Students and professors weigh on technology usage

ANAULIA FIESTAS
Staff Writer

The days when paper and pencil were a necessity in the classroom are long gone. Nowadays, students have replaced old-school items for trendy laptops, simple recording devices, expensive iPads and the like.

“I find technology to be extremely useful in the classroom. Professors have a lot to cover in very little time, and they try their best to make good use of their time. Because of this, their lectures fast and loaded with information,” said Vanessa Vicent, senior and meteorology major. “If students were to sit in class with paper and pencil, there is no way they could write all the information given. On the other hand, recording lectures on an iPhone or Blackberry is definitely the way to go.”

Students at the University, as well as other universities, have welcomed technological academic programs that help them succeed in the classroom. This is why Nashini Khan, an algebra and trigonometry professor, believes technology is indeed useful to students.

“MyMathLab for instance, is an online learning tool which serves as a web-based form of technological assistance in the classroom,” said Khan. According to Khan, the program is very successful in not only giving students the opportunity to practice core concepts taught in the classroom, but also in providing students with essential tools such as an electronic copy of the textbook, step by step assistance to problematic questions and an updated overall progress through the duration of the course.

Professor Maureen Kenny, who teaches at the College of Education, believes technology is more than beneficial to students.

“Technology can be used to enhance learning,” said Kenny. “Students who see a film clip about an important concept, may remember it more than a lecture. Also, I have had students look up facts on the net during class related to a topic that I am lecturing on and add to the discussion.”

However, not everyone at the University supports the use of technology in the classroom.

“Technology is a complete distraction,” said Evelyn Carmen, a sophomore majoring in biology. “You can play games on your phone, shop online through your laptop, watch videos or listen to music on your iPod. [It is] too much fun and should be kept outside the classroom.”

University Police Department looks to a new boss

MELISSA CACERES
Asst. News Director

University President Mark Rosenberg recently announced that the FIU Police Department will now be reporting to Chief Finance Officer and Senior Vice President Kenneth Jessell.

“The safety and security of our entire university community is central to everything we do at FIU,” said Rosenberg. “As we embark on a new era of growth, we look to the police and emergency management teams to help us maintain a safe environment where we thrive intellectually and stay World’s Ahead.”

In a memo sent out to University members, President Rosenberg stated that he had previously asked Jessell to head the implementation of changes to the emergency response system.

Since Jessell became responsible for the Office of Emergency Management, which works closely with the Police Department, the president felt that “it makes sense that this unit should also report to him.”

“This is a very common model at other institutions,” said Jessell in an interview with FIU Student Media. “You’re going to see a lot better communication and improvements in services, with respect to public safety and emergency management.”

The Police Department would be transitioning from the leadership of Rosa Jones, vice president of student affairs.

“When you look at all of the challenges and opportunities that the University is facing with respect to direct student issues like the new housing developments, it was felt that the division of student affairs would be better served by focusing on those things and not having to deal with public safety and police,” said Jessell.

The president also announced that Police Chief Bill King is retiring, after six years with the University and nearly 37 years in law enforcement.

King, who was once Chief of Police at Wayne State University and Deputy Chief at the Ypsilanti, Mich. Police Department, will assist the University in its national search for a new police chief. According to Rosenberg, Captain Alphonse Iannullo “has agreed to provide leadership for the department” until the replacement is chosen.

“As a university community, we thank Chief King for his dedication and commitment to FIU,” said Rosenberg.
New senate approves 2011-2012 budget, more cabinet staff members

SENATE, page 1

The student government council decides the University-wide budget but each campus’ budget committee and senate decide on and approve or deny, respectively, the budget for their respective campuses.

The SGC-MMC budget committee - made up of the president, vice president, senate speaker and senate speaker pro tempore, with help from the comptroller and finance committee chair - submitted the 2011-12 MMC budget to the senate for approval.

The senate rejected the budget which was sent back to the budget committee, but instead of being sent back to the senate for approval it was sent to Rosa Jones, vice president of student affairs and the person with final say on SGA budget matters.

There were disagreements between the senate and the budget committee about the language of require- ments for certain items on the budget and the amounts for those items, according to Dawson who used Greek letters to represent the numbers.

Senators asked “Why are other organizations getting cut but Greek Affairs is getting an increase?” Dawson said during the June 20 meeting.

Last year’s budget committee claimed they received pressure from University administration and had no choice but to send the budget to Jones.

