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Students travel to Brazil for competition

ANALIA FIESTAS Contributing Writer

Students from the engineering campus traveled to Brazil for almost a week to participate in an annual international air-crafting competition, entitled “SAE Brazil AeroDesign Competition,” making FIU the first school in the United States to participate in such an event.

The three students involved were senior mechanical engineering majors, Miguel Jimenez, Ricardo Lugo and Carlos Rojas, who traveled to a small town called Sao Jose Dos Campos, for the competition.

“The people in Brazil were great,” Lugo said. “They were happy we were there and they helped us with everything and anything we needed.”

It all started as a Senior Design project, a requirement for graduation that involved the designing, building and testing of a mechanical machine throughout two semesters.

The idea of entering the competition came about when one of their professors, Dr. Tremante, mentioned he had previously participated in the competition held in Venezuela.

In February the plan took off, and the three seniors began working on the project in the Multidisciplinary Analysis, Inverse Design, Robust Optimization and Control Laboratory along with professor Dr. George S. Dulikravich, and graduate student Stephen Wozniak.

The competition, located near Brazil’s military base and civilian airport, consisted of lifting the most possible weight on a plane with dimensional restrictions and a fixed engine.

Each team had a round to test the plane and once tested, move on to the following rounds.

The winning team was the one whose plane that held the most weight under the dimensional restriction and fixed engine.

There were ninety teams in total, with the

Students travel to Brazil for competition

Heady Hilton

Nicole Castro Contributing Writer

Students and faculty wanting to obtain parking decals, pay any citations or file appeals will no longer report to offices located in the Blue or Gold Garage.

As of Nov. 29, the Department of Parking and Transportation will relocate to its new home in PG5 Market Station.

The shutdown of the Gold garage office on Oct. 22 initiated the department’s transition to its new center of operations.

Meanwhile, the Blue garage office will continue operating until Nov. 23 in order to “market the fact that [they] are moving,” according to Bill Foster, executive director of the Department of Parking and Transportation.

“Our offices have been located in four different locations but now all parking and transportation will be under one roof,” Foster said.

Even though the new office will welcome students who would like to argue a point or speak to someone about a citation, Foster highly encourages the use of the online service.

“It’s a benefit for students to use our online services,” said Foster. “We will be less convenient for people who walk in the door, but I think this will actually be more convenient because people will use the online services.”

As a result, it will save students the time they would spend waiting in long lines to fill out physical forms that can be quickly and easily done via the Internet.

“They want to have their details in their hands,” said Foster. “We are such a savvy institution with the online service – so let’s do it online.”

According to Foster, not only is the merging of all offices expected to facilitate students, but it will also reduce communication lapses within the department.

“It’s going to be more of internal changes for us. We will be able to have better meetings with every-body instead of having to bring them in from all over, but there won’t be any changes in procedures that have anything to do with students,” Foster said.

The centralization of the Department Parking and Transportation in PG5 has not called for hiring more staff, according to Foster, who says the department will have higher online usage and be able to divert staff that is now sitting at a counter giving decals to managing online services.

For the next three weeks, the Department of Parking and Transportation hopes to minimize the confusion of the transfer by notifying students and faculty through advertisements and email messages.
Students ‘walk on water’ for 24th annual competition

Cristina Fernandez, a junior in the accelerated master’s program in architecture, was the first to cross the 175-foot lake behind the Green Library at FIU’s 24th annual Walk on Water. With a record time of 1:13, Fernandez won $500 for the second consecutive year in the competition for professor Jaime Canaves’ sophomore level Materials and Methods of Construction class. Students who crossed the finish line received an “A.”
Film series to help define University

