**NOT SO BRIGHT FUTURE**

Scholarship program can see up to a $1,000 cut

LAUREN ROVIRA  
Staff Writer

Students who depend on Bright Futures scholarships will face a 15 percent tuition increase and less money from the program to help them.

Along with the tuition increase, in August the scholarship program will face cuts amounting up to $960 annually per student.

The state legislature has debated how to go about cutting funding for the Bright Futures program.

Two versions of the bill are currently proposed, one in each house of the legislature.

The House version of the bill would cut anywhere between $330 and $480 from everyone’s annual award depending on the kind of award received. The senate version will cut $960 from all students across the board. Meanwhile, the state legislature is also raising tuition at all public higher learning institutions in Florida – University students will see a 15 percent tuition increase.

Adrienne Samani, an incoming freshman biology major and a recipient of the Bright Futures Scholarship, expressed her frustration. “My brother and sister are going into college plus me; that makes three. It’s a really big expense on my parents and me, too,” Samani said.

“I think losing $960 would get me into a lot of debt most people wouldn’t be willing to get into for school.”

Starting this fall, tuition at the University will go up $17 per credit per semester for all its students. On average, a full-time student will experience an increase of about $300.

Claudia Torres, a junior criminal justice major and also on Bright Futures, is seeking alternatives to her original graduation plan. “I was going to stay until spring but I think I want to graduate before because this is stressing me out,” Torres said.

However, the cuts won’t affect all students similarly.

Thirty percent of the total earnings the University will receive from the tuition increase will be redistributed to those students who are most in need of financial aid, according to Steve Sauls, vice president of governmental relations.

According to a review of the University’s operating budget for 2011-2012 fiscal year, $2.3 million from the tuition increase will be given as need-based financial aid. Students without any expected family contributions will receive a differential scholarship of approximately $640.

“These students will not face cuts amounting up to $960 annually per student.”

**THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS**

The theme for this year’s Homecoming, “If Roary Ran the Circus,” was announced during a homecoming pep rally on July 6 at 12 p.m. in the Graham Center Pit. Homecoming will take place on Saturday, Oct. 1.

**COMMUNITY IMPORTANT TO NEW DEAN**

MELISSA CACERES  
Asst. News Director

Ora Strickland’s father wanted her to pursue a career in music when she was a teenager, but instead she went with a career that would allow her to help others.

“I decided to become a nurse rather than a physician because I like spending time with the patients,” said Strickland. “I wanted to become a nurse because I would be able to spend time at the bedside of the patient and teach them how to take care of themselves, not only to help cure disease.”

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Disbursement History

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**DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE**

Program offers creative outlets

KATRINA BRUNO  
Contributing Writer

Theater students at the University are working hard to make this summer season a memorable one as they welcome their Fifth Annual Summer Alternative Theatre Festival.

ATF launched in 2007 in response to a loss of theater facility space due to renovations and an overall need for summer theater activity. This season ATF will showcase four plays: “Educating Rita,” “Oleanna,” “And Baby Makes Seven” and “Die! Mommy! Die!”

The festival, which runs until July 31, is offering students an even more unique experience.

**COLOLEGE OF NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES**

Community important to new dean

KATRINA BRUNO  
Contributing Writer

The ATF is a self-sufficient organization at the University. It uses the revenue from its ticket sales to create costumes, build sets and keep the program running.

Phillip Church, associate professor and head of performance for the Department of Theatre, takes a backseat during the summer and oversees the program as a mentor and adviser rather than as director. The program gives students the chance to propose, direct, produce, act, perform and design plays of their own choosing,” said Church. “These students will not face cuts amounting up to $960 annually per student.”

**THEATRE, page 6**
**Chavez: cancer fight ‘longest walk’**

**Associated Press**

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez turned to philosophy and Twitter to describe his efforts to beat cancer Monday, summoning the words of German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche.

“I find myself my highest mountain and my longest valley,” Chavez said in a message posted on his Twitter account. “That’s how Zarathustra spoke!”

That quoted a passage from Nietzsche’s treatise “Thus Spoke Zarathustra: A Book for All and None.”

