Senior VP returns to Take up the ‘next level’

MELOSA CACERES
Staff Writer

The former Head of Advancement returned to the University, without the benefit of a national search, a slightly different title and accusations of having created a hostile work environment at Ohio University.

University President Mark Rosenberg appointed Howard Lipman as the senior vice president of university advancement. Lipman rejoined FIU last November from Ohio University, where he served as the vice president for university advancement, and president and CEO of the Ohio University Foundation since 2006.

He was previously at FIU from 2002 to 2006 in a similar leadership position. According to Jaffus Hardrick, vice president of university advancement, Lipman has been appointed as the new senior vice president for university advancement.

“I feel FIU has endless potential. We are in the beginning stages of a $750 million fundraising campaign that will respond to our evergrowing needs,” said Lipman in an interview with Student Media. “It also allows us to engage our alumni, parents, friends, faculty and staff in the future of our community.”

During his time at Ohio University, more than $200 million were raised for the institution.

Donor gifts included a $28 million naming gift for the College of Education, a $13.3 million gift for arts education and a $7.5 million lead gift for the Scripps College of Communication.

He also helped obtain a $95 million gift for the Russ College of Engineering and Technology, which is considered one of the most significant gifts in the history of Ohio University.

“The fact that he came over to congratulate him,” Lipman said in an interview with Student Media. “They know him and now it’s just all about reacquainting those donors.”

Howard worked closely with academic leaders in the development and execution of Ohio University’s $450 million fundraising campaign, “The Promise Lives,” which supports initiatives like scholarships endowed professorships for faculty, research, campus building renovation and expanded outreach programs pivoting around medical care.

Yet Lipman returns to the FIU with a diving grab, tapped third base to give Wittels his second fielder’s choice of the night.

At the end of the inning Wittels ran by the SLU dugout to compliment Pace on his catch.

“Being under all that pressure, it shows great character on his part,” said Pace, who threw him out twice in the game.

Igor Melo

BASEBALL, page 3

National campaign urges students to study in China

NICOLE CASTRO
Staff Writer

A growing initiative pushed by both President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama is propelling students, now more than ever, to take advantage of studying abroad in China.

Launched 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 scholar- ships 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

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 she made 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 and look at the story, 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 any evidence we 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’

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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 President Obama’s initiative on China. I think those are necessary actions through the U.S. to really begin to understand 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 a preferred 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; 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 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 factors,” said Pietro Alosilla, International Relations major, who is currently in his second semester of Mandarin.

Hernandez praises the current effort by FIU’s Asian Program for its ability to adequately prepare students who choose to study abroad 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 available programs for students to travel to China, Hernandez has had to see that a recent trend that she has observed over the years is 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 following by a study abroad opportunity. The program is geared towards helping students develop skills needed to do business with Chinese industries.

Yamillia Tona, International Relations major, was one of the 30 students that studied in China during the summer of 2010.

She had to adjust to minor changes such as paying for meals when dining at a restaurant or paying for merchandise at 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 Marriott Tianjin program 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 many 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 an extra kind of dedication to learn the language, understand the people, so they 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.”

The Beacon – Monday, February 21, 2011 www.fiusm.com
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 pop-up to SLU’s shortstop Justin Boudreaux. Boudreaux flipped the grounder to second baseman Cody Goughler as he ran into the bullpen fence down the right field line in foul territory.

“We liked the way we played,” said Turtle Thomas. “The way we went after the ball 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.

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 hit to left brought in designated hitter Mike Martinez, second baseman T.J. Shantz, and left fielder Pablo Bermudez. “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.”

With 46 seconds left in regulation, Ferguson dribbled 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.”

The Golden Panthers would have the ball 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 Gaunt that was originally blocked by Brandon Moore, but was ruled goaltending with 16 seconds left to play.

The Golden Panthers would have the ball last one 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,” coach Thomas said.

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.

