New building a welcome change for faculty, students

NICOLAS SARAVIA
Staff Writer

After the reconfiguration of an existing pond, landscape changes and redirected utility lines, the $40 million project equipped with classrooms and administrative offices officially opened for the spring semester.

Completed two years after its official groundbreaking, the new home of the School of International and Public Affairs is a 58,400-square-foot complex specifically designed to comply with the Silver Category of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

LEED is an accreditation that recognizes improved environmental quality and responsibility.

The Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Auditorium has a capacity for 484 students—making it the largest space of its kind on campus.

The two-story auditorium has a unique 10,000 square foot green roof, which is the first in the University and currently the largest in South Florida.

The College of Arts and Sciences is currently hosting a campaign to name each of the auditorium seats for a donation.

A VIP section seat is available for naming for a $1,000 gift, while the remaining seats can be purchased for $100.

Destined to become a venue for high profile events and lectures, the auditorium will be outfitted with top of the line broadcast media equipment.

The SIPA building has become the new home to several departments and their administrative offices.

The Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies and the Department of Politics and International Relations have moved to the third and fourth floors respectively.

Middle East, Asian, and European Studies programs have now relocated to the fifth floor of the new complex.

Faculty members moving from Deuxième Maison, their former office spaces to their new places in SIPA have certainly noted a difference.

“It had a windowless box office before, so obviously I think it is fabulous. The more light in my life the better,” said Caroline Faria, assistant professor at the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies.

“The space is beautiful, bright and comfortable. In my previous office in DM, I could only accommodate one student, and here I will be able to meet with up to four,” said Liliana Goldin, professor of social and economic SIPA, page 2

Newly developed fee aims to save law students money

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

A new fee is being developed for students at the College of Law, though, with more emphasis on saving them money instead of costing them money.

Recently approved by the FIU Board of Trustees, the new Test Preparation Fee brings lower costs for prep courses such as Kaplan and Barbri used by many law students in order to study for the Florida Bar Exam.

Based on actual tests costs, the fee amount could range from $100-$3,000 and only apply to students who, as part of their graduation requirement, are expected to obtain specific preparation for a practice based exam, according to the Florida Board of Governors website.

“It’s hard for a student to write a check for $5,000 straight out of law school,” said College of Law Dean R. Alexander Acosta, who proposed the mandatory fee to the BOT. “With this, it becomes part of the cost of your education.”

The Test Preparation Fee, as part of a degree program requests, is said to “increase the accessibility of students to test preparation courses and to lower the cost of the preparation courses through negotiated contracts.” By including the fee as part of their degree requirements, students may be eligible to pay for the course through financial aid.

“Most university students will be taking these prep courses and by including it as part a required program, we can lower the cost by doing a contract negotiation or perhaps eventually even offering these programs ourselves,” said Chief Finance Officer Kenneth Jessell, during the FIU Board of Trustees meeting on December 9.

According to the request sent to the Board of Governors, there have been informal focus-group discussions with students on the desirability of the fee and the results “have been very positive.”

“As long as the rate is better than if I came on my own and it’s a part of my

PREP FEE, page 2
Burglars Snort Man’s Ashes, Thought it was Cocaine

Phone Keeps Ringing in Crocodile’s Upset Tummy

The crocodile in “Peter Pan” went “tick-tock” after swallowing an alarm clock but a crocodile in Ukraine has been a little less fortunate. Gena, a 14-year-old crocodile at an aquarium in Dnipropetrovsk, has been refusing food and acting listless after eating a cell phone dropped by Rymna Golovko as she tried to photograph him.

Employees later heard the phone ringing from the inside of Gena’s stomach.

While the crocodile has not had a bowel movement in four weeks and seems depressed, Golovko hopes she can get her SIM card back from the alligator’s stomach.

Phone Keeps Ringing in Crocodile’s Upset Tummy

The Beacon – Wednesday, January 26, 2011 www.fi usm.com

Students to be guided to preferred job

Occupants embrace building’s facilities

Test prep fee awaiting final approval

SIPA, page 1

anthropology. “We often need to meet with groups and this is one of the best features of the new space,” he said. “It is also a plus to be able to control the room temperature,” added Goldin.

Classes hosted in the SIPA building range from several disciplines such as English to biology, and primarily focus on SIPA related courses.

