University smoking ban in full effect

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
News Director

Students returning to the University for the Spring semester will be greeted by signs ringing in the start of a new year with a tobacco and smoke free campus.

The signs, which encourage visitors, faculty and students to “breathe easy,” are part of the University’s measures to ensure that word of the new Tobacco and Smoke Free Campus initiative gets out.

The initiative, approved by the University Board of Trustees during a Sept. 24 meeting, bans the use of all tobacco related products on University campuses effective Jan 1, 2011, making FIU the first institution in South Florida to be completely smoke free.

This initiative also makes FIU the second University in the state of Florida to implement a smoke free policy. The University of Florida was the first to go smoke free in July, 2010.

“This initiative is also intended to foster greater respect for one another, improve the health of the FIU family and align with FIU’s growing commitment to environmental sustainability,” said Vice President of Student Affairs Rosa Jones in an email to the University community.

With this new policy, smoking will be banned on all campus recreational areas, dorms, parking lots, garages and inside parked cars on campus.

During the initial six-month period of the smoke free campus initiative, the policy will be enforced socially. Those found smoking will be asked to stop and palm cards with pertinent information on why the University has gone tobacco and smoke free will be offered for distribution.

“Anyone violating the policy should be reminded of the product in a courteous manner,” said Jones.

According to Jones, continuing violations after the initial six-month period will result in judicial conduct action following the University Student Code of Conduct; however, punishment for continuous violations has not been clearly defined.

The University recognizes that some people may need assistance with managing their dependence on cigarettes and other tobacco products and as such, they are using the initial six-month period of the policy as a transition period where:

• employees and supervisors will be educated on how to provide support to their colleagues, consult with those who continue to smoke on campus and direct

Min Yao stepping down from position

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Asst. News Director

After serving as the University’s Vice President of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer for four years, Dr. Min Yao will be leaving FIU for a similar position at the University of California, San Diego.

The decision to leave the University, according to Dr. Yao, stemmed from a desire to be closer to family and friends in the California region.

“I’ve personally enjoyed the support and work I’ve done with the FIU community, but my wife and I are West coast people, although I have enjoyed Miami. This move is mostly driven by my family connections over there,” said Dr. Yao.

Since taking office in 2007, Yao has steered FIU to a leading position among Florida public universities in regards to information technology.

Through his leadership FIU became the first Florida public university to implement a consolidated email system for all faculty and staff on MS Exchange 2007 email platform and MS Exchange 2010 email system with unified messaging.

The University was also the first to partner with Google to deliver student email service—an endeavor that Dr. Yao credits to student support.

“Students were not using the previous email system because they had little storage. At the time we negotiated with Google and Microsoft, and after working together with student government, we went with Google which still offers email service to us for free of charge and advertisement,” said Dr. Yao on the email service, which saves $1.5 million every year.

Aside from these accomplishments, Yao considers the University’s integration of all passwords into one, his greatest achievement and primary goal.

“With the first campus board, that was the number one concern from faculty, who would come to me confused with six or seven passwords written on note paper. And after years, we’ve integrated all of them into one,” stated Dr. Yao.

In a memorandum released by Douglas Wartnik, provost and executive vice president, he attributed the University’s “integrated voice and email system, smart phone access to an enterprise information system for

Wittels charged with rape in Bahamas

JOEL DELGADO
Sports Director

FIU infielder Garrett Wittels, along with a group of friends, were arrested and charged in the Bahamas with the rape of two 17-year-old girls last week, according to The Miami Herald.

Wittels and two others, Jonathan Oberti and Robert Rothschild, were charged with raping the girls. They have admitted to having sex with the girls but contest that it was consensual.

The three men involved with the incident, which took place at the Atlantis Resort and Casino, were released on $10,000 bond on Dec. 23 following a court hearing. A preliminary is set for April 18.

“Anyone can accuse anyone of anything at any time,” Michael Wittels, Garrett’s father, told The Miami Herald Monday morning. “He’s not doing well, obviously. He’s blown away. He’s devastated that someone would accuse him of this.”

FIU Athletics currently has no comment as they try to find out more on the incident, which has only recently been brought to their attention.

In addition to Wittels, Oberti and Rothschild, Steven Tromberg and David Shapiro were also arrested on Dec. 20 after a father of one of the girls called the police after they returned to their own hotel room.

All the men are from Miami. Tromberg and Shapiro were released after police questioning and returned to Miami-Dade County shortly thereafter.

Michael Wittels went on to say that the men had met the two girls at the casino and that the girls had followed all of them to a private party willingly.

In the Bahamas, the legal drinking age is 18 and the age of legal consent for sex is 16. The rape charges come from the girls having been drinking and the belief is that they may have been too impaired to be able to consent to having sexual
as press secretary steps down, White House hires new chief of staff

Politics Daily has confirmed White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs will step down next week, but he will remain active as a member of President Obama’s inner circle as the 2012 re-election campaign ramps up. Gibbs, 39, plans to hop on the paid speaking circuit, giving him a chance to make more money.

In similar news, President Barack Obama is hiring William Daley to be his chief of staff, a veteran political manager with Wall Street ties to direct the operation now steaming toward re-election.

### Dead bird mystery deepens

It isn’t easy being a bird. Thousands of blackbirds, confused by fireworks, crashed into homes, cars, and each other in central Arkansas on New Year’s Eve. Then 300 miles to the south in Louisiana, power lines likely killed about 450 birds, littering a highway near Baton Rouge.

It’s almost certainly a coincidence the events happened within days of each other. Louisiana’s state wildlife veterinarian Jim LaCour said Tuesday. To add to the mystery, 50-100 jackdaws, a bird species in the crow family, fell dead in central Sweden late Tuesday night. Mass bird deaths aren’t uncommon. The U.S. Geological Service’s website listed about 90 mass deaths of birds and other wildlife from June through Dec. 12.

More Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week, but not enough to reverse a downward trend that suggests employers will tentatively to 375,000 or below to substantially bring the unemployment rate.

### Jobless claims rise, but positive trend intact

The Labor Department said that applications rose by 18,000 to a seasonally adjusted 409,000 in the week ending Jan. 1. Even with the gains, the number of people applying for benefits was the threshold that signaled modest job growth. Still, economists say applications need to fall consistently to 375,000 or below to substantially bring down the unemployment rate.

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Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

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**Help to be offered for those wanting to quit smoking**

**SMOKING, page 1**

them to specific available sources,” according to a letter to the University community from Jaffus Hardrick, vice president of the Division of Human Resources.

University Health Services and the Division of Human Resources will also be offering “brown bag sessions” to educate the University community on how to manage or stop dependency on tobacco products. “However, if you do want to quit, we have sessions and programs available so that you can manage that habit.” Since October the University has launched one-one consultations, a page on the UHS website and sporadic University-wide emails to alert the University community of the policy and ensure that those who want help with their smoking habits can get it. Smoke-Free Tobacco-Free Official Panthers Partners, or STOPP, has also met with the deans of several schools and colleges in order to spread information about the new policy. “Now that the regulation has passed, we have given them information about all the services offered by [UHS] and also how we can get this information to their students,” said Daniel Estape, a member of STOPP and a public health masters student, in an interview with Student Media in October.

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LINDA LEE/THE BEACON

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**BREAKFAST IN THE PARK**

Arist Enrique Martinez Celaya lectures at the Frost Art Museum at their event Breakfast in the Park as a part of the Art Basel Miami Beach. Celaya is an artist of diverse backgrounds, he has degrees in Applied Physics and Quantum Electronics. He is also an established author and poet.
The University and State Farm have joined forces to support literacy education at the College of Business through a $200,000 grant which will go towards improving its financial literacy lab.

“This is a unique four-year partnership between State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co. and Florida International University to support financial literacy education,” said Jose Soto, public affairs specialist for State Farm.

In addition, a one-year $20,000 grant will go to support various University initiatives to provide mentorship, scholarships and leadership training for students.

The grants will be recognized with the renaming of the Capital Markets Lab to the State Farm Financial Literacy Lab. This lab is directed at enabling students to learn about capital market activities as well as resources used by members of local businesses.

The relationship between State Farm and the University will go beyond a monetary contribution, with State Farm associates mentoring and ultimately working together with students in order to promote financial literacy projects benefitting young adults and families all over South Florida.

“We are very excited to be a part of the FIU community. The sponsorship of the State Farm Financial Literacy Lab represents an investment in the lives and futures of our young adults,” said State Farm Operations Vice President and Chair of the State Farm Education Initiative in Florida, Cheryl Herrin.

Over the past 22 years, State Farm and its employees have contributed to the growth of the University through financial support for a wide range of programs including: BRC in Bloom, the Student Leadership Summit and Upward Bound.

FIU’s Upward Bound is a program for low income first generation high school students and those who enroll are presented with teen auto safety, auto insurance and financial literacy workshops.

“Part of our mission at State Farm is to help people realize their dreams. Much of that begins with the basic financial skills which many teens and young adults need to develop,” said Jim Thompson, State Farm senior vice president and head of the company’s Florida activities.

According to Soto, State Farm chose to award their grants to FIU because of the University’s accomplishments in serving a diverse community of over 40,000 students and 160,000 alumni.

“This partnership is an investment in the future of financial literacy and education, reflecting our dedication to promote diversity,” said Soto.

New courses being offered

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
News Director

As part of the University’s Global Learning for Global Citizenship initiative, eleven global learning foundations courses will be offered in Spring 2011.

Starting this academic year, first time freshman will be required to take two global learning courses prior to graduation, according to Stephanie Doucher, associate director of the Office of Global Learning Initiatives. One of the two global learning foundations courses will be part of the University Core Curriculum and the other will be a upper division global learning course as part of their major’s plan of study.

During the Fall 2010 semester, the University launched the first phase of this new global learning graduation requirement. This requirement will apply to all incoming students beginning in Fall 2011.

Among the eleven courses offered this Spring are five signature courses specifically developed for the Global Learning for Global Citizenship initiative. They include: Global Supply Chains and Logistics (IDS 3163), International Nutrition, Public Health and Economic Development (IDS 3189), Our Coastal Environment From the Bay to the World (IDS 3214), How We Know What We Know (IDS 3309) and Artistic Expression in a Global Society (IDS 3336).

The six other courses being offered in the Spring are existing UCC courses that have been revised to include global learning components. These include: World Ethnographies (ANT 312), Introduction to East Asia (ASN 3418), Intercultural/International Communication (COM 3446), Introduction to Labor Studies (LRS 3901), Religion: Analysis and Interpretation (REL 311) and Studies in World Religions (REL 3308).

All global learning courses are reviewed and approved by members of the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committees.

WINTER WONDERLAND

The Children’s Creative Learning Center hosting their annual Winter Festival on Dec 3. The Center invites a group of 20 children from the Everglades Migrant Child Development Program to play in snow, games and music.
FIU wins first bowl game

IGOR MELLO
Asst. Sports Director

With students gone for winter break, FIU football made history. Not only did they clinch a bowl berth and a winning season for the first time in school history, they conquered a bowl opponent in stunning fashion.

On Dec. 26, Mario Cristobal's Golden Panthers overcame the Toledo Rockets (8-5, 7-1 MAC) 34-32 with a 34-yard field goal by Jack Griffin a first down by inches.

The Rockets then made a comeback of their own. Toledo quarterback Terrance Ferguson was ruled ineligible for the bowl game victory over the Toledo Rockets in Detroit, he did just that, putting the exclamation point on what was a monumental year.

