11-3-2010

The Beacon, November 3, 2010

Florida International University

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper/698

This work is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections and University Archives at FIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon) by an authorized administrator of FIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact dcc@fiu.edu.
Organization provides support for Iraqi children

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

People magazine featured FIU junior Sky Choi in its Oct. 4 issue for his efforts in creating a non-profit organization called The List Kids, which provides toys, supplies and support for the children of Iraqi immigrants who have recently been brought to the United States.

The “Heroes Among Us” feature recognized the Honors College student’s work in sending over 1,000 care packages to the young newcomers to help aid their transition to America from war-torn Iraq.

“It’s hard to go from one culture and then randomly go into another and expect to make friends,” said Choi. “It happens step by step, so it helps bring Iraqis who have helped the U.S. military during the Iraq war over to American soil, in order to escape the danger they face in their home country from having assisted the U.S. soldiers.”

Choi, whose mother is a physics major and third degree black belt in Taekwondo, gained national recognition two years ago when he enrolled at the University as a freshman at the age of 12. Now at age 14, his service project has also developed a nationwide standing as it expands in the number of children involved as well as community support.

“I just want them to feel welcome in the U.S. and get them on their feet,” stated Choi.

Founded in April 2008, The List Kids is part of the international organization called The List Project. It helps bring Iraqis who have helped the U.S. military during the Iraq war over to American soil, in order to escape the danger they face in their home country from having assisted the U.S. soldiers. Choi, whose mother is an attorney with The List Project and represents the Iraqi refugees, eventually found out from her that 14 children were on the "list" but the number began mailing up to 130 care packages a month.

Choi, who began to wonder what happened to these children after the University of Miami Law School professors received the recognition with gratitude. "The Princeton Review’s ranking of FIU as the most diverse faculty is a recognition of the number of wonderful law professors who teach at the College of Law and who represent diversity along multiple axes,” said Cyra Choudhury, professor of comparative law and international human rights. “The College of Law’s faculty is not only diverse in terms of race and gender but also sexual orientation, national origin, and religion.”

According to The Princeton Review, 53 percent of the University’s Law School faculty are considered minorities and 44 percent are women.

“The most important fact that often is left out of discussions of diversity is the rich intellectual contributions that are made by those who have had exposure to differing cultures,” said the_steering committee to be lacking emphasis in certain areas, such as improving the poor academic preparation of incoming local students, expanding the University’s educational infrastructure as enrollment increases and further recognition of the Biscayne Bay, Downtown Miami, and Pines locations.

The draft plan has been a living document as the administration has changed it in response to suggestions from the University community,” wrote Faculty Chair Thomas Breslin in his senate report.

Within it, the draft explains that the planned 25 percent increase in students “will require FIU to rethink every aspect of its academic enterprise: its approaches to teaching, learning, and research; its student support services; and the size and configuration of its physical and technological infrastructure.”

As one of the main agenda items, the senate expressed concern over how the growth would come to affect the environment in which all members of the faculty will be working during the next year. “The Steering Committee is deeply concerned about the poor preparation of no
Choi seeking support for project

Minority organizations part of school

COMPETENCY LEVELS ‘VITAL’ FOR PLAN

When our students graduate, they should have a demonstrated competency in both math and writing skills as well as in their major discipline. Sadly, that is too often not the case.

Thomas Breslin
Faculty Chair

LAW SCHOOL, page 1

legal traditions such as those in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, and Europe,” said Choo. “We found that many of our students, it needs to be better specified if the University plans to continue with its desired enrollment growth.

Those of us who teach introductory courses for many of our students are not well-prepared at all with respect to writing skills and certainly math skills,” said Choo. “And now we’re proposing strategies to address the toughest new students each year. The strategic plan has to address how we’re going to deal with that question.”

“If we don’t address this, our students may become increasingly disillusioned with higher education and may be more likely to drop out,” said Jason. “The plan should recognize that the University needs to be more proactive in addressing future FIU students who will initially paying more to attend FII.

There was further discussion about how FIU students seem to be primarily coming from families who are not traditionally independent newspaper partially funded by a student group or vendor. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the student group or vendor. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads.

The Beacon was founded in 1907, with the purpose of providing a forum for the free exchange of ideas and opinions among members of the FIU community. The Beacon is published on Mondays during the fall and spring semesters and is a weekly newspaper. All copy is original work. All rights reserved.