Nietzsche’s book focuses on a prophet who reflects on ascension as he descends from a mountain retreat and returns to mix with mankind. Chavez occasioned praise from the German philosopher in his speeches.

Chavez’s government also said Monday that the president is recovering quickly after undergoing surgery last month that removed a cancerous tumor.

Chavez remarked on his health during a telephone conversation with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev on Sunday while exercising outdoors, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Chavez told the Russian leader “that he has undergone a rapid recovery from the complex operation,” the Foreign Ministry said, adding that the president has been undergoing a first phase of rehabilitation.

The Foreign Ministry said that “has generated an optimal scenario” as he starts a second phase of recuperation, adding that Chavez now has a “feeling of realistic optimism.”

Chavez has said he underwent surgery in Caracas on June 20 to remove a tumor from his pelvic region. Chavez hasn’t said what type of cancer is involved.

The country’s flag was officially raised for the first time over Juba, South Sudan’s capital, on Saturday in 2005.

The south battled the mainly Arab north for independence that spanned more than 50 years. Millions of people died in the conflict.

“This historic achievement is a tribute, above all, to the generations of southern Sudanese who struggled as a sovereign and independent state,” said the United States.

The country’s flag was officially raised for the first time over Juba, South Sudan’s capital, on Saturday in 2005.

South Sudan became independent after civil wars that spanned more than 50 years. Millions of people died in the conflicts as the black African tribes from the south battled the mainly Arab north for independence.

“The warring sides reached a peace deal in 2005. The country’s flag was officially raised for the first time over Juba, South Sudan’s capital, on Saturday in 2005.”

**We need to ensure the quality of the product the students are receiving is maintained at a high level and continues to improve.**

Kenneth Jessell, Senior VP for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer, explained.

The country’s flag was officially raised for the first time over Juba, South Sudan’s capital, on Saturday in 2005.

“We need to ensure the quality of the product the students are receiving is maintained at a high level and continues to improve,” said Jessell in an interview with Student Media.

“The opportunity cost of students postponing their graduation as a result of cutting classes and professors for lack of funding, exceeds the tuition increases.”

A document from the Finance and Administration explains the plan of action in response to the proposed changes.

The session for the state legislature does not begin until spring and in collaboration with the University’s Governmental Relations, O’Keefe plans to meet with members of the state legislature to fight for the platform both FSA and FIU set forth.

Student government also plans to increase the amount of money it raises for need-based scholarships in the form of the First Generation Scholarship fund and potentially announce a merit-based scholarship later in the year.

As the lottery has not been able to keep pace with the growth of the award, in 2008-2009, legislators had to cap the amount the Bright Futures Scholarship is funded by the Florida Lottery, and was originally launched to help stop the brain drain that was occurring as Florida students went to school out of state.

Since 1997, the number of scholar- ship recipients has more than quadrupled in size.

Program sees cuts as tuition rises

**Scholarships, page 1**

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Kenneth Jessell, Senior VP for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer, explained. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BCC at 305-919-4722.

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VOLLEYBALL

Rosa, Valentin help Puerto Rico in tournament

BRANDON WISE
Staff Writer

Golden Panthers, old and new, remain international this summer – with impressive results.

Yarimar Rosa and Natalie Valentin helped lead the Puerto Rican National team to a fifth place finish at the 10th annual Pan American games in Guatemala, Mexico from June 30 to July 9.

Led by Rosa and her team-leading 11 attack points, Puerto Rico won in three sets (25-16, 25-23, 25-18), earned fifth place after going 3-2 in pool play and qualified for the 2012 Grand Prix, one of the most highly regarded women’s volleyball competitions in the world.

The Puerto Rican team defeated Trinidad and Tobago to set up a chance to play for fifth place in the tournament, competing against current Golden Panther Renele Forde, who practiced with Trinidad and Tobago for this tournament.

After defeating Trinidad and Tobago, Puerto Rico faced an Argentinian team that jumped out to an early 2-0 lead. Puerto Rico rallied and won three consecutive games. Rosa helped lead the charge as Puerto Rico won those three games 25-17, 25-21, and 15-13.

