Jain nuns spread the faith, seek state of supreme being

In a competition that challenged students to reduce their energy consumption, Intellectual Decisions on Environmental Awareness Solutions’ Kill-a-Watt Challenge saved the University over $21,000.

Residents in each hall competed against other buildings to reduce their electrical consumption by the greatest percentage. The savings are then compared to the average of each building’s energy consumption from previous years. University Park Apartments won the competition by saving the University more than $21,000.  “Kill-a-Watt is an energy saving competition between all buildings on campus. It’s modeled after a program [at] the University Of Central Florida that has been going on for four years,” said Viktor El-Saieh, president of I.D.E.A.S.

Jain nuns cannot cook or drive. The cooking activity that might involve violent behavior, according to Samani Ji, is also the director of the Preksha shore, India.

“Life is simple for us,” Samani Ji said. “What might be an attraction for you might be a distraction for me.”

According to Samani Ji, Jainism consists of his life and works thanks to Villalobos and Solis. When Gran Torino is mentioned, the Clint Eastwood film is probably the first thing to come to mind. The Torino mentioned at The Frost is much different. Torino, Italy is known for their dynamic contemporary art scene. Gran Torino: Italian Contemporary Art, curated by Paolo Facelli and Francesco Poli, will present the work of Torino artists who not only capture the essence of Italian art but will add a hint of their own cultural influences as well as significant trends, movements of new Italian art and shifts in popular art. Gran Torino hopes to introduce this modern art scene.

“Life is simple for us,” Samani Ji said. “What might be an attraction for you might be a distraction for me.”

Free from any material attachment, the room where they spend their days looks empty and bare apart from a mattress on the floor, a chair and a small table. There aren’t any TVs, radios or air conditioning. The only sounds are the casual strokes of the wind against the curtains and the occasional chatter of passerby.

Kill-a-Watt Challenge saves University over $21,000

ZORAIDA PASTOR
Staff Writer

In a competition that challenged students to reduce their energy consumption, Intellectual Decisions on Environmental Awareness Solutions’ Kill-a-Watt Challenge saved the University over $21,000.

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JAINISM, page 2

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According to Samani Ji, Jainism consists of the total detachment from the material. It embraces the idea of nonviolence and self-eff ort in order to elevate the soul to divine consciousness and liberation. The goal is for a soul to conquer its own inner enemies and reach a state of supreme being called a Jina.

“All this comes with great effort,” Samani Ji said. “We wake up at 4 a.m. every day for our daily prayer and we have many rules we must follow.”

Forbidden by Jainism to participate in any activity that might involve violent behavior, Jain nuns cannot cook or drive. The cooking...
China the main source of international students

JAINISM, page 1

is done by Mumukshu Sheetal, who is in the process of becoming a Jain nun, and who has been walking for transportation. “You’ll find them crossing the street in a single file at 8 a.m. on the dot,” says Florida International University student Lautau Flores, who lives in Kendall and drives past Vista Verde Community every day before class. “As far as I know, they haven’t missed a day.”

As Samani Ji straightens up, her face becomes contorted with emotion. The gazes of Mumukshu Sheetal and Samani Chaitanya Pragya are upon her as she turns and closes her eyes. “Life was not always this way though,” she says, “I lived like a common man’s life.”

Samani Ji decided to devote her life to Jainism at the age of 23. “Back then my life consisted of attending college, spending time with my family and socializing with friends,” she says, noting that she graduated in India with a bachelor’s in science with hopes of becoming a doctor for the spiritually dedicated. “I enjoyed cartoons,” Samani Ji recalls. “I liked Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck because they didn’t have much violence and they kept us happy.”

Samani Ji lived with her parents and was very close to her guru. During that time, Mumukshu Sheetal says, “we shared food.”

“Your family, friends, and the other one a leader in the Jain community,” she says. “My guru guided me through my decision to travel to Miami and teach religion.”

