On-campus housing completely full, plans for expansion projects in the works

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
News Director

With the University experiencing a record amount of students living on campus, and having over 300 people on a waiting list for housing, the need for future residential projects is clear.

Currently, all of residential housing is full, with a total of 2,527 students living at the Modesto Maidique Campus and 219 students living at the Biscayne Bay Campus. The numbers are up from last year, which had 2,396 students living at MMC and 196 living at BBC.

“Our numbers last year were at 100 percent occupancy at MMC, and about 90 percent at BBC. So we’ve really tried to maximize all of our spaces,” said Gisela Vega, associate director of Housing and Residential Life. “There are definitely future plans for housing and if enrollment continues to grow at this rate we are clearly going to need more housing.”

“Housing and Residential Life are critical aspects of the FIU experience. We are at a hundred percent occupancy, which we are very pleased about,” said University President Mark Rosenberg during an interview with Student Media. “We are going to need to take on more residents to grow in terms of number of rooms available for our students, which we think is critical.”

According to James Wassenar, executive director of Student Affairs Operations and Auxiliary Services, a workgroup has been established by Vice President of Student Affairs Rosa Jones and Chief Financial Officer Kenneth Jessell, which will devise a ten-year plan for the expansion of campus housing.

“We are projecting at this initial stage an addition of 3,000 to 4,000 beds during this ten year time period,” Wassenar told Student Media. “[However], that number still needs to be validated against the new enrollment objectives, so I expect it to go up.”

Along with expansion at MMC comes the need for expansion at BBC.

“Housing doesn’t evolve independently from its academic programs and enrollment objectives,” said Wassenar. “As the vision for BBC becomes clearer in terms of its academic focus, we will be there to serve and make sure that the institution at that campus can meet its enrollment goals.”

Wassenar stresses that Housing and Residential Life is vital student support service, for which student feedback is necessary.

In efforts to facilitate the communication between the residents of housing and members of the University leadership, the Student Government Association held the first housing town hall forum of the fall semester.

The housing forum, organized by Student Governing Council at MMC Housing Senators Carlos Rodriguez and Christina Martinos, had 67 housing residents in attendance at Everglades Hall on Sept. 29.

During the forum, students were able to voice their concerns and get direct feedback from members of Housing and Residential Life, including James Wassenar.

“[Wassenar] was able to listen in and give feedback… it’s a great way for the students and the administration to have communication,” said Rodriguez. “This way they know what the students want and the students know what the administration is doing.”

HOUSING, page 2

Five year strategic plan draft unveiled

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

The draft version of the University’s strategic plan for the next five years was unveiled during the Sept. 30 open forum held at the Graham Center ballrooms by Provost Douglas Wartzok and President Mark Rosenberg.

With numerous members of the faculty and staff attending, the provost broke down the layers of the five year plan that is meant to “embrace the best of an institution’s identity, leverage assets to adapt to the times, and making adjustments to prepare for the future.” It includes changes to documents such as the University’s mission, values and goals as well as the initiatives that would be taken to pursue them.

“A strategic plan will help us cope with the many challenges we have out there,” said Rosenberg.

At the forum, University faculty was given the opportunity to share their views on the plan and provide feedback.

STRATEGIC PLAN, page 2

Awareness session shines light on underexposed disaster

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Asst. News Director

The concerns voiced at the Pakistan Floods Awareness Session mirrored an ongoing debate over the lack of international response and support in aid efforts for flood victims.

Because record-breaking monsoon rains caused floods to displace or injure over 20 million people last July, the country has roughly estimated its recovery costs to be $43 billion, and the figure is almost certainly expected to increase.

In an effort to raise awareness at FIU, the Graduate Student Funding Committee, hosted the event on Sept. 29 with presentations from Dr. Richard Olson, professor and chair of the Political Science Department, and Muhammad Azhar Saleem, a Ph.D candidate in Civil Engineering.

These speakers, along with Student Government Association Graduate Senators, T.J. Ligouri and Aman Muqeet, spoke to 30 people in attendance about the disaster that has claimed the lives of over 2,000 and affected more people than the Indian Ocean tsunami, Kashmir earthquake in 2005, Cyclone Nargis in 2007, and the earthquake in Haiti—combined.

In an effort to emphasize the lack of media attention the disaster has received, Ligouri read aloud the words of United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon when he said, “Perhaps because this is no made-for-TV disaster, with sudden impact and dramatic rescues. By contrast, this is a slow motion catastrophe — one that builds over time. And it is far from over.”