**AERODESIGN, page 1**

average team consisting of ten members. FIU’s team consisted of three students only. “We were aware that the competition was going to be challenging, but we were determined in our goals,” explained Jimenez, who, along with Lugo and Rojas, built an RC airplane – a normal control airplane. After two nights with nothing but ten minutes of sleep each, the team launched their plane and it flew with 4.5 kilograms, qualifying among the top 55 teams. “We felt and feel proud of what we accomplished,” said Lugo. “We are proud of our school and our hard work.” After the successful flight while carrying 4.5 kilogram, the team could have gone further, however, they had another goal in mind. According to Jimenez, their main reason for having attended the competition was to fulfill the senior design project requirement; therefore, they could not risk destroying the plane because they needed to bring it back to the University for display. “It was a bittersweet moment because we qualified for the second round but we had to leave with doubts of how weight much the plane could actually hold,” explained Rojas. According to the team, the main difficulties were the fact that weather conditions were very windy, making it challenging for the airplane to hold the weight and take flight while staying within the main dimensions. Economically, the trip was partially covered by money donated from the the External Relations department worked with a marketing firm called Statums; which recommended the University increase its recognition and go ‘beyond the name’ by showcasing its strengths and what it’s all about. “We want to create content that is permanent, that people can use over and over again and they [the videos] give us an opportunity to tell these stories in a multidimensional way,” said Deborah O’Neil, editor for FIU Magazine, who produced and wrote the video on the Everglades initiative. “We couldn’t have 10 scientists from the Southeast Environmental Research Center standing up on stage trying to explain what they do. So it’s a way to tell a complex story in a form that you can share with everybody.” The videos are available for viewing and sharing on the FIU channel on Youtube.com. “Worlds Ahead is about raising the bar and doing more than what’s expected,” said Karen Cochrane, one of the directors in the External Relations team. “So we think that everyone, in all of the initiatives throughout the video, is doing just that.”

**October jobs report: Hiring picks up**

After months of painful losses, the economy added jobs last month, spurring hopes that the labor market may finally be turning around. The economy added 151,000 jobs in October; the Labor Department reported Friday, an improvement over September, when the economy lost 41,000 jobs. That was much better than the 68,000 gain that economists surveyed by CNNMoney.com were expecting, and the best overall number since May. Businesses continued to hire for the tenth month in a row. Companies added 159,000 jobs to their payrolls in October, much stronger than the 92,000 jobs economists had predicted for the sector.

**HURRICANE TOMAS FLOODS COASTAL CITIES IN HAITI**

Residents awoke Friday morning with Hurricane Tomas knocking hard at their doors, but an initial survey found no major damage in this low-lying city of 40,000 on the southwestern coast. Other parts of the country were not. In Les Cayes, the River Roudonne burst into the city, flooding parts of it. The United Nations sent buses to try and evacuate people. Interior minister Paul-Antoine Bien-Aime said Jeremie, at the top of the southern peninsula, was “isolated” by impassable road and the city’s mayor had to order evacuations. And Tomas, which intensified overnight into a Category 1 hurricane, was far from done with Haiti. Rain, much of it heavy, was falling across the country, raising the risk of deadly floods with each inch of rain and every passing hour.
FOOTBALL: FIU 42, ULM 35

T.Y. dominates Warhawks in Homecoming thriller

IGOR MELLO
Staff Writer

FOOTBALL

FOUR STAR HILTON

T.Y. Hilton [center] celebrates with Brad Serini [right] and Greg Ellington [left] after a touchdown against ULM.

T.Y. Hilton has been telling his teammates the entire week that this was going to be his game. The preseason All-Sun Belt receiver spent extra time this week watching film, and according to Head Coach Mario Cristobal, it paid off.

“He certainly looked like the guy we all know,” said Cristobal. “He had that look in his eye today. He kept saying all week ‘I got you,’ to all of his teammates and to myself.”

Hilton proved his teammates right.

He had a career day with four touchdowns, leading the Golden Panthers (3-5, 3-3 Sun Belt Conference) to a 42-35 double overtime homecoming win over University of Louisiana-Monroe (4-5, 3-3 SBC).

With the win, the Golden Panthers are near the top of the Sun Belt Conference in second place, just behind Troy, who FIU will play on Nov. 14. Darriet Perry burst through in overtime nearly in every fashion. He had two receiving, a rushing touch- down and a kickoff return for touchdowns. The junior wound up tacking up 291 all-purpose yards.

Hilton has never scored four touchdowns in his career.

“It’s like watching a beautiful movie. I wish I had my popcorn on the sidelines,” said senior linebacker Toronto Smith, describing Hilton’s play.

After struggling to score a touchdown the previous game, it took the Golden Panthers one minute and fifty seconds to reach the end zone on their opening drive. Quarterback Wesley Carroll hooked up with wide receiver Greg Ellington for an 18-yard touchdown.

Just as when the Warhawks tied the game with a three yard rushing touchdown from Frank Goodin, Hilton responded.

He took the ensuing kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown.

“What a way to answer the bell, right,” Cristobal said.

It was Hilton’s fourth career return for a touchdown, tied for most in FIU history.

Carroll connected with Hilton late in the second half for a 20- yard touchdown to give the Golden Panther a 21-10 lead at the half.