Ferguson made his debut against FAU on Dec. 22. His presence helped the Golden Panthers overcome a five-game losing streak that would have the opportunity in what may have been one of the names expected to leave a lasting image that may have defined an entire year for athletics and provide the sweeter ending in the history FIU's young football program.

But football was not the only sport to make the News. Garrett Wittels, the man who faced off against the NCAA in Detroit, represented the attention of the news media.

Wittels' name will go down in college history. It is his name that may have defined an entire year for athletics and provide the sweeter ending in the history FIU's young football program.

Garrett Wittels

NCAA will let FIU field Wittels incident

WITTELS, page 1

intercourse that night. The girls have alleged that they do not know what had happened that night.

Police ruled out that date-rape drugs were involved with the case when authorities reported on Dec. 27 that blood tests from the two girls revealed that they had only been drinking.

Bahamian attorney Wayne Monroe is representing all five friends in the case and told The Miami Herald that is "easy" to be arrested on the accusation of rape in the Bahamas and added that many of those charges should have not been filed in the first place.

As a result, according to Monroe, there is a very high acquittal rate for rape charges in the Bahamas.

The athletic department was caught off guard by the accusations and was still looking to find any possible information on the incident when it came to light.

"We will continue to gather any possible information as it becomes available," FIU Athletic Director Pete Garcia said.

The NCAA has said that the University would handle any sanctions or suspensions involving Wittels and the baseball team. It is still unclear what type of action the University plans to take concerning Wittels' availability to play this upcoming season.

Wittels, who finished last season with a 56-game hitting streak, is two games shy of tying the NCAA hit streak record of 58 games that was set by Robin Ventura in 1987.

"The baseball season begins for the Golden Panthers on Feb. 18 when they face Southeastern Louisiana in a three-game series at home. If available, Wittels would have the opportunity to break the current record at home.

 Anyone can accuse anyone of anything at any time. He’s not doing well, obviously... He’s devastated that someone would accuse him of this.

Michael Wittels

Garrett Wittels' Father

FIU sports reaches turning point in 2010

Prior to the conclusion of the first bowl game in Golden Panther history, Jack Griffin would not have been one of the names expected to leave a lasting image that may have defined an entire year for athletics and provide the sweeter ending in the history FIU's young football program.

Garrett Wittels, the man who faced off against the NCAA in Detroit, he did just that, putting the exclamation point on what was a monumental year.

If one didn't know any better, they would think that moment was an exacting conclusion ripped from a typical Disney-produced sports movie. The Golden Panthers had to overcome a lot of adversity and heartbreak, including the death of teammate Kendall Berry whom they honored throughout much of this season, to reach a point of victory and exhilaration in what is one of the biggest turnarounds in collegiate athletics.
Golden Panthers dealt seventh consecutive loss after buzzer beater

RICO ALBARRACIN
Asst. Sports Director

With 2.9 seconds remaining in the game and FIU leading Arkansas State 61-59, the Panthers were trying to prevent the shot that would lose them the game; The three-point shot. But they were unable to stop the shot, as the Red Wolves pulled off a dramatic 62-61 victory on Jan. 5.

“We were trying to avoid any possible score at all cost,” Rakia Rodgers said. “We should have up a lot more at that point. If it’s a game where a 3 pointer is going to win the game, of course you don’t want to give up 3 pointer. That’s where we erred.”

The Panthers lost their seventh consecutive game on Jan. 5. and have now lost seventh consecutive game.

Asst. Sports Director

A key to the losing streak has been their inability to out-rebound their opponents.

Rodgers, who had a career high 26 points, spoke about what the Panthers are working on in practice.

“We do a lot of work on rebounding and boxing out nowadays,” Rodgers said. “Rebounding is an important aspect of the game. You’re not gonna do well if you’re constantly being out rebounded by other teams.”

Rodgers got started on the right foot, as she scored 12 of the Panthers first 14 points, keeping FIU close in the game. When asked about the hot start, she said it was all about Coach Russo’s offense.

“It was the offense. Our coach uses an offense that utilizes our strengths.” Rodgers said.

“We were running the offense well. Rakia was hot,” Jerica Coley said. “In her position, she scored. She kept moving around. She kept us in the game.”

While Rodgers kept FIU leading Arkansas State Quinishia Monroe up-ended FIU 56-42 on Jan. 2.

The Golden Panthers opened up conference play with the win over Arkansas State 73-72 lead. The offense struggled in the first half firing, as both Rodgers and Fanni Hutlassa hit 3 point shots to go along with Fandria Mансare’s layup for a 34-32 lead.

The midpoint of the half saw the Panthers with a 47-40 lead, with control on the defensive side.

Some mis-communication on the offensive side of the ball led to the Red Wolves getting back into the game and even taking a 52-51 lead with a pair of Breaunna Ellison free-throws.

Back and forth the teams went, as the Panthers held the lead with a pair of Breaunna Ellison free-throws.

Allen’s game-winning shot gave FIU the first lead of the game with a 24-22 lead. The offense struggled on the offensive side.

“We didn’t want to let them get the three,” Coley said. “We doubled number 22 (Scott) and we made sure not to let her get the ball. We left Morrill open and she beat us.”

Along with Rodgers 26 points and two steals, Coley chipped in 20 points of her own with two assists.

The Panthers will look to stop their current losing streak as they will host South Alabama on Jan. 8.

Both teams battled back and forth to gain a lead, as the Panthers gained their first lead of the game with a Coley layup for a 24-22 lead. The offense struggled for the rest of the half, as ASU went on a 7-2 run to finish the half with a 29-26 lead.

The Panthers came out in the second half firing, as both Rodgers and Fanni Hutlassa hit 3 point shots to go along with Fandria Mансare’s layout for a 54-52 lead.

“We left Morrill open and she beat us.”

The Golden Panthers also began their conference schedule on the road against Louisiana-Monroe on Jan. 2. FIU trailed most of the game until, Ferguson nailed consecutive three-pointers in a span of 40 seconds to cut FIU’s deficit to four points.