Jackson Wolek

The Golden Panthers lost another close game to FAU on Feb. 19 in an 80-78 overtime game that saw them lose twice 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 leave 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 Gaunt that was originally blocked by Brandon Moore, but was ruled goaltending with 16 seconds left to play.

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MEN’S BASKETBALL

Owls deal Golden Panthers overtime loss at home

Jackson Wolek

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Coley scores 21 in rout over rival Florida Atlantic

RICRO ALBARRACIN
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers came away with their first Sun Belt conference sweep of the season, coming against their cross-town rival. FIU cruised to a 100-64 victory against their South Florida rival Florida Atlantic.

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.

“They played great. I couldn’t be prouder of the team,” Coach Cindy Russo said.

FIU was led by freshman Jerica Coley, who led all scorers with 21 points, and senior Michelle Gonzalez, who added 21 points and 6 assists. Rakia Rodgers made her return to the hardwood and her presence was felt, as she had a 21-point, 8-rebound effort.

“Her energy player. She yells, she screams. She gives us that boost that we need,” Coley said.

The Golden Panthers got off to a hot start, jumping out to a 10-4 lead over the Owls. The contributions from different players like Fanni Hutlassa, Jerica Coley, and Finda Mansare kicked started the offense for FIU.

At the 13:59 mark in the first half, Rakia Rodgers checked into the game for the first time. It was the first time Rodgers had played since Jan 22, when she sustained an injury to her left ankle. Rodgers said, “We have never needed her more than this past week.”

After iTunes music download, the Fighting Illini were leading 5-3, the Fighting Illini put up good shots, consistently running into FIU’s smothering defense.

The Golden Panthers put pressure on the Owls with double-teams and smothering defense.

The biggest issue for the Owls was containing the Golden Panthers from beyond the arc, with FIU shooting 7-11 from the three point area. The Golden Panthers would continue to maintain a stranglehold on the game, going into halftime with a 51-25 lead.

With 7:35 left in the game, Carmen Miloglav would get the rest she needed while FIU maintained a large lead.

The Golden Panthers pushed their lead to 64-33 lead with 3:58 left in the game, which point point FAU intensified their defense with the possibility of scoring 100 points.

With 22 seconds left, and a 97-64 lead, Rodgers pulled up for a three-point shot to put the Golden Panthers over the century mark. As the final seconds ticked off, the crowd gave FIU’s standing ovation.

“It was our defense. If we just traded baskets, then the score could go 300 to 300,” said Russo.

“Never talked so much on defense.”

“This is a great team. They work hard every game. I’m proud of them,” said Russo.
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 BA 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 in the first round of the competition and advanced to the semi-finals.

“When she heard her named called, I think I was more excited than she was. She couldn’t believe it,” said Mena. “All she could think was ‘I’m being ‘Punk’d’ right?’”

Markland didn’t advance to the finals, but she did credit Mena as being a big help by encouraging her and being a good support system during the competition.

“He’s really intelligent and I really wanted someone who could help me,” said Markland.

Michael Mena, who started as Collins in the fall production of Rent as well as acting in the annual Rocky Horror Picture Show, described his experience at KCACTF as “the quickest five days I have ever experienced in my lifetime. There was always something to do.”

Apart from the competitions, the students were encouraged to attend shows, which helped strengthen bonds between the students, as well as workshops, which taught new techniques in costume design and acting.

“We were encouraged to watch the shows and bond and enjoy ourselves…[to] watch something that we enjoyed doing,” 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.”

Caroline Spitzer, 21, a junior theater BFA major for Costume Design has been involved in costume construction since her freshman year at FIU. Spitzer will

THEATER, page 6

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 lawns. The pair put on an impromptu concert during their picnic.

A.ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

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.

“Tell a large history of cancer in my family. I understand that some families cannot afford the high cost of treatment. This was 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 Millian.

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 Millian.

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.

But the group's first major event is The Date Auction. It is exactly as it sounds: volunteers will auction off a date in return for donations. Bids will be made, and the highest gets the date. During this event, there will be free food, drinks, and music.

