National campaign urges students to study in China

LAURIE ANGELL

Launching in 2009, “100,000 Strong” is a campaign the President and his wife have been advocating to promote travel to China with increased scholarships for students interested in the opportunity. Collaboration between the United States and China on this effort has been evident in the last few months. On Jan. 19, the First Lady addressed an assembly of students at Howard University about the initiative, while Chinese Leader Hu Jintao stated, in his last visit to Washington, that their government would award 10,000 scholarships to high school and college students in an effort to maximize people-to-people exchanges between Chinese and American future business leaders, researchers, and scholars.

According to a 2009 survey by the Modern Language Association, about 61,000 students are enrolled in Chinese courses and 13,000 students...
Position at FIU is the ‘highlight’ of Lipman’s career

news@fi.usm.com

LIPMAN, page 1
legal allegations left behind at OU. During his time there, a federal complaint was filed by Ohio University employee, Molly Taylor-Ellkins, claiming she was stripped of paid administrative leave and was kicked off a master’s program in retaliation for sexual harassment and bullying claims. Lipman spoke against the former OU vice president.

An OU investigation conducted last year agreed Lipman “created a hostile work environment but couldn’t find enough evidence to substantiate the sexual harassment claims,” according to The Post, OU’s independent, student-run newspaper.

“This was something that [the University] president was certainly made aware of. But it was something that would cause him to be alarmed here at the University,” said Hardrick. “Even if you look at it in the rear view, there is no evidence to substantiate the claim.”

The Post also reported that in September 2010, she made a settlement offer to OU, demanding $225,000 in addition to five years of paid medical expenses and free tuition for herself and her two sons.

However, OU rejected her settlement offer.

“One of the things that you have to be mindful of when it comes to these stories, is that there is so much that goes into these types of allegations and anyone can go out and file claims and do whatever,” Hardrick said. “But in terms of FIU, we did not see any risk at all by bringing back here to the University.”

At the Jan. 26 meeting of the FIU Foundation, Lipman was recognized by the board and provided an update of the Capital Campaign, mentioning that the University must increase the number of alumni who are making annual gifts and significantly expand its department in charge of social media.

“Miami is my home. It is where my children were born and where our family and friends live. Coming back to Miami under President Rosenberg’s leadership is the highlight of my career,” said Lipman to Student Media.

“Having lived and worked here for so many years I understand our community and have developed working and personal relationships with many of our philanthropic and business leaders. This allows me to hit the ground running and better prepare our university for the campaign ahead.”

— Melissa Caceres works as a Beat Writer, covering the FIU Foundation, Board of Trustees and Faculty Senate for The Beacon.

Number of students in China has ‘steadily increased’

CHINA, page 1

study year round in China. It is the objective of the U.S. administration to have a minimum of 100,000 American students studying in China by 2014.

While the initiative is commendable, some feel that financial constraints along with the current availability of courses could be a concern for the President’s goal.

“I applaud and fully support Obama’s initiative on China. I think those are necessary steps through the U.S. to really begin to bridge that. I don’t think we are where we need to be, but it’s a step towards the goal,” said Office of Study Abroad Director, Magnolia Hernandez.

Yet, through the University’s study abroad opportunities, Hernandez claims that the number of students studying abroad in China has steadily increased.

For the short-term model, which occurs during the summer semester, China ranks third as an international destination for study abroad at FIU, whereas the semester model, which includes fall and spring semester, usually has more attention on Spain and Japan.

According to Hernandez, many students choose the short-term program to explore China for the first time to test their adaptability.

Out of 700 students sent abroad by the Office of Study Abroad last year, approximately 11 percent of them were in China.

In the spring 2011 semester, there are about four students right now… Last year we had five, but this is only in relation to Study abroad,” said Hernandez.

Any decline in studying abroad can often be attributed to financial woes, but there are federal budget funds scholarship programs such as the Gilman and Fulbright which as well as funds provided by the private sector.