Ferguson’s three-pointers paved the way for Jeremy Allen’s floater with 48 seconds remaining to give the Golden Panthers a 73-72 lead. Allen’s game-winning shot gave FIU their first lead of the night and their first conference victory of the season.

WOMEN’S HOOPS FALLS IN THE SUN AND FUN CLASSIC

The winter break was not kind to the Golden Panthers women’s hoops team. Cindy Russo’s team has currently lost nine of its last ten games and is sitting on a seven-game losing streak.

FIU played host to the Sun and Fun Classic on Dec. 29-30 as they fell short to eventual Sun Belt Conference champion Marquette 73-67 and to Georgia 70-65. During the tournament freshman Jerica Coley led the Golden Panthers with 18 points against Marquette and 20 points against the Georgia Bulldogs. Coley’s performance coming off the bench gave her All-Tournament team honors.

The Golden Panthers opened up conference play with the defeat of forward Elisa Carey, who had knee-surgery during the off-season and is sitting on a seven-game of the season.

Carey’s 10-point effort was not enough as Louisiana-Monroe up-ended FIU 56-42 on Jan. 2.

New year filled with many questions, but also potential

CAPTURING THE SPOTLIGHT

What 2010 gave the Golden Panthers in a number of different areas was something tangible to point to in terms of success. The former talk of “moral victories” have come to an end. The lowered expectations have also made an exit as barriers were being broken.

The steady rise of national attention reached a new high as a new decade was ushered in. The Little Caesars Pizza Bowl, the first postseason appearance for the Golden Panthers, was aired on ESPN and was the featured event of the evening after a Sunday Night Football game was postponed for the night.

ESPN was also all over Wittles’ run at history and likely would be around again in 2011 when he steps up to the plate to try and break Robin Ventura’s long-standing record.

And with Isaiah Thomas at the helm of the men’s basketball program, buzz seems to be the norm as rumors swirled during the summer whether or not he would be able to take a second job as a consultant for the Knicks.

It is a rare sight when the Golden Panthers basketball was the epicenter of national coverage in the dead summer months, even when the speculation surrounding the situation brought a somewhat critical reception from fans and analysts.

Regardless, the Golden Panthers had seen national attention this year alone than ever before. And for the first time, most of that coverage was that of success rather than of embarrassment.

QUESTIONS AND PROMISE

Heading into a brand new year, the expectations will be raised and many questions have begun to already circulate in what could be a perplexing year for FIU athletics.

What will come of Wittles after he was reported to be being charged with rape in the Bahamas surfaced in the waning days of 2010 will undoubtedly wind up being one of the most followed storylines in the coming months around campus.

His status on the playing field, as well as his own future off of it, remains murky and uncertain.

On the gridiron, whispers and murmurs have made their way to the surface that standout receiver T.Y. Hilton may throw his hat into the NFL Draft and forgo his senior season.

If one thing is certain, however, it is that the addition of new talent brought in by Mario Cristobal and his coaching staff appears to be remaining intact and things could be a perplexing year for FIU athletics.

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Golden Panthers hang on to defeat Arkansas State

JONATHAN RAMOS
Senior Staff Writer

After gaining a 54-41 lead with 15:12 left in the second half against Arkansas State, FIU seemed on its way to cruising to their second conference victory in a row to open Sun Belt play.

All of that was erased when the game was tied at 61-61 with under seven minutes remaining, clearing the slate for a dramatic finish. And Marvin Roberts was ready to meet the challenge.

The senior forward scored eight points down the stretch after ASU tied it, including six clutch free throws and an alley-opp dunk from Phil Gary Jr. to help FIU (7-7, 2-0 SBC) seal a 75-70 win on Jan. 6 at the U.S Century Bank Arena.

"I like the way we’re playing. Good things are happening for us," FIU head coach Isiah Thomas said. "We were losing some close games early, but now were starting to win these close games, and that’s a good thing.”

Roberts' emergence down the stretch was key for the Golden Panthers victory.

"I think it was big for him and it was big for our team," Thomas said. "I’ve always told him that if he wants to be a go-to player, a go-to player is a guy that at the end of the game doesn’t turn the ball over, he can create his own shot, and when he gets fouled, can go to the foul line and make a free throw.”

Roberts entered the game shooting 32 percent from the floor and 68 percent from the foul line, averaging over five points less per game than he did in 2009-10. But he found his rhythm at an opportune time for FIU, and Thomas is pleased with his contributions throughout the season, despite the early shortcomings in offensive efficiency.

"Marvin has been a rock for us. He’s been our leader, he’s been the guy that keeps bringing everybody together,” Thomas said. "He’s probably had to make the biggest adjustment into his game because he’s basically playing with three new players out on the floor. Domingue [Ferguson] takes up some room, Eric [Frederick] takes up some room, and now you got Jeremy [Allen] starting to emerge. We have a couple of guys right who are shooting the ball well playing well and Marvin has done a good job of sacrificing.”

Roberts added that he has “been trying to boost my confidence every game” and he is becoming more comfortable sharing the load he carried last season.

Roberts finished the game with 17 points, 13 in the second half, including 9-of-10 shooting from the line.

Frederick tied for the team lead in scoring with 17, and Ferguson had his best game since he became eligible to play four games ago, with 15 points and seven rebounds, both season bests.

"We learn something new about him every game,” Thomas said of Ferguson.

The Panthers did struggle to keep the Red Wolves off the glass, however, specifically Martavis Adams, who snatched 14 boards en route to 20 points on the night. ASU was able to win the battle on the glass 43-31 after FIU was only trailing by one in that department to end the first half. For the Panthers, who remain one of the worst rebounding teams in the SBC, it remains a concern.

"We got to do a better job on the boards,” Thomas said. "That’s one of the areas of the game tonight that was concerning. I thought we did a good job tonight, our guards accepted the challenge and did a good job of shutting down the 3-point shot because they’re a good 3-point shooting team but inside we were vulnerable.”