“It is a fun and great way to gain proceeds for this good cause,” said Millian. Students will compete against each other in an auction for the right to take that person out on a date. This will usually mean dinner, a movie or lunch. The premise of the date can be entirely up to the dater and donor.

The Date Auction will be a vital way for this growing club to do good and help these people who have fell victim to the life-threatening illness.

Project Hope and FIU Maps are hosting. The Date Auction takes place on Feb. 23 in the East GC Ballrooms.

It is free entry for FIU students, and $3 for Non-FIU students. FIU students must present a valid student ID. All donations will be accepted in cash, and all proceeds go towards financial support for cancer patients in need.
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 your creativity. A simple white tee and jeans can become loads more fun with just the addition of a colorful necklace or a silk scarf.

Scarves are one of my favorite items on the accessories list. They are straight up practical. You could wrap one around your shoulders when you are cold. You can use it to give your outfit a retro feel by choosing a paisley scarf straight out of the 70s. Scarves offer so many possibilities for outfit greatness.

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 Tenne’s and even at Navarro. 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 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 they are kind of pricey). Do your research and find a store that you are more used to being emotionally available. I’m not going to lie, finding the perfect statement necklace is really difficult. The best way I know how to save money is to 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 Bulgar’s “Zen” ring but about $1200 cheaper. Beaded macrame 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 everyday watch. Watches are probably one of the best accessories you can buy. I buy a new Michael Kors watch every year as a little pat on the back for the start 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.

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. “They only have 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.”

“Your 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 FIU.”

“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.”

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

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

Student to meet inspiration at Food and Wine Festival

As long as I’m here, if you’re not taking advantage of the opportunity at hand then why bother,” Bloom said.

BLOOM, page 8

event such as the WFF played a big part in why the young chef chose the University. “The SoBe [Wine and Food Festival] is a major reason why I came here,” Bloom said.

While there might be some pressure working around such big names, Bloom feels that he’ll perform just fine. “I do realize I have a lot to prove but this is a great opportunity for me to go out and make connections and network as well,” Bloom said.

One of his professors, Chef Roger Probst, shares his sentiment. “Of course he can handle it, he’ll do fine,” Probst said.

Bloom is one of a few select students that will be sleeping over in a South Beach hotel courtesy of event sponsors, sign of a long weekend ahead of him.

He hasn’t even been through the ringers of his first food and wine festival yet, but Bloom is already hyped up in anticipation of next year’s festival. 

“Do not freak out, it’s a brand new experience and a lot of fun,” Bloom said.
Unwarranted student fees stress income

JARROD KNOWLES
Contributing Writer

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

First, I pay University Health Services during the semester, then there’s the rest of the student community.

Quite frankly, if I am paying a health fee and I not visit University Health Services during the semester, then something is terribly wrong.

However, my intention is not to point the finger or cast judgment. Rather, I wish to shed light and ultimately raise awareness on this prevalent issue that troubles, confuses, and infuriates many students.

In life, money is one thing that every person understands. As human beings, we have all contributed our time, labor, and expertise to make a buck, regardless of our line of work.

With that being said, we as college students, some of us working, now fully understand an average hardworking and responsible person’s perspective of money. It is established that money must be earned. Does not grow on trees and, furthermore, it takes effort, dedication, and sacrifice to make ends meet.

I might add that in some cases, it may even require blood, sweat, and tears to put food on the table and settle the bills.

Therefore, it is evident that the frustration and discontentment which a college student feels when they are paying fees as well as how it benefits us. After all, we work hard for our possessions and wealth. “Money does not grow on trees,” as my parents used to tell me. Technically it does come from paper, which is extracted from a tree, however, the fact of the matter is that money is not always so easily accessible. Realistically, you must contribute your time, labor, and expertise to make a buck, regardless of your line of work.

While I am in agreement with the fees and taxes which a college student pays in order to get an education, I am not sure that paying unauthorized fees which we unwillingly or unknowingly pay for and receive no benefit in return. Quite frankly, if I am paying a health fee and I not visit University Health Services during the semester, then something is terribly wrong.