“It motivates and encourages me as well as other students who are also interested in going to China, because we won’t have to worry about any financial issues,” said Pedro Alvosilla, International Relations major, who is currently in his second semester of Mandarin.

Hernandez praises the current effort by FIU’s Asian Program for their ability to adequately prepare students who choose to study abroad in the summer, and how it often leads them to spend an entire semester or year in China.

While traditional language and culture programs have always had programs available for students to travel to China, Hernandez has had to see that a recent trend that she has observed over the years is that the traditional language “the business, engineering and art programs are sending more students as well.”

The University’s School of Business offers a track of courses that consists of 2 terms of introductory Mandarin followed by a study abroad opportunity. The program is geared towards helping students develop the skills needed to do business with Chinese industries.

Yamiai Tona, International Business and Management major, was one of the 30 students that studied in China during the summer of 2010. She had to adjust to minor challenges such as paying for dinners at a local restaurant or paying for bags at the airport, but the experience was rewarding.

“I met a lot of people on the trip not only from the United States, but also from China. We went to the U.S. embassy in Beijing as well as the one in Hong Kong to see how people operate in the field,” Tona said.

“Unfortunately I didn’t have the time to stay there for more than two weeks but I was very confident about interacting with that culture and I would have loved to stay there longer.”

Additionally, in 2006, Hospitality and Tourism Management introduced the first U.S. School of Hospitality in China. The Marriot Tianjin model, which consists of Chinese students as well as U.S. students that travel abroad.

Hernandez points out that in a fast-moving and global world, where communication among nations is fundamental, especially with China, there are several reasons why studying abroad—in China or any other country—is important.

“Professional development, academic enhancement and personal growth. These are the 3 basic pillars for our students when thinking of studying abroad” she states.

As students return from their study abroad experience, Hernandez claims that their comments are all positive. Those who go to China “really challenge themselves because it takes a kind of dedication to learn the language, understand the people, so that you can use that in your career and your community.”

“They’re feedback has been that initially there is a period of adjustment, but they would not change the experience for anything in the world.”

Sarah Clegg-Crawford, Student Counselor

Can Christianity Survive the Age of Technology?

Abdul-Azeez Abdullahi, Chair of Education

Relinking Global Education

Pallae Mowanez, Earth and Environment

Erin Alenson

Rev. Paul Massingill, FIU-MDC Wesley

Is Peru Atracism Possible?

Marnam Wilks, Architecture & The Arts

The President of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell

Abusar Kahil, Chemistry & Biochemistry

The Complex Immigration Policies of the U.S.

Steve Schwartz, University Advancement

To Be Announced

Divina Grossman, Vice President of Engagement

Center for Innovative Care & Policy

Michael Brilliant, History

To Be Announced

Russ Bouchon, College of Medicine

International Adoptions after Natural Disasters

Alan Summervale, Economics

The State of the Academy

Carrie Einhorn, Economics

Debt and Underemployment

Mars Weinstein, College of Education

The Design 30 under 30 Live Longer
Wittels streak ends at 56 games in FIU loss

BASEBALL, page 3

Even SLU’s head coach Jay Artigues praised Wittels for the way he handled himself.

“The fact that he came over to congratulate the team and Pace, shows a lot of character in young man that’s gone through a lot,” Artigues said.

Wittels had a rough night, going 0-for-4 in the season opener. It was the first appearance for Wittels since his alleged sexual assault allegations.

It was also Wittels’ first action in 259 days, since they were eliminated in the NCAA Regional tournament.

He chased the first pitch on three out of his first four at-bats.

“Garrett [Wittels] was very aggressive tonight. One thing I know about Garrett [Wittels] is that if he was going to get this job done, he’s going to go down swinging,” said FIU coach Turtle Thomas. “Honestly, I thought he’d go at least 75 games before it would come to an end.”

In his first at-bat, the scrappy infielder hit a grounder to Brock Hebert at second to get the force out. Wittels reached safely on a fielder choice in the first inning, but did get a hit.

