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 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.

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 $7,500.

According to El-Saieh, FIU saved over 40,000 kilowatt hours, most commonly known as the billing unit for energy delivered to consumers by electric utilities.

JAINISM, page 2

JESSICA MENDOZA
Staff Writer

A new series of exhibits are set to open at the Frost Art Museum offering a taste of different cultures and diversity. The themes of the exhibits span from Spanish influenced sculptures to Italian contemporary art to the teaching gallery in conjunction with the Wolfsonian providing images of the human body.

The first exhibit opening on Jan. 26 is an exhibit by Spanish artists Mar Solis and Esther Villalobos. Originally a short novel by Portuguese poet, Jose Saramago, “A Journey into the Unknown,” will engage patrons as it explores the depths of abstract themes through photographs and sculptures.

Saramago passed away in his home in Spain and the exhibit serves as a commemoration 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 form to the teaching gallery in conjunction with the Wolfsonian.

A new series of exhibits titled “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. “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 the total detachment from the material. It embraces the idea of nonviolence and self-effort 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 follow.” The voice of Samani Unnata Pragya breaks the silence. “We are an order, a team; we are sisters connected by Jainism.”

Samani Unnata Pragya is a Jain nun who teaches Asian religion, spirituality and meditation at FIU. She has been living in Miami for four years, but is originally from Bangalore, India. Identified by students and staff as Samaniji Ji, she is also the director of the Preksha Meditation Club and practices traditional Jain customs.

“We dress in white because it symbolizes purity,” Munmukha Sheetal said. “It’s also a reminder of the path we’ve chosen; it’s harder to turn back.”

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Forbidden by Jainism to participate in any activity that might involve violent behavior, Jain nuns cannot cook or drive. The cooking methods used are placed in an area that is not accessible to the public. "We are an order, a team; we are sisters connected by Jainism.”

Samani Unnata Pragya (left) and Samaniji Unnata Pragya (right) wear white “be-
Students awarded scholarship for energy conservation

“The 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-Saieh.

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-Saieh.

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-Saieh.

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

The Grand Prize winner in the Student Scholarship was Alecia Vasianannie 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 Hoskins 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-Saieh.

China the main source of international students

JAINISM, page 1

Jainism encourages devotees to seek enlightenment

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Jainism encourages devotees to seek enlightenment
Golden Panthers unable to overcome first half struggles

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

Coach Isaiah Thomas said: “Not having him was a big deficit.” 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... MEN’S, page 6

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 Stadium Drive.

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.

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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 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

Frost Art Museum

Art ranges from sculptures to scuptures to Vespas in new Frost exhibits

Books and art dominate during Wolfsonian’s spring events

Wolfsonian Museum

School of Music plans to reach out to students through social media
Top candidate has experience to help FIU reach next level

ORLANDO, page 3

to fulfill the aspirations that the Golden Panthers have for quite some time: becoming a Top 25 team.

It is similar to the kind of experience that Cristobal brought to FIU from Rutgers, coming with a blueprint of success that can be 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.

It should be the beginning of a very successful partnership.

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 FIU 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 USC’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 D’Erick Thorpe has verbally committed to FIU.

The 6-5, 260-pound offensive tackle has committed to FIU on Jan. 20. Despite spending most of his high school career playing at offensive tackle, Thorpe has been recruited to play defensive end.

The Jacksonville product turned down offers from West Virginia and Arkansas, both BCS schools.

Thorpe, a member of the Florida Times-Union Super 24 team this season, will have some familiar faces in Miami.

He’s set to join quarterback Jake Medlock and kicker Dylan Lynch, who were recruited by Cristobal in 2010.

Thorpe is a three-star recruit, according to Rivals and Scout.com.

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.
Financial giant backs out of Facebook

SANAH FAROKE Contributing Writer

While shopping during the Christmas season with a friend, as she swiped her debit card she merrily said, in great Christmas spirit: “Thank you for the financial aid!”

Right then, it occurred to me that many students every year apply for financial aid and use it for the wrong reasons. This leads me to believe that the Financial Aid department should reduce the amount of money it gives to each student.

According to the Education Department’s National Center for Education Statistics, during the 2007-2008 school year, 66 percent of undergraduates received financial aid to pay for tuition, classes, books and room and board. What would we do with the rest of the nearly $2,000 left, but use it fruitlessly over the holidays, planning trips or, in this case, shopping?

It is nice that we gain a couple thousands in our pockets, but the purpose of this cash is not being upheld. Financial Aid should give out less money, just enough for students to pay for their essential college needs.

According to the Federal Aid website, “We consistently champion the promise of postsecondary education to all Americans — and its value to our society.” Although we are in a bit of a crisis with the current recession, I do not believe that students should stomp down to the level of using their financial aid money for anything other than aiding in the sole purpose of education.

Education is everything: power, strength, wisdom. Financial aid funds provide us with the ticket to all these internal blessings. Instead, we trade the golden ticket for the short-term desires of a nice pair of Jimmy Choos, an iPhone or, even more sensibly, the weekly supply of ramen noodle soup.

I propose that Financial Aid refrains from giving students an excessive amount of money for “education,” considering that most of it will be used for recreational purposes anyways. Essentially, these “gifts” as they are called, are actually money from tax payers’ dollars that are deducted from each paycheck. Then, this money is distributed by the federal government to students who qualify for financial aid.