When Rosa played at FIU, she was a four-time All-American and Sun Belt Conference Female Student Athlete of the Year. She is also playing professionally in Puerto Rico for Leonas de Ponce.

In addition, junior Marjia Prsa has been practicing with the Croatian National Team and will travel with them to the Friendly Games in France.

VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE RELEASED

The women’s volleyball team’s 27-match 2011 schedule includes three tournaments at Berkeley, Calif., Murfreesboro, Tenn., and Orlando, Fla. Teams that the Golden Panthers will face include California, Auburn, Missouri, and Tulane.

Following a stretch of tournaments, FIU will open Sun Belt Conference play on Sept. 23 at North Texas and then to Denver on Sept. 25. The home opener for the Golden Panthers will be on Sept. 30 when they host Western Kentucky who made it into the NCAA tournament last season.

The Golden Panthers will enjoy the heart of their schedule, hosting five consecutive home games from Oct. 21 to 30.

Conference play will stretch all the way until Nov. 12 when FIU will head to Troy to wrap up the season. The final stretch of the Golden Panther season will be a difficult one as they finish up with four of their last five on the road against Louisiana-Monroe, Louisiana-Lafayette, South Alabama and Troy.

The final home game of the season will be on Nov. 8 when the Golden Panthers face Florida Gulf Coast University on Senior Night.

The Golden Panthers will then host the 2011 Sun Belt Conference Championship, which is set to begin on Nov. 17 to 19.

SPORTS ROUND-UP

Wittels signs with Cardinals; Griffin, Hilton on award lists

JOEL DELGADO
Sports Director

Garrett Wittels’ college baseball days are over. The Golden Panther infielder, who is widely remembered for his 56-game hitting streak and the allegations of rape made against him this past winter, signed with the St. Louis Cardinals organization on July 1.

He is the fourth FIU player to sign with a Major League Baseball club this offseason and the second to join the Cardinals. Jeremy Patton was drafted by St. Louis in the 38th round of the MLB Draft and Wittels joins him on the Batavia Muckdogs, the team’s Single A Short Season affiliate.

Wittels went hitless in his first game with the Muckdogs, going 0 for 3 on July 5 and picked up his first hit with the Muckdogs with a fifth-inning double in a victory over the State College Spikes on July 9.

This past season at FIU, Wittels helped power an offense that led to team’s second consecutive regional berth, hitting .345 and garnered 40 RBI to go along with four home runs. The signing comes after the charges that were brought up against Wittels were dropped in Bahamian court in June.

GRIFFIN, HILTON RECOGNIZED

Jack Griffin had his moment in the limelight this past December, converting the game-winning field goal in front of a nationwide audience to help the Golden Panthers win their first ever bowl game in the Little Caesar’s Pizza Bowl.

Now the FIU kicker is gaining more recognition as a part of Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award Watch List, which features 30 of the top place-kickers in the nation.

Griffin, who took over place-kicking duties last season, was one of the more consistent kickers in the Sun Belt Conference, converting 17 of 20 field goals attempted last season. He is the only Sun Belt kicker to be named on the list.

The winner of the award will be announced in front of a national audience during a awards gala this December.

Star receiver T.Y. Hilton was named to an awards list of his own.

The senior wide out is on the Fred Biletnikoff Award watch list, which is given to the nation’s top receiver.

He is one of three Sun Belt wide receivers on the list, along with LSU’s Ladarius Green and Arkansas State’s Dwayne Frampton.

Hilton, who helped set up the Griffin kick in the bowl game with a first-down conversion on a hook-and-ladder play on 4th-and-17 to keep the final drive alive, led FIU receivers with 59 catches for 848 yards and five touchdowns.

BASEBALL 2012 SLEEPER?

Baseball America selected the Golden Panthers baseball team as one of eight potential sleepers for a College World Series berth.
Brandon WISE
Staff Writer

Jeremy Patton was recently drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals in Round 38 of the Major League Baseball draft. Patton, who is originally a resident of St. Louis, Mo., could return to his hometown club if the call comes one day. He was a redshirt junior this past season where he hit .359 with seven home runs and 53 RBI. He said it is an amazing thing to have happen to him.