The Beacon is an independent student newspaper, publishing in more faculty,” said Jason. “And now we’re proposing strategies to address the toughest new students each year. The strategic plan has to address how we’re going to deal with that question.”

“If we don’t address this, our students may become increasingly disillusioned with higher education and may be more likely to drop out,” said Jason. “The plan should recognize that the University needs to be more proactive in addressing future FIU students who will initially paying more to attend FII.

There was further discussion about how FIU students seem to be primarily coming from families who are not traditionally

When students graduate, they should have a demonstrated competency in both math and writing skills as well as in their major discipline. Sadly, that is too often not the case.

Thomas Breslin
Faculty Chair

LAW SCHOOL, page 1

legal traditions such as those in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, and Europe,” said Choo. “We found that many of our students are not well-prepared at all with respect to writing skills and certainly math skills,” said Choo. “And now we’re proposing strategies to address the toughest new students each year. The strategic plan has to address how we’re going to deal with that question.”

“If we don’t address this, our students may become increasingly disillusioned with higher education and may be more likely to drop out,” said Jason. “The plan should recognize that the University needs to be more proactive in addressing future FIU students who will initially paying more to attend FII.

There was further discussion about how FIU students seem to be primarily coming from families who are not traditionally

When students graduate, they should have a demonstrated competency in both math and writing skills as well as in their major discipline. Sadly, that is too often not the case.

Thomas Breslin
Faculty Chair

LAW SCHOOL, page 1

legal traditions such as those in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, and Europe,” said Choo. “We found that many of our students are not well-prepared at all with respect to writing skills and certainly math skills,” said Choo. “And now we’re proposing strategies to address the toughest new students each year. The strategic plan has to address how we’re going to deal with that question.”

“If we don’t address this, our students may become increasingly disillusioned with higher education and may be more likely to drop out,” said Jason. “The plan should recognize that the University needs to be more proactive in addressing future FIU students who will initially paying more to attend FII.

There was further discussion about how FIU students seem to be primarily coming from families who are not traditionally
Leiva leads team into tournament vs. upset Troy

WOMEN’S SOCCER: FIU VS. TROY

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

FIU (10-8-1, 7-4 Sun Belt Conference) will start conference play today at 2 p.m., against Troy (11-7-1, 6-5 SBC), a team that beat earlier in the year 2-0, as the number four seed in the tournament.

Though they did not need a last-second game winner goal in that game, Chelsea Leiva would be the person to count on if they did, as she has five game winning goals this season.

Her contribution to the team this year has made a big impact overall, as she is tied in the SBC for game winning goals and third in goals overall, only as a freshman. They have been put into close tight games many of times this season, some resulting in losses, but most of them ending up in wins.

“I know that [Chelsea] will tell you that it doesn’t come without hard work, and it doesn’t come without a team. We have plenty of players that are capable of scoring,” said Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt. “More backs can score goals, our midfielders can score goals, and certainly our forwards can score goals,” said Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt. “I don’t know if there’s any pressure to get the ball to Chelsea at the end of the game. It’s more like let’s keep our composure and we will find a way.”

After starting the conference season off on a five game winning streak, it looked as the team had was a contender for winning the regular season again like last year.

They then proceeded to go on a slide, and ended up finishing with the number four seed in the tournament. By not having the number one seed, and instead getting the fourth, it does not put any more or less pressure on the team according to Chestnutt, who has brought them to the tournament now three years in a row.

“They're going to be a well-organized team,” said Chestnutt about Troy. “Our composite, aggressive- ness, and team defense are going to be the biggest things for us. I think everything else will take care of itself, but if those things are in place I think we will do fine.”

If the Golden Panthers win, they will then take on the winner of the No.1 seed Denver versus No. 8 seeded University of Louisiana-Lafayette match up on Nov. 4, at 4 p.m.

All games will be played in Bowling Green, Kentucky.
Midfielder Conan Rasul and forward Junior Jauregi led the team in terms of goals with three each. The FIU Golden Panthers jumped two sets to one, recording seven fouls in the first half alone.

With little hope, Eketebi looked towards the injured and fatigued bench, substituting injured freshman star Nicolas Rodriguez and after resting Lucas De Croce, he returned for the second half with poise to score. The Panthers came out fresh and ready to play.

The first set saw the Golden Panthers jump out to a 22-18 lead over the Jaguars, before South Alabama went on a 4-1 run to close the gap 23-22. That would be the last point the Jaguars would score, as kills by junior Andrea Lakovic and redshirt freshman Marjana Prsa put the set away for the Panthers.

