New building a welcome change for faculty, students

NATOLAS 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.

“I 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
Burglars Snort Man’s Ashes, Thought it was Cocaine

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 Rimma 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 theuilders.

Phone Keeps Ringing in Crocodile’s Upset Tummy

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 builders.

_Compiled by Alexandra Camejo_
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 on the road. Frederick played a total of 17 minutes before fouling out.

“Pretty much where we are right now; we’re training really hard. We swam like that. We didn’t really do anything great as far as any times, but it’s kind of where we are right now. It’s all about just sucking it up and being tough right now at this point of the season.”

On a chilly, 67-degree and overcast day, the Golden Panthers swimming and diving team returned back to competition against the Eagles of Florida Gulf Coast University.

This meet was the fourth of five consecutive home meets that were being held at the Bay Vista Aquatics Complex since the beginning of the 2011 portion of the team’s schedule.

Divers Sabrina Beaufre, Namiko Shibata, and Jamie Stinson did not compete in Saturday’s one meter and three meter events.

The Panthers would fall to FGCU by a score of 178 to 75 on Jan. 22. After the meet, Coach Randy Horner gave his assessment of his team’s effort.

“We swam very tired today,” Horner said. “Pretty much where we are right now; getting ready for the end of the season we’re training really hard. We swim like that. We didn’t really do anything great as far as any times, but its kind of where we expect to be right now. It’s all about just sucking it up and being tough right now at this point of the season.”

The relay team would finish second just behind FGCU with a time of 1:50.56, earning four points for the Golden Panthers.

Senior Joanna Pomerantz had an overall
**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

**Seniors prepare for final home meet**

**SWIMMING, page 3**

Despite comeback effort, FIU drops fourth straight contest

**MEN’S, page 3**

10-2 (2-5 SBC) quickly made it a nine-point deficit in just a matter of three minutes.

The Panthers would roar back again and eventually take the lead for the first time since going up 2-0 early in the first. They would lose the lead for the last and final time, as they committed some costly fouls down the stretch.

It was a tale of two halves for Marvin Roberts, Alex Legion and DeJuan Wright as they would combine for just 14 points in the first half and 45 points in the second.

All three were big parts of the Panthers runs, as well as newcomer to the team Phil Taylor, who made his first appearance in an FIU uniform.

“Helped us out a lot,” Legion said of Taylor’s performance. “He was part of that run where we were able to push the ball and get the comeback.”

Taylor would play eight minutes in the game, due in part to being new to the team and just getting used to the offense.

With all the new players who have entered the team this year halfway through the season, FIU has not had the opportunity to practice and play with each other as much as many other Sun Belt teams have.

“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 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 PhilGary.

“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.

**SUN BELT MEN’S BASKETBALL STANDINGS**

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*All records up to date as of Jan. 24*

**JACKSON WOLEK  
Staff Writer**

**FIU will head back home to try to put an end to their current four-game losing streak on Jan. 27 against Western Kentucky. Despite WKU’s average Sun Belt Conference record, the Hilltoppers could possibly be the team’s toughest test this year.**

**The Hilltoppers (7-11, 2-4 SBC), winners of the Sun Belt Conference tournament in 2008 and 2009 and winners of three NCAA tournament games in the past three seasons, have not been playing like the championship team of the past.**

The 2010-2011 season has been a little different for WKU. The Hilltoppers are currently in fourth place, right behind the Golden Panthers, in the SBC East Division standings.

Despite being in the middle of the pack in the standings, Isaiah Thomas still hopes to play for a bye in the conference tournament.

“The top two teams in the conference get byes going into the (first round of the) tournament, so this is a big game for us,” said Thomas on Thursday’s matchup.**

**CONTAINING KERUSCH**

For the Panthers (8-11, 3-4 SBC) to come out with a win, they must be able to stop or at least contain the third leading scorer in the Sun Belt. Sergio Kerusch has averaged over 15 points a game this season and has been on a roll as of late. The senior forward scored 32 points the last time they met.

The Panthers will try to limit the amount of touches he gets, especially from offensive rebounds. Kerusch averages four of the team’s 13 offensive boards a game (a conference best), which in turn give Kerusch more opportunities to shoot the ball.

“I actually played him my sophomore year at Illinois,” said Legion, who was part of the 2008-2009 team that lost to Western Kentucky in the first round of the NCAA tournament. “He’s very athletic and I’ve heard that he’s worked on his jump-shot so we just got to keep him off the glass. I know he plays hard.”

**FOUL TROUBLE**

The 2010-2011 season has been a little different for WKU. The Hilltoppers could possibly be the team’s toughest test this year.

The senior 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 PhilGary.

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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.