“It is like a dream come true,” Patton said. “To get drafted by my favorite team, it is hard to explain the feeling.”

For Patton, this is something that he has wanted to do his entire life. To be drafted by the Cardinals means that when he gets called up to the big leagues, he can play in front of his family and friends that watched him grow up and play ball. From growing up in St. Louis, Mo., to finishing up his career at FIU, this could not have been a better opportunity.

“Since I was 5 years old, I have dreamed of playing in the majors for the Cardinals, to play in front of my family and friends,” Patton said. “Now, I am going to get to live that chance.”

He credited his stepfather for getting him into the sport from a young age. He is thankful for him and the success he has achieved.

“My step-dad got me into baseball,” Patton said. “He started playing catch and wiffle ball with me in the backyard.”

When he was younger, he garnered the nickname “The General.” It has stuck since then and the title is fitting. He is always seen as a leader of the team.

“I think it was because of General Patton,” chuckled Patton, “who led the Second Armored Division in World War II.”

Before coming to FIU, the General had some work to do to rise through the ranks. He started his college career by attending Jefferson County Community College, located in Hillsboro, Mo., for two years. He redshirted in his first season at Jefferson due to a quadricep injury. After that, he managed to put up large numbers and drew the attention of major Division one programs.

When he finished up there, Patton had a decision to make. A lot of schools were interested in having him play for their team.

“University of Southern Mississippi, Western Kentucky, and Missouri,” Patton said, “but FIU was where I wanted to be. I transferred to FIU because of the weather mostly; it is a lot better to play in warm weather than cold weather.”

When Patton arrived at FIU in the 2010 season, he had a difficult time adjusting to the lifestyle of South Florida. It is a completely different world going from life in Missouri to life in South Florida.

After making the adjustment to the lifestyle, Patton made an immediate impact. He started in 58 games of 60 games played under Head Coach Turtle Thomas, who he enjoyed playing under.

“It was a good experience,” Patton said. “He definitely knows a lot about the game and a lot about hitting.”

The General led the charge in helping FIU to win its first Conference Championship since 1999, as he was named Sun Belt Conference Tournament MVP. Patton hit .361 with 15 homers and 98 RBI in his career at FIU. He also earned First-Team all conference honors and was named to the All Sun Belt tournament team in both seasons.

In his time at FIU, the team was ranked the highest, 20th, since 2001 when FIU made it to the super regional and finished 19th in the polls.

Now, Patton is a member of the Batavia Muck Dogs, a Class A short season affiliate of the St. Louis Cardinals organization. He has already had an impact with the Muck Dogs. Batting second in the lineup, he is hitting .326 with four doubles and five RBI.

After this season wraps up, he will head back down to Jupiter, FL for spring training with the Cardinals.

“Once his baseball career is finished, Patton aspires to get the rest of his life started. As athletes learn eventually, they cannot play forever.”

“I plan on starting my career in Sports Management,” Patton said. “And starting a family.”

Jeremy Patton [above] has a chance to live the dream of playing with his hometown club, the St. Louis Cardinals.

Jeremy Patton looks for a new start with hometown team
KENNETH DYCHES
Contributing Writer

It could have been any other ordinary Tuesday morning walking through the Graham Center, but if you happened to pass by the pit chances are you would have done a double take.

Kids of all ages, students and adults, have been down town painting a nine-foot wide and five-foot deep landscape representation of Florida’s natural environment.

“It’s all about kids helping kids,” said Roumiana Katzarkov, director of the Art Department at the Kendall Branch of the Miami Children’s Hospital.

“This is a project created by the kids in our community who will use a form of art to make our kids feel better.”

The six to 12 year-old campers from the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum’s 2011 Youth Cultural Arts & Community Service Summer Camp dove right into their duties and with every brush stroke added a little piece to the bigger picture. The colorful mural, which depicts a scene straight out of the Everglades with the official animals and plants of the state of Florida, is to go up in the Intensive Care Unit of the Kendall Branch of Miami Children’s Hospital where it will be enjoyed and admired by the patients.