Both teams fought hard in the second set, as the score tied at 21. Errors proved costly for the Jaguars, as they committed two errors and FIU pounced with two kills to finish the set 25-21. Once up 2-0, the Panthers never looked back, as they blasted past the Jaguars in the third set, 25-17. Lakovic led the Panthers with nine kills while Una Tkulja added eight kills. Junior Sabrina Gonzalez, who had missed the two prior games with an abdominal strain, came back and had seven kills. Senior Natalia Valentin led the team with 14 digs while adding 14 digs. Defensively, sophomore Chanel Araujo had a team-best 18 digs.

In her first game of the season, sophomore Ivana Bjelica picked up where she left off last season with a career high 20 kills, as the Panthers cruised past the Troy Trojans in straight sets, 25-19, 25-23, 25-22 on Oct. 30, a day after dropping four matches, while Troy now won three of their last four matches, while Troy (10-18, SBC 2-9) has lost seven straight matches in a row. Bjelica had not played all season, which Tomic said was not related to conduct. The first set was not much of a struggle for the Panthers, as they jumped out to a 22-18 lead. A kill by Bjelica and a service ace by senior Natalia Valentin pushed the score to 24-18. After a Trojans score, Bjelica killed any hope of a comeback for Troy, giving FIU the second set 25-23.

As in the first two sets, FIU would have a 22-18 lead as the Trojans would try to fight back. With the score 24-20, Troy scored two more points before junior Andrea Lakovic finished the set with a kill, to give the FIU the third set 25-22 and give them the 3.0 win.

Along with Bjelica’s career-high 20 kills, Lakovic added 14 kills. Valentin put up a team-high 48 assists and added a squad-best two service aces along with Bjelica.

All Tomic wants is consistency. The past weekend could be a sign of good things to come. The Panthers, who have been dealing with injuries. The past weekend could be a sign of good things to come. The Panthers, who have been dealing with injuries. The past weekend could be a sign of good things to come.
Zombies pervade our culture as a staple of the horror genre just as easily as they pervade the cities and homes of the people in movies, TV and video games.

Despite being handled by comic books before, never had zombies been dealt with in such a serious and thoughtful way as in Robert Kirkman and Tony Moore’s The Walking Dead. It may seem ridiculous to say that throughout decades of being staples of horror comic books, zombies never became a real threat. Include movies where the average zombie is a shambling corpse with no sense of direction or motive aside from biting the nearby human, fans of the genre have become accustomed to laughing during the newest zombie movie more often than actually being scared of it.

Even though the “corpses” in The Walking Dead are the same classic type of zombie, it’s how the living cast deals with them that really makes this book stand out. The first person you meet in the book, and one of the lead characters throughout it, is Rick Grimes, a police officer from a small town in Kentucky.

After waking up from a gunshot induced coma, he finds that the hospital is empty except for a passing zombie or two. Running home, he tries to find his wife and child, but instead finds an empty house and a shovel to the face.

He was attacked by his new neighbors, a father and son who had been hiding out in Grimes’ neighbor’s house.

From them, he discerns that the whole town in Kentucky. They have become reanimated bodies and that Atlanta is the best city, state and probably nation is overrun by them that really makes this book stand out.

The first person you meet in the book, and one of the lead characters throughout it, is Rick Grimes, a police officer from a small town in Kentucky.
Dead comic on TV

DEAD, page 5

comes in contact with that truly scare the reader.

From farmers who are stock-
piling zombies in their barn
holding on to the hope that
t heir family will be cured, to
to highly fortified prisons that

We have been kicking around the idea
producing a big budget production.

RENT, page 5

Musicals are rare in the FIU Theater
repertoire as they are very expensive
to produce. The interest from Señor
as director accelerated the decision of
producing a big budget production.

"Musicals are very expensive
to produce so we have to choose with care.
We have been kicking around the idea
of doing Rent for a while now. Actually
it was Andy himself who expressed an
interest in working on it with us.

Because that seemed like an exciting prospect
we decided to proceed with checking for performing
rights availability and Andy’s schedule and
found that we could make
it work, so it went into our season," says Skow.
Señor said he is
inspired with the students’
performance thus far and
his expectations are high.
"I tell them, ‘Listen, for
a college production, you
guys are great right now.