A Samani nun may take a Samani vowed life to detach from the world that you pass to being a Samani nun,” Mumukshu Sheetal says.

“arthaik Shikshan Sanstha, a state of being appealed to everyone,” she says. “The fact that I could choose my state of being appealed to me.”

Samani Ji joined the Parmarth Nikhans Ashram, a training center in Bangalore that specialized in helping monks and nuns become acquainted with Jainism. “It represented more or less a test to see if you could devote yourself to Jainism,” Samani Chaitanya Pragya says.

Samani Ji stayed in the training center for six years until she received her renunciation ceremony. A training nun or monk may continue training in the center for as long as he/she needs.

“It is only when you are ready to detach from the world that you pass to being a Samani nun,” Mumukshu Sheetal says.

“In the training center, every nun is appointed a guru.” Samani Ji says. “My guru guided me through my decision to travel to Miami and teach religion.”

A Samani nun may take three paths in life: one being an academic or teaching path, the other one a leader in the Jain community.

Receiving an education, traveling and leading an enriching life is common for a nun before devoting their lives to the religious path.

“The primary goal before seeking enlightenment is doing everything you want to do,” she says. “You may not know something unless you try it.”

Samani Ji travels to India every summer to meet with her guru. During that time, she visits family, attends philosophy chats, studies scriptures and composes scripts for spiritual dramas. She also takes part in Indian traditions.

“At dinner time,” Mumukshu Sheetal says, “we travel from house to house; each person sharing a bit of their food.”

Students awarded scholarships for energy conservation

"Rates fluctuate based on peak and off-peak hours so KWH more accurately describes savings. Taking into consideration the average rate is anywhere from 10 to 15 cents per KWH, we alone saved anywhere from $4,000 to 4,500 just with the competition whereas the University saved more than $21,000 in energy costs with our help," said El-Saiih.

The 2010 Kill-A-Watt Challenge was a two-fold program that aimed to educate students on energy saving tips with a series of workshops. They were “able to reach out to over 200 FIU students through our ten educational seminars, the majority of which lived on campus,” said El-Saiih.

Each of these seminars provided students with tips and solutions that could conserve energy. Along with raffles and giveaways, seminar participants determined the three resident assistant scholarship recipients. The RA scholarships were based on percentage of student attendance at the seminars. The RA would then nominate students who would write a two-page essay for a chance to win the three available student scholarships according to El-Saiih.

The Arculus Grand Prize in the RA division went to Kaylaa Candela from Lakeview North winning a $300 tuition scholarship, second place went to Daliaa Desty from Bay Vista Housing in Biocayne Bay Campus who won a $150 Tuition Scholarship, and third place went to Roseannag Augustine University Park Apartments for the $100 scholarship.

The Grand Prize winner in the Student Scholarship was Alecia Vasciannie taking first place with a $200 scholarship. Patricia Saint-Felix took the second tuition spot for $150, and the last scholarship was awarded to Nicole Howkens for $100. I.D.E.A.S. hoped this program could continue to promote conservation awareness in the years to come.

“Through the Kill-A-Watt Challenge, we found that collectively students can significantly reduce their energy consumption and their university’s carbon footprint, when approached properly and given the right incentives,” said El-Saiih.
MEN’S BASKETBALL

Golden Panthers unable to overcome first half struggles

Jackson Wolek
Staff Writer

A 15-point deficit at the end of first half proved too much for FIU as they inevitably fell to UALR 78-70 at home on Jan. 20.

They went able to do well from the free throw line, shooting 87.8% from the lines, but it was not enough to overcome a poor performance from the field.

It was a very rough start for the Golden Panthers, as they struggled to do anything defensively in the first half. A big part of that was due to leading scorer to Collins.

Not only did they miss Frederick scoring wise, but also defensively as well. UALR scored much of their baskets off of second chance opportunities and easy layups inside, outscoring the Panthers 22-6 in the paint.