There is so much that could be done with those thousands of dollars that are being used up by students. Instead of being source of student shopping sprees and vacational. Instead, these thousands of dollars should be used toward environmental improvement, social security, foreign affairs, financial debt, and overall improvement of our society.

At this point, many will think I am drugged for wanting to decrease the amount of financial aid that students, including myself, receive. I believe that the idea of cutting down the amount we receive will not only help America as a nation, but also each individual that makes up this nation. Current students will soon become the leaders of this world. We will also soon become the leading adult consumers of this world. Financial Aid, although unaware, is breeding people who are consumed of greed and even lie to pursue their desires.

I propose that the amount of aid be lowered not only because it is mostly used vainly, but this is also a moral issue that needs to be resolved. One would think that, as college students, most people could handle money and pursue it only honestly. However, taking a closer look, I can see the greed and the real truth behind some students’ use of financial aid awards.

The restraint will be good for us and, most importantly, would help people who have to be too drunk to give consent. The MTSU athletics department immediately acted and removed him from the baseball team. While the media attention gained from this situation is breeding future, the sudden change of plan that if they invest, they will not be able to trade Facebook stock in a private market when the investment structure in its initial plan, Goldman Sachs had strategically prepared itself for a successful future, which is why it is odd that the plan was drastically revamped. Facebook is not a publicly traded company, however, it trades on secondary markets. Goldman Sachs is conveniently job as the leading candidate to win the lucrative and prestigious assignment of Facebook’s initial public offering - we all know that day is coming relatively soon.

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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.

Shock verdict puts legal reform on trial

The trial in the murder of a 16-year-old girl found buried in a trash pile was supposed to showcase U.S.-backed reforms to Mexico’s secretive justice system.

VENEZUELA

Chavez says he won’t give up decree powers

President Hugo Chavez said Thursday he won’t relinquish special legislative powers — a possibility he raised last week as a means of seeking reconciliation with Venezuela’s opposition.

MAJORS, page 2

Hospitality a top choice for international students

W. EARLE SIMPSON
Staff Writer

More than 25 percent of the international students studying at the University are majoring in hospitality management, the largest number of international students in any one major.

Many of these students are from China, where there is a joint hospitality management program between the University and the Chinese government, according to the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management’s website.

The 2009-2010 Institute of International Education’s “Open Doors Report” states there is a record-high three percent increase in the number of international students in the United States of America, and the “growth was primarily driven by a 30 percent growth in Chinese student enrollment in the United States...making China the leading sending country.” The “Open Doors Report” is an annual census of international students in the United States.

However, according to the University’s 2009-2010 “Open Doors Report,” more countries than just China are strongly represented at the University.

“The top five countries of origin are India, Venezuela, China, Trinidad and Tobago and Columbia,” said Nancy Hernandez, director of International Student and Scholar Services at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The University’s international students come from 125 countries and represent approximately seven percent of the student population.

Data from the University’s Office of Planning and Institutional Research shows that international students are enrolled in 189 degree programs, with the top five sought after majors being hospitality management, business administration, international business, electrical engineering and computer and information science.

But the degree most sought after by international students is hospitality management.

“I chose hospitality management because from when I was in primary school, I discovered hospitality is a part of the position,” Larissa Adames, SGC-BBC clerk, said.

The position, Larissa Adames, SGC-BBC clerk, said she wasn’t ready to take up the position because she wasn’t running for president.

Adams feels strongly that campaigning 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 presidential candidates will be featured on one ballot instead of separate ones. The change is being applied because the University-wide Council of the past administrations voted in Spring 2010 to amend the new SGA constitution to change SGC-BBC’s ballots to a single ticket system.

Adams agrees that there’s no reason why the president and vice president shouldn’t be on the same ballot. “We’re trying to unify the two campaigns because for a while they’ve been kind of apart,” Adams said.

To further this unification, Adams is currently reviewing and editing the SGC-BBC Elections Code to be more consistent with the SGC-MMC Elections Code.

Adams said in a week it will be ready for the senate to accept, and will then be available by request in the Student Government Association office.

Adams was unaware that in Fall of 2010, a judicial decision declared the SGC-MMC elections board statutes unconstitutional, but said the SGC-BBC Elections Code is completely different. She said it does not include the statute that raised concerns, which gave the elections board power to establish temporary guidelines during elections.

Adams got involved in student government after Battle talked to her about SGA while she was running for president.

She applied for a few different positions, such as intern coordinator, participated in an interview and was recommended for the elections commissioner.

Adams believes she was recommended for that specific position because she wasn’t ready for a senate position, but elections commissioner was a position she could readily handle.

“They saw my involvement in school already and they kind of needed a little help with that more than the interns, because the elections is a lot more hardcore and they were like, ‘We think you’re up for it,’” said Adams, who plans to run for senate in the fall.

Battle said in an email that she felt Adams was the person fit to head the elections board as commissioner “because she is a just person that will patiently monitor the process.”

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

Adams said the student body will learn about the candidates through mass emails, and platforms, or posters, with the candidates’ intention of running, will be posted around campus.

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

SGC BBC

Unifying elections process a goal for new commissioner

REBECCA GRIESSMER
Staff Writer

Though the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus is the council that tends to have unﬁ lled positions, there is one that both campuses struggle with satisfying: the elections board commission.

For this reason, when Angelena Adams, junior psychology major, became the current elections coordinator, she didn’t have much room to work on.

“There was no transition, because the last member was needed to take up the position until its council announces a new elections commissioner,” Adams said.

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

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