“I want to make sure it represents Florida and has educational value for the kids,” said Katia Narciso, a graduate of the art department. “The work itself is worlds ahead, [and it shows] that we need to take care of what we have in order to continue the human race, so our kids can get the world as we got it.”

The spark of the idea for the mural is credited to the brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha, who first approached the Frost Museum’s administration a proposition a month ago. They were looking to work with the Frost Art Museum’s 2011 Summer Camp in an arts and culture oriented community service project.

With the help of Kelly Brady-Rumble, the grants specialist at the Frost Art Museum, they put their heads together and came up with the idea for the “Worlds Ahead” mural.

They contacted Katzarkov who was immediately on board with the idea, as well as Miami’s Martin Luther King Jr. Community Mural Project Team, who helped to coordinate the project between the parties involved.

The art department later assisted in sketching out the piece while the brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha purchased all the supplies and transported the mural around campus. The outcome was impressive.

“The overall image will creatively convey positive images of hope and healing along with the five strategic values of FIU: Truth in the pursuit and application of knowledge, freedom of thought and expression, respect for diversity and the dignity of the individual, responsibility as citizens of the world and stewards of the environment and excellence in the pursuit of intellectual and personal endeavors,” explained Brady-Rumble.

The mural itself will serve to represent something larger than those involved; staff and faculty, students and campers.

“It is absolutely refreshing to see people with so much energy, with so many ideas, people from different backgrounds, but all so dedicated to working and giving to the community,” said Katzarkov as she looked upon the painters in the pit.

She added, “I loved every piece of it [especially] that it is coming from FIU, considering the Miami Children’s Hospital affiliation with FIU School of Medicine and bringing this affiliation to a new level.”

The mural was officially presented to Miami Children’s Hospital – West Kendall Ambulatory Care Center at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 16 by key members of the Art Department, the Frost Art Museum, the Pi Kappa Alpha faculty and kids from the Frost summer camp.

“It’s a big responsibility because I want to be sure it will impact [the kids] positively, make them happy and enlighten them. I want them to forget about pain when they look at it,” said Narciso.

“I’m very happy to be involved with the Frost Art Museum and hope to continue teaching kids. I want to give them a perspective that art is reaching others; it’s not something separate.”

REEL TO REEL

Summer 2011: More superheroes, death and magic

The summer movie season is in full swing and it has delivered plenty of hits, such as “Thor,” “Bridesmaids” and “X-Men: First Class” as well as a few duds such as “Hangover 2” and “X-Men: First Class.” As good as “Thor” was, it ended up infl uencing each other. Wait, I saw this one before.

After failed attempts of portraying Steve Rogers on film, Director Joe Johnston takes his hero movie making experience from “The Rocketeer” to “Captain America: The First Avenger.”

“Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2” (July 15) – The fi nal chapter of a tale that has captured the imagination of readers the world over. The story of Harry, Hermione and Ron as they fi ght the forces of evil. Don’t worry if you missed the fi rst six, the story is worlds ahead, [and it shows] that we need to take care of what we have in order to continue the human race, so our kids can get the world as we got it.”

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“The overall image will creatively convey positive images of hope and healing along with the five strategic values of FIU: Truth in the pursuit and application of knowledge, freedom of thought and expression, respect for diversity and the dignity of the individual, responsibility as citizens of the world and stewards of the environment and excellence in the pursuit of intellectual and personal endeavors,” explained Brady-Rumble.

The mural itself will serve to represent something larger than those involved; staff and faculty, students and campers.

“It is absolutely refreshing to see people with so much energy, with so many ideas, people from different backgrounds, but all so dedicated to working and giving to the community,” said Katzarkov as she looked upon the painters in the pit.

She added, “I loved every piece of it [especially] that it is coming from FIU, considering the Miami Children’s Hospital affiliation with FIU School of Medicine and bringing this affiliation to a new level.”

The mural was officially presented to Miami Children’s Hospital – West Kendall Ambulatory Care Center at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 16 by key members of the Art Department, the Frost Art Museum, the Pi Kappa Alpha faculty and kids from the Frost summer camp.