Added Frederick: "We need to do a better job as a team when it comes to rebounding situations. We need to box out better and be able to pull down these rebounds.”

The win was significant for FIU in more ways than beginning conference play with consecutive victories, however.

"We knew last year was what it was. This year I just hope we win one more,” Thomas laughed. “I hope we don’t stop right here.”
It’s been quite the chilly start to the winter season. Temperatures dropped to record lows in many areas of South Florida in the last month, but this wasn’t a problem for us Golden Panthers.

We’ve been in something of a hibernation mode since December, taking comfort in having more time to sleep and spending longer nights prowling the streets with friends and family. However, the alarm clock had to ring at some point. Though it’s time to wake up and start getting back into the usual hustle and bustle that is the life of a college student, fret not, SPC’s Spring 2011 Week of Welcome events are here to help ease your transition from vacation mode to school mode.

Kicking things off on Jan. 10, is “NBC’s Stand Up for Diversity Tour” featuring Kevin Shea and Erik Rivera. This comedy show will take place in the GC Ballrooms at 6:00 p.m. Going into its seventh year, the NBC show provides comedians of diverse backgrounds with a platform on which to launch their careers. Kevin Shea, originally born in Korea, is a graduate of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He discovered the world of stand-up comedy after moving to San Francisco, California and developed a style that has been described as “laid back and fresh.” Shea has made numerous television appearances including shows on “Comedy Central,” “Jimmy Kimmel Live” and “Down and Dirty” on HBO.

Known as the boy next-door type, Erik Rivera is one of the rising comedy stars of New York. The recipient of the Diamonds in the Rough Award at The Latino Laugh Festival in Hollywood, Rivera has appeared in both television and film (“My Brother” and “Stand Up”). He has also starred in the comedy series, “Stand Up 360.”

Furthermore, he has made appearances on “Comedy Central,” “The Montel Williams Show,” “Tyra” and “MTV Tr3s Top Trece Icons.”

On Jan. 12, SPC will host an event called Jump Into the New Year. From 12:00-3:00 p.m. in the GC Lawn, students can choose to embrace their inner daredevil by taking part in bungee jumping or their inner artist by making tie dye shirts. Plus, there will also be free food.

Panthers are encouraged to bring their own shirts to the event. “The bungee jumping is one of those apparatuses that has you in a harness on a trampoline, so you can jump around and do flips,” describes SPC Vice President of Programming, Stephanie Suarez.

As the week comes to a close, Friday brings you a double dose of SPC activities. The Week of Welcome Pit Event commences at 11:00 a.m. in the GC Pit. It’s going to be featuring something called Boogie Bodies.

Later on in the evening, SPC Movie Night makes a return with screenings of the highly acclaimed film, “The Social Network.” It will be shown at 5:00 p.m. and again at 8:00 p.m.

“This semester we will be having them in DM 100 due to the renovations of GC 140. But we still have great movies planned: ‘Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Pt.1,’ ‘Tron Legacy,’ ‘Tangled’ and ‘Grown Ups,’” explains Suarez.

Not at the Modesto Maidique campus to experience the Week of Welcome events? SPC at BBC has got you covered.

On Jan. 11, they will be hosting a Logo Launch Party in Panther Square featuring Alakazam the Human Knot. The event starts at noon and will also include free food and giveaways. Alakazam the Human Knot.
**FASHION FINDS**

From Natalie Levy, Staff Writer

One of the most striking and beautiful aspects of the Modesto Maidique Campus is that, in the winter, we spend our days immersed in art even if we rarely take the time to look around and notice. "I was teaching an Honors class and trying to get non-art majors to have a relationship with art," said Professor John Bailly. "So I thought if they got to curate a show with professional artists they'd really enjoy it."

Bailly teaches a two-semester Honors College course called “Aesthetics and Values.” During the second semester, students design and curate an exhibition for a group of artists chosen during the first semester. Most, if not all, of Bailly’s students are neither art nor art history majors.

"It’s pretty intimidating considering the types of works you’re put in charge of," says Khris Saizar, a junior, adding, "You’ve seen the art catalogues from previous years and it’s really a bit over-whelming. While it looks intimidating it also looks reachable."

It seems that even students who are not completely estranged from the art world are stunned by the project. "It is a little bit of an art background because I studied art in high school at New World School, School of the Arts," so I had a sense of what we’d be doing and had a bit of a grasp on the history. I knew who some of the artists were and was able to guide my group a little that way," said Lillie Carrero, a junior and advertising major. "I thought it was pretty daunting. I thought it would be a bit more hands-on for the professor, like we would just be helping, not that it was all up to us. We had to contact an artist, a real artist, and have them put on a show. It was pretty shocking. Not to mention that I’m really excited to be working with Jose Bedia." Jose Bedia is a renowned Cuban-born artist who works primarily out of Miami.

It is that very shock and awe that Bailly seems to want to inspire in his students. "It truly was an exploration into the unknown," said Bailly. "I didn’t know how it was going to turn out and it was the students who really embraced the project who took it into their own and have an ownership of it."

With help from the Frost Art Museum, Professor Bailly and class alumni, the students do all their own planning, fundraising and exhibition execution. "I am having a lot of fun. It’s really different. I had a bit of a preview because I had taken a class with Bailly last semester," said Saizar.

"What makes it a lot easier is that you know you’re not alone because you’re surrounded by a bunch of different people who are in the same place as you. If anything you have Bailly or some of the former alumni who have stayed really involved with this project. It’s a tough work load but it’s a good one."

From the get-go the project has been a bit of an uphill battle to execute. With no other class of its kind to follow as an example, Bailly has found it difficult to find a conducive way to teach the class.

"There is no other program that I know of like it anywhere in the US. I don’t know any other class or program that takes non-art majors and has them curate," Bailly explained.