But that’s not what I want. I want to see the kinds of
performances that I have been seeing for the past
13 years. You name the Broadway star and they’re
either my friends or I’ve worked with them,
and that’s what I’m used to seeing and that’s what I’m demanding," said Señor.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 3

SPC VARIETY SHOW AT THE BAT

Featuring Ashley Lewis (Maureen) and Jennifer Jean-louis (Joanne) rehearse
the Fillmore, which is probably
the best possible way to absorb a new album, and
I’ve lost that.

But that doesn’t explain it all,
I used to just go to shows to
check out new acts, even if I’d
never listened to a second of their
music.

I think I’m just reaching a
time point where the convergence of
twice more high ticket prices, poor venues
and my own cumulusly ways have
combined to create an expe-
rience that is no longer enjoyable
to me.

I’m not going to absolute
about this from this. I’m 22 years
old, but there are times when I can
border on Andy Rooney-levels of
grumpiness, and very few things
in recent memory have brought
this out more than the hour and
a half traffic jam that met me
as I tried to leave the parking garage
for the recent Vampire Weekend
show at the Fillmore.

Back in April and May, there
was some talk that the expansion
of the Miami Convention Center
might lead to the demolition of
the Fillmore, which is probably
better known as the historic Jackie
Glasgow Theater.

It would be a sad day for the
arts in Miami if this were to
come to pass, but as the 14th car cut
me off in the parking garage with
its driver ignoring my desperate
pleas for charity and reason, I
was willing and ready to push the
plunger to blow the whole place
up.

I’m not sure I’ll ever be able
to give up on the live experience
altogether, but I find it harder and
harder to justify it between the
hassle and the prices. It’s starting
to make more and more sense
just to pack a year’s worth of
concerts into one festival in the
summer.

RENT

The Last Divided: Contemporary Politics in Latin America
Lecture by Dr. Christer Persson
WHERE: GL 220
When: 12 p.m.
How Much: $15, to include lunch
How Much: $5 to other FIU students
General admission
RENT

The Left Divided: Contemporary Politics in Latin America
Lecture by Dr. Christer Persson
WHERE: GL 220
When: 12 p.m.
How Much: $15, to include lunch
How Much: $5 to other FIU students
General admission
PERSPECTUS - MOVIE
Movie night hosted by Women's Studies Student Association
WHERE: GC 305
When: 7 - 9:30 p.m.
How Much: Free
How Much: $15 faculty/staff /seniors;
$10 students/faculty/staff ; $20 general admission
HOW MUCH: $25 general admission
WHERE: WPAC Concert Hall
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOMECOMING DANCE
WHERE: WUC Ballrooms
WHEN: 10 p.m.
How Much: $15 FIU students/faculty/staff;
$20 general admission
WHAT: A college production, you
guys are great right now.

Putting the inspiration for a new
AMC drama which premiered
on Halloween. While the show
begins to take the concepts and
run in different directions, the
core idea of having the human
survivors drive the plot instead of
the thoughtless monsters remains
intact.

For those interested in
compelling drama, believable
characters and gory fight scenes,
The Walking Dead is continuing
to impress, available in several
nicely printed volumes and
publishing monthly from Image
comics.

Panel Panel is a bi-weekly
column on comics. Readers are
not compensated for favorable
reviews.
College student vote still important

DONOVAN DAWSON Contributing Writer

The midterm elections held on Nov. 2 saw millions of Americans headed to the polls to have their say in the direction of our country. I believe it is imperative for college students to make sure that they continue to go out and vote in future elections.

For many of us, midterm elections were seen as trivial when compared to presidential elections, but I would like to remind everyone that the results of those midterm elections will not do have an effect not only on the presidential election of 2012, but on the issues that most of us care about as college students.

One issue that unites most of us regardless of political ideology is higher education funding. Particularly for those students who have seen their Florida Bright Futures awards get smaller over the past year or two. Back in the 2008 presidential campaign, candidate Barack Obama promised to make funding for higher education a top priority of his administration, and so far he has kept his word.

Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, or “The Stimulus Package,” $15 billion was included to increase federal funding for college education spending for a price in Pell Grants from $4,731 to $5,350 annually.

Additionally, Congress has also passed the Student Loan Reform, which will make more funds available to students by ending federal government subsidies to banks, which encouraged them to loan to students while having the loans insured by the government and administering student loans through the Department of Education.

At the same time, President Obama’s bipartisan deficit commission is due to give a report in December on how best to get a handle on our $13 trillion national debt, which means that should the report be taken seriously on both sides of the aisle, spending cuts are almost certain.