In order from left to right: Graduate Senators T.J. Ligouri and Aman Muqeet along with speakers, Dr. Richard Olson, and Muhammad A. Saleem gathered at the Graham Center on Wednesday, Sept. 29 to present the Pakistan Floods Awareness Session.

FLOODS, page 3

Dr. Olson, a disaster expert with over 30 years of field experience, boldly opened his presentation with a direct address to the current generation of college students: “Fasten your seatbelts because the 21st century, your century, is going to get much worse.”

His lecture placed six preventive dimensions that could alleviate a country from the catastrophic devastation currently witnessed in Haiti and Pakistan. Olson presented the “5C+A” dimensions, a framework he wrote, of capability, competence, compassion, correctness, credibility, and anticipation, which he claims can analyze a government’s ability to effectively respond to the expectations and needs of the public in post-disaster situations.

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Olson stressed the lack of anticipative measures taken by the international community.

“Most of these disasters can be seen ahead of time. We don’t have an awareness of vulnerability of various populations,” said Olson.

A question posed by Erika Edwards, chair of the GSOC and graduate student senator, questioned the lack of media attention this disaster has received, particularly in the United States.

FLOODS, page 3
Final version of strategic plan to be shown in December

HOUSING, page 1

Among the concerns housing students shared at the forum were general campus safety issues and problems with the washing and drying machines provided for the residential halls.

Ariela Escalante/The Beacon

Noeline Prins (Left), a graduate student in biomedical engineering, talks to the Executive Director of Student Affairs Operations and Auxiliary Services, James Wassenaar (Middle).

“My major concerns are the washers and dryers working because it’s really frustrating having to run the dryer twice when you’re in a hurry,” said Rebecca Fernandez, a Psychology major and resident of Everglades Hall. Wassenaar said that Housing and Residen-
tial Life is looking into improve the machines, as well as transitioning students to start using Panthecards instead of loose change to run the washers and dryers.

“We’ve installed the readers in all the laundry rooms so they simply just need to charge the system and swipe the card,” said Wassenaar. Another major concern with housing students at the forum was parking.

“If I have to leave campus during the week because I might lose my parking spot,” said Rodriguez. “The reality is that there is a challenge with parking,” said Wassenaar. “The accommodation that the parking and traffic folks made was to open the gold garage for residential student parking twenty-four seven.”

In addition, Wassenaar mentioned that the next phase of housing would come with a parking structure as well.

With housing full and 300 people on a waiting list, both Rodriguez and Wassenaar believe that the university is moving closer to removing its commuter campus label. “The fact that we have a 300 person waiting list means that people want to live on campus. That itself says that we are not as much of a commuter school,” said Rodriguez. “Now we have a significant housing population and we can now start catering more to that population like bigger schools, like the University of Florida.”

“Ultimately, we know that the affinity to the University of those who live on campus, their sense of belonging, is greatly augmented and fostered by that on campus experience and that’s important to us,” said Wassenaar. “When you talk about a commuter school mentality, that in general is the difference – the sense of belonging to an institution.”

Housing town hall helps students voice their concerns

LITANY OF THEMES OF THE PLAN THOUGH HIS POINT MENTIONED THAT STEM WAS EMBEDDED WITHIN FIVE YEARS,” SAID AMADO GONZALEZ, COORDINATOR OF COMPUTER SYSTEMS AT THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTING.

IN RESPONSE TO GONZALEZ, WARTZOK MENTIONED THAT STEM WAS EMBEDDED WITHIN SELECT THEMES OF THE PLAN THOUGH HIS POINT WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

CONSORTIUM FROM THE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT, LIKE PROFESSOR JAMES SUTTON, ALSO NOTED THAT THE PLAN SHOULD HIGHLIGHT THE LIBERAL ARTS.

“IF A STRATEGIC PLAN HAS GOT SOMETHING IN THERE FOR EVERYBODY, THEN IT’S NOT VERY STRATEGIC,” CLEARLY WHAT WE’VE TRIED TO DO IS BE AS PARSONISM AS WE COULD AND AS INCLUSIVELY AS WE KNOW A COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY NEEDS TO BE,” SAID ROSENBERG. “THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD OF US AND THE PLAN WILL HELP TO FOCUS US. BUT IT IS CERTAINLY NOT INTENDING TO SAY THAT THOSE WHO ARE NOT EXPlicitLY MENTIONED ARE EXPLICITLY EXCLUDED.”