"Not having an assignment to follow was very difficult but also very liberating. Student have had to navigate road blocks as far as getting the works that they want to exhibit either because of physical limitations or because the subject has caused controversy. Essentially that challenge has defined the project and really makes it for the students."

The controversy Bailly refers to are previous exhibitions that included works with both male and female nudity as well as a piece titled “Penny Petcher” with which patterns were encouraged to destroy US currency.

The student-run exhibition will open this March but for now, “We’re doing a lot of fundraising. We’re just working on the most important things. I’ve done a bunch of bake sales. If you want a good exhibition you need a good catalogue. Bailly makes us go out to art scenes. You go out to the art walks and really expose yourself to what you’re going to be doing,” Saizar said.

In recent years, the Aesthetics and Values Project has really come into its own as a mission for FIU students by FIU students. “The goal is for the student to have a real relationship with art. The art that we exhibit aims to stimu- late thought on campus. This is not a decorative show,” said Bailly on the project itself.

On his students and this year’s collaborative efforts he said, “The way this major museum embraces a student initiative is great. Since we’ve moved to the Frost, the museum has been extremely supportive of this program. I think they [the students] are incredibly wonderful of them. Even more than being proud, I like when I’m being surprised by someone’s initiative and passion."

Aesthetics & Values debuts their exhibit on Mar. 23 during Frost Art Museum’s Target After Hours.

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**ROCK OUT TO ART**

The band Dano Macabre entertained guests at the Fall 2010 BFA show at the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum.

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**Student-curated show ‘difficult but rewarding’**

Lauren Conrad wrote a book.

Conrad, the girl who’s famous for growing up filthy rich and over-privileged thanks to MTV reality shows, has gained her fame just from allowing cameras into her early life to watch. She’s created a million dollar empire for herself that includes books, three TV shows and a developing movie franchise.

“I’ve never been embarrassed to admit I love MTV’s not-so-real reality show “The Hills.” I’ve also never been embarrassed to admit how much I love Lauren Conrad. She’s the only one who came out normal, at least compared to everyone else from the show; compared to the likes of Heidi, Spencer and Stephanie Pratt-the bar isn’t set very high from her peers.

She started her fashion career at the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles, CA and worked at Teen Vogue Magazine under West Coast Editor of the Vogue Magazines, Lisa Love. She had a rough start but somehow made it into fashion design. I always admired her style. I look back at what she wore in early episodes and I cringe a bit, but then I remember that when you’re 17 icy blue eyeshadow is considered cool.

The show has given us an opportunity to watch her style evolve from the aforementioned teen look to her present sophisticated, trendsetting ways. Her latest project is her new book titled, Lauren Conrad Style. I dropped hints to all my friends and family about how much I wanted this book for Christmas and thanks to a lovely friend named Alexandra and a Secret Santa gift exchange, I got the book.

It’s kind of embarrassing to admit the two books I read over break are Bronte’s Wuthering Heights and Lauren Conrad Style, but at least I read over break.

The book is broken up into three sections: Fashion, Beauty and Lifestyle. In each section she offers valuable (at least I found it valuable) advice on what to buy to put together a practical yet fashionable wardrobe, what to wear to different events and how to alter and coordinate looks to fit into your style.

My favorite section of the book is where she plans out what to pack for a trip. I’m a serious over-packer so for a trip I’m a serious over-packer so for someone to lay out everything I need for a trip is beyond helpful.

She organizes the chapter by different trips and what to pack for each. My favorite was her advice on packing for a weekend getaway to a warm destination. She narrows it down two daytime outfits, two nighttime outfits and the essentials you need while you’re away.

Sounds simple and I appreciate her attention to detail as she includes items like...

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**STYLE, page 9**

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**LIFE!**
Lost loves are more important than sexual history

The strong emotional memories formed during adolescence can be encoded in the sensory areas of the brain, according to Kalish. When an old ex lover shows up again in our lives, these memories are aroused with the sight, smell, touch or voice of that person. But these memories do not prevent later bonds from occurring that are just as strong or even stronger.

Only a few months after the breakup, I met my next boyfriend. Although I had no desire to be in a relationship with Luke, my inability to let go of my lost love prevented me from forming a deeper connection with Jake, whose heart I accidentally stomped on throughout my sophomore year. Rekindled lovers reported to Kalish that reunions are comfortable and familiar; there is a very high level of trust, friendship and passion. In essence, they are rekindling close friendships and in an adult romance this is vital to a lasting relationship. Most people don’t long for their lost loves. Seventy percent of Kalish’s 1,600 participants who had never tried a reunion did not want one largely due to not getting along with their first loves.

This left over thirty percent whom she believes look back due to unfulfilled business. Their romances ended for situational reasons, not by choice, and they always wondered what might have been.

Don’t think this only happens with psycho ex-girlfriends. Kalish also found it took women “two times” or shorter to get over their lost loves while men wrote “over ten years,” often adding “I never got over her.”

Luke and I are in two totally different places in life, physically and mentally, nowdays. We have nothing in common besides fond memories of what used to be—at least, I hope they’re fond.

I’ll always have feelings for him, it’s a part of who I am that will never go away and I’m okay with that now. It doesn’t mean I ever intend to act upon them or that I believe it would solve or prove anything by doing so.

Not every relationship can be labeled and some love never dies. Each love that touches our heart stays with us. If you don’t want to be second best, make sure your significant other isn’t still longing for an old flame five years or more after the breakup.

Check Kalish’s website, www.lostlovers.com, for advice and other couples’ stories.

On the Prowl is a bi-weekly column on dating. Look for it every Monday.

Hypnotist to perform at BBC Spring Week of Welcome event

Knot’s career highlights include holding the Guinness World Record for “Fastest time to pass through a tennis racket,” and being the runner up of “Australia’s Got Talent” in 2007. He has also won the pleasure of performing for various celebrities including Sting, Bruce Springsteen and Woody Harrelson.