When they weren’t

IMMEDIATE IMPACT

Eric Frederick goes for the dunk in Panthers’ home loss against UALR on Jan. 20.

MEN’S, page 6

FOOTBALL

FIU close to finding new coordinator

Igor Melo
Asst. Sports Writer

After organizing a long search, Miami Cristobal may have found his guy.

According to numerous publications, Todd Orlando has emerged as the top candidate to take over FIU’s defensive coordinator position.

The school expected an announcement on a new hire as early as Jan. 21.

If hired he will replace Geoff Collins, who left FIU on Jan. 12 to become the defensive coordinator and linebackers coach at Mississippi State University.

Orlando, 39, served as a member of the University of Connecticut’s defensive coaching unit for 12 years.

He began his career at UConn in 1999 as the inside linebackers coach and got promoted in 2006 to defensive coordinator.

A Pittsburgh native, Orlando was hired at UConn by Randy Edsall who recently left the Huskies to become the head coach at the University of Maryland. Paul Pasqualoni, a former defensive coordinator for the Dolphins in 2009, has since replaced Edsall as the head coach at UConn.

Orlando led the Huskies to 48th best defense in the nation (slightly ahead of FIU)

FOOTBALL, page 6

Todd Orlando Hiring

The ability to build a solid defense is an art.

It usually requires a lot of effort, a lot of time and a lot of confidence in the players implementing the schemes in order for it to make its mark.

Former defensive coordinator Geoff Collins did wonders, elevating the team’s play with his energetic coaching style and newly minted schemes.

He was effective mainly thanks to his ability to have his players buy into the system he was attempting to implement.

When he announced that he would be exiting the premises after one season it left a gaping hole, a very large one, in the Golden Panther coaching staff.

But after a couple of weeks of searching and interviewing, all the signs were pointing to the imminent hiring of UConn defensive coordinator Todd Orlando as the successor to Collins.

The hiring of Orlando will help prevent the Golden Panthers from losing a step or two from their recent transformation into one of the conference’s top defenses.

It is nothing short of a coup; attracting a seasoned coordinator with prominent BCS credentials to a Sun Belt school is no small feat.

Orlando will have to do the same thing now and keep the players believing in whatever it is they are trying to do. He did it at UConn and the hope is he will be able to replicate that success on Miami Drive this upcoming fall.

It is clear that the program is beginning to draw the kind of appeal that just a few short years ago was seen as a distant dream.

Drawing in a coordinator coming from a successful BCS program is a huge catch for a team that is steadily rising.

And having a coach at the helm who is accustomed to going up against top opponents on a consistent basis will help this team in non-conference games in the future, especially with games against ACC and Big East opponents lined up for the upcoming season.

Having Orlando’s expertise will be invaluable for preparation, in-game adjustments and overall insight for those under his lead.

It’s something that the Golden Panthers have never had in their short existence at the FBS level.

MOVING FORWARD

Collins helped kick start what had been an underperforming defensive unit and left a solid foundation for Orlando to build on from this point forward.

It will be interesting to see how Orlando will be able to affect recruiting and bring in the kind of talent that he was able to attract to the snowy world that is the state of Connecticut. With the sun and fun of Miami as a new recruiting tool, the hope is that it won’t be much of a problem luring top talent to Calle Ocho.

He has been a staple of UConn’s coaching staff for over a decade and when he took over the playcalling duties in 2006, the results were swift and a profound success.

In 2010, the Huskies were in their first ever BCS bowl, earning a date with the Oklahoma Sooners in the Fiesta Bowl.

He was there when UConn moved up to Division-I status. He was there when they went to their first bowl game. He was there through their struggles and trials and was there up until their rise to football prominence.

In that regard, he has the knowledge and experience that will help in the process
Art ranges from sculptures to paintings in new Frost exhibits

Art Museum

The Beacon – Monday, January 24, 2011

Wolfsonian Museum, located in the Art Deco district in Miami Beach, the Wolfsonian museum encompasses art, culture, history and beauty.