As well, when we know it to spending cuts, entitlements like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security are seemingly off the table because of the political consequences associated with cutting them. After all, seniors are the age group that voted more than anyone else and with the baby boomers aging and approaching retirement age, it would seem likely political suicide to even utter the notion of cuts to Medicare. So cuts to these programs are popular to them.

Conventional wisdom might say that young people as a whole don’t vote, therefore higher education is one of the most politically safe places to trim the budget.

I say that if we are to prevent more cuts to our higher education system, we must rise up and encourage every student, whether you voted on Nov. 2 or not, to stand with future college students, regardless of party affiliation, that will make higher education one of the signature priorities should they reach the position they are running for.

As college students we have to hold our elected officials accountable for our fire and remind them that cuts to higher education could come with just as much back lash as cuts to entitlements for seniors, and the only way to do that is with the power of the ballot.

Make your voice heard and show that college students will not be taken for granted.

Donovan Dawson is a College of Arts & Sciences senior in the Student Government Association.

DREAM Act still a possibility

TAYLOR PROCHNOW Special to The Beacon

South Florida is a region rich with diversity. Individuals from all walks of life in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean have brought a rich history and culture making South Florida a true international haven. FIU, the third largest producer of minority graduates in the country, embodies this unique culture.

Throughout the U.S., young people who have graduated from American high schools generally derive their immigration status from their parents. And unfortunately, most students have no way of obtaining legal residency even if they have lived most of their lives here.

Paths to a productive life are limited by restrictions from in-state tuition rates, state and federal grants and loans, most private scholarships, and the ability to legally work through college. The DREAM Act provides a solution for children with good grades and moral character. The Act would facilitate access to college for immigrant students by restoring states’ rights to offer in-state tuition. The Act also provides a path to citizenship for hardworking youth to pursue higher education or military service.

On Sept. 21 the Senate failed to reach the 60 votes needed for the Defense Reauthorization bill with the DREAM Act attached as an amendment. On Sept. 22 Senator Durbin reintroduced the Act under “Rule 14” which allows the Senate majority leader to bypass committee votes and bring legislation for direct consideration on the floor.

Due to this procedural maneuver, there remains an opportunity during the lame duck session - after the elections and before the new Congress in January. An alternative option would be to include the Act in the Comprehensive Immigration Reform legislation introduced by Cuban-American Senator Bob Menendez.

According to FIU Alumna Kathleen Valentine, Director of the Florida Immigration Forum, “the chances of passage for this legislation will depend greatly on the results of the midterm elections and the resulting [composition] of the Senate and the political will of Senators to work on these controversial but urgently needed legislation.”

Liberals like Cesar Gonzalez, Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart’s Chief of Staff, has a leading role in the House version. Fortunately all members of the South Florida delegation are comprative with the Florida Immigration Reform Forum, “the House versions of both bills are drastically different from the Senate bill in essence that the Senate bill removes all path to citizenship and in-state tuition.”

DREAM Act is still a possibility

TAYLOR PROCHNOW Special to The Beacon

South Florida is a region rich with diversity. Individuals from all walks of life in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean have brought a rich history and culture making South Florida a true international haven. FIU, the third largest producer of minority graduates in the country, embodies this unique culture.

Throughout the U.S., young people who have graduated from American high schools generally derive their immigration status from their parents. And unfortunately, most students have no way of obtaining legal residency even if they have lived most of their lives here.

Paths to a productive life are limited by restrictions from in-state tuition rates, state and federal grants and loans, most private scholarships, and the ability to legally work through college. The DREAM Act provides a solution for children with good grades and moral character. The Act would facilitate access to college for immigrant students by restoring states’ rights to offer in-state tuition. The Act also provides a path to citizenship for hardworking youth to pursue higher education or military service.

On Sept. 21 the Senate failed to reach the 60 votes needed for the Defense Reauthorization bill with the DREAM Act attached as an amendment. On Sept. 22 Senator Durbin reintroduced the Act under “Rule 14” which allows the Senate majority leader to bypass committee votes and bring legislation for direct consideration on the floor.

Due to this procedural maneuver, there remains an opportunity during the lame duck session - after the elections and before the new Congress in January. An alternative option would be to include the Act in the Comprehensive Immigration Reform legislation introduced by Cuban-American Senator Bob Menendez.

According to FIU Alumna Kathleen Valentine, Director of the Florida Immigration Forum, “the chances of passage for this legislation will depend greatly on the results of the midterm elections and the resulting [composition] of the Senate and the political will of Senators to work on these controversial but urgently needed legislation.”