If you missed the opportunity to see Saisel in the MMC’s Fall Week of Welcome events or just can’t get enough, you’re in luck. SPC BBC will be hosting Saisel at the Mary Ann Wolfe theater Jan. 13.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the show is expected to start half an hour after that.

With over one million hits on YouTube and praise from MTV Europe and the Bamboozle Festival, Saisel combines the art of hypnosis with comedy.

As always, all events are free to FIU students with a valid Panther ID. Be on the lookout for special SPC giveaways including shirts and brand new high-lighter pens.

Worried about missing out? According to Stephanie Suarez, “not only are they going to be amazingly fantastic and fun, [but] they’re free to students… you can come on over to our events, meet other students, hang out and get free stuff too. It’s a win-win situation!”

For more information on SPC and their Week of Welcome activities, be sure to look up and “like” their page on Facebook.
DISCLAmER
The opinions expressed within this page do not represent the views of the author, the university or the student body. These views are separate from traditional and reflected
independent perspective of contributing editors and/or members of the community.

VERBATIM
Certainly the Constitution does not require
discrimination on the basis of sex. The only
issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn’t. Nobody
ever thought that’s what it means. Nobody
ever voted for that.

Judge Antonin Scalia

EDITORIAL POLICY
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Jasmyn Elliott
Opinion Editor

At the end of the Fall 2010 semester, The Beacon ended its run with a surprising and disappointing report involving wrongdoing on part of the Student Government Council of Modesto Maidique Campus.

Proof that several interns, former SGC-MMC Vice President Nick Autiello and former SGC-MMC Intern Coordinator Laura Farinas engaged in and supported underage drinking during the September 2010 retreat surfaced.

Oddly enough, it is not the underage drinking that I am mainly upset with. Although I don’t agree with this behavior in the least, it would be ignorant of me to say that this is shocking to hear of college students engaging in underage drinking. It is the reason and manner that upset me.

The retreat is a place where interns can have a chance to enhance their student government experience by relating to the officials on a social level and, in a sense, bond with them.

With that being said, the officials, the vice president and intern coordinator especially, are still responsible for setting the correct example, especially when it comes to conduct. In my eyes, providing underage students with alcohol is not the way to go in setting a positive example as to how officials should conduct themselves.

Autiello and Farinas didn’t have to be saints, but they should have still obeyed the law.

It would be silly for these interns to believe that government, student or otherwise, are perfect, but the standards of professionalism and appropriateness must be significantly low to them at this point. If this didn’t disillusion them, then what followed next in terms of adding and correcting the matter may have.

Requesting for all officials that witnessed and reported the conduct to resign in light of this situation was a lazy, unfair, one-size-fits-all solution to a much more complex problem.

In reality, Autiello and Farinas were the ones deeply involved with giving alcohol to the underage interns; ergo they definitely needed to be disciplined. However, the other officials were threatened with the prospect of docked pay and a trip to Student Conflict and Resolution for simply walking away.

I would hope that these individuals would have been rewarded for reporting the incident and leaving to avoid involvement, not punished for creating a “liability” issue that didn’t exist. Instead, they were a part of this “one guilty all guilty” approach that created more problems than it solved.

I am happy to see that these individuals have mostly stood their ground and continue to serve as SGC-MMC senators and didn’t give into the pressure to give up their positions to present a façade of discipline that barely existed.

Autiello and Farinas have since resigned, it is a brand new year and a brand new semester. Even so, I can only hope that SGC-MMC takes this as an example and demands more of their officials and their employees in the future.

I also hope that they learn how to truly punish wrongdoing instead of trying to cover it up.

The Social Security trust fund is inadequately sourced.

In order to salvage the almost demolished plan, we need to revamp the system.

The Social Security system is in the United States is a failure; it is already running a temporary deficit. There will be too many retirees and not enough contributors.

Social Security is a simple concept: the majority of the contributions and interest earned contribute to a managed government fund. This fund provides for a subsistence living at retirement. In the U.S., retirees past the age of 67 receive Social Security.

However, there is a case where we invest today is paid to those already retired. This colossal endeavor can only work if the money deposited into the fund is more or, at a minimum, equal to the money distributed to qualified retirees.

Unfortunately, that has not been the case for several years. As a result, a deficit has been in the making. For starters, it is predicted that the Social Security fund will only last until 2037. That is only 26 years away, long before many current contributors are classified as retirees.

To make matters worse, the lawmakers continue to burden the system by reducing contributions without a commensurate adjustment in distributions; the latter is considered to be political suicide by many.

For example, in the recently passed tax law, payroll taxes were lowered from 6.2 percent to 4.2 percent for 2011. According to Congress’ Joint Committee on Taxation, this will reduce Social Security’s cash proceeds by $112 billion. This kicking of the can attitude has continued for too long. It is time we face up to the reality that we cannot continue to steal money from the Social Security system without facing a reduction in benefits.

To make matters worse, every year, the government borrows money from the Social Security trust. With that money, the government buys treasury bonds; essentially, the government is making a loan to itself with taxpayers money. This is nothing but a collection of IOUs that the future generation will have to pay. As a result, Social Security is merely a measure of how much money the government owes itself.

We need to face up to the realities that our nation is encountering. The Social Security trust fund is inadequately sourced. In order to salvage the almost demolished plan, we need to revamp the system.

The government needs to either increase Social Security withholding, reduce the distribution of Social Security or possibly take action on both fronts.

Without dramatic and quick action, this minimum Social Security net will soon be insolvent with many bitter memories.

Social Security is a subsistence living at retirement. This fund provides for a govern- ment officials, the vice president and intern coordinator especially, for depicting this. However, in real life situations, especially in college, this ignorance is not something that can be overlooked.