On the last Sunday of every month from January through March, the Frost presents a film series called, ‘Wolfsonian呈献 a film series’. This series aims to explore the issues of spirituality and the female figure. Many of these issues will be pulled from the first half of the 20th century. Women in Art: 24-03-00 is ready to present what their students have been diligently working on to the University community. The ‘FIU School of Music’ among other programs in the College of Architecture and the Arts (CMFA). With the spring semester now in full effect, CARTA is ready to present to you some of their students’ work and guide you through the environment in which the artist works.

Dedicated to the American Public, Cuban artist, Maria Brito, offers a more mystical exhibit to the Frost. The exhibit titled 24-03-00 has very little information available before its reveal on Jan 26. Little has been said about the work she will be promoting her career in Miami Beach. The double feature opens at the Wolfsonian Museum on South Beach and is ready to present what their students have been diligently working on to the University community. The ‘FIU School of Music’ among other programs in the College of Architecture and the Arts (CMFA). With the spring semester now in full effect, CARTA is ready to present to you some of their students’ work and guide you through the environment in which the artist works.

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Top candidate has experience to help FIU reach next level

ORLANDO, page 3

Gaitor ready to play in annual all-star game

FOOTBALL, page 3

and sixth in the Big East conference. His defense helped the Huskies reach the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl last season where they fell short to Oklahoma.

If hired, it would be the first time that Cristobal has selected a coordinator who has coached in a BCS bowl game the season prior.

In his first season as defensive coordinator in 2006, Orlando turned UConn’s defense around when they became the top-ranked defense in the Big East and seventh in the nation.

Cristobal was unavailable for comment on the current coaching vacancy.

GAITOR TO PLAY IN NFLPA GAME

Senior cornerback Anthony Gaitor will get to showcase his skills at the collegiate level one more time.

The senior has been selected to play in the NFL Players Association game, formally known as Texas vs. The Nation game, set to take place at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas on Feb. 5.

Gaitor, a four-year starter, had two interceptions, one of them returned for a touchdown in 2010. The All-Sun Belt corner-back will play for team Nation, coached by former Houston Oiler and Atlanta Falcons head coach Jerry Glanville.

Gaitor is the second FIU senior to be selected to an all-star game this offseason. Center Brad Serini participated in the inaugural Eastham Energy College All-Star game in Tempe, Ariz. on Jan. 23.

Gaitor and Serini are one of the few Panthers being pursued by NFL scouts. Both have a possibility of being drafted come April.

THORPE COMMITS TO FIU

Not only is Cristobal on the verge of making a big splash on his coaching vacancy, he’s also making a splash in recruiting.

Neptune Beach Fletcher High School offensive lineman Derrick Thorpe has verbally committed to FIU.

The 6-5, 260-pound offensive tackle has an opportunity to perhaps build one of the strongest defenses in the non-BCS world.

It should be the beginning of a very successful partnership.

Fast second half start not enough to earn win

MEN’S, page 3

scoring from inside, they stepped back to the three-point line and started draining shots from there as well.

“We came out very flat and I thought they played a really good first half,” Thomas said. “I thought their movement was excellent and their small ball actually looked tough for us to guard.”

Nonetheless, FIU (8-10, 3-3 SBC) came back with a roaring start in the first five minutes of second half play, cutting the UALR (12-9, 4-2 SBC) lead down to as little as four.

Much of it had to do with Frederick being back in the game but also from Jeremy Allen, who scored 18 points on the night, seven of them during the big run.

They could not keep it close for very long, however, and the deficit grew all the way up to as much as 12 again.

Towards the end of the game, FIU was still very much in it, but could not get the few key stops on defense needed to get the win.

One solution is to practice more on that part of the game, and another one is possibly not getting into such a huge deficit like they did in the first half of action.

“We dug ourselves into too big of a hole,” said guard Phil Gary, who had 13 points and three steals. “We need to start up instead of down; we practically spotted them points in the first half.”