“I try not to give a pitcher any credit as a hitter but they made a couple of good pitches tonight. They really got me to chase out of the zone,” Wittels said.

Wittels got another crack at the streak in the bottom of the fourth inning as he drilled an 80-78 over.

Solid pitching and good hitting helped lift the Golden Panthers to their first victory of the season, and 8-3 win, in the second game of a series clash between the Golden Panthers and the Southeastern Louisiana Lions on Feb. 19.

With a change in the lineup, SLU’s Josh Janway hit a homerun off the newly installed scoreboard in his first at-bat of the season against FIU starter Phil Haig.

But the Golden Panthers’ lineup was able to concentrate better a day after a media frenzy on the streak ending.

“I was a little too anxious, that’s the only thing. Even though I was thrown off a little bit, I thought I had some really good swings tonight,” Wittels said.

His third at-bat appeared to have some controversy.

Wittels appeared to have been hit by a pitch on left hand, but home plate umpire Michael Baker, ruled it a foul ball. Baker claims that the pitch hit Wittels’ bat and not his hand.

At the end of the game, the junior infielder admits that the pitch hit him.

“It was the worst moment of baseball that I’ve ever been a part of in my life. I got hit by a pitch and was selfish and didn’t take my base. I’m more pissed off at that than not continuing the hit streak,” Wittels said.

On the following pitch, Wittels hit a one-bounce grounder towards Pace that resulted in an easy out at first.

With the streak over, Wittels will regroup and try to start a fresh streak. The infielder still has 54 games remaining in this young baseball season.

“It’s been an amazing run. I’m so proud of myself. I’m about to go out in tears right now,” Wittels said.

FIU 8, SLU 3

Friday night following Garrett Wittels.

In the bottom of the second inning, walks and clumsy pitching gave FIU a 3-1 lead going into the third.

With the bases loaded three times, two shallow hits to right field and a deep fat to left brought in designated hitter Mike Martinez, second baseman TJ. Shantz, and left fielder Pablo Bermudez.

“We are getting used to the new bats, we were more focused today, but we can do more than what we did today,” coach Turtle Thomas said.

While the Lions were having pitching problems early on, Haig continued to be on cruise control, earning five strikeouts by the end of the third inning.

“I try not to think about the offense that much,” Haig said. “I can only control my job behind the mound, but by the second inning the two-run lead got me comfortable so I changed it up and got some of their hitters swinging.”

Haig (1-0) earned the victory and finished the game with eight strikeouts during seven innings of work.

Visit our web site for the rest of this story and other web exclusive content, including videos, previews and more.

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MEN’S BASKETBALL

Owls deal Golden Panthers overtime loss at home

The Golden Panthers lost another close game to FAU on Feb. 19 in an 80-78 overtime defeat despite double-doubles from both Dominique Ferguson and DeJuan Wright as the rivalry continues in this heated battle between in-state rivals.

The building became packed as fans started filing in about five minutes after tipoff. Even though Golden Panther fans outnumbered Owl fans that attended the game, it did not seem that way. Many times in the game it felt like the game was taking place in Boca Raton rather than Miami.

“They have been tremendous all season and I guess it does have something to do with winning,” said Alex Tucker of FAU. “I feel like they’re an actual part of it.”

Foul shooting and turnovers hurt FIU again as they went 21-33 from the foul line and turned the ball over 15 times.

“I feel like I come in every night and have the same press conference,” coach Isaiah Thomas said. “If you just pan over to the foul line you will see there are too many points on the foul line each and every night.”

In the first half, FIU refused to let the game get away from them as they continued to fight back from scoring streaks put on by the Owls. FIU struggled to find their offense until finally they decided to stop settling for threes and start driving inside.

Even then, it was difficult to get a shot off on the Owls defenders, who had five blocks in the first half alone.

