This year’s budget bleak as increases are rare

PHILIPPE BUTEJU
News Director

For the first time in University history students are paying more into the University than the state. Although it’s an event with both internal and external sources, its outcomes will affect the University from top to bottom.

For the third time in three years the University requested a seven percent tuition increase – with an additional eight percent from the Board of Trustees – bringing a total tuition increase to 15 percent. In-state students are now paying about $174 per credit.

“We don’t like that,” said Mark Rosenberg, the University president during a budget town hall.

This year, students will contribute a total of $174 million from their tuition compared to $157 million from the state. In 2007, tuition was $106 million.

As bad as the news is for students, money woes are felt on both sides with decreases being the norm throughout the University’s 2011-2012 budget.

Students are paying more because the state is providing less money, a statewide, and nationwide, issue. The University received $157 million from the state down by $71 million, about 33 percent, when it last received $228 million.

A huge loss in money for Public Education Capital Outlay, a state program that provides money to public schools for building construction and upkeep, is another item written in red on the University’s budget.

Last year the University received the most PECO money out of all the 11 schools in the State University System with $34 million. That number is much different this year at $7.6 million.

But because of earlier money from PECO, two new buildings will be completed within the next 18 months.

General revenue, or how much money the University makes, also went down from last year by $11 million. Combined with the loss of $14 million from the federal stimulus, the University saw a loss of $25 million in total from its 2011-2012 budget. Despite a $25 million loss, because of the combined tuition increases and enrollment growth, the University received an increase in revenue of about $2 million.

Since 2007, an additional 7,000 to 8,000 students have been admitted – from more than 38,000 in 2007-2008 to more than 42,000 in 2010-2011.

All these extra students contributing so much more over the years means student services, such as advisers and other support staff, will improve, according to Rosenberg.

Back in the May town hall, the president said the $174 per credit tuition students are paying, including about an extra $20 per credit, is “an investment to ensure a quality education.”

Since 2008-2009, the University put $84 million into three areas it considers “high priority.” Those are student instructional support, research and graduate education and compliance and support.

The University has hired 80 new advisers, added 18 more advisers, added eight more public safety officers, hired 44 new academic support staff and 15 non-academic support staff.

“Where else in the country is this happening?” Rosenberg asked. “I don’t know of any place.”

Rosenberg said in the meeting that adding those additional people will help the University’s retention and graduation rates which are critical to the state legislature as to how much money it provides to universities.

The above numbers are signs of a trend going forward. If the state continues giving universities around the same amount of money, or less as the years go on, universities will look to students to offset the loss.

See page 2 for a detailed graph.

University Budget

FOOTBALL

The University of Miami has become ground zero for one of the biggest scandals made public in NCAA history.

While this may be the final blow to a dying dynasty, it may also give just what it was looking for – an opportunity to snatch the spotlight away from the almighty Hurricanes.

UM is under investigation for student athletes allegedly taking benefits from a booster-turned-convict, Nevin Shapiro. The school is likely going to have many sanctions placed against it that could result in the loss of scholarships, bowl game appearances or worse: the death penalty, when the NCAA bans a school from competing in a sport for at least one year and considered the worst possible punishment.

For FIU, this will have many implications, no matter what sanctions are placed on the UM. This is FIU’s chance to become a more prominent presence in not only South Florida football, but nationally as well.

For the past few seasons, there has been a shift in the works. While Miami has not met the expectations of their fanatical fan base, FIU has built a strong foundation for its future under Mario Cristobal, who, ironically, was a Hurricane assistant coach in the midst of the Shapiro scandal that spanned nearly a decade. While the Hurricanes have been poster sub-par records and failing to win even a conference title since moving to the ACC, the Golden Panthers are starting to make a name for themselves with a conference championship and thrilling bowl win.

FIU and Miami have met twice on the football field. Now the Hurricanes program is in trouble of NCAA sanctions.

FIU can benefit from Miami scandal

New semester brings WOW

ALFREDO APARICIO
Life! Editor

A fresh year means a brand new Week of Welcome, full of exciting events which will satisfy new peers while shocking and surprising returning students.

“Planning WOW for fall has been an interesting experience for [the Student Programming Council],” said Lukas Calafell, SPC president. “Although Week of Welcome is expected, we face new challenges and opportunities each year.”

The planning for WOW took the effort of all those involved with SPC, from the executive board to directors. Most of the events for WOW have occurred before, such as the comedy show, the movie and the pit event, but every year these are uniquely and creatively programmed.

The kickoff will take place on Aug. 23, in the GC Pit from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participating students will be able to create and customize their own license plates while enjoying pizza and other SPC giveaways.

“We believe present students familiar with our events continue to attend and enjoy them because we continue to work hard to make each event a unique experience for these students,” Calafell said. “We try to mix things up and come up with new things that can be done WOW, page 12

COMING UP | Life!
Check out the new music column, Radiate Reviews, as they evaluate the new Jay-Z and Kanye West collaboration album, “Watch the Throne.”

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The Radioactive Underground: 88.1 - 95.3 - 96.9

See page 2 for a detailed graph.
Scott positive on jobs despite Fla. losses

BILL KACZOR
BRENDAN FARRINGTON
Associated Press

Gov. Rick Scott said on Aug. 19 the state is doing the right things to create jobs despite an employment report showing 22,100 jobs were lost in July, the first monthly job loss since he took office in January.