BRIAN PETERSON, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, MENTIONED THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD CONSIDER USING THE WORD ‘STUDENT-CENTERED’ WITHIN THE VISION STATEMENT BECAUSE IT GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT FIU IS NOT A RESEARCH UNIVERSITY.

HE ADDED THAT THIS WOULD HINDER THE UNIVERSITY WHEN IT COMES TIME FOR FUNDING DISTRIBUTION AT THE STATE LEVEL.

“We’ve had this conversation as to whether we should be student centered, learning centered, or discovery centered.” Rosenberg stated. “But the bottom line is if we don’t work well with our students, we don’t work as a university. The research is critical but the student is why we are here.”

Every ten years, the university administration engages in the strategic planning process which involves identifying the future for the institution as well as deciding what actions should be made to reach that goal.

These initiatives, which are updated in order to fit the needs of the University for the coming decade, focus on key areas of University interests.

The final version of the ‘Worlds Ahead Strategic Plan’ will be presented to the University’s Board of Trustees on Dec. 9 meeting.

Strategic Plan to be shown in December

“Everyone is looking forward to the unveiling of the strategic plan and how it will guide the University’s mission and goals for the future.”

Dr. Christopher Diaz, vice provost for academic affairs, said that the plan is an important tool for the University’s strategic direction.

Dr. Diaz added that the plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees on Dec. 9.

The Strategic Plan 2010-2020: A New Direction for the University

The Strategic Plan 2010-2020: A New Direction for the University

The Beacon – Monday, October 4, 2010 www.fiusm.com
Paid executive cabinet positions placed under scrutiny by Senate

VINCENT FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

As Student Media previously reported, the Student Government assembled as such receive a stipend. Currently, director positions in the executive cabinet make $800 per semester, while coordinator positions make $400 per semester.

The executive cabinet of the current administration has twenty-five positions, not including assistants. The executive cabinet of previous SGC-MMC President, Anthony Rionda, was composed of twenty-eight positions, including assistants.

Anthony Rionda, though being a smaller cabinet than the previous administration, the current administration has had to deal with budget cuts, which have affected their resources.

“[Even] with budget cuts – Student Government continues,” said SGC-MMC President Helena Ramírez. “We had to see the resources we had with the budget and what positions we needed. We don’t do this for the money – we do it for the students. Budget cuts or not we will attempt to fulfill the students want and need.”

The summons process allows members of the senate to call forth executive cabinet member they wish to appear before them in order to gauge their performance. While four positions were selected to appear before the senate, only two were present.

The summon hearings produced no information on the SGC-MMC Director of Campus Life or the SGC-MMC Comptroller, two positions that have been recently under fire by members of the Senate.

SGC-MMC Director of Campus Life, Alex Lastra, informed the senate that he would not appear before them due to a scheduling conflict.

This led Hector Mujica, SGC-MMC speaker pro tempore, to call for an investigation into Lastra’s performance by the senate’s Division of Internal Affairs. A report from the division is expected on Oct. 4.

The SGC-MMC director of campus life is responsible for ensuring that all goals set forth by the administration for campus life are met and that students are well informed about the coming events. He is responsible for holding regular meetings with governing councils and bimonthly meetings with the SGC-MMC president and SGC-MMC vice president.

SGC-MMC Comptroller Maria Rosa-Ramírez was also absent due to an internship in New York. Initially, the senate chose to summon Rosa-Ramírez due to being in clear violation of the senate attendance statute, which requires her to be present for 90 percent of senate meetings.

However, the summons was put on hold by SGC-MMC Attorney General Altenese Phenelus, who filed a write stating that Rosa-Ramírez’s summons was unconstitutional.

Present at the summons hearing was SGC-MMC Chief Information Officer Julio Yanes, who appeared before the senate and demonstrated his only project – a survey to gauge the quality of customer service provided within the University of departments who deal with students on a consistent basis.

As SGC-MMC DBO, Yanes is responsible for creating surveys that allow for the executive branch to gauge the needs of their constituents. As part of his job, he must also assist members of the senate with their own surveys.

Yanes, who was confirmed as SGC-MMC CIO during the summer, was asked several questions relating to his performance by the senate’s Division of Internal Affairs.

The SGC-MMC Graduate Senator Erika Edwards questioned Yanes during the summon hearing on the number of projects he has taken up since his confirmation to which Yanes responded: “this is the only project on my agenda right now.”

This led members of the senate to question why Yanes has only worked on one project even though he has had several months of time on the job.

Yanes responded that obligations to other campus organizations had prevented him from putting his focus solely on his position in the executive cabinet.