This never happened before, according to Hector Mujica, former senate speaker, in an article published on April 20.

With the year and the 38th senate’s session coming to a close, there was no time for the senate to approve the budget and the task fell to the comptroller.

Jones updated the language in the budget but the numbers are the same, according to Dawson.

The budget passed 12 to 2.

The executive branch, much like the senate, recently came into power and is in staff building mode. There were cabinet confirmations the last four senate meetings, excluding the June 6 meeting which did not take place because there wasn’t enough senators to conduct a meeting.

In the cabinet, only the deputy comptroller is not a paid position. All other positions are paid at minimum $200 for elections board members, $400 for coordinators.

Since its May 9 meeting, the senate has confirmed more than 15 cabinet members including Alex Castro, chief of staff; Philip Colesanti, attorney general; Cristina Loreto, comptroller and Laura Pacchioni, press secretary.

New law clears the way for gay marriage in NY

New York becomes the sixth state where gay couples can wed, doubling the number of Americans living in a state with legal gay marriage.

Pending any court challenges, legal gay marriages can begin in New York within 30 days.

Ultimately, gay couples will be able to marry it regains momentum after an almost identical bill was introduced here in 2009 and similar measures failed in 2010. Ultimately, gay couples will be able to marry.

In 2010, gay couples were able to marry in New York within 30 days.

...and help galvanize the movement around the country and help it regain momentum after an almost identical bill was defeated here in 2009 and similar measures failed in 2010. Ultimately, gay couples will be able to marry because of two previously undecided Republicans from upstate regions far more conservative than the New York City base of the gay rights movement.

The International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, his son and his intelligence chief for crimes against humanity.

...for trying to cover up imprisonment of hundreds of civilians during the first...and his intelligence chief Abdullah al-Sanoussi...and his intelligence chief for crimes against humanity

The big win for gay rights advocates is expected to be reconciled with the Senate version. The nonpar- tisan Cuba Study group condemned the move.

The amendment heads to the House floor. If it passes, it would still have to head to the budget committee, but instead of being sent back to the senate for approval it was sent to Rosa Jones, vice president of student affairs and the person with final say on SGA budget matters. This never happened before, according to Hector Mujica, former senate speaker, in an article published on April 20.

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Jamaica, Honduras pick up wins in Gold Cup matches at FIU Stadium

IGOR MELLO
Asst. Sports Director

For the second time, FIU Stadium hosted Gold Cup matches and saw near sell-out crowds witness victories for Jamaica and Honduras on June 10.

JAMAICA 2, GUATEMALA 0

In a physical match that resulted in 29 fouls, five bookings and an expulsion, Jamaica survived to pick up a tough 2-0 victory over Guatemala (0-1-1, one point) to open off the CONCACAF Gold Cup festivities in front of 18,057 spectators at FIU Stadium.

With the victory, the “Reggae Boyz” (2-0-0, six points) clinched a spot in the Quarterfinal knock-out stage.

Both teams started slow in the opening half, not being able to create many scoring opportunities. But it was in the second half when Jamaican forward Keanan Daley subbed in for Ryan Johnson in the 63rd minute, where the game began to change in Jamaica’s favor.

“We allowed the Guatemalans to do what they wanted to do in the game and dictate the game. For us, we had to make the adjustments in the second half,” said Jamaican Head Coach Theodore Whitmore.

In the 65th minute, immediately after the adjustment, Daley sent a lob near midfield to forward Demar Phil-

lipps. Phillips received the aerial pass in scoring range and with a Guate-

malan defender on his shoulder, he struck a shot in to the lower right

Malan lips, who paid homage to teammate

Phillips' teammate and New York

Red Bulls forward Dane Richards

weaved in and out of coverage inside the baseline of the box. It wasn’t

until Richards beat three defenders when he dished it off to Phillips for the finish in the right corner of the net to seal a 2-0 score for Jamaica.

Phillips’ double earned him Man of the Match honors.

Phillips, who scored only five times in his first 41 national appear-

ances, has now scored three times for Jamaica in the last two matches. He spent two years playing for Stoke City in the English Premier league where he only had two appearances. He then transferred to his current club, Aalesund in Norway.

Los Angeles Galaxy keeper, Donovan Ricketts also earned the clean sheet for Jamaica.

According to Whitmore, his team’s nine-day expedition to Brazil is a major factor in their qualification to the second round.

“If I can recall, in the Gold Cup 2009 we went out in this stage,” said Whit-

more. “That has helped for the success that we’re having now.”