Scott said Florida’s economy is also based on the national economy and that isn’t getting better and will continue to have problems because of federal tax rates, spending and overregulation.

“There’s two sides. The positive side is we’ve had 64,300 jobs this year, about 9,000 a month. That’s a positive,” Scott said in an interview with the AP’s editors and reporters. “The negative is in July we lost jobs and even worse than that, we still have 900,000 people out of work.”

More than half of the jobs lost were due to state- and local-government cutbacks, leaving the state’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate unchanged from June’s 10.7 percent revised rate.

The state’s job loss figure is the second-highest nationally behind Illinois, which lost 24,000 positions.

Scott said Florida is still in a better position to create jobs since he’s taken office. He said his agency head appointees are all business-oriented, he is seeking to phase out the business tax and eliminate state regulations he says are barriers to doing business here. And he said expanding economies in Central and South America along with the expansion of the Panama Canal will put Florida in the position of being a shipping capital.

“We’re going to be the state that’s going to be the job winner. It’s logical for us to win,” Scott said.

Go to fiu.edu for full story.

Order your new parking decal online!

Show your Panther PRIDE on your RIDE!

**Win a free UPGRADE!**

Florida International University

http://parking.fiu.edu

**Housing & Residential Life**

State Money vs. Student Money

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Estimate</th>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2012-13</td>
<td>$160</td>
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</tbody>
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**Housing by the Numbers**

- Beds: 300 at BBC, 3,000 at MMC
- Future Housing Plans:
  - 600 to 700 bed spaces at MMC in 2013; another 600 by 2015
  - 400 to 600 beds at BBC, by 2015-2016

*varies depending on how rooms are arranged.*
WHAT YOU MISSED
DURING THE SUMMER

University establishes
FIU One Card

The University has started a partnership with Wells Fargo to establish the “FIU One Card,” which will link numerous school services with a free bank checking account.

The partnership began on October 28, 2010 and developed the idea now known as the “FIU One Card” idea.

Jeffrey Krablin, assistant vice president of Business Services and Nancy Cadavid, marketing manager of Business Services, said this partnership is becoming quite common. The University is not the first in the State University System that partnered with Wells Fargo. The University of Florida also has a partnership with the company with its Gator One Card.

OPINION
Tuition hike an undesired student burden

University students can expect to pay about 15 percent more in tuition starting in Fall 2011. As state legislators further reduce funding, the University is relying more than ever on student tuition. Starting this fall, students will be the majority shareholders of the University.

I am not happy with next semester’s tuition bill, but the bright side is we are keeping our University operating at full capacity for another year.

For the next academic year, the University has formulated a milestone budget plan. University President Mark Rosenberg said in a town hall meeting held on May 19, 2011, “For the first time in history, the greater portion of the University’s operating budget will come from tuition.” Budget cuts will cost the University almost $16 million in the next academic year. While this is an astonishing cut to the University’s operating budget will come from tuition, the University has formulated a milestone budget plan.

Mario Cristobal signs a five-year extension

Mario Cristobal is staying home, at least for another five years. The head coach has signed an five-year extension worth $453,183 (base salary) per year to stay at FIU through 2016. He’ll also receive a $50,000 annual retentive bonus for staying with the program. The incentives in Cristobal’s new deal can make him the highest paid coach in the Sun Belt Conference. Cristobal is currently second to North Texas’ Dan McCarney, who has a base salary of $475,000.

“We believe we have one of the best coaches in college football and that our program will continue to rise to even greater heights under his leadership,” Executive Director of Sports and Entertainment Pete Garcia said.

Students enjoy a night swim session as part of the BBC’s “Summer Splash” event hosted by the Student Programming Council. The evening’s entertainment also included dancing, food, and giveaways.

LIFE!

Actors step into victims’ lives by wearing their shoes on stage

“When you walk in to the room, you’ll see a line of shoes and a row of seats with a projection of a girl walking in the background,” said Victoria Collado, a senior theater major. “When the show starts, the actors come in and put on the shoes, symbolizing these actors are taking the place of the people who cannot speak right now. They are stepping into the victims’ lives.”

The University theater students, hoping to shed some light on human trafficking, took their talents abroad this July to share their performance of “Body and Sold,” a narrative, stage-read performance, directed by Phillip Church, associate professor of the Department of Theatre, about eight young victims who found themselves tangled in the destructive web of human trafficking. Teamming up with Southampton Solent and Kingston University in London, the students hosted their production on July 6 and July 8 at the International Youth Arts Festival in England.

The festival, which ran for its third year, showcased over 200 productions and 2,000 performers between July 1 and July 18. The free performances were hosted on July 6 at SSU and on July 8 at Kingston University at 8 p.m. for $5.
Deal protects Pell Grant funding

LAUREN ROVIRA
Staff Writer

Students on Pell Grants cheered on Aug. 2 as the federal grant program was spared by the debt-limit deal, but without significant sacrifices in other areas of education funding.

President Barack Obama signed the Budget Control Act of 2011 that would give $17 billion to the Pell Grant.

The money would be taken from the loan subsidies for graduate students that were cut as a part of the bill.

“Directing the maximum award was a priority,” said Steve Sauls, vice president for governmental relations at the University.

“We’ve taken a lead and reached out to other universities,” he said.

Sauls said he appreciates how University students got involved.

Recently, there had been talk about changing what the requirements for Pell Grants were and changing the maximum amount.