However, Yanes mentioned that he has since given up those other positions and is now fully devoting himself to the position of SGC-MMC Graduate Senator.

Additional reporting by Gabriel Arrarás.

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Florida’s Back to Work Program falls short

Florida’s Back to Work Program hasn’t worked as envisioned, according to The Miami Herald. The government’s pledge to pick up at least 80 percent of salary and training costs for lower-income workers lured thousands of employers. Florida was to receive $126 million in federal stimulus dollars to pay for about 14,000 new jobs.

With the funding spigot set to close this week, the results did not meet those goals. Employers state-wide filed only 5,500 of 13,787 jobs approved for funding over the past six months. 8,300 jobs have been left vacant, with employers either unable to find suitable candidates or backing away from promised jobs because of the economy.

New sex ed funding ends decade of abstinence-only

For the first time in more than a decade, the federal government is funding sex education programs that aren’t based solely on abstinence. Beginning this school year, a five-year, $375 million program divided among 28 programs that have been proven to lower the pregnancy rate among participants, according to the Associated Press.

Many programs distribute condoms, but half also aim to boost teens’ academics, get them involved in extracurricular activities and even improve their parents’ job status. Advocates believe this “above the waist” approach gives kids the tools to help them succeed in school and make better life decisions, especially about sex.

Arctic refuge is back as an oil, environment battleground

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), the pre-eminent environment-energy issue during the previous administration, is back.

This time it’s not environmentalists trying to stop oil wells from drilling — it’s pro-drilling folks vowing to stop at an attempt to declare that area off limits by making it federal wilderness. A few things changed this time around: there’s that recession and the clamor for jobs that new drilling would provide over the years and oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

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University Libraries offer research award

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Asst. News Director

The first ever Undergraduate Student Research Award is being offered by the University Libraries and the Department of Undergraduate Education.

The award focuses on recognizing students who perform exceptional research and creative projects that utilize the resources of the University Libraries.

The University Libraries’ Review Committee evaluate all submitted applications.

The ten research projects will be featured and presented at the Biscayne Bay Campus Library naming ceremony on Nov. 3.

The top selections will be chosen according to three criteria: excellence, the clarity and explicitness of research documentation, and role of the FIU Libraries’ resources.

Resources can include collections, services, space, consultation, and/or instruction.

Cash prizes of $500, $300, and $200 will be awarded to the top 3 finalists, and will be exhibited at both Biscayne Bay Library and the Green Library for one week.

Students interested in applying for the Undergraduate Student Research Award must be currently enrolled undergraduate students.

Their research is required to be completed within the last year and at FIU.

Awards are eligible, and contestants may be individual students or groups.

All applications must be completed by Oct. 15 and submitted to Patricia Pereira-Pujol, chair of the review committee, via email at pereirap@fiu.edu.
FOOTBALL: PITTSBURGH 44, FIU 17

Another early lead evaporates as team stays winless

No Dion Lewis? No problem for Pittsburgh. The Golden Panthers (0-4) defeated the opponent, falling short to the University of Pittsburgh (2-2) 44-17 despite the absence of sophomore tailback Dion Lewis. Lewis sat out the game with a shoulder injury. That led the way for Ray Graham, who had a career game.

Auburn, and Florida Gulf Coast University, who she scored a winning goal against in a double overtime thriller just three games into her young college career.

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Women’s soccer picks up key win at Troy

JONATHAN RAMOS
Sports Director

WOMEN’S SOCCER

The FIU Panthers (6-4-1, 3-0 Sun Belt) were able to beat Troy (7-3-1, 2-0 SBC) 2-0 on Oct. 1 to stay tied with Denver for first place in the SBC.

The Panthers did it behind another excellent defensive effort, as they allowed only two shots the entire game against a Troy team who ranked first in shots in the conference. The two shots were a season low for Troy.

“Keeping a team to two shots on goal is impressive,” head coach Thomas Chestnutt said.

About 15 minutes into the game, freshmen Chelsea Leiva scored an unassisted goal to put the team up 1-0, allowing them to have some comfort. It has been a good sign for FIU when they are able to strike first on the scoreboard, as they are undefeated on the season when being able to score first.

FIU was able to get another score as senior Kassandra Sorzano was able to put one in coming off a corner assist from Kim Lopez in the 72nd minute. The shutout of Troy is FIU’s third in a row, as well as there third win in a row, and makes them a combined 6-0 in goal differential against conference teams.

They are also currently second amongst the conference in winning streak with three, behind Denver.