Liberals like Cesar Gonzalez, Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart’s Chief of Staff, has a leading role in the House version. Fortunately all members of the South Florida delegation are comprative with the Florida Immigration Reform Forum, “the House versions of both bills are drastically different from the Senate bill in essence that the Senate bill removes all path to citizenship and in-state tuition.”

DREAM Act is still a possibility

TAYLOR PROCHNOW Special to The Beacon

South Florida is a region rich with diversity. Individuals from all walks of life in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean have brought a rich history and culture making South Florida a true international haven. FIU, the third largest producer of minority graduates in the country, embodies this unique culture.

Throughout the U.S., young people who have graduated from American high schools generally derive their immigration status from their parents. And unfortunately, most students have no way of obtaining legal residency even if they have lived most of their lives here.

Paths to a productive life are limited by restrictions from in-state tuition rates, state and federal grants and loans, most private scholarships, and the ability to legally work through college. The DREAM Act provides a solution for children with good grades and moral character. The Act would facilitate access to college for immigrant students by restoring states’ rights to offer in-state tuition. The Act also provides a path to citizenship for hardworking youth to pursue higher education or military service.

On Sept. 21 the Senate failed to reach the 60 votes needed for the Defense Reauthorization bill with the DREAM Act attached as an amendment. On Sept. 22 Senator Durbin reintroduced the Act under “Rule 14” which allows the Senate majority leader to bypass committee votes and bring legislation for direct consideration on the floor.

Due to this procedural maneuver, there remains an opportunity during the lame duck session - after the elections and before the new Congress in January. An alternative option would be to include the Act in the Comprehensive Immigration Reform legislation introduced by Cuban-American Senator Bob Menendez.

According to FIU Alumna Kathleen Valentine, Director of the Florida Immigration Forum, “the chances of passage for this legislation will depend greatly on the results of the midterm elections and the resulting [composition] of the Senate and the political will of Senators to work on these controversial but urgently needed legislation.”

Liberals like Cesar Gonzalez, Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart’s Chief of Staff, has a leading role in the House version. Fortunately all members of the South Florida delegation are comprative with the Florida Immigration Reform Forum, “the House versions of both bills are drastically different from the Senate bill in essence that the Senate bill removes all path to citizenship and in-state tuition.”
**Israel ambassador to Haiti to recount his post-quake experience**

**JONATHAN SZYDLO**  
**Contributing Writer**

The University’s Middle East Society will be presenting a lecture by Ambassador Danny Bitan, in which he will provide a firsthand account of the sights and experiences that the Israeli delegation encountered in their mission to Haiti.

Bitan, head of Israel’s Advance Team to Haiti, will be presenting his lecture, titled “Mission to Haiti: Israel’s Relief Efforts After the Earthquake,” in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater at the Biscayne Bay Campus on Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. in collaboration with the Consulate General of Israel to Florida and Puerto Rico.

“Bitan’s lecture further confirms the University’s place at the forefront of discussions and analysis relating to the disastrous event in Haiti and subsequent relief efforts,” said Shlomi Dinar, director of the Middle East Society. University President Mark Rosenberg will deliver the opening remarks. The event is open and free to the public.

In the aftermath of Haiti’s 7.0 magnitude earthquake in January, the global community scrambled to assist in the relief effort. One of the first nations to be on the scene after the disaster, which affected an estimated three million people, was the nation of Israel.

Just two days after the disaster, Israel’s state run MASHAV humanitarian relief division arrived in Port-au-Prince with a 220-member delegation in two Boeing 747 jets. Aboard were the necessary equipment for a “Home Front Command field hospital and rescue unit, as well as teams from Magen David Adom (Israel’s version of the Red Cross) and Israeli Police,” according to a press release by the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Israeli delegation was the first to set up a field hospital, which included two surgical tents, a pediatric tent, a radiology tent and a tent for newborns or premature babies, according to a report by The Allentown Morning Call. Within the Israeli field hospital, over 1,100 patients received treatment and 16 babies were delivered on site in a span of 11 days.

Bitan will speak on what Israel has done, is doing and will continue to do in support of relief efforts in Haiti. His presentation will include a never-before-seen video capturing firsthand accounts of the aftermath of the earthquake and Israel’s involvement in Haiti.

“It also demonstrates the University’s continued commitment to bring the community and student body together on matters of great import,” Dinar said. “In this fashion, students and community members have the opportunity to increase their awareness, engagement and involvement with local, regional, and global issues.”