The talks led to a deal that provides a sumptuous amount for the maintenance of the Pell program as it is, but remains $1.3 billion short of the amount necessary to cover the total.

“This gap closure means that for at least the next two years, the program will remain primarily intact,” Patrick O’Keefe, president of the Student Government Council at the Modesto Maidique Campus. “This could change in the fall with

“It definitely feels good knowing that there is temporary protection for Pell, but it is just that, temporary protection. More work is to be done and we need to continue being active in Washington, D.C.”

Patrick O’Keefe, SGC-MMC President & University Trustee
Student Government Association

Students of various universities across the nation received the Pell Grant, but at the expense of subsidized loans for graduate students.

Philip Bolton, electronic thesis/dissertation coordinator at the Graduate School office, and a soon to be masters in fine arts student at the University, recalls his experience.

“It’s reducing the amount of subsidized loans [the federal government] will disperse, so be it - I couldn’t do worse.”

Others, like Vanessa Arostegui, a graduate student in religious studies, had their graduate studies paid for by their institutions.

Arostegui said she received neither Pell Grants nor loans, but a teaching assistant-ship instead. Her department paid for her tuition and she received stipends every semester.

Still, the situation could be more dire for students who are not so fortunate to have someone else pay for their studies paid.

“It can definitely be a heavy blow. Although I have been planning to work during grad school, this surely puts more pressure on me to do so,” said Jason Oliver, an entering graduate student in finance.

“I would not want to be unemployed and sit around while debt accrues. Of course getting my studies done is most important.”

For the time being, Pell Grants have been secured at the expense of graduate students. O’Keefe does not yet know what the victory for Pell is but to secure it, he said, requires staying active in the nation’s capitol.

“It definitely feels good knowing that there is temporary protection for Pell, but it is just that, temporary protection. More work is to be done and we need to continue being active in

“Flood experts say serious, long-term disaster prevention requires a new approach to controlling the nation’s longest river.

“Sacrifices needed from governors to avert flood”

“WORLD”

Al-Qaida claims Algerian bombing

Al-Qaida’s North African offshoot has claimed responsibility for a suicide car bombing at an Algerian police station that injured at least 29 people.

A statement posted Thursday on Al-Qaida affiliated websites said Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb targeted the police station in the city of Tizi Ouzou on Sunday.

Algeria’s official APS news agency had reported that a suicide bomber crashed a small truck into the police station, and that 15 officers and 14 civilians were injured. Nearby buildings saw doors ripped off and windows broken.

Algeria has seen a wave of scattered attacks in the past several weeks.

— Compiled by Melissa Caceres

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MC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM

The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the fall and spring semesters and twice a month during summer. 80 copies per year.

Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Advertisers are the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is a non-profit, independently owned newspaper partially funded by student and service fees that are appropriated by student government.

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Monday, August 22, 2011

**FOOTBALL**

**STAYING FOCUSED**

Cristobal on Miami scandal: “Focus is here right now”

**BASEBALL**

Thomas gets contract extension and fills gaps with new recruits

**VOLLEYBALL**

Lakovic, Gonzalez expected to play big roles in new season

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NEW SYSTEM

Along with a closely-knit group, the Golden Panthers are bringing into play a new captain system. Instead of designating one player to take charge of the entire team, Tomic decided to assign a captain to represent each respective graduating class.

“We have the core leadership group,” Tomic said.

Lakovic will be the senior captain. Forde, tabbed “Most Improved” at the FIU Annual Athletic Awards Banquet on Apr. 17, 2011, will lead the juniors. Setter Jessica Egan will lead the sophomores and middle blocker Carli Silvia will represent the freshmen.

Lakovic and Gonzalez are the only seniors on this year’s squad. While the presence of former Golden Panthers Valentin and Ines Pinedo has been missed on the court, Lakovic and Gonzalez have no problem stepping up to the task.

“As a senior, I need to motivate others and work on myself and my skill level,” said Gonzalez. “I want to make sure everyone around me learns something while watching her practice.

The freshmen have better knowledge than the freshmen from last year,” said Bjelica. “I try to give them feedback on what to do.”

Along with the new captain system, the players decided to change their preseason regimen. Instead of waiting until the late summer to begin working out and getting into shape, the entire squad was working fervently during the spring, months ahead of the season.

“We worked hard individually on our worst qualities so we can come here in preseason and work on teamwork,” Bjelica said.

Gonzalez, who also spent the majority of the summer conditioning and working on her cardio, believes that there’s no stopping her.

“I’m in the best shape of my life,” she said.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS

The Golden Panthers open the season on the road against Fairfield, Friday, Aug. 26 in the Cal Molten Classic in Berkeley, California.

They remain on the road for six straight games, ending their road trip in Murfreesboro, Tennessee for the Blue Raider Bash. They open at home on Friday, Sept 9 against Tulane.

After making it to the semifinals in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament last season, the team knows there’s a lot of pressure to perform.

The SBC Tournament is returning to FIU this fall for the first time since 2001, making it critical for the team to exceed expectations.

“They are giving us a lot of pressure as a team to win,” said Bjelica.

When asked about this season’s expectations, Gonzalez paused for a brief moment and answered, “We’re going to win the conference.”

Golden Panthers hope to take advantage of hosting Sun Belt Conference tournament for first time since 2001.

New pitching coach among staff changes

BASEBALL, page 5

with FIU and play college ball, which gives the Golden Panthers a solid defensive short stop that may be able to contribute when he steps on campus.