“My Cube,” as it was officially titled by sculptor Tony Rosenthal, has stood outside of Deese Music Annex 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.

It is based around the idea that the keynote speaker is giving a lecture as if it were his or her final speech to the student population. This lecture will be the kick-off of a new SPC tradition for students and the community.

Dr. Claus began teaching at the University 15 years ago around the fall term of ‘95. By the fall of 2000, he was the first adjunct in the English Department to win FIU’s Excellence In Teaching award. By spring 2010, he was showered with outstanding ratings from a popular college web site, www.RateMyProfessors.com.

As his popularity grew, his classes quickly reached capacity as the comments on the website surfaced. Students blogged and commented about Dr. Claus’ classroom experience. “He is by far one of the best teachers I have ever had. He cares about his students and most importantly makes the class engaging for all,” one student commented on the site.

With more than 100 affirmative comments on this college board website, 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 utensil. In order to choose the honorees 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 Hauptli, Darden Pyron, Elizabeth Nicoll Suco, Stephen Winkle and more.

The Student Programming Council (SPC) is an organization that schedules free events for students and its community throughout each semester to make the college experience enjoyable. Events range from comedy shows to movies, pool parties, concerts and lectures. The council works with other organizations on 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. If you’d like to find out more about upcoming SPC events, visit www.fiu.edu/~spc and www.face book.com/spcflucp.

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.

It is an FIU version of the "Last Lecture," which allows professors the opportunity to speak about whatever they care about. The "Last Lecture" series is unique in that it is a biographical style of humor and as a talented Latino comedian. Rivera is originally from New York. 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

On any given night in South Beach, street side restaurants send their hostesses out to sucker-excite me-convince customers to come eat at their (sometimes mediocre) establishment with a variety of dinner and drink specials. Recently, I fell into one of their traps.

Sea Cafe, 740 Ocean Dr. Miami Beach, only a few steps away from the Colony Hotel, is a place that prides itself on its extensive cocktail menu and their strong-hold on paella. On this Friday night, customers could either choose to dine on paella for $19.95 per plate, 20 percent off an entire purchase or two-for-1 cocktails. Unfortunately, the restaurant doesn’t allow customers to combine the offers.

I, for one, took advantage of the drink special by ordering two “Rok’n Rosé” sangrias, made with rosé, pineapple, oranges and lemon. The lighter variety of wine lent itself to a more refreshing take on this bar standard, but it also took away the characteristically sweet flavor.

As it turns out, this is the very thing that made it a worthwhile pairing with my dinner. I decided upon their seafood spaghettini, which was riddled with clams, shrimp mussels and calamari topped with a light olive oil-garlic sauce according to the menu.

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 farfalle 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 that I hope I will encounter once again.

With all this being said, I cannot justify the cost of the entrées, 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

GISELLE 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 businessmen and government officials to elementary school students, the Internet was long overdue for some basic guidelines. As anyone who has ever been on the Internet can attest, it is not a place generally known for its upholding of the law and, like anything else in this country, it too needs some regulations to make it safe 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.

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 continues to do what it will continue as we know it. The broadband companies brought this upon themselves. By insinuating they were creating a “fast track” of service for certain sites depending on how many dollars 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 courses 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 for innovation and competition, regardless of background. We live in a country where anyone is able to create something new and sell it. Starting your own business is encourage, 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, the FCC is doing so for 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.

College study has merit, but flawed methodology

Cristina Miralles
Contributing Writer

According to The Huffington Post, a study conducted from 2004 to 2007 and involving 2,300 undergraduate 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 may not have learned is because of technology. When a student is so overwhelmed and tired that he or she has no idea what to look at the book, as if she didn't do much work at all. 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 courses of the network or picking winners and losers online.”

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 running them within a program 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 reinstall 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 licensing puts users at a disadvantage

Giovanni Gonzalez
Staff Writer

Everyone who has purchased software has come across an agreement contract 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 case 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 running them within a program 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.

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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 much 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.

"If it weren't for the coffee, I'd have no identifiable personality whatsoever."
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.

“His presence which exceeds his size, Hampton’s energy radiates and intoxicates everyone around him. “He’s the epitome of hospitality,” pushes his secretary Dawn Minissial. “He’s so hands-on.”

One 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.”

“The thing that we have to do for the school is to create an environment where students are better engaged,” Hampton said.

Minissil relayed the story of Hampton’s good deeds at the school’s “Welcome back BBQ.”

“It was completely coincidence that the table was going to take.”

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“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.

Hands-on facilities like a model hotel room, a spa, or events management labs.

Students need funds to do study abroad.

“The wish list will be prioritized and then quantified,” Hampton said.

The dollar amount for the list reaches into the seven-figure range.

“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 connections.

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

CUBA

Mail service of US suspended

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