The building’s new features, both interiorly and exteriorly, have impressed students coming through for class.

“I particularly like this building because, since it’s being well taken care of, it almost feels like home,” said Junior Christine Foulks.

The building was designed by the Architecture, Photography and Design firm, which has worked on projects such as the Bronx Museum of the Arts, the American Airlines Arena and the United States’ embassy in Lima, Peru.

Its location on the Modesto Maidique Campus has some students questioning the building’s functionality, but its modern style continues to draw student approval.

“The building is very nice, offers a lot of facilities and classrooms that will be very helpful to the school. I have two classes there and it’s great,” said Richard Castro, freshman and business administration major.

“Only downside is that it’s a bit out of the way from other more utilized classrooms like in the Graham Center or the Chemistry and Physics Building.”

Although the building has been operational since Jan. 10, the SIPA building project is not over.

“Outside of the auditorium, SIPA hopes that a future Japanese garden will serve as an educational and healing tool as well as aesthetic attraction and event venue.”

Test prep fee awaiting final approval

is important students learn the groundwork of techniques and basics, but they must know how to adapt with the times.

“For example, we still have to know how to boil water, but what else is being done to create dining experiences that are leading edge? Molecular gastronomy mixes the discipline of chemistry and cooking,” Hampton said.

Personal guidance and mentoring for every student is the first change that will take place. Hampton is setting up an advising plan that looks at students’ resumes as a living document.

“The advice is an amazing tool the building can bring to an employer. We want students to start thinking in the direction of their ultimate goal.”

The new advising style will prepare students to identify internships or other experiences with organizations which prepare them for their preferred job. Faculty will work to set students up with contacts in the industry and with mentors who have excelled in their sector. Students will be encouraged to attend conferences and see the bigger picture of their industry. Finally, once all of this is mastered, HTM will work to get them in front of the right people so they have a proactive foot in the door before they even graduate.

“It’s a big responsibility to go in somewhere and show them they have someone here,” Hampton said.
MEN’S BASKETBALL

FADING FAST

Road woes continue for Panthers in road defeat

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

All season long, the road has been a rough place for the Golden Panthers. They were hoping to change that trend over the weekend, but it was just more of the same for FIU as they once again fell behind early to South Alabama.

The Panthers were unable to mount a comeback in an 86-78 loss Saturday, Jan. 22.

“The team struggled to find scoring in the first half as leading scorer Eric Frederick got into foul trouble for the second consecutive game and saw a limited amount of action,” Head Coach Isiah Thomas explained.

With Frederick playing just 17 minutes before fouling out and Dominique Ferguson fouling out with just nine minutes, it hurt the team down low significantly.

This was FIU’s fourth straight loss and they have now fallen to 1-8 on the year away from home.

“We can’t win games with those two fouling out and not being able to play in that certain period of time,” Head Coach Isiah Thomas explained.

The Jaguars outscored FIU 18-6 in the paint in the first 20 minutes and held them without a field goal for the first nine minutes, it hurt the team down low significantly.

There were no major scoring runs from either team, but South Alabama always held the lead and built it up to 13 by the time the buzzer sounded for halftime.

In the second half, The Golden Panthers (8-11, 3-4 SBC) made a valiant effort to dig themselves out of the hole they dug themselves into in the first half and at many points were successful in doing so.

With 10:58 left to go, they were only down by one before South Alabama (8-10, SBC 4-3) came back with a 11-2 run to take a 22-21 lead off of a Her layup would be the last point on the road. Frederick played a total of 17 minutes before fouling out.

Eric Frederick [middle] had five rebounds and five points in the loss to South Alabama.

Although the Golden Panthers held tough in the first half against either team, but South Alabama always held the lead and built it up to 13 by the time the buzzer sounded for halftime. In the second half, The Golden Panthers (8-11, 3-4 SBC) made a valiant effort to dig themselves out of the hole they dug themselves into in the first half

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Her layup would be the last point FIU scored in the half.

The Panthers were scoreless for the remaining 1:10 of the first half as the Jaguars retook the lead and went into halftime with a 25-22 lead.

FIU would not see any other deficit that small. USA put pressure on the Panthers by going on a 11-2 run to start the second half.