“Julius Gaines decided to not sign with Boston at the last moment and decided to come to school,” Thomas said. “That was really big.”

At catcher, Aramis Garcia is committed to continue his education at FIU after a high school career that drew the attention of many. Garcia, an All-City First Team selection by The Miami Herald and the Sun Sentinel who was drafted by the Cardinals, is a player that Thomas is glad to have wearing blue and gold next spring.

“These were two very important positions that we were able to address,” Thomas said.

The Golden Panthers also added two pitchers in this recruiting class with John Costa and Jose Lazaro.

Costa was a standout with Summit Christian High School, posting a 9-1 record with a 2.52 ERA in his senior season while striking out 97 batters.

Lazaro, who hails from Puerto Rico and went to North Broward Prep, has been clocked at up to 93 miles per hour on his fastball and also has been recognized for his studies having graduated with a 4.30 GPA.

“John Costa is a nice looking pitcher who is going to do a nice job for us and Jose Lazaro is an outstanding student,” Thomas said of his new pitchers.

STAFF SHUFFLE

There has also been some reshuffling with the coaching staff, with Frank Dumas being promoted to recruiting coordinator and associate head coach.

Dumas is entering his fourth season with FIU after working with Miami-Dade College’s baseball program from 2003 to 2008.

The team also hired Alan Burr as strength and conditioning coordinator and Tommy Kangas as assistant coach.

After the success that Thomas has had since taking the helm of the program in 2007, the university decided to extend his current contract, which expires in 2014, to 2016.

The contract ends at the same time as Executive Director of Sports and Entertainment Pete Garcia and football coach Mario Cristobal, which could make 2016 an interesting year for FIU athletics should all three decide to stay until their contracts end.

Thomas is pleased that the university decided to keep him on board for two extra years and gives credit to his players and assistants for how far the program has come and where he believes it will eventually go.

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Many lessons to be learned from mishaps in Miami

Despite the meager nine miles that separate the cross-town schools, they could not have been farther apart in terms of talent and success on the field just a few years ago. But now, the gap has essentially been reduced or, perhaps after the NCAA is finished with UM, completely erased.

This is an opportunity for the Golden Panthers to capitalize on the mistakes and judgment and oversight that Miami has made. In the coming days, many of the Hurricane recruits may wipe their hands clean faster than you can say “Donna Shalala.” The kids that want to stay close to home have an alternative just down the road.

If FIU could pull those athletes away from Miami and become the dominating force in South Florida recruiting, it would open a number of doors for the Golden Panthers. They would be ready to take on big schools on the field and attract potential invites from expansion-hungry conferences.

But before any of this can happen, they have to take care of the the task at hand. First of all, taking care of business on the field must be the top priority. No matter what is going on across town in Coral Gables, recruits will want to come here once they see that FIU is an established winner; not just a one year wonder.

ONLY GAME IN TOWN
FIU wants the glamour of ESPN cameras and a packed “cage” on Saturdays. Miami may have had that in the past, but in the wake of the accusations made, those days are over and FIU could step in and become the talk of the town. It could be the first step in the process to help build FIU’s fan base to what Cristobal envisioned when he first arrived.

Pending possible punishments, the quality of football here this season may be higher than it will be in Miami. At the end of the day, fans want to watch good football. FIU might be the only team in town that people can come to watch, or at least with better talent. It almost seems like a dream scenario for FIU. This could become the break that they were looking for because new fans will start showing up just for college football in Miami. I have a hunch that “attendance records” will be broken this year, although it won’t be difficult to break them, now it may just be that much easier.

PROCEED WITH CAUTION
With more success comes more fans, this may result in more boosters trying to get their hands on the programs. Unlike Miami, the athletic department has to be very careful as to who their athletes are associating with. Players do not need to even be in contact with people like Nevin Shapiro.

Coaches can only control their players to a certain extent. Student athletes have to be the ones that decide whether it is the right or wrong thing to accept these benefits.

Players are not as defenseless as we have made them out to be; they can think for themselves. It is not the coach’s responsibility to follow these kids off the street and tell them who they can or cannot hang out with.

FIU just needs to be careful after what has happened in our own past, coupled with all of the alleged compensating of student athletes by “boosters” or “friends of the program” at almost every major FBS program in the nation.

FIU has been able to keep a very clean program under Cristobal. Hopefully, that will continue to go hand in hand with the success that he has brought to the program.
# Freshman Survival Guide

## Games to watch

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2011**

**SEPT. 1**

**UNT** @ FIU 7 p.m.

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2011**

**SEPT. 17**

**UCF** @ FIU 6 p.m.

The Golden Panthers begin their back-to-back Sun Belt title bid against conference foe the North Texas Mean Green. Although they had a weak season last year, their running back Lance Dunbar is one of the strongest players in the Sun Belt, rushing for 1,553 yards and finding the endzone 13 times.

This could be the start of a new in-state rivalry. Central Florida will head south to face FIU in the first of a four-game in-state series. UCF could be a tough test for the Golden Panthers. FIU will need all the support they can get to pull off one of the biggest upsets in school history.

