The relationship between the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management and China continues to grow as the country will host a Wine & Food Festival on September 18.

The day event in Tianjin, China to benefit HTM’s China Program will be a one-day event in Tianjin, China to benefit HTM’s China Program.

Tianjin is a port city located approximately an hour and a half south of Beijing and is the third largest city in China. The festival will take place in the Italian Style Town, a district of Tianjin.

HTM and the Tianjin University of Commerce already share a joint program called the Marriott Tianjin University FIU Hospitality and Tourism Management China Program.

“It is Dean Remington’s vision to offer our students in Tianjin, China an international experience to our 15,000 students in the University’s program as a close match to the goals they wanted to accomplish,” said Mohammad Qureshi, assistant dean of facilities and administration for HTM, in an interview with The Beacon.

According to Jean Remington, interim dean of HTM, if the proposal is successful, HTM will move the venue to a waterfront location: similar to the South Beach Wine and Food Festival. The proceeds from the festival will benefit the students of TUCFU.

The Chinese government was interested in Chinese nationals in western hospitality management in response to their selection as the host city for the 2008 Olympics. The South Chinese had allotted funds to Tianjin for education purposes. Jinlin Zhao, currently director of Graduate Programs, took Joseph West, then dean of HTM, to speak at a conference in China. Wang Wen Jun, assistant dean for HTM’s China Program, was present at the conference and learned of the University from West.

Later on, David Grossman, the University’s Director of China Programs, and Lu Peng met with Chinese officials about their interest in western hospitality. They later returned to the University and presented a proposal on creating a school in China to West and Remington, then assistant dean of academic affairs.

Remington viewed the proposal before West traveled to Tianjin and met with their officials, according to Remington.

“China is very [subjective] and it’s very relationship oriented,” Remington told The Beacon. She said these two factors were key in forming a bond between West and Tianjin’s vice mayor.

In the end, Tianjin chose the University’s proposal as a close match to the goals they wanted to accomplish. The partnership formed the TUCFU, which is the University’s first school in China. Xiao, working for Anmaku at the time, trained 700 Chinese nationals for the 2008 Olympics, 500 of which were students of TUCFU.

The school is the only foreign hospitality management education sanctioned by the Chinese Ministry of Education. It is a self-supporting program, meaning no Florida funds support the school, but its accreditation comes from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Remington noted that the campus is indicative of the strong commitment between the University and Tianjin.

The campus is a permanent 450,000 square foot facility with dorms, classrooms, kitchen, wine labs, an auditorium, two 100-seat computer labs and more. The first class enrolled in the fall of 2006 with less than 40 students.

The sponsors for the 2010 China Wine & Food Festival Tianjin are various international and Chinese national companies, including the Chinese Tourism Bureau of Tianjin.

The Westin Hotel will be the headquarter for the event. Diageo, out of London, Torres Wines, Tiangtao Beer and other local restaurants will be on hand.

For more information on the China Wine & Food Festival Tianjin, visit chinawineandfoodfest.com.

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**BLEEKER MEETS BISCAYNE**

When in pursuit of weekend thrills, North as good as South

There’s always plenty to do in South Florida, but on a long weekend the possibilities are endless. To get a little of the craziness, Friday night finally came and on the agenda for the night was the always deliciously enticing Miami Spice Convention followed by some spoken word at Literary Café. Both the restaurant and venue were of course, in North Miami.

Sra. Martinez is located at 4000 NE 2nd Ave., Miami. Let me try and explain the beauty and savings that Miami Spice Convention brings to local restaurants.

It is a monthly convention that offers different restaurants all throughout Miami to open their doors to a wider array of food lovers with three course meals on a $22 lunch and $35 dinner budget. The pricing is higher than Taco Bell or McDonald’s, but save up those extra bucks and savoir some of Miami’s best restaurants, especially in North Miami.

Sra. Martinez was an amazing experience. I got all dolled up, got the girls together and heels ready to strut. The décor and atmosphere was Midtown Manhattan all the way. With outside seating and a two-floor seating plan inside, this was definitely a girl’s night kind of Friday.

After the delicious coconut chili calamares and torredijes for dinner, we were off to chill, have some drinks and listen to soul enchanting spoken word at Literary Café and Poetry Lounge, located at 933 NE 125 St., in North Miami.

Fridays are called Jazzy Fridays where local and special guest musicians perform as well as spoken word artists from around and out of town. For a girl’s night and a Friday no cover fees plus it is a drink-free zone.

Leaving the restaurant, we were off to the newly opened La Prime, located at 16395 Biscayne Blvd, in North Miami Beach. I’m not going to lie, I hate paying a $20 cover fee plus not having drink or bottle specials inside crowded clubs, but I was willing to pre-game before hand and lose my $20 on this for the weekend.

Here is my club disclaimer to all college students: prices for drinks in any club are always over-priced and watered down. This only applies to those who are legal to drink of course.

Miami Prime Grill is a sports bar by day so the club and dancing was kind of hard in a tight space equipped to eat and watch a game. The theme for the night was all white attire and dress to impress. Here’s another disclaimer: never wear white to any bar - someone is bound to spill a drink on you and mess up your outfit.

So even though the weekend was longer than most and the parties were endless, don’t forget that on every long holiday weekend, South Miami is over-crowded, over-priced, and North Miami is a better alternative with as much chaos and recklessness to take advantage of.

Bleeker Meets Biscayne is a bi-weekly column published every other Friday. The columnist pays her own way and receives no special treatment.

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**BBC Bus to FIU vs Rutgers Football Game**

**Depart to Stadium**

- Time: 4 p.m.
- Depart from FIU Staduim

**Leave from Stadium**

- Time: 20 minutes after game ends
- Where: FIU Stadium

Students can sign up in Housing or Campus Life.