With 46 seconds left in regulation, Ferguson grabbed his 12th and most important rebound of the game and put it back in for the layup to put FIU up 72-70. The Owls would answer and put in a layup of their own from Greg Gannt that was originally blocked by Brandon Moore, but was ruled goaltending with 16 seconds left to play.

The Golden Panthers would have the ball one last time, but could not make anything out of it when Dejuan Wright turned the ball over and could not even get a last shot off as time expired.

In overtime, FIU went up 76-72 on four consecutive made free throws, but let the Owls right back into it as they started to lose control of what they were doing.

There was not enough time for FAU to go on another great run, and with 35 seconds to go and FIU down 79-78 Phil Taylor stole the inbound pass and got the ball back into FIU hands.

Down by two, the Golden Panthers had one last chance to tie the game with 5.6 seconds left when they had an inbound pass underneath their own basket and got the ball to Taylor who never got a shot off as he proceeded to step out of bounds and turn the ball right back over to FAU.

“Phil Taylor has come through for us in some very clutch situations and tonight was just an unfortunate thing for him,” said Thomas.

FIU has lost 10 out of their last 11 games and will have one more home game against Troy for senior night and then head to the conference tournament as presumably the sixth seed.
Golden Panthers split four-game tournament

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Staff Writer

FIU began their weekend against some heavy competition as they hosted No. 17 Georgia Tech and Pittsburgh on day one of the Blue and Gold Fallberg Memorial and faced off against Providence and Illinois in day two of the tournament.

FIU 9, GEORGIA TECH 1

FIU jumped on the Yellowjackets early en route to a 9-1 victory. “We had a lot of emotion and a lot of enthusiasm [against tournament.]

The Golden Panthers split four-game tournament

The Golden Panthers had scored the first time since 1998 that the Golden Panthers would add on her 3-or-3, five hits, giving FIU a 2-0 lead. McClain’s double which scored two to inning. Ashley McClain hit a RBI game with a solo homer in the third inning. “It was really great to get my swing back,” McClain said.

“The win gave the Golden Panthers their second consecutive sweep of the Owls, after suffering a sweep to FAU in the 2008-09 season. It was the first time since 1998 that the Golden Panthers had scored 100 points in a game. “The team played great. I couldn’t be prouder of the team,” Coach Cindy Russo said.

“We had a lot of emotion and a lot of enthusiasm [against Georgia Tech],” coach Beth Torina said. Fanni Hutlassa, Jerica Coley, and Krista Miloglav would get the rest of FIU’s offense for FIU.

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Students showcase their talents at Kennedy Center theater festival

ALFREDO APARICIO  Staff Writer

Actors, directors and costume designers all come together to create a world of escapism for an audience when putting on a production, even if it’s just for two hours.

For their dedication to this idea the students of FIU’s theater department were invited to the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The event held workshops for students, matinees and night shows as well as opportunities to further expand their horizons in the mediums related to the theater.

Zakya Markland, 19, a sophomore Theater BFA major, was extremely excited at her nomination to attend the acting competition portion of the festival for her performance as Mimi in last fall’s production of Rent.

“Being that this was my first big show, being nominated was really intimidating,” said Markland. “I came into the competition very nervous but willing to have fun. I didn’t think I would win because I was so young.”

Markland couldn’t have been more wrong.

With the help of her scene partner, Michael Mena, 21, a senior Theater BFA major, Markland made the judges laugh with words on Feb. 17 in the annual New Plays Direction portion of the festival. Markland’s playwright was Daniel Bjork and expressing ourselves through our movements and instincts,” said Jeanette Galup, 27, a theater BA major who attended the Kennedy Center as a director for the New Plays Direction portion of the festival.

“We were paired up and given four days to put on the play, from casting to rehearsals,” said Galup. Galup’s playwright was Daniel Bjork, who was runner-up for his original play. “It was a good experience because you had a small portion of time to bring many people and their ideas together to create the show,” said Mena. “It was a nice tradition.”