The Warhawks outscored FIU 18-7 in the second half to send the game in overtime.

The Golden Panthers had the ball in field goal position at the ULM 16-yard line with 16 seconds left in regulation before Carroll was intercepted by Louisiana-Monroe linebacker Ken Dorsey.

Carroll regretted his decision late in the game.

“It was my fault, I should’ve thrown that ball away. I never should’ve put ourselves in that position,” said Carroll, who threw for 227 yards, scoring three touchdowns and two interceptions.

Like the Golden Panthers, Louisiana-Monroe also had a chance to win the game in regulation. ULM quarterback Kolton Browning had the ball at FIU’s 30-yard line before throwing an interception to linebacker Winston Fraser with two seconds remaining.

“We knew that we were going to be in a dogfight the entire game,” said Smith.

After the Warhawks scored in their first possession of overtime, tied for the lead for the first time in the game, once Hilton responded.

The Golden Panthers control their own destiny in conference

One word continually popped up after what could be a season-changing double overtime win over the Warhawks: Destiny.

And the Golden Panthers are in control of their own. That is what they proved on a frigid Saturday evening that saw Mario Cristobal and his team battle for their lives.

“There was going to be a point in time where we were going to have to want a game that much more than our opponent,” Cristobal said. “It was a tremendous team effort.”

When they needed someone to answer the call and rise up to the occasion, T.Y. Hilton emerged and had the game of his collegiate career, amassing 292 all-purpose yards and finding the end zone four times in three different ways.

One of the most explosive receivers in the Sun Belt Conference came into the week determined, focused and ready to break out for a big game. And he delivered in an enormous way.

Whether it was his 95-yard kickoff return in response to University of Louisiana-Monroe’s first score of the evening in the first quarter or his 25-yard touch- down run on a reverse to keep the Golden Panthers alive in overtime, Hilton showed why he may be the most versatile and valuable player to haunt opposing defenses and special teams units at FIU.

“The desire that we all had it just kind of came through tonight,” Hilton said. “We were all focused on what we had to do and we have to prepare even more for next week. We just have to go out there and execute.”

Linebacker Toronto Smith added: “It was like watching a beautiful movie; I wish we had popcorn on the sidelines. He told me all week ‘This is my game’ and I told him after the game he was right.”

Hilton wasn’t the only one making the big plays to help push the Golden Panthers over the top.

Smith emerged late in the game with a sack in overtime when the Warhawks were looking to send the game deeper into the night. Winston Fraser made a timely interception in the final seconds of regulation to keep ULM out of range for a potential game- winning field goal.

Darriet Perry burst through in the second overtime period with the game-winning 17-yard touch- down run.

After a sobering loss against Florida Atlantic University a week before, the Panthers could have either bounced back with intensity and determination or let the season unravel into nothingness.

The performance on the field indicates the former as the team stood their ground when it mattered most and managed to pull themselves up when it seemed like things were about to fall apart.

If there is one thing that this victory indicates it is that through all the adversity and through all the tough times before Saturday night, the team is showing signs of maturity.

Instead of allowing one miscue to snowball into another, the team rose up managed to fight through it all.

And that is what good teams do. These are the kind of games that separate the average from the great and turn potential into positive results.

That mental toughness late in games is what will lead to victories in the future and it is what this team needs to display in the final four games of the season, beginning next week in a match that will potentially shake up the race for the Sun Belt title.

DATE WITH DESTINY

With a showdow looming on the road against the first-place Trojans, the Golden Panthers have a unique opportunity to put themselves in driver’s seat.

“It’s all about us, we are playing against ourselves,” Wesley Carroll said. “We control our own destiny. We can stop anybody and we can move the ball on anybody. We just have to execute. We did tonight and we have to do it again next week.”

The Trojans, the de facto favorites to win the confer- ence year in and year out, have shown signs of weakness over the past two weeks with a loss to the Warhawks and struggling to put away a North Texas team in shambles.

With the way things are breaking down in the Sun Belt, there is no longer a clear-cut favorite. No one really has a distinct advantage over another.

For the first time in a number of years, it truly is anyone’s conference.

And FIU has now placed itself in prime position to dethrone the Trojans and catapult them to the top of the Sun Belt standings in November for the very first time.

For the first time, the Golden Panthers are no longer a slave to destiny.

It’s in their hands.
Season ends as team can’t capitalize against Denver

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

FIU (11-9-1, 7-4 Sun Belt Conference) fell short of their shot at getting a conference championship this year as they lost 1-0 against No. 1 seeded Denver (19-2, 11-6 SBC) in a semi-final match in Bowling Green, Kentucky on Nov. 4.