For results of the team’s game vs. South Alabama yesterday, check fi usm.com.

VOLLEYBALL

Although several players posted season highs in several statistical categories, FIU ultimately falls short to a team trying to get national exposure. The Golden Panthers (8-7, 2-1 Sun-Belt) fell to Middle Tennessee (13-4, 4-0 SBC) in four sets 22-25, 12-25, 25-23, 20-25.

For FIU, Freshman Una Trkulja led the team with a career-high 23 kills, while on defense Chanel Araujo had a season best 18 digs. Natalia Valentin also added 43 assists for the Golden Panthers. On the other side of the net for the Blue Raiders, Izabela Kozon tied her career high with 25 kills, while adding 12 digs on the defensive side.

In the first set, FIU only led once at a score of 1-0. Once the Blue Raiders took the lead, they never looked back. FIU got to within 2 late in the set 22-24, until Izabela Kozon finished the set with a kill. In the second set the Blue Raiders put on the accelerator, going on a 8-2 run to make it 17-7 before finishing it off.

In the third set, FIU fought back. Una Trkulja helped the Panthers establish a 12-9 lead, but the Blue Raiders made a comeback and eventually took the lead at 18-17. The lead changed a few times towards the end of the set, until Trkulja put her stamp on the set with two kills to finish the third set in FIU’s favor.

The momentum carried over to the fourth set, as neither team could establish a lead, until Middle Tennessee broke free to a 20-15 lead. FIU did bring it to 22-20 before committing a couple of mistakes and it is only fitting that Izabela Kozon finish the set and match will her 25th kill.

With the win over FIU, Middle Tennessee became the first conference team to defeat the Panthers since 2008.

For coverage of Saturday’s game at Western Kentucky, check fi usm.com.

INTRAMURAL FOOTBALL STANDINGS

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*All records up to date as of Oct. 1
For more standings, visit fi u.edu/~camprec
Players using Twitter keeps a team connected to its fans

As far as FIU goes, not many people have made the kind of virtual entrance that Geoff Collins made.

When the Golden Panthers brought in the fiery coach to be their new defensive coordinator, he also brought his Twitter with him.

Fans and media alike were pleasantly surprised to see how outspoken he was on Twitter. Just by scrolling through his tweets, one can easily tell that “CoachCollins”, as he is known in the Twitter-verse, would bring a certain level of intensity to the program. But there is a question as far as privileges being given to athletes to use the social media website for personal purposes as well as even official purposes.

It’s a question being raised by a number of different college football programs across the nation and, more recently, created local headlines when University of Miami Head Coach Randy Shannon ordered his players to shut down their Twitter accounts—permanently. One of the main reasons given by Shannon was to limit the distractions

Boise State did the same thing over the summer with similar reasoning.

The Golden Panthers football team has a number of coaches (notably missing is Mario Cristobal, himself) who tweet regularly and even some student athletes, such as record-chasing infelder Garrett Wittels, connect with friends and fans through social networking.

Why not let them express themselves? As long as there is an established team policy where rules about what can’t be allowed, things like profanity, inappropriate or questionable photos, tweets close to game day, etc., then let them have fun with it. If things get out of hand, the plug can easily be pulled.

There are plenty of creative things that can be done as the sports world has become increasingly reliant on Twitter to get news out to the public.

The average sports fan loves it and they can’t get enough of it. Thousands upon thousands of fans follow hundreds of athletes and coaches both locally and nationally.

Players and coaches can connect with each other and also with fans, generating interest and familiarity among those who basically spend hours upon hours scrolling through updates and status updates can only help.

And it is the best form of advertising because it costs absolutely nothing. Might as well take advantage of it.

The Golden Panthers should open up even more in light of this new social media era that has emerged over the past couple years.

The world of social media is still relatively new when it comes to its relation with sports. There are certainly risks whenever you open that door to students and athletes in general.

But there are more pressing things to worry about and transparency for a team looking to reach out to a student body that uses Twitter can go a long way.

Run defense fails as Graham gains

PITTSBURGH, page 4

with 11 tackles, most by any player in the game.

This was FIU’s last BCS opponent of the season and third consecutive road game against a BCS school. The Golden Panthers will finally go home and begin their Sun Belt Conference play vs. Western Kentucky on Oct. 9.

According to Cristobal, he will look at conference play as a new season for the Golden Panthers.

“We haven’t had strong fourth quarters,” Cristobal said. “I think there is a depth on our team that we can continue to pound the ball away and factor there in us continuing said. “I think there is a depth on our team that we can continue to pound the ball away and factor there in us continuing fourth quarters,” Cristobal said.