Jamaica defeated Guatemala 20 on June 10 to clinch a spot in the Gold Cup quarterfinals.

Baseball

FIU falls in regional; Behar, Patton drafted

RICIO ALBARRACIN
Asst. Sports Director

After a 2010 season that saw the Golden Panthers win the Sun Belt Conference, FIU looked to repeat as SBC champions 2011. Off-field troubles at the beginning of the season did not make things easy, but the Golden Panthers achieved a great number of success this past season.

There were many questions leading up to the season, in particular what would happen with Garrett Wittels and his ongoing legal situation. Before the season started, the coaching staff, along with the university, made a decision to allow Wittels to play.

Once that was out of the way, FIU tore through its 13-game home stand, going 11-2, including a 10 game winning streak.

During the team’s winning streak, Kyle Fitzpatrick threw a no-hitter against Northern Eastern University, giving the program it’s fifth no-hitter, and it’s first complete game no-hitter since the Golden Panthers joined Division I in 1983. Shortly after the game, Fitzpatrick sent his autographed baseball cap to the College Baseball Hall of Fame in Lubbock, Texas.

Another milestone achieved during the winning streak was Head Coach Turtle Thomas celebrating his 100th victory at FIU, becoming the second fastest coach to do so in the program’s 38-year history.

The Golden Panthers would go through a tough patch while going on their first road trip of the season, dropping seven out of 10 games. As conference play got under way, the Golden Panthers played at an average level, not being able to establish a winning streak.

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**SOFTBALL**

**Torina departs for Louisiana State coaching job**

MALCOLM SHIELDS

Staff Writer

After four seasons at the helm of the FIU softball program, Coach Beth Torina has accepted the vacant softball head coaching position at Louisiana State University, according to LSU’s sports.net on June 20. Torina leaves the program with an overall 129-111 mark and a 57-44 Sun Belt Conference record with the Golden Panthers. Torina and LSU had an introductory press conference to announce her as the new head coach on June 22 in Baton Rouge.

The Golden Panthers made some of its greatest strides during her four year tenure. In 2010, the Golden Panthers reached the NCAA tournament for the second time in program history by posting a 38-21 record and the No. 2 seed in the Sun Belt Conference tournament. In the past three seasons, the Golden Panthers collected three consecutive seasons with over 30 wins and recorded over 13 plus wins in conference play in all four of her seasons at FIU.

“The opportunity that was presented in front of me was just one you could not pass up in your coaching career,” Torina said of joining LSU. “I think LSU does it on a bigger stage and their funding is different... Completely different conference... with all of those things I feel that there is more opportunity (with LSU).”

Torina now takes the reigns of a program that was 40-18 last season in the very competitive Southeastern Conference. The Tigers have reached the NCAA Regional’s the past five seasons but have failed to advance out of the NCAA Super Regional’s the last four seasons. Coach Torina spoke about the emotions of informing her team of her decision.

“It’s extremely difficult,” Torina said. “If I had any reservations at all, it was definitely with those girls. I’m really close to my players and I care about each and every one of them as people; not just softball player... Today was a very hard day.”

According to Torina, the players were emotional when she informed them of her decision to leave FIU. “They were definitely upset. Its very bittersweet,” Torina said. “They [were] proud of me and excited for me to do this, but we are very close. They took it hard but I know that they will bounce back.”

Players were unavailable for comment by the Athletic Department. Torina has not made a decision about who on her staff will join her at LSU.

“The next few days... we will know there. I think a lot of that will develop over the next few days,” Torina said.

According to Torina, the softball program will continue to succeed after her departure. “I think the program is set up to be successful for so many years to come,” Torina said. “I think they are extremely talented players here and there’s more coming in and more coming after that. I told them this program is about them. They were the ones who built this program. This program will go on and succeed without me.”

Beth Torina (right) was the head coach for the Golden Panthers for four years and compiled a 129-111 record at the helm of the program.

**SOFTBALL**

**Baseball goes to Marlins, Patton to Cardinals in MLB Draft**

including as an at-large bid.

For a second consecutive season, the Golden Panthers failed to win a game in the NCAA Regionals. In the first game, FIU was matched up against James Madison University.

Both teams put together an offensive clinic, 10 runs in the first two innings. FIU had 11 hits, with five home runs, while James Madison only hit one home run, but had 14 hits. A six-run seventh inning gave James Madison the lead that they never surrendered, handing FIU an 11-7 loss.