A bright spot in the game was FIU’s constancy from the foul line, which practically kept them alive in whole entire game.

“We didn’t shoot the ball well, but go figure we shot the ball well from the foul Line,” commented Thomas. “If we can put the two games together in terms of shooting the ball well and converting from the foul line, then we have a chance to be pretty good on most nights.”

Though new member of the team Phil Taylor did not play, he was suited up and ready to go, and is thought to make a great piece to a FIU team.

“If he can get acclimated to the things that we’re doing, we can gel over the next month or so, hopefully by tournament time, we’ll be a good basketball team,” commented Thomas on Taylor’s availability.

 copied in this environment.

Now in a much warmer climate with a fertile recruiting environment, Orlando will have an opportunity to perhaps build one of the strongest defenses in the non-BCS world.

The 6-5, 260-pound offensive tackle has an opportunity to perhaps build one of the strongest defenses in the non-BCS world.

It should be the beginning of a very successful partnership.
SUSPENSION OF WITTELS MAINTAINS VITAL PRECEDENT

Whether he is guilty or innocent, star FIU infielder Garrett Wittels should be suspended from the baseball team until the ongoing investigation into rape charges brought against him is finished.

Wittels, who was arrested while on vacation in the Bahamas and charged with the rape of two 17-year-old girls, had his hearing in his case April 18 before the hearing on the case begins. However, the 2011 baseball season begins on Feb. 18 and Wittels, whose hitting streak is at 56, is expected to continue chasing Robin Ventura’s NCAA record 58-game hitting streak. The NCAA has already said that they will not be taking any action on the matter, leaving it to the University’s Athletics Department to decide whether or not Wittels will be punished. The Athletics Department has been largely silent on the matter, with Director Pete Garcia only commenting to The Miami Herald, saying: “We will continue to gather any possible information as it becomes available.”

The Beacon believes Wittels should not be allowed to play until he is acquitted of all charges. While the media attention gained from Wittels’ arrest has been positive for the University, we believe the media attention from having a player under investigation for rape charges would eclipse any victories the Golden Panthers baseball team may have.

If the University declines to take action, we feel they would be polyshed a dark cloud over the reputation of the Athletics Department, in addition to setting a horrible precedent for incidents of this nature in the future.

Other universities in the Sun Belt Conference have come across similar situations and have taken action against their players. Middle Tennessee State University had two baseball players who were arrested and charged with rape in December after 18-year-old victims came forward to MTSU detectives saying she had been raped.

Later, both players admitted to authorities they had sex with the victims, who knew, to be too drunk to give consent. The MTSU athletics department immediately acted and removed them from the lineup once the information came out. While this is different from Wittels’ situation in that the investigation is still underway, it is worth noting MTSU took action immediately after finding out about these allegations.

When MTSU Baseball Coach Steve Peterson learned from the school’s Judicial Affairs department two of his players were accused of rape, he took action and suspended them from the team. In November, Peterson said he did not discipline his players “because it is too vague a charge to handle.” But such cases do still leave an image of the University and its Athletics department in a bad light. Furthermore, allowing that distraction in the locker room would be a disservice to the image of the University and its Athletics department. The Athletics department immediately acted and removed them from the lineup once the information came out. While this is different from Wittels’ situation in that the investigation is still underway, it is worth noting MTSU took action immediately after finding out about these allegations.

If MTSU takes action, it will do well to set an example in how matters like this should be resolved. Peterson and MTSU set the best example in how matters like this should be handled. Even if Wittels is innocent, the situation he has put himself in has tarnished the image of the University and its Athletics department. He must also face the fact that distraction in the locker room would be a disservice to the entire baseball team. The Athletics department must take a public stance on the matter. Staying silent is not an option, unless they deliberately want to make themselves look bad on a national scale. Give Wittels the benefit of the doubt process, but do allow him to step foot on the baseball diamond.