### Meal Deals

**Meal Pass**
- Get at least 10% off on every purchase.
- Timbal Juice and Pollo Tropical

**THE NAME GAME**
- Submit your name to be raffled for a free smoothie or TropiChop.

**MOE’S MONDAYS**
- Any burrito, chips and a drink for $5.99

**BOGO SUSHI**
- Buy one, get one free an hour before closing time.

### Where to park?

- **Pantry Garage:** Best chance to spot. Just a shuttle ride away from GC.
- **PG5:** Before 11 a.m., parking is usually available.
- **Red** Next to PG5 and less likely to be crowded, but get there before 11 a.m. to guarantee a spot.
- **Blue & Gold:** Best location for early birds. Parking Lots: Look for lots around campus if you can’t find a spot.

**Don’t Forget!**

- Switch out your old PantherCARD at the new FIU One Card office in PG 100 at MMC or WUC 143 at BBC.
- Add and Drop deadline: Aug. 29
- Tuition Payment deadline: Aug. 30
- The processing time for holds is two-three weeks.
- You won’t receive your financial aid by the payment deadline.
- Late fees are $100.
- Bright Future Scholarship recipients: Fill out your FAFSA by Aug. 30

**Financial Aid Office Hours**

Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Meal Pass**
- Get at least 10% off on every purchase.
- Timbal Juice and Pollo Tropical

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- Any burrito, chips and a drink for $5.99

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**Housing Tips**

- Sign a roommate agreement so no one slack on cleaning and taking care of the room, even if you’re friends with your roommates.
- Get to know your RA so they’re willing to help you when you need it, like with roommate conflicts.
- In an emergency, go to your RA or Residence Life Coordinator. You may also be guilty by association.
- Be responsible for your room key because they’re expensive to replace.
SANDY ZAPATA  
Staff Writer

The first week of the academic school year is always filled with plenty of events to enjoy, especially for incoming freshmen who are just starting to get the layout of the college social life.

One of these events, the Greek Welcome BBQ, created by the Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic Council, will take place on Aug. 23 at 7 p.m. in the Graham Center Ballroom Lawns.

Both these councils set up this “meet and greet” as a way to welcome back returning undergraduates and alumni members of their council as well as to introduce Greek life to new students.

Over time, the event grew to incorporate the other two councils on campus, the National Panhellenic Council and the Multicultural Greek Council.

Alexis Fulks, who has been the Campus Life Assistant Director for the past two years and is also the Greek Advisor for IFC and PC, said, “Being Greek is a lifelong commitment and not just intended for your four years as an undergraduate. Because FIU is a commuter school, it solidifies the relationships you have with people in your fraternity.”

Fulks, who is an alumna and has been a member of Alpha Xi Delta since 2002, believes that the media exemplifies Greek life in a negative way and some freshmen and even returning students may have that idea embedded in them when they return to class.

The Greek barbecue is one way for new students to see the people, parties, and festive mood associated with Greek life.

With four distinct councils, who have an array of sororities and fraternities to choose from, the barbecue is made to involve and educate students, and it is a chance for all the organizations of each council to represent themselves and their philanthropy.

One of the main attractions of the barbecue is when the different organizations start strolling, which is a stepping or saluting line dance. While it may not be a planned part of the event, it gives each organization an opportunity to strut their stuff.

Everyone comes dressed in their representative gear, from Greek shirts to Greek tikis and paddles. Because the venue is big enough, there is always room for any number of students to join in or watch.

Last year’s barbecue brought at least 2,000 students. The count is based on tickets given to students for food and beverages, but it does not represent the total number of students who attended just to see what was going on.

This year’s flyer is a barbecue sauce bottle with the details of the “Welcome BBQ” on the front and each council’s recruitment dates on the back.

Campus Life also hopes to keep expanding the event through social media networks like twitter and facebook, whose event page alone has over 600 confirmed guests attending the barbecue.

“The best part of the Greek barbecue is the aftermath. To look back and recall all the good times and all the different organizations had a chance to be represented,” said Fulks.

Photo Courtesy of IROCK-College.com
THE UNOFFICIAL UNIFORM

Fashion resolutions for a new semester

You might think that a dedicated follower of fashion would apply their style philosophy to all aspects of their life. I am almost ashamed to admit that this is not necessarily true—at least in my case.

For someone who spends as much time thinking about clothes and shoes as I do, it does not make sense that I put little to no effort into what I wear to school.

The few times that I have worn something out of the ordinary, I felt like other students had their eyes on me all day. I have seen how other girls are side-eyed when wearing five inch heels to a 2 p.m. class. I must admit, it has affected my decisions. No one wants to be subjected to that kind of scorn.

I have observed that FIU has a sort of unofficial dress code. Because of the hot and humid climate, most students opt for comfort. Somehow, I have let myself get caught in the uniform routine.

I cannot say that in the three years I have been at this school I have worn anything other than denim cutoffs and flat sandals. I do not know what it is about getting dressed for school that intimidates me, but I am willing to bet I am not the only one.

There has to be someone else out there who is frustrated with their default choices when it comes to getting dressed for school. After thinking a lot about my dilemma, I have come to the realization that I need to stop thinking. The thing that makes fashion so fun is how contradictory it is.

I know I should not wear sweatpants to class, but I found myself admiring a pair from J.Crew that could be worn with a button down.

Walking around FIU in heels seems like a bad idea but sometimes a pair of platform sandals is all it takes to make an outfit perfect.

Wearing a hat seems a little much at first, but with the right style it could look effortless.

There are a few students around campus who understand this contrarian idea in fashion and use it to their advantage; I admire them for it.