The Panthers could only manage 20 second-half points, all while allowing 35 points to the Jaguars.

A lot of it was attributed to second-chance points and fast-break opportunities for the Jaguars, as the Panthers did not score any points in transition during the game.

The FIU Panthers will look to dig themselves out of their current losing streak and get back in the win column, as they take on Western Kentucky on Jan 26 at U.S. Century Bank Arena.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Second half struggles sink FIU in road loss against South Alabama

RICO ALBARRACIN
Asst. Sports Director

Although the Golden Panthers held tough in the first half against one of the toughest defensive teams in the Sun Belt conference, the second half was a different story.

FIU suffered their second consecutive loss on Jan. 22, as they lost 60-42 at South Alabama.

Freshman Jerica Coley led the Panthers in scoring with 15 points and held them to a dismal 30 percent from the field.

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SMUOPA 9.75 SBC 14-3)

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Despite comeback effort, FIU drops fourth straight contest

MEN'S BASKETBALL

10-25 SBC) quickly made it a nine-point deficit in just a matter of three minutes.

The Panthers will try to limit the offensive production and hurting FIU under the basket.

SUN BELT MEN'S BASKETBALL STANDINGS

TEAM OVERALL CONF PCT

FAU 13-6 8-1 .789
Middle Tennessee 9-11 4-3 .455
FIU 8-11 3-4 .421
Western Kentucky 7-11 2-4 .428
South Alabama 8-10 2-5 .640
Troy 4-13 2-5 .231

*All records up to date as of Jan. 24

Seniors prepare for final home meet

SWIMMING

solid day. She began her day with the 1000-yard freestyle. She would finish fourth with a time of 10:52.25. Pomerantz would also finish in first place in the 200-yard Individual Medley with a time of 2:15.69; securing nine points for FIU. Pavlick would also finish in second in the 200-yard IM with a time of 2:21.53.

“Every game we’re just going to learn and just keep on fighting to get a good seed in the conference tournament to give ourselves a chance to win,” Roberts said.

Foul trouble has been a problem for FIU the last couple of games, and is an area that the team is certainly trying to avoid getting into. Despite having foul troubles, the Panthers will face the worst free-throw shooting team in the conference. WKU is dead last with a 64 percent from the charity stripe.

“For whatever reason when we foul guys, they could be a 50 percent foul shooter but they go 8-10 for the night,” said Thomas. “We’ll err on the side of just playing good defense and getting the rebound.”

TAYLOR’S HOME DEBUT

Newcomer to the team, point guard Phil Taylor will be making his highly anticipated home debut this game. Taylor played eight minutes in a loss at South Alabama on Saturday, and could be a great complement to starter Phil Gary.

“If I feel that if you get us both out there at the same time it could be pretty dangerous, you’ve got two quick guards and two guards that could harass the ball on defense,” Taylor said.
CAMPUS GEMS

Sculpture home to decade-long tradition

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Asst. News Director

Some students will go to any length to assure a good grade on an exam—whether it’s going over material weeks in advance, forming a study group, or even hiring a tutor—for some, the final fate of their grade is all in the hands of a quick spin.

“Marty’s Cube,” as it was officially titled by sculptor Tony Rosenthal, has stood outside of Deesezime Maison since 1998. While it was originally intended to stand as a piece of art, the spinning sculpture took on a whole different purpose several years ago.

According to Student Alumni Association Tradition, a group of chemistry students studying for finals under the cube decided to spin it for a bit of fun.

Two weeks after that night, each member of the group learned that they had inexplicably earned a perfect score on their exam.

Attributing their grades to the cube, they decided to repeat this study habit the following semester. After studying and spinning the cube, each group member earned an A on their exams once again.

As the next semester came, this group of students decided to test the true power of the cube. Going against their previous studying ritual, they did not spin “Marty’s Cube” on the week of their final exams. Not only did each student fail their exam, they were forced to repeat the class altogether. From that moment on, all students have been advised by campus tour guides and upper-classmen alike to spin the 15 foot sculpture about 24 hours before an exam to guarantee the perfect score bizarrely achieved so long ago.