Which would be better: To break the streak while under an investigation into rape allegations is under way, or to break the streak after being found innocent of all charges? We think the answer is obvious.
Disaster-prevention system underway
Brazil will create a nationwide disaster-prevention and early-warning system following recent floods and landslides that killed more than 750 people in mountain towns north of Rio de Janeiro.

Contact Us
Philippe Bahreau
BBC Managing Editor
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Disaster-prevention system underway
Brazil could create a nationwide early-warning system following recent floods and landslides that killed more than 750 people in mountain towns north of Rio de Janeiro.


dispatch is elections approach, so a board
sioner position for a month because it was
ship coordinator took the elections commis-

elections commissioner wasn’t there for a full
have much ground to work on.

junior psychology major, became the current
campuses struggle with satisfying: the elec-

2009-2010 “Open Doors Report,” more
United States.

China the leading sending country.”

a 30 percent growth in Chinese student
students in the United States of America,
increase in the number of international
states there is a record-high three percent
national Education’s “Open Doors Report”
to the School of Hospitality and Tourism

majoring in hospitality manage-

by anyone in particular.

commissioner, elections aren’t being handled
Maidique Campus on matters such as coordi-
communication with the SGC at Modesto

President Denise Halpin, guided her through
President Christin “CiCi” Battle, and Vice

One issue Adams is confronted with is
There will be more time to market and inform people of the upcoming elections.
The elections board will use flyers and other advertising to publicize as much as possible, in an effort to gain a senator for each of the schools. Adams said the senate has only recently acquired a senator for the College of Arts and Sciences.

That’s a problem we’re trying to overcome. We’re trying to get all the senate positions, it’s our main goal,” she said.

Adams attributed the problem to scarce publicizing and said she heard about student government by chance, through word-of-mouth, instead of organized information.

“It could be as simple as going to other schools’ events and publicizing the upcoming elections, because I’m sure there are students who don’t even know about it at the time,” Adams said.

Another innovation is that for the first time at BBC, the presidential and vice president-

Adams said the student body will learn
Candidate interviews will be held the week after Spring Break, and candidates will be finalized that weekend, Adams said.

Adams said she student body will learn
about the candidates through mass emails, and
finalized that weekend, Adams said.

They saw my involvement in school
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Battle said in an email that she felt Adams was the person to lead the elections board as commissioner “because she is a just person that will patiently monitor the process.”

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Adams said she student body will learn
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Adams is unsure of who will be running in elections, and said people are being vague because they want to surprise everyone.

Disaster-prevention system underway
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dispatch is elections approach, so a board
sioner position for a month because it was
ship coordinator took the elections commis-

elections commissioner wasn’t there for a full
have much ground to work on.

junior psychology major, became the current
campuses struggle with satisfying: the elec-

2009-2010 “Open Doors Report,” more
United States.

China the leading sending country.”

a 30 percent growth in Chinese student
students in the United States of America,
increase in the number of international
states there is a record-high three percent
national Education’s “Open Doors Report”
to the School of Hospitality and Tourism

majoring in hospitality manage-

by anyone in particular.

commissioner, elections aren’t being handled
Maidique Campus on matters such as coordi-
communication with the SGC at Modesto

President Denise Halpin, guided her through
President Christin “CiCi” Battle, and Vice

One issue Adams is confronted with is
There will be more time to market and inform people of the upcoming elections.
The elections board will use flyers and other advertising to publicize as much as possible, in an effort to gain a senator for each of the schools. Adams said the senate has only recently acquired a senator for the College of Arts and Sciences.

That’s a problem we’re trying to overcome. We’re trying to get all the senate positions, it’s our main goal,” she said.

Adams attributed the problem to scarce publicizing and said she heard about student government by chance, through word-of-mouth, instead of organized information.

“It could be as simple as going to other schools’ events and publicizing the upcoming elections, because I’m sure there are students who don’t even know about it at the time,” Adams said.

Another innovation is that for the first time at BBC, the presidential and vice president-

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