This season, I am challenging myself with the task of wearing a little less black and gray and a lot more experimentation.

The first thing I need to get over is my irrational fear of wearing heels to school. In fact, I have quite a few pairs that hardly get enough wear, and there is no good reason for why they are just sitting in my closet. My mother has a valid point when she asks why I even bought them in the first place. The second thing is exhaustion. My calculating nature ensures that I plan outfits for at least the first few weeks, but after a while I grow fatigued with planning and end up relying on my uniform again.

The best solution to this is to stop being so calcu-lating and pair unlikely things together. I know it sounds like a shot in the dark, but some of my favorite ensembles have been born this way.

Once you have secured two items to base your outfit on, like a new top and an old favorite skirt, it becomes easier to personalize the outfit with accessories. Just make sure you are relaxed when you do this, otherwise it could look like a tornado just took a run through your bedroom.

For the next year, I will be documenting my experiences with fashion here in this column.

My style and tastes are constantly shifting and there is rarely a part of fashion that I shun, so expect a varied breadth of topics.

From my fascination with certain trends, to how to shop at bargain stores without looking desperate, all fashion subjects will be covered here. Hopefully you will get some inspiration on the way.

Haute Topic is a weekly fashion column.
New dating site eases cyber romance fears

DateMySchool arranges meeting a potential date by delving into a university’s infrastructure. It enables students to filter their searches based on whether a member attends the College of Arts and Sciences or the College of Engineering and Computing, whether they are looking for Women’s Studies or Public Administration majors, or whether they come from a Roman Catholic or Bahá’i background.

Some University students are impressed by the site’s innovative process. “It’s a pretty convenient website,” said Rachel Betancourt, a sophotomore psychology major. “Personally, I don’t think I’d be into long distance relationships but I definitely know people who don’t have the time for traditional dating, but then again, who does?”

DateMySchool caters to all types of universities, especially to a public state institution like FIU that has over 40,000 students, an inordinate amount of departments and various campuses mottled around the South Florida area.

According to Martinez, these conditions make it difficult to meet people and foster connections.

“Here’s the thing,” said Wallner, “FIU students are busy on their plate. They’ve got the Panthers’ game to watch, that club meeting to plan— with so much to do on campus, students don’t always have the time to meet new people, especially because they’re busy going to the parties that only reintroduce them to the people they already know.”

Betancourt added, “The distinct appeal that separates DateMySchool from other dating sites like OkCupid and Zoosk lies within its estimated success in bringing college students exactly what they want, right in the comfort of their own school. It is one solution that aptly meets students’ criteria of what they look for, not only in a partner, but also in an online dating platform.”

DateMySchool officially launched at the University on Wednesday, Aug. 17th.

Hypnotist Sailesh comes back to shock University

Sailesh [above] surprises students with his skills during last fall’s Week of Welcome.

WOW, page 1

at these events like new giveaways for students each year, which adds to the overall experience.”

On Aug. 23, WOW continues with the SPC Comedy Show featuring Dan Ahdoot in the GC Ballrooms at 6 p.m. Ahdoot was a finalist for NBC’s “Last Comic Standing” and winner of the 2003 Philadelphia Comedy Competition.

“With this event, we were able to book Ahdoot in advance this past February at the National Association for Campus Activities National Convention,” explained Calafell. “We think these events, such as the comedy show, are enjoyable in itself. We just make sure that current students experience something different every year.”

The SPC Hypnotist Show will feature Sailesh Dubbed “the World’s Best Hypnotist,” Sailesh will once again entertain the audience on Aug. 25 in the GC Ballrooms at 9 p.m.

“WOW plans to feature Sailesh every fall for WOW because he’s always received well by the students and it helps build a tradition,” said Calafell. “We felt good about these two performers [Sailesh and Ahdoot] and decided that they would contribute to making this Week of Welcome memorable and enjoyable.”

Week of Welcome ends on Friday, Aug. 25, with the SPC Friday Night Movie featuring this summer’s box office hit, “Fast Five,” at GC 140 at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. The event will include free popcorn and drinks.

“These events are necessary for incoming students because it shows them FIU has the best interest of the students in mind,” said Calafell. “Aside from providing excellent academic programs, the University also supports a Campus Life department with excellent councils who provide these educational and fun experiences for new students.”

SPC also hopes new students will remain as being a WOW page to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out, this 20-page paper to bust out.
Credit card use requires education

KATRINA BRUNO
Staff Writer

Minimum wage jobs, student loans and personal expenses are making daily finances nearly unbearable for college students, including myself. According to collegedata.com, 57.6 percent of undergraduate students at this University depend on financial aid for assistance to make their way through college. I am aware that credit cards can be extremely helpful for students if used responsibly. However, I do believe the lack of education on how to properly maintain one’s finances has left many students feeling lost and helpless when it comes to overcoming their debt.

The required First Year Experience courses at our University should focus on educating students on financial responsibility. The University should also give more recognition to the needs of our students by offering free workshops that educate students about the pitfalls and benefits of having a credit card. This would help students feel more financially independent, secure and confident as they go through their college years.