“It’s a big responsibility because I want to be sure it will impact [the kids] positively, make them happy and enlighten them. I want them to forget about pain when they look at it,” said Narciso.

“I’m very happy to be involved with the Frost Art Museum and hope to continue teaching kids. I want to give them a perspective that art is reaching others; it’s not something separate.”

“Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2” (July 15) – The fi nal chapter of a tale that has captured the imagination of readers the world over. The story of Harry, Hermione and Ron as they fi ght the forces of evil. Don’t worry if you missed the fi rst six, the story is worlds ahead, [and it shows] that we need to take care of what we have in order to continue the human race, so our kids can get the world as we got it.”

The spark of the idea for the mural is credited to the brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha, who first approached the Frost Museum’s administration a proposition a month ago. They were looking to work with the Frost Art Museum’s 2011 Summer Camp in an arts and culture oriented community service project.

With the help of Kelly Brady-Rumble, the grants specialist at the Frost Art Museum, they put their heads together and came up with the idea for the “Worlds Ahead” mural.

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COVER TO COVER

PARENTS JUST DON’T UNDERSTAND

“Battle Hymn…” exposes West and East disciplinary differences

Being restricted from participating in a school play or forced to play a certain instrument are things that many American students never experience. In “Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother,” author Amy Chua would not have it any other way.

Chua states on the “Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother” title page that the book is “about a bitter clash of cultures” — a battle in which both cultures must compromise.

University students would benefit from reading this non-fiction narrative as they will gain an idea of just how relaxed Western forms of parenting are compared to Eastern. Readers will also obtain a strong respect for the Western way of providing children with freedoms that Chinese mothers and educators tend to look down upon, as described by Chua.

Sleepovers, watching television or earning a grade less than an “A” were never allowed of Chua’s children, Sophia and Lulu. By forcing her children to practice the violin and piano until they left teeth marks on the piano itself, Chua created two talented musicians and one rebellious teen. Although Lulu, the younger of Chua’s daughters, never got less than straight A’s, she rebelled against Chua’s parenting techniques and fought for the right to play tennis instead of the violin.

Meanwhile, Chua’s eldest daughter Sophia, a valedictorian, Harvard grad and accomplished pianist, flourished thanks to Eastern-style parenting and education.

Our system has its problems, but Chua’s experiences prove that Eastern forms of education can suppress a child’s creative nature and inspire anger by pushing them beyond their breaking points.

As Lulu rebels against the violin, Chua realizes her mistakes and admits that pushing her child so hard was not always the right thing to do. This realization is caused by the voice of her daughter screaming, “I HATE YOU!”

Although she never truly leaves her harsh ways behind, Chua learns to let her children follow their bliss. Chua may never admit it, but after reading “Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother,” I realized that education requires a balance of Western and Eastern practices; neither is complete without a dose of the other.

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The Smurfs take over NYC, James Franco battles apes

When a franchise gets past the trilogy phase, chances are the movie plots are probably running on fumes. It seems as though there is one guy that gets a premonition about an upcoming tragedy that helps him and his friends cheat death.

This is the same plot of every “Final Destination” movie, with the change being that the characters don’t necessarily have to die, as long as someone else takes their place.

Not really a good enough twist to make me watch it, and guess what? It’s in 3-D! Maybe the creators can have a premonition of when this franchise will die.

Hopefully this will help. I’m putting my reputation on the line and now only time will tell if I’m right. Happy viewing.

Reel to Reel is a weekly movie column. Look for it every Wednesday this summer.

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“Educating Rita” unites theater talent

For the first time, students will collaborate and act alongside alumni from the Southampton Solent University from the United Kingdom.

Ben Hawkins, Robyn Lindsay and Tom Jancis all graduated from theater program at SSU.

The cast mates live by Hawkins personal motto: “Take your experiences and do what you can, when you can, with what you have,” even if it means paying their own way to the US in order to be a part of this experience.

The SSU production of “Educating Rita” was performed in the theater at FIU on June 21, 23 and 25. The production showcased the talents of Lindsay, who starred as Rita and Jancis in Dr. Frank Bryant.