The second game of the tournament did not go any better for the Golden Panthers. FIU, entering the game as the nation’s leader in hits, was limited to two hits against Maine Black Bears.

The Golden Panthers helped their own on the defensive side, holding Maine to two runs in the first five innings. Unfortunately, the Golden Panthers could not provide any offense, falling to Maine, 4-1.

Although the season ended on a sour note, the Golden Panthers were proudly represented in the Major League Baseball draft.

First Team All-Conference player Jeremy Patton was drafted by his hometown St. Louis Cardinals in the 30th round. Along with Patton, catcher Jose Behar was drafted by the Florida Marlins also in the 30th round.

Along with the news of the draft, another fellow teammate received great news. Wittels, who had been involved in legal situation in the Bahamas had the case dropped against him June 20. Wittels was accused of sexual assault while traveling in the Bahamas in December.

With the majority of the team coming back, it is reasonable to expect that the Golden Panthers will not only be the favorites to win the conference, but also make a run in the NCAA tournament in 2012.

Jeremy Patton (above) hit .359 this past season with seven homer runs and 53 RBIs before being drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals.

**FIU needs to build on success of Gold Cup in near future**

in 2009 when The Cage first hosted the event.

And, ironically enough, while FIU Stadium’s main tenant is the Golden Panthers football team, the only event at this point that truly could be counted on to nearly fill the stadium in capacity is the Gold Cup.

The fervor and excitement of these fans, proudly donning the national colors from their respective countries, was invigorating and infectious.

Something that the FIU student body could learn from when football season comes around.

The stadium once again showed how FIU Stadium can be a wonderful venue for international soccer on a regular basis as a host site. It provides an intimate setting where fans can be close to the action and feel every close play, every corner kick, and every goal.

All in all the Gold Cup games at the stadium brought back memories of great soccer moments in South Florida and maybe serve as a preview for how big the game can be down here.

WHAT NOW

But the question is “what now?”

Now that the Gold Cup won’t come back until at least 2013, there is yet another two-year gap that FIU needs to fill up in terms of soccer.

Whether that means bringing more international friends to FIU or perhaps looking for another MLS bid to get behind, FIU should be active in putting the stadium to use during the long months between college football seasons.

As we have seen, there is a massive soccer community dwelling in South Florida that is just waiting to be tapped into. FIU has a chance to truly capitalize on this and also to galvanize soccer, to grow the game not only in Miami, but nationally as well.

Miami natives deserve to see some live quality soccer and FIU has the ability to provide that.

Let’s hope that the next time soccer returns to FIU won’t be the next Gold Cup.
CREATIVE CAMPERs

Students band together to take a stand against bullying

MORGAN REISINGER
Contributing writer

Jessica Saiontz is full of words. She’s emphatic and more than slightly animated, coming across at full force with a lot of information.

Of course, this tendency comes naturally to the 32-year-old law student who is a founding board member of the nonprofit, anti-bullying organization, National Voices for Equality, Education and Enlightenment (NVEEE).

After all, she is a symbol of expression herself—a “voice.”

Anyone close to her, in comparison, would feel as if they have accomplished minimal tasks with their lives, a sort of container of DNA going about their daily routines.

It isn’t often that a person charges into the world feeling they have the ability to build something out of nothing. It makes the observer wonder: how did they do this?

“It’s simple enough for Saiontz.

“When I was an undergrad at UM, I met a girl, Jowharah Sanders, and a few others [at],” Saiontz says. “We’ve always known that she wanted to be an educator, however, she was the victim of a very brutal attack when she was about fifteen years old and ... as she grew older she decided that she wanted to deal with victims of hate crimes and violence, which slowly evolved into bullying.”

Saiontz always knew Sanders would want to create a nonprofit organization which would help deal with violence. Knowing what she wanted to create, Sanders got in touch with Saiontz and asked for her help.

“Tell me what you want and we’ll do it,” said Saiontz of the conversation that started it all. “We started from scratch.”

Saiontz runs through an entire outline of NVEEE’s progression: they started by filing the articles of incorporation, coming up with their mission and filling the IRS paperwork to become nonprofit—all within three months.

From there on out, fundraising began with small events such as car washes, establishing partnerships and forming mentor memberships. It has since grown and has reached out to people not only in Miami Dade and Broward but all over the world.