Ignorance when it comes to the law is not an excuse. This is up to students to educate themselves with the resources available. Sexual assault is always an issue amongst college-aged adults, and education is one way to help prevent it.
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BRAZIL
Flooding leaves at least 35 dead
Heavy rains that have pummeled major cities have caused the death of at least 35 people, and forced more than 30,000 people across the country out of their homes.

CUBA
Reshuffle of govt. Cabinet
A reshuffle of Cuba’s Cabinet relieved the minister in charge of construction and stripped a powerful vice president of a secondary role he held.

HAITI
Presidential runoff ‘impossible’ this month
A second-round vote to choose Haiti’s president will not be possible until late February, after the constitutional end of current President Rene Preval’s term.

Welcome Back
The Beacon – 12
www.fiu.edu
Monday, January 10, 2011

SGC BBC LECTURE SERIES
Dan Savage lecture focused on LGBT youth

LIANAMAR DÁVILA SANABRIA
Asst. News Director

Justin Auber, Billy Lucus, Cody Barker, Asher Brown, Seth Walsh, Raymond Chase.
After Rutgers University student recently jumped to his death from a New York City bridge, he joined this growing list of youth gay suicides.

Seattle relationship and sex columnist Dan Savage will be at the University to discuss his “It Gets Better” campaign targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender kids and teens who hide their sexuality for fear of being bullied.

The Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council will be presenting the first out of a three-part lecture series on Jan. 12 in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom at 6:30 p.m. It is free for all students.

Recently Rutgers’ Tyler Clementi became the newest addition after his college roommate violated his privacy by broadcasting online his sexual encounter with another boy.

Lucas, an Indiana teen, also committed suicide after enduring anti-gay bullying in school.
Gay youth are four times more likely than straight youth to commit suicide, according to a recent study, and nine out of 10 gay kids report being bullied, according to ABC News.

“Hearing about these kids that have committed suicide, the reaction as a gay adult is always, ‘God, I wish I could have talked to them for fifteen minutes or five minutes and told them it gets better,” Savage told ABC News’ Jeremy Hubbard.

Taunted for simply being themselves, these are the tragic examples of LGBT youth who have recently committed suicide believing life would not get better for them.

Without other openly gay adults and mentors in their lives, they can’t imagine what their future may hold.

In response to a number of students taking their own lives after being bullied in school, Savage and his partner Terry initially created a YouTube video to inspire hope for young people facing harassment.

“I wish I could’ve talked to that kid for five minutes before he killed himself,” Savage said. “I’d tell him that however bad it was in high school or middle school...it gets better.”

His sole message.

The “It Gets Better Project” was born to remind teenagers in the LGBT community they are not alone. It provides positive examples of gay adults living their lives and sharing the message that the despair and isolation they feel now eventually ends - if they can just get through their teen years.

Savage’s first video currently has over 1.2 million views on YouTube. They sat down in front of a camera and told their stories about their horrific high school experiences and, more importantly, how they both survived, thrived and have gone on to live happy, healthy, joyful lives. In the video, Terry talks about enduring severe bullying as a teenager, recalling being beaten up, thrown against lockers and stuffed into bathroom stalls in his school.

“Sometimes in big urban centers and in media centers, we get the impression that things are universally great everywhere,” said Savage who is the author of the internationally syndicated column Savage Love and the weekly podcast Savage Lovecast.

Two months later, the “It Gets Better Project” has turned into a worldwide movement, inspiring over 5,000 user-created videos and over 15 million views.

“It’s been so overwhelming, [and] we want to create an archive that lives online forever, for each generation of gay kids coming up, so they can go there and they can see these stories.” Savage said.

Interim tag dropped, Steven Moll now vice provost

NADRA MABROUK
Contributing Writer

A promoter and foundation of the Biscayne Bay Campus and its programs, Steven V. Moll has accepted the position of vice provost which University Provost and Executive Vice President Douglas Wartnab announced on Jan. 4.

Moll has served as interim vice provost for BBC since July 2009, after former vice provost Joseph West retired.

“He has worked hard to improve the physical plant, maintain course offerings, expand programs, enhance cross disciplinary activities, develop philanthropic support for the campus and engage community leaders,” Wartnab said in an email sent to University faculty and staff.

“Certainly we could never find a candidate with the intimate understanding of the campus going back to its founding in 1977,” Wartnab said.

As vice provost for BBC, Moll would like to “continue to beautify what is already beautiful” and strengthen the green initiative through the Adopt a Tree program.

The Adopt-a-Tree program is for homeowners residing in the Miami-Dade County area. They are given two trees a year but if they would like, many instead give their trees to BBC where they would be planted around campus.

Moll wants to plant more trees on campus to improve the ecology and environment. This is one of his goals for BBC.

In addition to this he wants to add more cultural events to increase community engagement and increase enrollment and courses offered at BBC.

In terms of enrollment and course offerings, Moll plans to provide more courses on BBC. This would result in more freshmen and sophomores living in the south Broward and north Miami-Dade area being able to complete their core curriculum at BBC, rather than making the trip to reach the Modesto Maidique Campus.

The 2010-2015 University Master Plan is composed every five years where the University is required to undergo a master planning project. They outline through the use of writing and pictures what the University already has and currently utilizes, then put down what they would like to have. Moll would like to work hard and plan strategically with Mark Rosenberg, University president, and his colleagues for realistic, financially conscious growth on the campus.

Moll had been an important aspect of the School of Hospitality and Tourism since then, teaching courses in finance, operations management, accounting, management, and leadership.

By 1980, he was an assistant professor, eventually occupying the role of academic advisor to the University for 17 years.

Moll attained the Excellence in Teaching award in 2001 and was recognized twice for his excellence in undergraduate advising. For five years, he chaired the University Commencement Committee.

In 2005, he served as director of the College of Business Administration at BBC until July 2009, when he became interim vice provost.

“Describe what will occur for BBC, Moll said “the best is yet to come.”