The play chronicles the trials and tribulations of a relationship between a professor, who is facing a mid-life crisis and a free spirited character named Rita. Behind the scenes, Hawkins directed the show.

THEATRE, page 1
Support crucial for South Sudan’s success

The world’s newest country, The Republic of South Sudan, received its long-awaited independence on July 9, 2011. The gestation period of its pending sovereignty has spanned several decades. Since post-colonization border-drawing, there has been a rift between northern and southern Sudan. The greatest conflict is the difference in religion. Muslims make up the majority of the North and Christians make up the majority of the South. This has caused years of grueling violence.

Because of its tumultuous history, the birth of South Sudan’s independence is not without worry. According to Fox magazine’s Alex Perry, in April 2010, “Any premature birth presents complications. Sudan is already one of the least stable countries on earth, and when million people died in two civil wars between the northern and the southern government in 1955-72 and between 1983 and 2005.” Perry correctly asserts a dose of reality. He goes on to ask, “Does southern Sudan have any hope of working?” America often forgets its own wealth of resources and experience with self-governing before its independence. Because of this, there is always doubt when an impoverished country gains sovereignty. Perry is asking the wrong question. The international concern should be how to contribute to South Sudan so that it can evolve to not just political independence, but economical stability.

As a new state, South Sudan does not have a sealed destiny of collapse and despair. The oil reserves in the south, long monopolized by President Omar al-Bashir, provide opportunity for international trade and profit. It is unknown how the oil reserves will be divided. If all at once, the Bashir has spoken in support of the South’s succession, his sincerity must be doubted. A man wanting for something cannot be trusted by the international community.

The collective cheers should not be muted by fears of instability. Conversely, the jubilation should not overshadow much needed discussion and discussion on how to help the world’s 196th nation. It is essential that the international community’s involvement in the sustainability of this nation does not end with just eloquent words of support. The international community that has rightly joined in celebrating South Sudan’s newfound independence must ensure the safety of its new citizens through humanitarian aid and United Nations initiatives.

Westernized nations often have short-term memory loss when it comes to promoting made-up developments. Critical monetary contributions essentially stabilize to become mismanaged, support from heads of state waver and its citizens’ security are all the more jeopardized. South Sudan is on its knees, but with proper support, it can stand tall.

Borderless with Brooklyn

There are a lot of great things that came from the broadcast murder trial of the Casey Anthony trial. The highly broadcast murder trial has influenced and intrigued many students at our University. I followed the case from day one and used various social mediums to share my rants, raves and praises of the prosecution and disapproval of the defense’s tactics.

The trial both fascinated and nauseated me. It made me wonder why and how Casey Anthony suddenly captivated the country. Other similar cases go without suddenly captivated the country. The broadcast murder trial has influenced and intrigued many students at our University.

The rapidly growing interest to live on-campus has brought on unnecessary concerns for the upcoming school year. Students claim the process to receive a housing assignment has been delayed for the Fall 2011 semester, leaving them unsure about their living situation with as little as a month and a half until the semester starts.

“I've been told at least three separate dates since turning in my application and it was not until just recently that I’ve heard about being wait-listed and pending,” said Grace Pozzo, sophomore and advertising major.

High sporting event ticket prices unfair to alumni

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National HIV/AIDS Symposium comes to BBC Kovens Center

JONATHAN SZYDLO
BBC Managing Editor

Having found a calling to start the conversation on the National HIV/AIDS Strategy within the diverse South Florida communities, the United States Department of Health and Human Services hosted the Miami National HIV/AIDS Strategy Implementation Symposium at the Biscayne Bay Campus’ Kovens Conference Center on July 8.

The symposium was organized by Angelica Ramírez, the regional resource coordinator for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Jacqueline Taylor, Region IV public health analyst for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as a means of creating dialogue within the South Florida community in terms of implementation of the Obama Administration’s National HIV/AIDS Strategy based on an April 2010 report, “Community Ideas for Improving the Response to the Domestic HIV Epidemic.”


“The goal is to start the conversation on local HIV/AIDS strategies. First, to educate our community on the National HIV/AIDS Strategy and contribute our own recommendations to the Department of Health and Human Services based on the experiences within their respective fields.”