One of the more popular workshops was the Michael Chekhov for Teachers, a workshop dedicated to helping students explore different acting techniques.

“It was all running around (no words) and expressing ourselves through our movements and instincts,” said Jeanette Galup, 27, a theater BA major who attended the Kennedy Center as a director for the New Plays Direction portion of the festival.

“We were paired up and given four days to put on the play, from casting to rehearsals,” said Galup. Galup’s playwright was Daniel Bjork, who won runner-up for his original play. “It was a good experience because you had a small portion of time to bring many people and their ideas together to create the show,”

A SUNNY AFTERNOON

ALEX ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Freshmen Danielle Michel (left), a music major, and Mariana Fabregas (right), a business major, enjoy the unusually warm weather on Feb. 18 on the Green Library lawn. The pair put on an impromptu concert during their picnic.

Sell yourself for a good cause at cancer fundraiser

ALEX MACIEL Staff Writer

The hope for a better healthcare system and the need to help those suffering is the grounds for which Nicole Millan built her group. Millan, founder and president, created Project Hope at FIU with the intention to financially help low-income families, who have to bear the treatment cost of cancer treatment.

“Here’s the idea behind creating a club to promote cancer awareness,” said Millan.

The student fundraising organization is new, and began earlier this spring. This project was not initially FIU’s but instead came from Miami Dade College in Fall 2010. The University’s version is still in the making and changes are still to be made, said Millan.

The Project Hope mission is “to bring hope to those diagnosed with cancer and improve their lives in cooperation with the League Against Cancer, a community-based, not-for-profit organization providing free medical care to needy cancer patients.”

The finances inflicted on cancer victims is a huge burden to carry for families and to help relieve some weight, the goal of Project Hope is to raise $45,000 for patients. The typical cost for a full chemotherapy treatment is approximately $50,000.

“We already have $1,500 from simply garage sales,” said Millan.

To support the financial goal there will be three main upcoming events, including, a date auction, fashion show, and car wash.

The Fashion Show is one of the club’s biggest events and will be held at Miami Beach’s The Deauville Beach Resort. Many professional and novice models will be walking the runway for a cause. This compares with the next, less formal event, a car wash. Where car-washing proceeds, will contribute to this 45 thousand dollar quota.

The Date Auction takes place on Feb. 23 in the East College Center. It is free entry for FIU students, and $3 for Non-FIU students. FIU students must present a valid student ID. Donations will be accepted in cash, and all proceeds go towards financial support for cancer patients in need.
Students learn from theater professionals at festival

The play itself consisted of an all-black cast, who handled both the acting and technical sides of the play.

“The only way an acting program under the school of communications,” said Galup, “so it’s inspiring to see how a school without a big acting program could do so much and put on a great show.”

“You could tell all the actors enjoyed what they were doing and were into their performance,” said Mena.

Afterward, University students got a chance to bond with Tennessee State and noticed many similarities between them.

“Their style was very raw,” said Markland. “It’s a lot like what we have at FUU.”

“The other plays were more polite, but Ruined was more about the emotion,” said Galup. “I think it has to do with culture and the fact that down here [in Miami] we are more used to being emotionally available and expressive.”

“It’s about losing control of your emotions,” said Markland, “it’s about letting the feeling be true and getting in touch with your body.”

The event lasted from Feb. 1 to 5, was a big honor for the students of the University.

“It was my first time going so there were definitely plenty of emotions,” said Mena, “but it’s ultimately about going out there and doing the best you can.”

FASHION FINDS

Colorful accessories take simple outfits to the next level

Whenever I’m getting dressed for the day or for a night out, I think of one item in my wardrobe and build an outfit from that. For me, it’s either a pair of hooker heels or a top. For a lot of people an outfit is completely based off an accessory.

Out of everything in a girl’s closet, accessories give you the most freedom to break out and wear. A simple white tee and jeans can become loads more fun with just the addition of a colorful necklace or a silk scarf.

Scarfes are my favorite item on the accessories list.