“The play today, pay tomorrow” philosophy is an appealing trap for students to fall into. Since I turned 21 in February, I have received an influx of offers from student loan companies. Some of the offers are attractive, adding rewards points, air miles and cash-back bonuses to the ability to pay instantly for different items. With ease, I have spent more than what I have in my bank account during the six month period I have had my credit card. Sallie Mae, a national financial organization that services and collects student loans, released “How Undergraduate Students Use Credit Cards: Sallie Mae’s National Study of Usage Rates.” According to the study, “91 percent of undergraduates have at least one credit card, up from 76 percent in the same study conducted in 2004. The average number of cards has grown to 4.6, with half of college students having four or more cards.” The study also determined that the average undergraduate student carries $3,173 in credit card debt.

Whether the culprit is fiscal irresponsibility or a need to pay for tuition, books and other necessities, the issue of controlling one’s finances and keeping out of debt is something that should be taught to students.

College is a great time to make important financial decisions and establish a credit history, but it is also a time when most students swipe their way into a colossal amount of debt. However, I do believe that with a little guidance and education, students may begin to regain control of their finances and begin learning how to make financially smarter decisions in the future.

As another school year begins, returning students and freshmen alike must contend with a continued atmosphere of gloom: stubbornly poor job prospects, talk of a returning “double-dip” recession, and concerns about an “education bubble” in which college degrees are suspected of costing far more than their worth. Amid this cynical and hopeless environment, it is easy to feel pessimistic, overwhelmed, and even self-doubting about one’s own educational path. But the best thing anyone could do in response to these concerns is learn from them. All this should spur students to think carefully about what classes they’re taking and why, determine whether their major is truly what they see themselves doing, and honestly investigate what they have in mind for a career fits the right balance of desirability and feasibility. Amid all the skepticism about the value of higher education, and the low rate of employment even for graduates, people with college degrees still maintain a comparative edge in employability and salary over those that don’t. It certainly doesn’t mean students should be careless about their plan of study and believe any degree will suit them. But it’s no cause for gloom and doom either. Be cautious, prudent, vigilant, and most of all patient. All that will come in handy long after you’ve graduated.

Romney Manassa,
FIU Alumnus

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editors and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.
Modern technology affects interaction

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ Staff Writer

Every day, people give away their privacy in return for the use of the latest gadgets and conveniences, often without even knowing it.

Data mining is a relatively new marketing tactic made possible by the vast infiltration of electronics in our lives. Little do people know or maybe they do know but just do not care, that many electronics we use on a daily basis are recording our activities and purchasing habits and storing them on databases indefinitely.

Sacrificing privacy for shopping convenience and a personalized web page is not worth it.

Developers are continuously perfecting and expanding targeted marketing techniques with growing omniscience of stopping. Direct marketing tactics are meant to increase the likelihood of a hard sell. Where does the future go when we have no control over who comes to you offering all the products you habitually buy can be made possible by these technologies. As a rather selective shopper that likes to do his research before buying, I have a problem with that because it drastically reduces my choices.

When data mining and targeted marketing techniques penetrate too deep into our lives it will become a nuisance, and the freedoms we experience in our free market will start to dwindle. In order for the prices of virtually all goods and services to remain competitive, the choice of where and how to spend money must remain with the consumer. Otherwise, we will see less variety in goods and higher prices because direct marketing will stifle consumer choice in the favor of the sellers.

Everyone signs away a piece of their privacy each time they accept a new end-user license agreement or create a social networking page, and as of now none of the privacy options seem powerful enough to protect our privacy. The real concern is how far these techniques will go in the future and how they will affect our daily lives.

Privacy is more important to me than any piece of hardware or software, and the potential disregard for my privacy by those who only wish to profit from me is disturbing.

With rising enrollment, prospective housing residents put on waiting list

**HOUSING, page 2**

The new structure would replace BBC’s Bay Vista complex, which houses approximately 300 students. Despite the high demand, Wassenaar said the Housing Office has been “largely successful at accommodating students from outside Dade and Broward County.”

The University has off-campus housing locating service available to help students wait-listed find accommodations elsewhere. The off-campus housing locator is a classifieds website, classifieds.fi.edu, which allows students to search for properties by price range and number of rooms and includes a message board feature to help students find roommates.

This semester’s housing crunch, partly a result of increased enrollment, is also partly a result of university housing’s high rate of return – 55 percent of students in residence halls, according to Wassenaar, renewed their contracts at the end of the year.

For renewing and new students alike the University undertakes efforts to make them feel at home on campus.

Freshman Pat Louis, who requested housing early and was placed at Bay Vista, said he liked the accommodations and had so far had a positive experience with the Housing Office and Residence Life.

Events such as the annual Knock Knock Program, in which faculty and staff members meet with and welcome new student residents in the first week of classes, are designed to create a sense of community.

This year, Knock Knock will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 23 at BBC and Wednesday, Aug. 24 at MMC.

While wait-listed students are making a last-minute scramble to find housing before classes start, the word from many like Smith, who were placed in residence halls, is positive.

“Outside [of Bay Vista] is beautiful,” Smith said, though he said there were places where the interior showed its age. Asked what he would like to see in any future residence hall, Smith said, “Better Wi-Fi – the signal’s horrible!”

GPE gets first fare increase since 2006; up 50 cents

**GPE, page 16**

In addition to the new features that will be on the GPE the first day of the semester, the service will see its rate increase for the first time since 2006, to accommodate for the rise in gasoline prices.

“The increase for the fare was recently sought due to the increased in the contract pricing related to the fuel usage,” said Hernandez. “The cost of the shuttle is to help cover the fuel usage.”

Although Parking and Transportation mentions that the GPE upgrades came about with the students’ best interests in mind, not everyone agrees with these additional features.