Thatine Cargo, assistant director of the student and campus outreach program, claims that the spinning cube’s tale has been passed down to incoming freshmen since the early 2000s. As part of SAA tradition, “Marty’s Cube” has become an influential symbol during midterm and finals week at Modesto Maidique Campus. It is still included in the Student Government Association’s Cram Jam at MMC every year.

While the success rate of this cube truly lies in the preparation of its spinner, for some it simply provides a sense of security during exam week chaos.

“The success rate being that it seems that if I spin and feel better going into each exam after spinning that cube,” said junior and advertising major Beatriz Sanch. “It’s a way for me to send my anxiety out and leave it in the cube.”

The tale of the cube has left some students, such as sophomore and engineering major Ray Vargas, skeptical of the sanity of students who rely on “Marty’s Cube.”

CUBE, page 6

STUDENT PROGRAMMING COUNCIL

Last Lecture series the newest addition to SPC lineup

ASHLEY LAPADULA
Staff Writer

Dedicated to organizing events catered to students and raising school spirit, the Student Programming Council, better known as SPC, has come up with a new lecture series to give students the opportunity to get better acquainted with the University community.

The SPC-MMC will debut a new lecture series called “What Would You Say” at the GC Ballrooms on Jan. 26 at 6:30 p.m.

“This lecture is unlike anything FIU has seen before,” director of the event, SPC’s Vice President of Campus Relations, Andrea Rodriguez said. All students are invited to join the event and admission is free.

The keynote speaker and honoree of the evening will be Dr. Kenneth Claus, an English professor. Dr. Claus’ topic of choice and “Last Lecture” will be: “Hyper Activity As An Art form.”

It is an FIU version of the “Last Lecture,” which allows professors the opportunity to speak about whatever they have an inclination towards.

He was listed as the 19th best professor in the United States.

In addition, he is best known throughout FIU as the “Harry Potter Professor” because he uses Harry Potter books as a teaching tool.

In order to choose the honoree of the year, SPC held online polls, where students nominated and voted for their favorite choice. In conjunction with Dr. Claus, some of the other nominees were: Margo Berman, Bruce Haupiti, Darden Pyron, Elizabeth Nicoli Suco, Stephen Winkle and more.

The Student Programming Council (SPC) is an organization that schedules free events for students and its campus to provide a more diverse series of events to students.

Not to mention, members of SPC have the opportunity to gain leadership experience, network and learn how to schedule a variety of events.

For more information visit GC 2304 or e-mail us at spc@fiu.edu.

Comedian Erik Rivera started off SPC’s Week of Welcome events on Monday Jan 10 in GC. Rivera is known for his autobiographical style of humor and as a talented Latino comedian. Rivera is originally from New York.
South Beach café offers good food at a high cost

Habitual wardrobe a part of studying superstitions

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Habitual wardrobe a part of studying superstitions

South Beach café offers good food at a high cost

CUBE, page 5

“If any student thinks that spinning a giant cube is going to contribute to an A, they really must have not studied. Nothing guarantees an A except for studying, and I don’t see much point to it,” said Vargas.

While depending on a gigantic cube may appear unorthodox, this SAA tradition is not the only superstition University students follow on exams week.

“After receiving a perfect score on my physics test, I was beyond happy, but it wasn’t until I got the same grade on my chemistry test that I realized a connection—I was wearing the same pants on both test days,” said Sea Cafe.

“I don’t know if it’s osmosis or if it’s my mind playing tricks on me, but putting those notes under my pillow has become such a habit that I won’t let go now,” said Sea Cafe.

Whether it’s a habitual wardrobe, a note-filled slumber, or even a spin of “Marty’s Cube,” this test week routine, note-filled slumber, or even a spin of “Marty’s Cube,” this test week routine, has stuck review notes under his pillow since he was a senior in high school.

“Whether it’s a habitual wardrobe, a note-filled slumber, or even a spin of ‘Marty’s Cube,’ this test week routine, note-filled slumber, or even a spin of ‘Marty’s Cube,’ this test week routine, the practice has stuck with us,” said Sea Cafe.

In reality, the calamari dominated the dish while the other seafood varieties made a guest appearance. I am happy to report, however, that the calamari wasn’t at all tough and could easily be cut with a fork.

Overall, the simplistic flavors melded well for a great meal. My brother ordered the paella and was generous enough to let me have a few bites. Although the presentation looked nothing like the spiffy one on display, the taste made up for it.