The game started out with some déjà vu in the very beginning of play. Kim Lopez got injured and had to leave the game just three minutes into the match. In fact, Crystal McNamara got injured just two minutes into a game versus Denver less than a month ago. Lopez took a hard shot to the face, and was unable to return for the rest of the contest. She has provided the team with one goal and three assists coming into the night’s game, and was thought of as a pivotal part to the team in general.

“We would have loved to have had Kim for the whole game, but we have plenty of capable players on the bench that can come in to fill her spot,” Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt said. “I felt like they did. They came in and they worked hard, and they gave us a chance to win.”

Seven minutes into, FIU almost took the early lead as Mayara Bordin took an attempt at the goal that was saved by Lara Campbell of Denver. Campbell was forced to make one more save coming in the 10th minute off a shot from Chelsea Leiva.

As time was winding down, Denver went to work on Melanie Raimo putting in three corners and two shots in a matter of three minutes time. The half ended 0-0, with FIU getting in two shots compared to Denver’s three.

“This like we created some decent opportunities in the first half,” said Chestnutt.

The second half brought a whole different direction than what the first half showed. The Panthers put on an offensive explosion as they put on ten shots, really showing. The Panthers put on an offensive explosion as they put on ten shots, really showing. The Panthers put on an offensive explosion as they put on ten shots, really showing.

The offense stayed on the field and incremented their shot to five in the 40th minute, and in the 75th minute, it looked like they could make one more save coming in the 16th minute off a shot from Chelsea Leiva.

At the 50th minute, Leiva took two shots that went wide. Victoria Miliciucci and Nicole DiPerna had shots blocked in what was the team’s greatest chance of taking the lead in the game. It remained tightly contested after, as the Golden Panther defense had not allowed a shot all period, and no shots on goal all game.

In the 83rd minute, that would all change as Nicholette DiGiacomo, who was the SBC co-freshman of the year along with Leiva, put a corner kick to Jessy Battelli who headed the ball in and gave the Panthers a 1-0 lead with only seven minutes left.

Two minutes later, FIU came close to sending the game into overtime, which would have been their second overtime against Denver this year.

It was not meant to be though, as junior captain April Perry, whose late game heroics just one day ago sent FIU to this game, took a shot that went high.

FIU was one of the toughest competitors for Denver, who was ranked No. 24 in the nation coming into this game. They were able to take them to overtime the first time they played them on Oct. 17 in a 1-0 loss, and only allowed one shot on goal the whole game this time around. Leiva, the team’s real fire power on offense, came up with five shots on the night.

Looking onto next year, they will only be losing four players in total, and be bringing back a slew of other players. The list includes Leiva, DiPerna and Miliciucci. Also, they will have the arsenal between seniors Kassandra Sorzano and Kaley Durranage played as freshmen and a year that saw them go just 3-11-3 and not make the playoffs.

This was the first time since 2004 that they had made it to the second round of the conference tournament.

“Younger players are all coming back with this experience, and our seniors have given a lot to the program, said Chestnutt. “They gave everything they had and played hard in their last game. That’s all you could ever really ask for. They can leave their career feeling good about what they have done.”

Parker gets big stop after Perry picks up final score

FOOTBALL, page 4

This time on their first offensive play. Hilton ran a reverse 25 yards to even the game up at 35.

The offense stayed on the field and tacked on another touchdown in overtime. Running back Darriet Perry dashed 17 yards to regain the lead. Perry finished the game with 115 yards rushing on 20 carries, averaging more than four yards per touch.

FIU’s defense rose to the occasion in the second stint of overtime. Smith led the way with three tackles for losses including a sack on the final drive. Smith led the way with three tackles for losses including a sack on the final drive.

According to Smith, he wanted to sit out the second stint of overtime. However, the Panthers put on an offensive explosion as they put on ten shots, really making Campbell work hard to keep the game from happening.

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One thing we talked about all week long is that there is going to be a point and time where we are going to have to want a game more than our opponent and we’re going to have to win the second half,” Cristobal said.

The win improves FIU to 3-3 all time in overtime games and gave the Golden Panthers its first win against the Warhawks in school history (2005’s victory was vacated due to NCAA infractions.)
1. FIU Music Festival featured acts like DJ Skribble, DJ Irie, DJ Zog and Kaeno. The event took place Nov. 5 between the Blue and Gold garages.

