8-26-2011

The Beacon, August 26, 2011

Florida International University

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Professor says Northeast earthquake a ‘minor event’

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
News Director

A 5.8 magnitude earthquake hit the eastern part of the United States on Aug. 23. This proved to be surprising because the area is not known for seismic activity.

Despite this, Richard Olson, a political science professor, was interviewed by Student Media that it was a minor seismic event and the reactions to it are a “tempest in a teapot.”

“Everybody needs to calm down,” Olson said.

The earthquake’s reach was as far north as Toronto, as far south as Atlanta, Ga. and as far west as Kentucky.

There were no reported deaths or serious injuries but the quake did cause structural damage to the Washington Monument and the National Cathedral. Cracks were seen on the monument and three capstones of the cathedral’s tower broke off.

In Virginia, where the quake was centered, windows were shattered and grocery stores were wrecked. The White House, Capitol and US Geological Survey were also evacuated.

At the Pentagon, a low rumbling built until the building itself was shaking and people ran into the corridors of the complex. The shaking continued to shouts of “Evacuate! Evacuate!” The main damage to the building, the largest single workspace for the federal government, came from a broken water pipe.

People also evacuated from buildings in New York, 410 miles away from the center. Hundreds poured out of the federal courthouse and Empire State Building after the quake struck at about 2 p.m.

Wall Street also felt the brief impacts of the quake. The floor of the New York Stock Exchange did not shake, officials said, but the Dow Jones industrial average sank 60 points soon after the quake struck.

The Dow began rising again a half-hour later and finished the day up 322 points. Two nuclear reactors at the North Anna Power Station in Virginia were automatically taken off line by safety systems. The plant is in the same county as the quake’s center.

Although a minor in the pantheon of quakes that have hit the country, the one on Aug. 23 is the strongest quake to hit the east coast of the US since World War II.

Since 1900, there have been 50 quakes of magnitude 5.8 or greater in California alone. Quakes in the East tend to be felt across a much broader area.

However, Olson said the quake was a reminder that there is seismic activity on that part of the country.

“(The east coast) has quakes too but not as big or as often as the west,” Olson said.

The minor damage done to structures wasn’t enough for Olson to suggest buildings on the east coast be built to withstand earthquakes.

“Should buildings be seismically resistant? Probably. But that ship has sailed,” Olson said.

As the east coast recovers from its quake, the west coast, the area known for quakes, was hit by several on Aug. 24.

On that morning the San Francisco Bay area was hit by a quake several hours after it was hit by a quake the night before.

Both quakes, which measured at 3.6 magnitude, were centered about six miles southeast of Oakland, along the Hayward fault, a major Northern California fault zone.

As a reminder of the country’s widespread seismic activity, Olson said two of the biggest earthquakes to hit the country happened in 1811-1812 and were centered in Missouri. Those quakes were felt from Philadelphia to New Orleans.

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“I think ships are something else,” Olson said.

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Chile’s 2-day shutdown begins with barricades

Chilean students, opposition politicians and union workers are leading a two-day nationwide strike to shut down the government.

“The government has been set on fire and an officer was shot in the head. We warned them to stay out, threatening to invoke Chile’s constitutional right to peaceful protest. But the government has cracked down on opposition, and we need to work in conjunction with the University’s Worlds Ahead Strategic Plan.”

He also pushed the senate to produce new ideas and concepts for their respective constituencies to bring to the table for the new academic year.

“Sometimes we forget where the University is going. We need to ask what is the University doing and how can we align ourselves with some of those projects,” said Toscano.

“Sometimes our goals are left or go to the right. There is never a straight and narrow in which both SGA goals, department goals and University goals are all one. So our strategy, as SGA advisors, is to bring everything together.”

Projects included improving the University’s online rating system for professors, the development of this year’s homecoming events and the successful implementation of the coffee shop at the Engineering Center.

“We’re going to try to get it so that rate my professor system that FIU uses is a lot more usable for data for students,” said SGC-MMC President Patrick O’Keefe who also mentioned in his report a program is being developed for students to obtain internships in Washington, D.C.