This week in campus:

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2011

TODAY’S VEGGIE LUNCHES

GONE SIGHTING

• AFRICAN STUDIES

WHO: MMC

WHEN: 6-9 p.m.

WHERE: Kendall Hall

UNITED FOR HAITI DONATION DRIVE

• SPURR & GROWTH AFRICAN STUDIES

WHO: BBC Campus

WHEN: 7-8 p.m.

WHERE: Kendall Hall

WOMEN’S BUS Bands

• SPURR & GROWTH AFRICAN STUDIES

WHO: BBC

WHEN: 6-9 p.m.

WHERE: BBC

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ

I have a severe obsession with pashminas, oversized scarves that I throw on with almost every outfit. They come in almost every color imaginable. The best ones are only $10 and sold at Bijoux Tenner’s and even at Nararro. I’m not kidding when I say I have 12 pashminas. It’s a sad, sad story.

When it comes to jewelry, I tend to wear a thin line.

I like the clean look of bare skin not covered up with jewels, but I also can’t resist a statement necklace or cocktail ring.

When it comes to earrings try a simple hoop. Leave your name out of the center of it, please. Thin gold and silver hoops are a classic look that has been around since pirates were cool. Being the annoyingly preppy ex-private schoolgirl that I am, I also love the look of pearl earrings. For almost all occasions, a small understated diamond (or cubic zirconia because only a jeweler could really tell the difference) earring works. If you’re wearing an insane outfit with lots of color and patterns, don’t let jewelry or other accessories compete.

I like mentioned before, statement necklaces are true to their name. They are oversized and really add a punch to outfits.

Now that spring is here, bring out the bright colors. I love the look of turquoise with any color. The other day I put on a plain coral-colored tee and a turquoise necklace I got from a New York street vendor and to my surprise the outfit was a hit. The combination of the colors looked really fun and put a goofy spring in my step.

I’m not going to lie, finding the perfect statement necklace is really difficult. The best way to find yours is to visit a store and design your own. Michael’s offers a lot of variety in stones although they are kind of pricey. Do your research and find a store that sells beads at wholesale prices. I know making your own necklace sounds like a daunting task, but it’s actually quite simple. Besides, the wire and string usually come with dummy-proof instructions.

I’ve mentioned in previous columns how awesome I think cocktail rings look. I also like the look of simple bands grouped together on one finger. They are easily found at Forever 21 or practically any store. It’s my version of Bulgari’s “Zeri” ring but about $120 cheaper. Beaded bracelets made with stones or wood beads are really simple and nice to wear with your everyday wardrobe.

I like to wear a thick gold bangle or a beaded bracelet with my oversized watch. Watches are probably one of the best accessories you can buy. I buy a new Michael Kors watch every year as a little pick me up in anticipation of a new school year. It’s a total indulgence because each watch costs around $250 but I promise they are worth the dent in your account.

Fashion Finds is a weekly column on fashion. Look for it every Monday.
Unwarranted student fees stress income

JARROD KNOWLES  Contributing Writer

A few days ago, I logged into my.fiu.edu and clicked the “Account Inquiry” link. It says I owe $1200! But, held on a minute. What in the world am I paying for?

I have my own health insurance, thank you. A parking access fee? This really does not relate the concepts taught in our textbooks to current domestic and international issues. As a requirement, we, the students, are responsible for reading the Wall Street Journal and keeping up with major economic issues. This requirement enabled us to understand the global economy. Professor Sabarot-Carillo obtained multiple degrees, including his PhD from The University of California Berkeley.

Most of the professors at the business school at the University are properly preparing their students for the real world. Professor Christopher Ellis, an instructor at the University’s business school, prepares his students by teaching them the proper concepts and tools needed in order to thrive in this competitive business world.