The Golden Panthers will finally go home and begin their Sun Belt Conference games with some of these opponents that have this kind of depth,” said Perry: “It’s conference play now, so it’s a whole new season. We’re going to start off fresh.”

Jeremiah Harden and Darrian Mallary led FIU in rushing with 35 yards. Eillinson paced the team in catches with six receptions for 78 yards.

The Golden Panthers held a slight edge in time of possession, but Graham’s play alone was enough to beat FIU, as his three touchdowns were more than FIU had as a team.

NOTABLES

Wide Receiver T.Y. Hilton was benched for the first seven plays of the game. The cause for his benching is unknown, but it was injury related, according to Cristobal.

“I’m surprised T.Y. played at all,” Cristobal said. “He was having some problems in his leg but it was injury related, according to Cristobal.

According to Cristobal, defensive lineman Andrew Maddox is expected to be a factor in the first seven plays of the game. The cause for his benching is unknown, but it was injury related, according to Cristobal.

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But there are more pressing things to worry about and transparency for a team looking to reach out to a student body that uses Twitter can go a long way.
In collaboration with the College of Architecture and the Arts and the Wolfsonian, the Frost hosted the FIU Arts, Culture and Design event for the third year on September 30th. Over seven departments participated in the event including the department of Interior Design, Communication Arts, Theater, Architecture, the School of Music, Landscape Architecture, Art and Art History, The Frost and Wolfsonian Museums.

“It is an opportunity to showcase the arts,” said Dr. Carol Damian, the director of The Frost. “And it’s the most beautiful place on campus to do it.”

Each section of the museum was designated to one of the participating departments to exhibit what they each have in store for the 2010-2011 year.
It's arguably one of the best movies of 2010. It also might be the greatest advertisement for MySpace ever made.

The Social Network tells the story of how Mark Zuckerberg created Facebook with the help of a few friends. The film is delayed indefinitely for undisclosed reasons. Instead, Xbox Elite, but recently, the game was
called the “Mojave Wasteland.” in a post-apocalyptic wasteland
Playing online, at least early on. Each console has a few other
called the “Mojave Wasteland.” While the rest of the United States was
Free

It revolves around the themes of business and the impact of technology on society. "The Social Network" captures the highs and lows of entrepreneurship and highlights the importance of innovation and creativity in the modern world.

The film begins with a very funny scene in which the 19-year-old Zuckerberg (played by Mark Zuckerberg created Facebook with the help of a few friends). It's arguably one of the best movies of 2010.

The Beacon –Monday, October 4, 2010 www.fi usm.com

press start
October brings basketball, lightsabers and hedgehogs

Facebook movie an advertisement for rival social site

CHRIS CABRAL Staff Writer

It’s almost the greatest advertisement for MySpace ever made.

The Social Network tells the story of how Mark Zuckerberg created Facebook with the help of a few friends who would soon become his enemies.

The film begins with a very funny scene in which the 19-year-old Zuckerberg (played by Jesse Eisenberg) expresses his yearning for which the 19-year-old Zuckerberg (played by Mark Zuckerberg created Facebook with the help of a few friends). It's arguably one of the best movies of 2010.

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The Solar Decathlon team presented their plans for their PerformDance model home.

The house will be completely solar-powered and must be cost efficient to any average family.

Students at the Theater Department and School of Music put their talents on display with performances throughout the evening with the FIU Jazz Combo performing out on the terrace as FLEA, the FIU Electronic Arts Ensemble, performed on the second floor overlooking the main entryway of the Frost.

The cast of the theater department’s Rent performed selections from the upcoming production including “Seasons of Love” and “Rent.”

Director alum Fernando Lambert was brought back to play Roger, the brooding male lead.

He said he was honored to be a part of such an infectious show and was excited to take on a tremendous role.

Aside from the song selections from Rent, theater students Ashley Lewis, Michael Menza and Jennifer Jean-Louis performed selections from Forward and Chicago.

Costume design students also displayed their work for upcoming shows, which include Ruby Starfire. The costumes are 1940s inspired dresses and suits.

The Frost had new works on display as a preview for their upcoming teaching gallery with the Wolfsonian in Miami Beach.

La Habana Moderna is an exhibit funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and provides an opportunity for FIU faculty members to work with museum staff to develop exhibitions that serve as resources for teaching and learning.

President Mark B. Rosenberg, department heads, students and FIU art fans checked out newly acquired pieces by Peter Paul Rubens and showcased in the galleries.