2. D.L. Hughley performs at the annual Panther Prowl Comedy Show.

3. Lifehouse performs at Panthermonium.

4. Deyan Iyanov is crowned Homecoming King for the Biscayne Bay Campus.

5. Khristopher “Spike” Salado and Cecily Arias pose with University President Mark B. Rosenberg after being named Homecoming King and Queen for the Modesto Maidique Campus.

6. The color guard performs during halftime.

7. Members of Beta Phi Zeta perform at the Stepp Show Oct. 28 at the Julius Littman Theatre.

8. Wayne Times carries the ball against ULM. FIU won 42-35.
VOLLEYBALL: FIU 3, ULM 0

RICO ALBARRACIN
Staff Writer

There comes a time in the season when players need to get healthy, young players get playing time, and players just need rest. There is no better time than when facing one of the worst teams in the nation.

FIU (15-10, Sun Belt Conference 9-4) swept the Warhawks of the University of Louisiana-Monroe in three sets (25-19, 25-21, 25-14) to put themselves into a tie for third in the conference, which will help with seeding for the Sun Belt conference tournament. The win is also their fifth win in their last six matches.

Things did not go according to plan, as Sabrina Gonzalez did not play in the match. Gonzalez was informed that she now has a tear in her abdomen. She had been struggling with an abdominal strain for the past few weeks. Coach Danijela Tomic decided to rest her and give some playing time to some of the younger players.

Jessica Wilkie had her first start for the Panthers as defensive specialist. She was able to get three digs.

“It felt amazing,” Wilkie said. “I’ve been working really hard and honestly, I didn’t think I’d have an opportunity this year so when this opportunity came up, I was like ‘I have one shot and I have to make the most of it.’ It was really fun, I got a chance to play with my seniors before they leave.”

The Panthers struggled in the first two sets, as ULM (0-22, 0-13 SBC) was able to stay in the sets with soft dink plays. It seemed as though the Panthers were not used to the soft style of play from the Warhawks. Despite that, the Panthers took the first two sets.

After the break, the Panthers came out in an non-traditional lineup that featured three defensive specialists in Chanel Araujo, Angelina Colon, and Wilkie. After a 7-5 advantage, it didn’t take long for the Panthers to go back to their original lineup. After the change, FIU went on a 12-4 run and never looked back as they finished the set 25-14.

“I’m happy with our overall performance,” Tomic said. “I thought the third set showed how well we can play.”

“We did well,” Wilkie said. “Coach told us not to underestimate this team and not to think that they’re just gonna let us take it. The first two sets were a bit rough, then we pulled away in the third set.”

“I’m happy that we won and I’m happy with the result of 3-0,” junior Andrea Lakovic said. “We didn’t come in mentally prepared. We have a goal. We’re preparing for the tournament and we want to show the other teams that we’re getting ready. We put the statement in the third set.”

Jovana Bjelica posted 18 kills and Lakovic chipped in with 15 kills, as she had a career-high hitting average of .545. Bjelica recorded her second double-double of the season by also contributing 11 digs, while senior Natalia Valentin picked up her 13th double-double of the season with 42 assists and 11 digs.

Panthers add another loss to Warhawk losing streak

Andrea Lakovic helped dominate the Warhawks with 15 kills and a career-high hitting average of .545.

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Remodel of Fillmore could hurt SoBe music scene

KATHY PAZ  Staff Writer

New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles. When comparing the music scene here in Miami to some of these places, the only word that seems to fit is “lacking.” This isn’t, of course, speaking in terms of local bands but rather with regards to large venues and big-name performers. Most of us have grown used to trekking up to good of Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach for shows. Sure, we’ll complain about it. But the bottom line is we still do it. After all, who’s going to miss out on that once-every-five-year-opportunity for something as minor as an hour drive? Recently though, the winds of change have blown through our city, and their resting place is in South Beach. The Fillmore Miami Beach at the Jackie Gleason Theater has become the recent home away from home for avid concert goers. In the past year alone the venue has hosted a number of sold out shows, including Arctic Monkeys, Vampire Weekend, MGMT and Phoenix. These well-known bands are a rarity in South Florida, so it was a shock that it happened.

This musical high, however, may be short lived. For years now, there have been rumors of closure, demolition or renovation circulating around the Fillmore. There are currently large scale, multi-million dollar plans to replace the site with a hotel/convention center-like atmosphere.