Professor Ellis teaches two courses: Quantitative Methods in Business and Operations Management. During his lectures for both of his courses, Ellis applies fictional scenarios to real-life instances. Over the years, Ellis has designed The Jiffy Cube Game for his Quantitative Methods in Business course. It sounds crazy, but the game requires students in groups of eleven to efficiently solve fifteen Rubik’s cubes.

According to Ellis, the purpose of the game is to “give context to the use of the statistical tools.” Students are constantly raving about his teaching methods, including me. This semester, I am enrolled in his Quantitative Methods in Business and I can almost solve the Rubik’s cube.

Kristijana L Magnudottir, a junior marketing major, believes that the material she is being taught is going to immensely benefit her after her future job. She says, “A lot of professors make us, the students, try to understand the complexity of current business issues in a realistic fashion.”

To further ensure success, the University’s business school also provides different programs to its students. As business students, we have the opportunity to take courses abroad in countries such as Spain and France. This enables students to better understand the global business market.

I have completed half of the business courses required for graduation, and I could not be happier with the material I have been taught. My experiences with my business professors have been useful and successful. I am excited to continue my education at the University’s business school.

Econ with Neda is a bi-weekly column. Look for it every other Monday. To submit story ideas, email neda.ghomeshi@fi usm.com.

How do you feel about the student fees? Please leave your thoughts below.

VERBATIM
“I don’t want anyone to lose their job, whether they’re a federal employee or not. But come on! We’re broke! We’ve got to make tough decisions.”

House Speaker John Boehner at a press conference on a government shutdown
Chocolatier sees festival as a learning experience

**CHRISTOPHER TURPIN**
Contributing Writer

Two people decided last summer to take their talents to South Beach and leave the cold behind. One went to the American Airlines Arena and the other to the Hospitality Management building at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Daniel Bloom, sophomore hospitality major from Hollywood, Fla., decided now was the time to return home after graduating from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY. It’s only been a been about a month since the semester started but Bloom, 25, is already a teacher’s assistant in training, listed on the Student Leadership Board by Mike Hampton, dean of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management; and President of the Food and Wine Club. To top it off he will be a student lead with this year’s South Beach Food and Wine Festival which lasts from Feb. 24 to 27, and personal assistant to such chefs as Danny Meyer, Andrew Shotts, Godiva head chef David Funaro, and Jacques Torres.

But these rewards and responsibilities haven’t been handed down to Bloom, he’s had to earn it. Bloom started his collegiate career at the University of Florida but eventually transferred to the CIA.

“I found out I was cooking more than I went to class,” Bloom said.

While at the CIA, he excelled at making pastries and chocolates and developed a talent on the side as a bee keeper.

“They just asked us one day if anybody would be interested in our honey cultivating program, and we would be working with bees,” said Bloom.

And the skills would come in handy while working at the Ritz Carlton in Orlando, Fla, for a year and a half, as he would cultivate honey for celebrity clientele.

His passion for what he does is the reason he puts so much work and attention into what he does and is why he never stops trying to learn as much as he can.

“My mom was a teacher for 27 years and the greatest thing she ever taught me is never to stop learning,” Bloom said.

“And because of that, I’m a sponge; if you give me the opportunity I’ll soak it up.”

The opportunity to participate in an event such as the South Beach Wine & Food Festival which will take place this weekend from Feb. 25 to 27.

**BLOOM, page 6**

**SOUTH BEACH WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL 2011**

Two councils exist despite empty seats, redundancies

**BECCA GRIESEMANN**
Staff Writer

Seemingly since the day the Student Government Association was dissolved, there has been University President Modesto A. Maidique, who has been yearning to put it back together again. Following ascripción, then SGC-MMC vice president Arthur “AJ” Meyer proposed to form a committee to re-evaluate SGA in order to search for the best system possible, according to an article in the Nov. 08, 2007 issue of The Beacon.

“The American Student Government Association compiled a report, sent to Meyer on March 19, 2009, that provided three separate opinions to the question: Should there be a single Student Body President serving both the Biscayne Bay Campus and [MMC]?”