Senators Speaker Donovan Dawson announced six senate vacancies: two for the College of Nursing, two for the College of Education, one for the College of Business and one for Housing.

The vacancy in the business seat comes from the resignation of senator Cesar Chauquiza, who, according to Dawson, sent a letter explaining that he accepted a marketing position at Volkswagen.

Chauquiza was elected during the 2011 SGA elections and received the most votes out of all of the business candidates.

“I was offered an opportunity for professional development,” Chauquiza said in his letter.

The senate approved the proposal of the University’s solar decathlon project which requested $1,940 from SGC-MMC to cover the flight cost of sending 10 students to Washington DC, where the competition will take place from Sept. 18 to 25.

Nominations made during the meeting included Alexandra Almanzar, for elections commission; Sasha “Bleu” Waters, as sustainability coordinator; and Sergio Pantoja, as technology coordinator.

Senators discuss their projects

Asst. News Director

MEELISSA CACERES

For their first meeting of Fall 2010, the Student Government Council senators at Modesto Maidique Campus laid out their current projects for the semester while discussing nominations and vacancies within the organization.

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**FOOTBALL**

Hargrett joins crowded field of running backs

**JACKSON WOLEK**

Staff Writer

It was a bright and sunny day in Miami for the start of their last week of practice before they take on North Texas on Sept. 1 at FIU Stadium; until about an hour and a half into it, when the rain started to pour down on the field. The rain lasted for a good two minutes, and it quickly started to feel as though it was 110 degrees again.

"It was like a New Jersey day," said head coach Mario Cristobal. That day also brought him back to his playing days in Amsterdam. "As a player I remember one day it was snowing and it was raining and then it started snowing."

While FIU does not have to deal with extreme of weather changes of that degree, they will have to deal with potential Sun Belt Conference player of the year Lance Dunbar and the Mean Green of North Texas.

"For us it's most important game we've ever had," said Cristobal. "We're going against a guy who is picked to be the conference player of the year [Dunbar], and I know coach McCa-

mey and the way he prepares each position, so we know the challenge is a big one, but so is the opportunity."

The opportunity to win their first game of the season against a conference opponent at home is something that FIU has yet to accomplish. They will have a little help on their side of the net and adjusting quickly after we start playing. I don't want our team to focus too much on the other team. Let's control things on our side of the net."

Even though the team will try to play through the season with this mentality, it is hard for them to ignore their last opponent on this road trip. Along with winning the Pac-10 title, Berkeley's head coach, Rich Feller, won the American Volleyball Coaches Association National Coach of the Year award, and senior setter Carli Lloyd took home the AVCA National Player of the Year award. Though Berkeley no longer has Lloyd, they still have a great team, and defense, intake.

Chanel Araujo, libero and defensive specialist, knows their team has some work to do if they want to go toe to toe against Berkeley.

"Berkeley is a team we need to step up our game up to," said Araujo, the 2010 team leader in digs with 339. "They're well-known for their blocking and we're working our defense around how they're going to block us."

A native of southern Calif., Araujo is excited to go back and play against some of her friends in the tournament. Her friends and family are driving up to see her, giving her extra motivation to perform well.

"It'll be fun to be back," said Araujo. "I haven't been back all summer."

The team also hopes to iron out the setter position this road trip. Held over the summer are winding down, and with the season about to get under way, the team is already eyeing their first victory.

"I need to develop better chemistry with setters because I've been playing with Natalia for three years," said Lakovic. Despite this tough transition, Lakovic will head into the season opener with a spot on the Preseason All-Sun Belt Conference Volleyball Team for the first time in her career, announced Wednesday afternoon by conference officials. Joining Lakovic is Outside Hitter Jovana Blazijec, who was honored for the second-consecutive year. Regardless, the Panthers are ready to go. The long, scorching days of summer are winding down, and the season about to get under way, the team is already eyeing their first victory. Asked if they could sweep the three teams at the invitational, Tomic responded, "I'm confident we can do that, that's our intention. We'll be hard to beat."
Ryan, Tolbert may be surprises for your fantasy team

Hello fellow fantasy football owners and connoisseurs. Welcome back to the legendary Fantasy Cruz. Let me start by verbally smacking myself in the face and giving Santana Moss a formible apology for last season. He hit it up for over 1,100 yards and six touchdowns, making the 2010 season his second best amongst his career. I have a new cloned receiver to put on death row here on Fantasy Cruz.