Ultimately, in order to ensure that students get the full value for the money they spend and get the best overall college experience, the University must revisit their policies and procedures regarding student fees to ensure that it is just and “student-friendly.”

If you ask me, I am certainly being taken advantage of. We all know that money is the lifeblood of society and yet we continue to be taken for a ride. The system is broken and needs to be fixed.

To further ensure that 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@fiusm.com.

ROBEACON | Editorial

Single council system a possibility with changes

This is the first of two editorials addressing the suggestion of a one-council student government.

Despite a lack of filled positions, general inefficiencies and redundancies present within the two-council system, The Beacon believes a one-council Student Government Association would benefit students. It’s time that we take this stance with several reservations.

As of now 58 of the 62 positions of the Student Government Council at Modesto Madonna Campus are filled. However, the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus currently sustains 13 vacancies of the 42 available positions. Clearly, SGC- BCC is having issues as many students filled to provide adequate representation for their already small student body, further endangering the importance of under-representation when it comes to University-wide concerns.

Because these councils operate as two separate entities, it is imperative that they meet to communicate. However both councils have failed to fulfill the monthly joint council meeting mandate. Additionally, several Univer- sity-wide council meetings have been cancelled during Fall 2010 and Spring 2011, further widening the gulf of miscommunication.

Also, both councils have various redundant positions where one student could effectively serve both campuses’ positions. For example, the press secretary position is one that unnecessarily has two separate individuals communicating with the press secretary often and, from where we stand, with proper communication the work of both press secre- taries could easily be handled by individuals of one campus, perhaps with a deputy for BCC, if that is possible.

Furthermore, while the student population at BCC certainly deserve representation, the current council structure echoes that of an autonomous institution, which contradicts the fact that BCC is ultimately a satellite college of Univer- sity of Miami, not a separate establishment.

With the current student government set- up, under-representation of BCC under a one-council system is a possibility. If both councils at MMC could easily overpower the sena- tors at BCC, making it very difficult, if not nearly impossible, to pass initiatives that are campus specific.

Couple that with the severe lack of filled positions in their council, one can see howכב can be ignored and rendered incapable of doing work that needs to be done in order to represent its student’s interests in a one council system. Granted, such issues exist in represen- tation, and some initiatives are still passed, albeit with compromises.

On a larger scale, SGC-MMC naturally favors its campus and may operate with complete disregard to the wants and needs of BCC, and vice versa. This could be a source of conflict in a one-council system. However, if structural and procedural changes are made to the one-council system, SGA overall would give fair and equal repre- sentation to both campuses, in addition to elimin- ating the need of redundant positions between the two councils.

As stated in a Fall 2009 Beacon editorial, our University leadership structure offers a prime example of a one-council system. SGA should follow suit, as professors, de- partments and councils represent their respective schools and departments, but at the end of the day they report to one president. Likewise, SGA should streamline their structure to reflect a similar system, but major revisions must be made that will strive to eliminate under-representation.

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.”

— President Barack Obama
SOUTH BEACH WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL 2011

Chocolatier sets 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 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 to never 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 where some of the world’s best chefs as Danny Meyer, Andrew Shotts, 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.

At the end of the festival Bloom will also be making his debut as a television host.

Two councils exist despite empty seats, redundancies

Becca Griesemer
Staff Writer

Seemingly since the day the Student Government Association was dissolved, then University President Modesto A. Maidique, there have been members yearning to put it back together again.

Less than four years ago, then SGC-MMC’s website for executive, MMC, yet has three times as many students, MMC, yet has three times as many members yearning to put it back together again.

Less than four years ago, then SGC-MMC vice president Arthur “AJ” Meyer proposed to form a committee to 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 student-run 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 in 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 keep the debate alive.

Sholom Neistein, former SGC-MMC 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. [Bea] Jones MMC, former 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, MMC was unfairly represented.

As 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 MMC, agreed with Neistein.

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