One report began, “This is easily answered in a single word: ‘No.’”

The other two opinions expressed the same sentiment.

“But while SGA remains governed by separate councils, the questionable logistics of operating with two councils keeps the debate alive.

Sholom Neistein, former SGC-BBC president, said the theoretical merge will never happen.

“Nobody’s in favor of it. I mean, I’m not going to say nobody because MMC is always in favor of it,” Neistein said. “But Dr. [Rose] Jones [MMC president of student affairs] is not going to let it happen.”

Neistein said Jones would have the final decision on the matter and that she’d refuse a merger because when the councils were originally combined, BBC was unfairly represented.

“Of press time Jones did not respond to calls and emails to her office.

“All the resources went to [MMC]. So when all the resources are pumped into one locale, and 20 percent of the population resides here, it’s not fair,” Neistein said.

Craig Cunningham, director of student affairs at BBC, agrees with the results of the report, and said BBC deserves its own student government that provides needed programs, services, and funding.

“The Student Government Council at MMC is constitutionally required to have 32 senators, but currently has three vacancies. The council at BBC is required to have 11 less senators than MMC, yet has three times as many vacancies. In order to make quorum, the number of members required for a formal senate or general meeting, attendance of senators is determined by fifty percent plus one.

With SGC-BBC holding 11 senators, this means that six senators are required to be in a meeting that could potentially vote on decisions that affect the entire BBC population. It also logically means that fewer bodies are available to accomplish tasks, and those present assume greater responsibilities, while making nearly the same amount as SGC-MMC officials.

SGC-MMC has six associate justices. At the beginning of the spring semester, SGC-BBC had zero associate justices and vacancies in four created positions: internship coordinator, director of sustainability, director of community relations and outreach, and director of external relations.

Tiffany Huertas, SGC-BBC press secretary, said the council consists of 43 positions, but 13 spots remain unfilled. Sixty two positions are listed on SGC-MMC’s website for executive, legislative, and judicial branch; out of those 62, four spots are vacant.

Orhlen Higgins, former SGC-BBC press secretary, described complications he faced with working on a small council.

Higgins said he tried to juggle all aspects of the press while simultaneously helping other cabinet members with whatever was needed.

“At MMC, you have one person doing each thing: a marketing person, someone for press, a webmaster,” Higgins said. “But one person doing it all is a very heavy load.”

While Jeravis “Jey” Floyd, hospitality senator, said having a smaller council makes sense because BBC is a smaller campus, he is well aware of the difficulties it presents.

“We’re trying to put people in committees and people are either on a committee or a chair of one, so we’re pulling hairs with the ones we have,” Floyd said.

Higgins greeted the idea of one council with skepticism.

“From being on the inside of SGA, I don’t think MMC knows the vibe or atmosphere of the students [at BBC],” Higgins said. As of press time, Rafael Zapata, SGC-BBC advisor was unavailable for comment.

While many at BBC agreed there could never be one council, some could at least offer solutions.

Floyd said that the senate is looking into amending article four of the SGA constitution, which says to qualify for SGA, one must be registered for no less than 50 percent of classes at the campus he or she represents.

If it were amended, a student who has less than half of their classes at BBC could still qualify for to be a part of SGC-BBC, thereby potentially increasing the council size. Neistein’s suggestion was a bit more complex.

“The only way I would see one council working is if one, the president would have a basis on both campuses, meaning the president would be a given a cell phone and cell phone and pass to that campus,” Neistein said.

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“The only way I would see one council working is if one, the president would have a basis on both campuses, meaning the president would be a given a cell phone and cell phone to commute to both campuses,” Neistein said.

Neistein’s second requirement: two offices, two vice presidents, and for this president to show his or her presence at each campus a minimum of twice a week.

“If there’s going to be one council, it’s always going to be a president from [MMC],” Neistein said.

Additional reporting by Vincent Fernandez. Full article at fi usm.com.

**Becca Griesemans works as a Boat Writer covering the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus.**