The variety of seafood was much more apparent and the bright flavor of the saffron and savory spice of the chorizo was the perfect compliment. I will admit that there was a lot of broth used, almost to the point that it looked more like soup than rice, but it served the purpose of blending the flavors together.

Another dish of note is the salmon farroli with vodka sauce. The portions of fish in the dish were very generous and very fresh. I was pleasantly surprised to taste a smoky quality to the vodka sauce instead of the usual tomato-based bite I expected. It gave the pasta a mellow flavor that I hope I will encounter once again.

With all this being said, I cannot justify the cost of the entrees, as a meal at the Sea Café costs at least $25 outside of the Friday night paella special. In the event you make the trek to South Beach to try this place out, but make absolute sure that it’s on a pay day.

Food For Thought is a bi-weekly column on food. Look for it every other Wednesday.
Internet regulation necessary for growth

GISSELLE RODRIGUEZ Staff Writer

On Dec. 21, 2010, the Federal Communications Commission passed landmark legislation for Internet regulation. The idea of net neutrality has been brought up and discussed repeatedly over the past few years, especially in light of the Internet’s growing part in our lives.

Now used as a tool by everyone from businesses and government officials to elementary school children, the Internet was long overdue for some basic guidelines. As anyone can tell, there have been several petitions begging the FCC to reconsider its position and keep net neutrality from taking place. This, however, is nonsense.

The Net Neutrality rules, as imposed by the FCC, are relatively simple. They call for transparency on the part of the broadband providers, no blocking of any legal site and no unreasonable discrimination against local, legal network traffic.

The rules are relatively easy to understand and are there to ensure the Internet will continue as we know it. The broadband companies brought this upon themselves. By insinuating they would be creating a “fast track” of service for certain sites depending on how much they paid, they interfered with how the Internet works.

The FCC even acknowledges this in its statement to the public, citing that “the Internet has thrived because of its freedom and openness – the absence of any gatekeeper blocking access to the services of the network or picking winners and losers online.”

The FCC’s rules are there to make sure that the Internet continues to be a place generally known for its uploading of the law and, like anything else in this country, it too needs some regulations to make it safer for everyone.

There has been a lot of talk online about the imposition of the Net Neutrality rules, as well as several petitions begging the FCC to reconsider its position and keep net neutrality from taking place. This, however, is nonsense.

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The FCC’s rules are there to make sure that the Internet continues to be a place for innovation and competition, regardless of background. We live in a country where anyone is able to create something and sell it. Starting your own business is encouraged, and someone who comes from modest means can become someone with everything. The Internet has helped make that possible.

By attempting to change the very fabric of the Internet and its appeal for so many, the broadband companies essentially betrayed the trust of their consumers. In a case like this, it is the job of the government to step in and take action to ensure that our freedoms are not taken away.

The FCC rules stop the broadband companies from taking over without overstepping the bounds of the law.

Software licensing puts users at a disadvantage

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ Staff Writer

Everyone who has purchased software has come across an agreement between the developer and the end user meant to protect the interests of both parties. Most of us simply scroll to the bottom and click “Accept” while trying to get to our software as soon as possible. Recently, it is becoming more common for the software developers to include more fine print that benefits them and less that benefits consumers.

It is not right for software developers to draft these contracts in their favor while knowing that most users don’t read them in the first place. These End User License Agreements are typically used to ensure that software is not copied or changed after purchase. All software development companies have different stipulations in their contracts and some heavily favor the developer over the consumer.

One such condition was a Digital Rights Management clause in the iTunes EULA. The condition stated that all songs purchased from the iTunes store would be protected by DRM and could only be used on iTunes and other Apple products. This meant copying songs, playing them in other programs and using them within any product not cleared by Apple was prohibited. This severely limited the songs purchased by users. As a result of public disagreement, DRM protection was lifted in 2009.

Apple also has the right to remove applications from the iTunes App Store without notifying a user, even after the app has been purchased. If, for any reason, users want to re-download the app, it will be unavailable and they will have nothing to show for what they paid. Conditions like these are covered in the software agreements.