“A robust arts scene is the pillar of the plan for Worlds Ahead for the next five years,” said Sandra Gonzalez-Leyva, FIU External Relations Division Vice-President about the event.

The cast of Rent performs “Seasons of Love” at the Frost Art Museum on Sept. 30.
Subjective media foils advancement

GISELLE RODRIGUEZ Contributing Writer

In 2004, John Stewart was a guest on Crossfire, CNN’s ill-fated debate show. The show featured two sedentary leftists, right-wing firebrands, and was hosted by a pair that espoused this idea.

Stewart’s commentary, however, refused to play into the permalink; “It’s not so much that [he show is bad, as it’s hurting America,” he said. “We need help from the media and they’re hurting us.”

Just as relevant today was it in the 2004 election, the media’s habit of reporting “news” that is actually an opinion couched in loose jargon. Many of these rallies, however, are symptoms of this greater issue.

Recently Glenn Beck and John Stewart have seemed to hold more clout than the major news outlets. Their rallies, however, are symptoms of this greater issue.

Even though the rallies to restore honor and sanity purport to be open to anyone, it would be “hard to imagine the person who would attend both of them,” as chomps.com pointed out. Both rallies, in addition to Stephen Colbert’s parody rally to keep the Fear Alive, are inherently aligned with their respective parties. This line of division is common in our current culture, and for all of Beck and Stewart’s lip-service to crossing party lines, no one really believes it. They are playing to their base.

The subjectivity of the media easily lends itself to a polarizing “us versus them” mentality which does nothing to encourage any progress on the problems plaguing our country.

The Beacon comments the Senate for the exec- utive’s cabinet beems. The bloated executive cabinet has been comprised of over 20 people for the last three administrations.

The Senate should give kudos to faculty? Or do you just have a system of checks and balances. However, merely getting rid of the person does not rid the cabinet of the problem of extra, unnecessary positions.

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Student organizations encourage expression with open mic night

NADRA MABROUK  Contributing Writer

Several student organizations will be hosting an open mic event which will be a welcoming opportunity for students to express themselves through spoken word performance.

The Men Achieving Leadership Excellence and Success organization, Student Poets Eloquently Articulating Knowledge and the Black Student Union have been planning and promoting an open mic night for Oct. 6 at 7 p.m., a first-time collaboration between these organizations.

Light refreshments are going to be served during intermission and music provided by DJ Richard "Polar Bear" Pierre.

A wide variety of music is going to be played according to the crowd's taste and performers may ask to have music played for the event. He will read the names in no particular order from the list.

"Planning is more complicated because you have to make sure that you get input from everyone," Lee said, "it can also be good because you have access to more resources and more people to help you run the event itself."

MALES SPEAK will be a sign up sheet available for those interested in performing during the event. It will be held at the loggia located behind the Wolfe University Center towards the cafeteria and walkway to the Marine Science building. It is right by the water.

"It's going to be a great event with free food, free music and a good opportunity to learn about the different organizations," Numa said. "It will be a beautiful event right on the water, in the dark, an amazing ambiance."

Bryan Bredy, junior psychology major, has been a member of MALES since his sophomore year. He will help set up on the day of the event and has been trying to get people to perform and finding out which people will be involved.

He will also perform his signature piece, titled "Atlas." "I would definitely love the opportunity to do more collaborations like this in the future. SPEAK will be collaborating with Haitian Student Organization for another open mic event in October," Lee said.

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SGA intern program provides mentors

According to Student Government Association website, the SGA Intern Program is designed to teach students the skills they need for successful leadership and development. They learn about the responsibilities of SGA and are paired with a mentor who is a current member.

"A lot of people think college life is just getting your degree, but it's also about your experiences while in college," she said.

SGA is the biggest student organization on campus.

"If you really want to understand the university and get involved, this is the best way," Battle said. "It gives you a truly holistic view of campus, from the administrative side to the academic side and the programing side."

Being involved gives students leadership skills, helps build their resumes, and makes them an overall better individual when the time comes to compete for jobs after graduation, according to Battle.

General meetings are held every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. in WUC 155.

Students are welcome to attend to meet the members and stay up-to-date on current issues.

Students interested in the open positions in SGA can call 305-919-5680, email sgcbbc@fiu.edu or stop by WUC 301.

Outside the classroom learning emphasized

Outside the classroom like reading the newspaper.