According to a report by the “Miami Herald,” consultant Architectonica calculated that a budget between $500,000 million to $1 billion dollars would be necessary for an “overhauled and expanded [concept of] Miami Beach Convention Center.” Among the requirements of this vision are new parking garages, a ballroom, a meeting place and the rotation of the structure to face the south side.

Live Nation, recently purchased by Ticketmaster, is the chief concert promoter and booker of the Fillmore. The company, which spent an estimated $3.5 million dollars renovating the facility, has reported major losses in the past year and expect the same for 2010 term. In the numbers game, we’re talking $700,000. The current contract Live Nation has with the Fillmore extends until 2017 and, should a renewal be declined, the aforementioned plans will likely be put into full effect.

Residents of South Florida have expressed their disdain and outrage over these plans. Campaigns have been launched on social networking sites like Facebook to save the site and preserve the music scene in South Beach. Others have voiced outrage for more sentimental, nostalgic reasons. The on-site Miami Beach Auditorium held the recording for “The Jackie Gleason Show” and has hosted graduations for years. Yet despite its 60 years worth of history, the Fillmore does not qualify as a historic venue to be preserved.

William Cary, head of historic preservation for Miami Beach, told the “Miami Herald” that “substantial modifications have been made to the building since its 1950 construction” that were “too significant to warrant historic protection.”

So, what does this all mean? For concert goers, it could result in having to travel the distance for shows once more. For the growing music scene, it could result in a major loss due to the venue’s size and capabilities to book rising artists and bands that may not have stopped in South Florida in the past.

For residents of Miami Beach, there’s the loss of an iconic site and replacement with another convention center/hotel. For the city as a whole, we’re talking about a potential billion dollar plan. Who has more to lose in this has yet to be determined.
Business ethics are on the decline

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ  Staff Writer

Capitalism, love it or hate it, is a core principle of our American society. Capitalism allows for the promotion of anything to make a living. It is a common sight in our generation to see shoddy business practices, ranging from small businesses to large corporations and everything in between. It seems the days of honest straightfor-ward business transactions and customer satisfaction are fading.

The term “buyer beware” is one with special relevance in a time where websites sell services they cannot supply, and cable and telephone corporations tack on hidden fees without alerting the customer. I once came across a website offering unlimited tutoring services for a weekly fee, only to be stood up and kept waiting time and time again, with no help whatsoever, and then refused a refund.

Often, underhanded practices, like ignoring a money back guarantee or charging more than the specified price for an item, are preferred over a quality product or business model that promises repeat customers.

We need to use the creativity and skill of hard-working Americans, instead of defec- trone machines, to put out quality pro- ducts. Although machines are cheaper to use, the increase in jobs and product quality may warrant slightly higher prices. We must reach an agreement where a merchant’s word is worth as much as a buyer’s dollar.

Not only will quality products and ethical business models promote repeat customers, but they will also promote more spending which will help stimulate our recuperating economy.

On campus, doing so also allows the University to use the extra money they gained while being unethical was undeserved anyway.

Only when more businesses are on ethi- cally will the buyer-seller relationship be at its strongest and consumer confidence be at its highest. It may not seem like it at times, but the power resides within the purchaser. As soon as a customer feels cheated by a service or product provided, if the business is likely to go to a competitor.

This is the free market at its finest. The quality of all products will raise if consumers refrain from paying companies that offer cheap products or poor customer service.

Unfortunately, it is often college students who fall victim to sneaky practices, such as those of Amazon Global and www.toxinext.com.

Although lack of experience can apply to anyone and the hunt for a good deal is always hard to pass up, one must always do research and find out what a company is really about before making a purchase, perhaps by consulting the Better Business Bureau. If a deal seems too good to be true, it often is. It is discouraging to feel cheated and betrayed by companies in the free market which you expect to support with your hard-earned money.

Campus housing creates undue burden

YUE WANG  Contributing Writer

On Oct. 4, The Beacon announced that on-campus housing is completely full and the University is plan- ning an expansion project.

Although it is convenient to live on campus, doing so will also result in many shortcomings, like expensive prices and irreg- ular study schedules. Your new roommates will change every term. Last fall semester, a four-bedroom single with a meal plan cost $4,950. This fall semester, however, the rate increased by 2 percent to $5,053.

On-campus housing, on the other hand, is far cheaper than on-campus living. For example, the price of a guest room in the Crystal Colony, only a five-minute drive from FIU, is only $40 per month, with all utilities included. The cost of renting off-campus is around $250 per month. This shows FIU’s on-campus housing is one of the worst business models.