Software developers will go as far as instituting installation limits on their programs to ensure that they are not installed on multiple computers. EA Games, Windows and Microsoft all impose limits to how many machines can run their programs and how many times they can be installed. Although it is covered by the contract agreement that one must accept before installing the program, it is completely unreasonable to limit a program installation to only a few times.

Countless things can happen that can cause a program to need a re-installation. After the final one, users must purchase another copy of the program if they wish to keep using it. This clearly favors the developer because, in the long run, it will lead to repeat purchases of the same product.

EU also curb originality and innovation because many prohibit copying or making changes to the program. This stops experienced users from improving the programs they like to use. A customer should not be denied the ability to customize a product for improved efficiency and usability just because the software developers disagree with it.

It is discouraging to see how large software development corporations take advantage of their customers by making them follow silly rules before they can even use their products. The EULA were meant to protect both the user and the developer, but it seems that the users are getting the short end of the stick after paying good money for products they control.

College study has merit, but flawed methodology

CRISTINA MIRALLES Contributing Writer

According to The Huffington Post, a study conducted by more than 2,000 graduate students showed that 45 percent of them performed poorly in areas such as critical thinking, reasoning and writing. I think there are different reasons that explain why students do not learn enough about these areas in college. Among these, are having unqualified professors, technology and the involvement in extracurricular activities.

Having unqualified professors contributes to the reason why students may not have a positive learning experience in college, especially when some courses are taught by the professor and the teaching assistant. I think there should only be one person teaching each class, because more than one person communicating the same information will only confuse the students.

Another thing I have noticed is that a lot of the professors are just as lost as some of the students. Sometimes, they seem like they do not know what they are talking about and give out a lot of information that does not make sense.

For example, I had a professor who would constantly change the syllabus and let the students change her mind. Her grading and assignment on Blackboard were overloaded and we, as students, would have to wait for each new policy to be added. As a result, we are confused about what we are being asked to do and last week, we interfered with how the Internet works.

The FCC even acknowledges this in its statement to the public, citing that “the Internet has thrived because of its freedom and openness – the absence of any gatekeeper blocking access to the services of the network or picking winners and losers online.”

The FCC’s rules are there to make sure that the Internet continues to be a place generally known for its freedom and openness – the absence of any gatekeeper blocking access to the services of the network or picking winners and losers online.

College study has merit, but flawed methodology

Some think they are able to multitask but, in reality, it is hard to do more than two things at once.

Technology today takes over many aspects of our lives. Students do not have to put in a lot of effort to research a particular topic. All they have to do is go to Google, type in what they are looking for and then receive over 100 results.

Being a part of extracurricular activities and having off-campus jobs can also be reasons why students do not learn much today. Many students join more than one club or organization and lose track of their studies. Having an off-campus job is difficult, since most of the time students have to choose their classes according to their work schedule.

Sometimes, it may come to a point where the student is so overwhelmed and tired that he does not feel like completing any assignments. This leads to failing courses, falling asleep in class and possibly having to repeat a course or two.

I found it interesting that The Huffington Post talks about part of its research being based on giving students a standardized test in order to see what level they reach. As a result, they found that the average student scores increased by seven percent from Fall 2005 to Spring 2007. In my opinion, students’ knowledge should not be based on the results of a standardized test. I, for one, am a good student with good grades, but I struggle with test taking, and I am sure this is the case for many others.

Going to school takes time and dedication, and I think these are two big factors that take a part in academic performance and learning. Having an off- campus job, taking three classes and being part of a club will hold you back a little.

College is a main step toward achieving your final career, and it takes a lot of effort to complete. However, every student is different and has a different lifestyle and way of learning, so generalizing based on test scores does not provide accurate results.
Mike Hampton details some of his plans for HTM

CHARITY VERGARA Contributing Writer

Mike Hampton is not afraid of experimenting with the formula for teaching hospitality, and he’s looking at a world-renowned bicycle race as a possible model. “We gotta take the lead and I’m not shy so I don’t mind getting out there and trying things!” said Hampton, the new dean for the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

Just one of the possibilities Hampton is tinkering with is following the Tour de France, learning about wine, lodging and food on the go. As a longtime cycling enthusiast and Tour de France fan, he might have extra motivation for that study abroad program.

During a recent interview with Student Media, Hampton explained what he’s been doing his first weeks as dean of HTM, which included letting HTM students know he’s available to them, learning the concerns of HTM students and faculty, and setting up a new plan for advising.