Tuesday Times Roundtable is held every week in Wolfe University Center 159 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Hurdles remain to fill remaining council positions

MELODY REGALADO
Staff Writer

The Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus is actively seeking positions to be filled for this school year. Due to issues with some of the rules and regulations governing the council, many interested students have been deemed ineligible.

According to Cici Battle, SGC-BBC president, many students have shown interest in getting involved and she has about 30 applications. But the biggest issue has been one of the rules in the constitution, which states that 50 percent of the student’s classes need to be at the campus at which he or she wants to serve.

The majority of current applicants take their classes at the Modesto Maidique Campus because particular classes are not available at BBC, which makes them ineligible.

SGC-BBC has around 40 total seats. The Judicial branch has no filled positions, the Cabinet is missing an executive assistant and the Senate and the Executive Office of the President also has multiple empty seats.

Robert Tassy, a senior journalism major who served on SGA for the past two terms, resigned from his positions last week. He began as an SIMC Senator last year and added on the responsibility of Speaker of the Senate this year.

“I could no longer give SGA 100 percent of my attention,” he said, “especially since I’m graduating in the spring and my focus will be on my classes and studying for the GRE.”

A new speaker was promptly appointed. Demetreus Vincent, a graduate student senator and formerly Speaker Pro-Temp, is the new speaker.

Currently, senate seats are being appointed rather than voted upon by students.

According to Tassy, all appointments must be approved by the Senate after candidates introduce themselves and present their platforms before the Senators. They must still undergo proper procedure.

He said because elections take a lot of time and effort, and because SGA is intended to represent the student body, their appointing the seats is also beneficial to students and saves time. He added that aside from that, elections do not have a large student turnout anyway.

The Senate made two appointments this semester.

The first was on Sept. 1 appointment of Michelle Reyes to one of Lower Division seats and the second was the Sept. 8 appointment Jeffery Ford to one of the Hospitality and Tourism Management seats.

In an effort to promote all open positions, Battle makes weekly announcements in her classes. Students also receive periodic email announcements and announcements are posted on bulletin boards throughout the campus.

SGC-BBC Comptroller, Shana Kaplan, attends most of the Bay Vista Housing open positions.

Most of the advertising has been for the open intern positions.

OPEN POSITIONS ON SGC-BBC COUNCIL

- Cabinet: Executive Assistant.
- Senate: Hospitality Management, Arts & Sciences, Broward, Nursing, Lower Divisions, Education, Senator At-Large, and Business.
- Judicial: Chief Justice, Justices.
- Executive Office of the President: Director of Community Relations, Lectures, Health Services, Sustainability, Student Services and International Student Affairs.

Overcoming excuses the topic for latest roundtable

LAUREN KHALAF
Contributing Writer

“Some Protect the Ego by Working on Their Excuses Early,” a New York Timesarticle published last year inspired this week’s Tuesday Times Roundtable, which the moderator hopes will provide a desire for students and faculty to self-analyze themselves.

“I think we are all one of those people. All of us have that innate medic response to protect ourselves from the hard truth,” said Maureen Walter, professor of biological sciences.

Walter has had the January 2009 New York Times article by Benedict Carey on her website for her students since it was published. As a subscriber to the New York Times for many years, she was thrilled when the University began offering newspapers, paid for by student activity and services fees, to students and faculty members.

“I give my students a lot of tools to lead them to success. This article is another tool that students can use to put themselves under a magnifying glass and have the opportunity to have a do-good talk. Students can pause and look at what they’re considering and take a step back and say, ‘This is realistic, and I can do this.’” Walter said.

The article explains that people do not consciously make up excuses, but create scenarios to offer protection in case they don’t succeed.

“ ‘You need to consider how much your putting on your plate, what your motivation is, what your goals are and this is just one way to prevent yourself from not achieving what you want to achieve with the degree of success you should have,’” Walter said.

Walter believes that those who succeed without a clear vision of why they’re succeeding will expect to succeed without knowing how to do the work that earned them the success in the first place.

Walter supported this with a quote from psychologist Steven Berglas used in the Times article, “With success, expectations go up, and the behavior gets more extreme.”

Walter hopes this article and the discussion will inspire students to analyze some of the things they do and to avoid creating those scenarios in which there is a higher potential for failure.

“I truly believe every student can succeed, it just depends on if they’re willing to do the amount of work required and if they have the time,” Walter said. “Being unrealistic with how much you can handle at school, work and relationships is already creating an excuse. Set yourself up for success rather than failure.”

This is Walter’s first time moderating the TTR and narrowing it down to one article wasn’t easy, she said.

She feels in order for students to make