“I am opposed to these changes as it brings the cost higher than public transportation, if you are only taking one bus,” said Melissa Wells, a freshman with an undecided major. “The upgrades, such as Wi-Fi, are those that students can separate for a single bus ride. With the amount of resources on campus, it is ridiculous to think of not having [Internet] for one, maybe two bus rides as being incredibly detrimental.”

However, the addition of Internet to the GPE is not the only addition, there will also be surveillance cameras added to all of the buses, with the safety of passengers being a priority for Parking and Transportation, although safety has yet to become an issue with the GPE.

“As of this time, there have been no [safety issues], but the safety of our students is our primary concern,” says Hernandez. “Our office thought that since we were entering into a new contract for the next five years, it will be in the best interest of the University to include it from the beginning.”

To inform passengers of the upcoming changes, the Department of Parking and Transportation will have staff members during the first week of classes notifying students at each campus’s respective GPE stops, along with emails being sent out to the university community.

At the time of print, the Department of Parking and Transportation web site has yet to reflect the changes to the GPE.

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PHOTOGRAPHY?

PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES CAN APPLY AT WUC 124 OR EMAIL BBC MANAGING EDITOR JONATHAN.SZYDLO@FIUSM.COM

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**AT THE BAY IS LOOKING FOR A PHOTO EDITOR TO LEAD OUR STAFF OF PHOTOGRAPHERS**
With rising enrollment, prospective housing residents put on waiting list

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GPE, page 16

how beneficial it will be for students to have access to the Internet throughout the trip.”

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GPE, page 16

With rising enrollment, prospective housing residents put on waiting list

HOUSING, page 2

The Beacon – Monday, August 22, 2011
Bulletins may have once been a major avenue for getting a message out to the campus community, but in today’s fast paced society, many students on the go can be forgiven for missing the literal writings on the wall.

At Biscayne Bay Campus, there are three bulletin boards in the Wolfe Center that are designated to specifically provide information on off-campus housing, FIU events, and the community at large.

Senior John Garcia, a public relations major and self-employed student who buys and sells college textbooks, has his complaints though. “The bulletins I have posted on the bulletin boards have not really helped me advertise the boards have not really helped me advertise the things being done for the students,” said Halpin. “That way we get the most clientele from mouth-to-mouth advertising amongst [FIU] students.”

Events and student services posted on campus boards

Vanessa Carolina Rodriguez Contributing Writer

With flyers announcing the latest events around campus or nearby off-campus housing, bulletin boards have long served their purpose as a low-cost public advertising space in the past.

“When I went to school in the 70's, bulletin boards were the main source of information for students to find out about upcoming events around campus. If you never checked the bulletin board, you never knew what was going on,” said David Johnson, a 50-year-old business major who recently came back to FIU to get his master’s degree.

Bulletins may have once been a major avenue for getting a message out to the campus community, but in today’s fast paced society, many students on the go can be forgiven for missing the literal writings on the wall.

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“The sheet limit is the reason why there is a lot we can do. It’s a positive thing being done for the students,” Greg Olsen, Director of the WUC

There is a lot we can do. It’s a positive thing being done for the students.

Greg Olsen
Director of the WUC

SGC-BBC funds Wolfe University Center renovations

JONATHAN SZYDLO
BBC Managing Editor

The start of the new semester brings new features to the University’s cross-town shuttle, but don’t be surprised if you’re a buck short when looking to take the Golden Panther Express.

The Department of Parking and Transportation is adding new features to the Golden Panther Express, the University’s inter-campus shuttle service, due to the renegotiation and renewal of the service’s contract with American Coach.

The contract renegotiation’s call for the addition of Wi-Fi Internet access and security cameras on all of the American Coach buses provided

to FIU for the GPE, along with a rate hike of 50 cents per one way trip, making the total cost of a round way $5.50.

With the contract between FIU and American Coach being brought to the table this summer, Lissette Hernandez, associate director of the Department of Parking and Transportation, saw this as an ideal opportunity to request additional features to the GPE.

“We thought that this will be a perfect moment to request additional services since the contract was up for renewal,” said Hernandez. “We understand the travel time it takes from one campus to the other and fixing the concave floors on the second and third floors,” said Denise Halpin, the president of the SGC-BBC, who has heavily lobbied for the projects funding and fruition. As per the July 13, SGC-BBC meeting, the estimated budget for the re-tiling of the WUC is $376,700.

The project cost breaks down as follows: $150,000 in the demolition of the current flooring; $100,000 in labor for the tiles; $18,700 in architect fees; $68,000 in imported blue and gold tiles, which are not available in the United States, according to Emilio Hernandez, associate director of the Department of Parking and Transportation.

He projected that President Mark Rosenberg fully supports the renovation. “We will start the tiling and painting this year, but we want to make sure we have a clear vision so everything is cohesive with future administrations.”

“We are looking into having a five- to 10-year overall vision of the Wolfe Center,” said Halpin. “That way we do not just put final pieces of the WUC but rather an overall student union center.”

The last time major renovations occurred in the WUC was in 2007, when the SGA office was moved from the first floor into what was formerly the fitness center.

Other renovation ideas have included adding a statue of a panther and redesigning the WUC with updated features, but the visions will be streamlined after Jessel’s visit and the hiring of an architect.

“There is a lot we can do,” said Olsen. “It’s a positive thing being done for the students.”