NVEEE’s first major fundraiser, “Strike Out Bullying,” got the attention of NBC News. Their involvement in the nationally publicized story of Jose Louis Rady, a young teenage girl nearly beaten to death, put them in the headlines.

Just last May, NVEEE did a segment with CNN, reaching over 100 million US households. Despite the publicity, the organization’s message stays the same.

“We are here to do whatever we can to help bring light to bullying, to help kids that are going through it,” Saiontz says. “We don’t just help the
“Super 8” film reminiscent of Spielberg tradition

Sometimes it seems that all of the generation-defining movies have already happened. “Star Wars,” “Jurassic Park” and “Forrest Gump” are all unforgettable, generation-defining movies. No matter how outdated the special effects or hair-styles, we can still easily relate to them today. “Super 8” has definitely earned the timeless label and brings all you want out of a movie, and more.

J.J. Abrams, creator of the hit show “Lost,” and Steven Spielberg bring us the story of a group of teenagers who are trying to make their own short film for a competition. One night, while shooting a scene at a train station without their parents’ permission, the teens witness a devastating train crash.

But the crash was no accident, there was something on the train that the rest of the world should have known about. Don’t worry, I won’t spoil the movie for you.

It is easy to talk about the plot of the movie. The kids discover something: they are not allowed to see, leading to a great climactic scene involving a sequence of explosions and enough chaotic action to rival any summer blockbuster. The explosions were what put my butt in the seat in the first place. But what really makes this movie special is how genuinely the characters are portrayed.

The plot line of the movie feels like a rite of passage for the characters, each of them dealing with their own personal crisis. Whether it is the timing of the story, which is set in 1980 and relates to the timing of the story, which is set in 1980 and relates to the generation-defining movies, or the characters dealing with death, each story contains a moment where the characters are “moving on” in their own ways.

Joe Lamb, a young teen dealing with the passing of his mother in a tragic accident, has the toughest time of them all. Yet, no matter what Joe goes through, whether it’s dealing with his bossy friend Charles or his own “paralyzed-by-his-father” puppy love story with Alice Dainard, you never feel that he loses his youthful hope and enthusiasm.

The group of teens is fun to watch. Each with their own quirks, no matter what you can relate to at least one of them. The most fun I had was watching the dialogue between the teens. With words like “hell,” “shit” and “bitch” being tossed around so freely, I felt as though I was watching a miniature version of my friends. Each one busting each other’s chops, but in the end sticking together through the gravest dangers.

The final act of the movie gives the audience all of the action scenes in the span of 20 minutes, which did not affect the way I saw this film.

I enjoyed the character development that slowly grows through “Super 8.” For thrill-seeking movie buffs, it is a slow payoff, but the ending is worth the wait. A very good use of special effects, along with Abrams’ smartly placed Easter eggs throughout the movie, will keep you focused on the story instead of any less-than-perfect effects.

“Super 8” has the right mixture of science fiction, comedy and drama for any film lover. I love how this movie hearkens back to the days of the early 1980s, not only in plot and setting, but also in style. The clothes are 1970s hip, the music is groovy and our modern technologies, such as cell phones, are not in the way of the character’s interactions.

I could not stop thinking about how much “Super 8” reminded me of “E.T.,” “The Goonies” and “Jurassic Park” all balled into one. The funny thing about these movies is that Spielberg had his hand in all of them. It just goes to show you how well Spielberg can connect with an audience. If you enjoyed any one of these movies, you’ll love “Super 8.”

Reel to Reel is a weekly column. Look for it every Wednesday this summer.
Homework ban hinders progress in education

NEDA GHOMESHI Opinion Editor

During this time of crucial global competition, I do not see the benefits of limiting or banning homework. On June 15, 2011, The New York Times published an article stating: “The school board [Galloway School District in New Jersey] will vote this summer on a proposal to limit weekend homework... and ban assignments on weekends, holidays and school vacations.”

It seems as if the U.S. is going backwards at a time when progress is critically needed.

In this desperate time when education is most necessary, educators need to be relentless by assigning more homework. Students should be spending more time inauditing themselves with mathematics, science and other impervious subjects. The Galloway School District attempted to justify the move by saying that students in the U.S. need downtime. The thought of providing more downtime for children is pathetic. Children in the U.S. should be spending their energetic, curious and limited youth on educating themselves on the information that students on the other side of the world have been learning on a daily basis.

During his State of the Union speech earlier this year, President Barack Obama explained the direct correlation between education and the economic future of a nation, expressing his concern with the lack of focus on critical subjects, too. Bush supported and encouraged spending more federal funds to improve math and science programs.