Minisall relayed the story of his first actions was to move his desk closer to the door of his office so people can easily see if he is available. Redoing his office is symbolic for his motto “keeping an open dialogue.”

Many HTM students have already received his business card. He’s been giving students his card with his mobile number on it saying, “If you need to text me or call me, you do that.”

“At this point I’m very busy gathering information. Assessing capacities, human resources, physical resources, and fiscal resources. [The Kovens Conference Center], China, the South Beach Wine and Food Festival… I’m in fact finding mode right now. The short term goal is to get an assessment on what we have and what we need to start working on.”

Fact finding mode to maximum capacity is what Hampton’s been up to his first three weeks as dean. He has been in meetings with everyone from faculty, to investors, to students, to faculty of other schools.

The brainstorming within HTM has led to the creation of a long wish list.

The wish list consists mainly of facilities and research funds. Faculty would like more research labs. Graduate students want their own building to accommodate the learning style of their programs.

Hampton wants facilities like a model hotel room, a spa, or events management labs.

“Definitely in the millions,” Hampton said. However, it is too early to speculate what will be done. The five-year strategy is still in the stage of the first strokes of a pen to paper for a blueprint.

For now, students are encouraged to engage with HTM faculty and especially their new dean, a man who thrives off personal connection.

Hampton’s foremost priority is teaching students the critical thinking skills they’ll need to make their college education impervious to obsolescence. It

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Celebration breakfast to honor life of Cuban activist

MALCOLM SHIELDS Contributing Writer

For the eleventh consecutive year, the University will celebrate the life, vision and poetry of one of Cuba’s greatest activists: Jose Marti.

The Jose Marti Celebration Breakfast will take place on Friday, Jan. 28 at the Wolfe University Center on the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Marti was born in Havana, Cuba in 1853.

Throughout his life, he was an outspoken opponent of Spanish colonialism in Cuba. Marti would be exiled from his homeland to Spain after expressing his political views that were critical of the ruling Spanish colonists.

While in exile, his vision for an independent Cuba was intensified by seeing other Latin American countries receiving their independence.

Marti began a movement for Cuban independence in 1892. In 1895, he would return to Cuba and would be killed fighting alongside other Cuban revolutionaries against the Spanish.

Jan Solomon, development officer in the Office of the Vice Provost at BBC, put into context the significance of Marti’s accomplishments in Cuban history as well as his importance to the Cuban American community here in South Florida.

“He is remembered as a great patriot for Cuba,” Solomon said. “He was a writer, a poet, a journalist and an activist for human rights and political rights.”

“He is just remembered as in a way [Americans] have Martin Luther King – Cubans have Jose Marti.

He is a person to be remembered for freedom and he really represents freedom for the Cuban people.”

The festivities will begin at 8 a.m. at Panther Square. Cuban food and refreshments will be provided to those who attend the ceremony.

After the meal, the ceremony will move into the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater where a musical performance by David Lawrence Upper Academy will be conducted in tribute to Marti.

The musical showcase will be performed completely in Spanish.

The performance will be about thirty minutes long.

The event’s theme this year is focused on universal human rights and responsibilities.

A panel consisting of former Cuban political prisoners Adolfo Fernandez Saiz, Pedro Pablo, Alvarez Ramos, and Omar Ruiz will speak about living under the harsh rule of communist Cuba.

“They will speak about the experience as well as… what Jose Marti means to them, what this day means to them and the importance of human rights,” Solomon said.

University professors Fernando Figueredo, Uva de Aragon, and Teresa Pointe will conduct the question and answers portion of the ceremony with the political prisoners.

“It will be a real learning experience for whoever is there,” Solomon said.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, three scholarships will be presented to three University students who were nominated to receive the Jose Marti Scholarship.

It is based on high academic achievement.

Each scholarship awarded will be $500 to each recipient courtesy of the Jose Marti Scholarship Fund.

Applicants for the scholarship had to have a minimum 3.0 GPA and had to complete a one page essay explaining what are the main values to universal human rights and the definition of global citizenship.

The event is free to the public.

JOSE MARTI BREAKFAST

- Time: 8 a.m.
- When: Jan. 28
- Where: Wolfe University Center