During such a big recession, everyone wants to save money. Once students find cheaper and more afford- able housing, they will likely move off-campus. Also, the Fresh Food Company and other food services on campus shanghailed their operating hours, especially on weekends.

With most food establishment on campus, staying open at 10:30 a.m. and closing at 7 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, it is incomprehensible that “morning people” like me find it inconvenient to sleep in the morning, as well as to dine later at night.

If I get back to my dorm after 7:30 p.m., I need to go to KFC or McDonald’s for dinner. These are not always good options.

I have paid a large sums of money for my meal plan and I am not willing to spend additional money for these inconveniences.

Before signing the housing agreement, students are required to fill in a question- naire. In the questionnaire, students are asked to state whether they are “morning people.” However, without parental control and sometimes without any morning classes, any “morning person” can easily become nocturnal.

In addition, the residence assistants often hold parties in the lounge.

In my opinion, work- shops and events held by the management of Campus Life should be added to the event list before they take place last fall semester, the housing office checked my dorm every month and made sure that everything was clean and tidy.

Before I moved out, the residence assistant checked my room very carefully with a checklist, to ensure I returned everything as I found it.

It is disappointing that there was no questionnaire asking me whether I was living happily on campus or whether I was satisfied with the on-campus housing services.

The housing office should create a survey before implementing the expansion program. Student evaluations should be consid- ered in order to improve on-campus housing.

Dwights do not always communicate everything and students’ opinions should be heard. After all, we are the ones living here.

Onus on newly elected leaders to put education first

The outcome of the recent midterm elections saw Florida with two new representatives in Senator Marco Rubio and Governor Rick Scott. Whether you voted for them or not, they are in a position to make the lives of students and faculty better or worse. This is particularly true when it comes to higher education.

We are at a time where the University has seen several tuition hikes. The 8 percent tuition increase mandated by the legislature is largely due to a State University System that has seen over $500 million in state budget reductions since 2007-2008.

Programs are having their curriculum shortened or removed altogether.

“We are operating with a budget that is $60 million less in appropriations than what we were receiving in 2007 and 2008,” University President Mark B. Rosenberg said during a budget forum on June 14. “Quality is, you’ve got to feel that, and we’ve had some unfortunate losses.”

This leaves Rubio and Scott in a position to have a strong, positive influence on higher educa- tion. Increasing the funding to Florida colleges and universities should be at the top of their agenda.

Scott’s educational plan, which he unveiled earlier in his campaign, states that he wants to increase funding for higher education, according to The Miami Herald. Rubio’s platform, however, does not give specific details on what his plans are for higher education, according to his website.

The Beacon believes they should focus this funding on two key areas, the first of which is students.

Currently the University has over 42,000 students, which is an increase of over 4,000 from last year. A draft of its five-year strategic plan states the University will expect a 26 percent increase in tuition, which will force the University to rethink all aspects of its operations, including the way it serves students.

As of now, the ratio of students to advisors is around 800-to-1. The current plan, according a July 2010 report by The Beacon, is to reduce the ratio to 300-to-1.

Having access to an adviser that is better able to advise you on degree critical is in reducing the amount of wasted semesters spent taking unnecessary classes or missing out on scholarship opportunities.

Financial aid is an important and effective way to help students. The University is adding an increase in the amount of people granted finan- cial aid will be a great boon. In addition, President Barack Obama’s existing Federal Direct Student Loan Program should be kept intact. This helps cut on the costs of financial aid and offset the cost of increasing the number of recipients.

However, a larger and costly concern for the University looking forward is expansion, both in the amount of faculty and in facilities.

This large increase in enrollment only exacerbates the need for more faculty, as classrooms are already filled to capacity and seeing students beg professors for overtimes at the beginning of each semester has become a common sight.

The University will be looking to expand in the coming years and that requires support from Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. With registered students increasing annually, the University will soon grow, big enough that it’s own and a new building will not suffice.

This University needs to expand its borders, possibly by moving in to the local community in order to accommodate more students.