Donald Green, 48, was in attendance not only because he is a freelance grant writer but because he is also HIV positive. “For me, I need to stay current [with HIV/AIDS advancements] as a grant writer. This allows me to learn more about my issues, and the advancements in treatments,” said Green. “This is personal to me. Even though I may, or may not, make any profitable connections, I still learn something about my disease.”

Vanessa Johnson, vice president of the National Association of People with AIDS, and one of the speakers at the symposium was encouraged by the overall response to the symposium.

“Not only was there great attendance but people were participating and that’s a hallmark for a good meeting. People were asking questions, they were engaged and they obviously cared for what was going on,” said Johnson.

However, Johnson did note one improvement that needed to be made in the future with similar events: the involvement of college students.

“I think that college aged students are an important constituency to get involved in this process. They cannot sit on the sidelines as this is going on because it goes without saying that the most impact group, as far as newly infected folks go, are the young,” said Johnson.

“They really need to get college aged students to be in attendance. I think it is good to have this event on a college campus, but they need to learn how to appeal to college students,” admits Johnson.

FIU clubs and summer camps use recreational facilities

ADRIAN HITZEL Contributing Writer

The FIU Campus Recreation Department offers students and non-students the opportunity to use the recently renovated Olympic-sized pool. However, only during summer is the pool put into heavy use by student organizations and the community at large.

According to Christina Realins, coordinator of Biscayne Bay Campus Recreation, there are currently four summer camps that use the Aquatic facilities: the FIU Department of Children & Families, the FIU Eco Academy, the FIU Tennis Camp and the City of Sunny Isles.

All camps, besides the FIU Eco Academy which is affiliated to FIU’s School of Environment, Arts and Society, pay a group rate price of $6 per participant which funds the FIU Aquatic Center’s staff salaries. The FIU Eco Academy is able to use the pool and, in return, pay for the lifeguards and the kayaking.

“During the year, there are students here at the pool, just not as many as in summer,” said Barry Tucker, one of the FIU lifeguards. “It’s a great pool and has all the state of the art tools you need. Summer camps as well as FIU clubs plan lots of events and parties here.”

Randy Horner, swimming and head diving coach, offers an annual swim camp at the BBC Aquatic Center from June 27 to July 1. FIU Swim Camp is affiliated with the FIU Athletics Department and other private companies that pay a fee in order to use the camp’s facilities.

However, this year’s swim camp was cancelled. According to Horner, the flyers and information sheets were not distributed early enough. The program, which strives to train swimmers to perform at a championship level, will be advertised starting at the end of 2011 to get as many participants as possible signed up for the 2012 summer.

On July 8, the Aquatic Center will host a swim meet between the North Miami Swim Team and the Comets Swim Team from Pembroke Pines.

One of the parents who frequently bring their children to the pool, who only gave her name as Michelle, has been coming to the BBC Aquatic Center for several days with her son Daniel, who is seven years old. “I really like the pool and it is at a great location, not far from my house at all,” said Michelle. “It reminds me of the public pools back in Europe that we always used to go to. Daniel loves it too. He is really getting into swimming because of this opportunity at FIU.”

Michelle drives to the FIU campus from Hollywood and, according to her, she loves the security, cleanliness and parking that the school offers.

But Michelle, as well as many students, was not aware that the pool is also accessible throughout the rest of the year. Students on campus are unaware of the availability of the Aquatic Center and tend to believe it is solely reserved for the FIU swimming team.

Max Codio, a junior business major, takes most of his classes at BBC and has not used the pool since he started at FIU in 2004.

“I know there is a pool but I wouldn’t really use it unless there are more people or events going on,” said Codio. “Whenever I passed by, there was no one there. It would be great to have more activities at this campus and for the clubs to advertise the events more effectively, so that more students are aware of them.”

The recreation department sells day, semester and annual passes to anyone that wishes to use the recreational facilities.

prices

• FIU students: free
• Daily: $7
• Semester: $85
• Annual: $215
• All membership plans include access to group exercise classes and aquatic center.