Since then, improvement has not been made and now school districts are considering limiting education. It seems as if the U.S. is going backwards at a time when progress is critically needed.

Change in the current public education system in the U.S. is essential. Limiting or eliminating homework is change in the wrong direction and not the reform that is going to lead this country to success.
Hubert Library and bookstore get a new look

JESSICA PEREZ
Contributing Writer

The Glenn Hubert Library and Biscayne Bay Campus Bookstore are set to sport fresh new looks with the start of the academic school year.

Renovations are underway to provide students with a sleek and modern study area and new food options.

One of the major changes that will take place at the Hubert Library is the removal of the government documents, which are currently on the second floor.

The section that once housed the government documents will now function as a laptop lounge equipped with new movable furniture.

Consuelia Askew, Associate Dean for Public Services, is aiming to create more study space for students while using design choices that will create “happy or lively” areas.

One of the campus food options, the Provisions On Demand has been removed from the library as well. It will be replaced with vending machines that will serve snacks, coffee, and fresh food. The vending machines allow students to have access to food with no limited hours.

In addition to the library renovations, the Bookstore at BBC is setting up a food area for students to use. The Bookstore is also setting up an Express schedule, weather reports, and placing flat screen monitors where students can check out Kindles to read e-books that FIU subscribes to, and placing flat screen monitors on different floors of the library that will show the Golden Panther Express schedule, weather reports, and library news.

Golden Panther Express goes green with Panther IDs

JONATHAN SZYDLO
BBC Managing Editor

The Department of Parking and Transportation is doing away with tickets for the Golden Panther Express. As of June 27, the GPE will be going ticketless, switching to a paperless system which charges the bus fare directly to students’ Panther ID and will stop accepting paper tickets after Aug. 22.

Students must now add money to their cards at the Panther ID Office located in the Graham Center on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, as well as kiosks located on both the Biscayne Bay Campus and MMC.

With the first day of the Summer B semester being the first day the Department of Parking and Transportation stopped the sale of paper tickets, students at the BBC have mixed reactions to the paperless ticketing system.

“I think that it’s better,” said Jonette Aimes, a freshman journalism major. “I don’t want to have to go back and forth buying tickets all the time.”

According to Ana Teresa Deliz, assistant advertising major, the paperless system streamlines the overall GPE experience.

“It’s a step less. At the [MMC] they stopped letting you use cash a while ago. Before you had to swipe your card and then they would give you the ticket. So now that they got rid of the tickets, it’s a step less.”

Not all students are in favor of the switch, as Juan Martinez, a GPE driver employed by American Coaches, admitted. “They are not happy when the system is not online. It isn’t a problem for the students, but a problem for me, a problem for the drivers because we have to do it by hand and it takes time. You have to take down their ID numbers, their names, and the signatures of over 50 students.”

Donna Duggins, a junior public relations student, is opposed to the new system, due to a lack of information from the Department of Parking and Transportation in regards to students being left with residual tickets. “I don’t like it. I mean, I like it because I’m eco-friendly, but I have tickets to get rid of.”

At time of print, the Department of Parking and Transportation was unavailable for comment.

Another issue students have is the convenience of Panther ID kiosks locations, in relation to the GPE bus stops.

“At [MMC] it wasn’t easy to charge the card, until they put in the machines. At [BBC] they have them, but they’re very far away from the bus stop so it’s usually very hard to charge the card before you get on the bus because there aren’t any that are easily accessible from the bus stop,” said Deliz. “I think that if we could help them out by putting the machines closer to the bus stops, it would be better.”

With the new paperless system being in its infancy, it is bound to face certain obstacles. Although Tasha Scraggs, a criminal justice senior, has her reservations about the new system, she remains optimistic.

“I hope that it works, and if the transition is seamless, then I’ll be happy.”

GIS workshops, classes, and certificate programs will be offered, which are valuable on a resume according to Fu. A few of these resources will require a fee.

The center is anticipated to open by Fall.

Due to the new GIS Center, the first floor’s northern computer area will be made into a lounge area that will be “visually pleasing and relaxing,” said Fu. There will be more seating to create a social atmosphere and a gaming system.

There are other projects being planned, such as having a system where students can check out Kindles to read e-books that FIU subscribes to, and placing flat screen monitors on different floors of the library that will show the Golden Panther Express schedule, weather reports, and library news.