In this case, higher education takes prece- dence over party affiliations and politics. By making colleges and universities a priority, the state and the nation can reap the benefits of a sharp, educated workforce ready to fill vacant jobs and, more impor- tantly, create new ones.
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mental consulting in the area of wetlands and wildlife. New environmental laws had caused confusion for land developers, so it was easy to find work, he said. During this time, Lodge wrote his book.
In 1998, he was invited to teach South Florida Ecology at the University, where the first edition had been used as a text book for four years. Since he was already thinking about writing a second edition, he accepted the offer.
“I did it to see how the book was used, and how it could be improved because I never expected it to be used as a textbook,” Lodge said. He has taught five semesters at FIU.
“I’m aware that I taught a pretty hard course,” Lodge said. “One engineering student who was taking this as a requirement outside of his field said it was the hardest course he’d ever taken.”
For Lodge, the experience was not so hard.
“I found it easy to teach from my own book because the syllabus was essentially already developed,” Lodge said. The doctor found that students generally make use of conceptual diagrams better than they do from concepts stated in words, so in the second edition he developed “Synthesis,” a chapter that consisted of putting the concepts together in diagrams.
Lodge and Fievre both said they will stick around to speak with readers after their speeches on Nov. 21 at noon: Lodge will be in room 7128, Fievre in Pavilion A.

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Biran spoke on his country’s ongoing effort in Haiti

...dently getting involved in rescue efforts due to bureaucratic messes.

Having set up the first field hospital in the aftermath of the 7.0 magnitude earthquake, Biran enlightened the audience on the work ethic of the Israeli rescue efforts.

“The way we work is that we do not leave until we have results, good or bad,” Biran said.

Biran presented a clip with both video and picture documentation of the doctors and rescue workers while either performing procedures at the field hospital, or working through debris in an effort to pull out the buried.

The lead rescue worker prepared the clip.

As rescue operations came to a close, the Israeli field hospital performed 370 lifesaving surgeries and 16 emergency baby deliveries.

However, the end of rescue operations does not signify an end to Israel’s mission in Haiti. Biran explained Israel’s ongoing effort in Haiti, and described Israel’s plan to commence construction of an Intensive Care Unit/Trauma Center in Petit Goave, located in the outskirts of Port-au-Prince, within the next two months.

Israel will fully stock and fund the medical unit with all necessary equipment, supplies, and initial medical staff which will be brought in from Israel.

The intent is to train a local medical staff and hand over the keys to the Haitian people within three months of its opening.

When asked of Israel’s plan to further the Haitian nation, Biran responded by saying Israel alone cannot make a huge difference, and thus why they are putting their efforts towards where it can have the biggest impact.

The international community needs to come together in their efforts for Haiti for vast improvement to be made, according to Biran.

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If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don’t be shy.
Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.
Although confirmed authors for the Miami Book Fair International include household names such as former president George Bush, tennis player Venus Williams, singer songwriter Patti Smith, and even a live broadcast of a Jay-Z telecast, some University affiliates can proudly drop their own names.

At least eight confirmed authors for the 2010 book fair are other past or current professors, graduate students, or alumni of the University. During the fair’s final three days, chaotic traffic jams will be replaced with enthusiastic book lovers, authors, and vendors on closed streets in downtown Miami.

This year, Mexico’s literature and culture will be highlighted to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Mexico’s independence and the 100th anniversary of the Mexican Revolution. Michele Jessica Feivre, 29, a graduate student of the University’s Creative Writing Program, spoke at the fair seven years ago with “jitters,” a trembling voice and unsteady legs.

Feivre will return this year to speak about her book “Rainbow’s End” in the anthology “Haïtian Noir,” though, according to her, she’ll do so more confidently and less concerned about her strong Haitian accent.

“This piece was written before the Jan. 12 earthquake, so the places I mentioned in the story are the way they were, they’ll always be carved in my mind: intact, permanent,” she said.

Another project of hers, a fantasy novel set in Haiti in 2004, was temporarily “put on the shelves” after the earthquake.

“I lost interest in the book,” Feivre said. “The pain I witnessed as a volunteer translator in Haiti was so raw that fictional fantasy felt totally out of place.”

She has since revisited the book with a new appreciation, and is simultaneously working on a nonfiction book which will be her thesis.

“I love the faculty members of the Creative Writing program,” Feivre said. She added that everything she learned about the rules of non-fiction, plot, attention to detail, and discipline, she learned through her University professors. Feivre urges students to go to the fair because it’s an inexpensive way to meet interesting people, learn valuable information, and meet famous authors.

MBFI will convene Nov. 14-21, 2010 at the Miami Beach Convention Center. 300 NE Second Ave.

Weekend author sessions require online free ticket reservations at www.miamibookfair.com.

Another author will be former University professor Tom Lodge, 66, who got his doctorate in biology at the University of Miami before writing a book that would, to his surprise, become a course text at the University, “The Everglades Handbook: Understanding the Ecosystem.”

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