Wide receiver Braylon Edwards has performed way below expectations his last five seasons, and fantasy owners were skeptical at best. Last season was pretty good for a number two receiver with 900 yards and seven touchdowns, but much of his success can be credited to the Jets run game and strong offensive line to protect their “GO” quarterback Mark Sanchez. Edwards is now stuck in a new system in San Francisco with a quarterback who is an embarrassment to his team.

Along with a weak offensive line, including Anthony Davis who allowed the most sacks in the NFL last season, who knows what kind of trouble Edwards might get into with the law to go along with his terrible offensive weapons surrounding him. Sept. 11 marks the opening day for most NFL teams this season. Many owners are holding off on their drafts, whether it is for supersitious injury presumptions, or maybe the lockout, or just to make the draft more exciting. The following is a draft preview of the top three players at each position and a sleeper under the “Fantasy Cruzar.”

QUARTERBACKS

Aaron Rodgers- Everyone who knows a lick of football knows this guy is a stud. His “big fella” tight end Jermichael Finley is back to complement all his other dynamic receivers. Last season Rodgers was without his starting running back and tight end for big parts of the year and still made magic happen with an impressive 3,922 yards and 28 touchdowns. Shake and Bake.

Tom Brady- I had to put “Tom Terrific” over Michael Vick at the number two slot because not only did their receiving core get insanely more powerful with the addition of Chad Ochocinco, but let’s all remember that Brady is a very smart dude and usually avoids injuries altogether. Last season Brady dominantly threw for 3,900 yards along with 36 touchdowns. With Belichick as the boss, Brady will continue to shine. Wonder Boy.

Michael Vick- If the reincarnated Vick can repeat last season’s jaw dropping 3,000-yard, 21-touchdown season without getting hurt, he will probably move up to one in the ranking by mid-season. He has all his weapons back with the addition of some new ones. He not only brings top three throwing numbers to the table, but can also have more rushing points than some running backs in the league. MacGyver.

UNDER THE CRUZAR: QB

Matt Ryan- Right now he is at number 11 on the ranking. I happen to disagree with that a tad bit. If anyone has watched Julio Jones play in a preseason game, you were probably as astonished as I was to see this player catch and run the ball.

He brings back a healthy Roddy White and Tony Gonzalez to compliment the Alabama alumni. Ryan can be your ticket to success if you miss the top five QB’s.

RUNNING BACKS

Adrian Peterson- I know many owners are skeptical when it comes to “AD,” but the man has corrected his big flaw in fumbling the football. He only had one fumble last season, with nearly 1,300 yards and 12 touchdowns. With a weak pass attack, look for Peterson to put the team on his shoulders and repeat a superb season.

Chris Johnson- He might be holding out, as of this point, in the preseason, but he’ll be back in action once Week One hits. With 1,364 yards and 11 touchdowns last season, look for Johnson to improve his performance, because either he will be issued a new contract by the Titans, or he will be playing for a new contract for his free agency period. Long hair don’t care.

Arian Foster- Owners can look at Foster’s 1,616 yard, 16 touchdown season as a fluke or a breakout. This preseason Foster is proving all the naysayers wrong and is playing towards expectations. The stealthy ninja running style of Foster will bring many more bowling celebrations to fans. Sensii.

UNDER THE CRUZAR: RB

Mike Tolbert- Right now Tolbert is 35th in the ranking for running backs. This guy will be a steal for a third option, or tech guy at your receiver/running back slot. Look for Tolbert to use his expert hands in goal line situations where the Chargers mainly throw the ball.

I expect Tolbert to have a season much like Matt Forte’s last season, where receiving yards and touchdowns will be key.

Next week we will continue and finish the draft special for the 2011-12 season. Stay tuned and good luck on your drafts.

Varying calibers of opponents require different approaches

Look, without consistency from the setter, players such as middle blocker Andrea Lakovic and libero Jovana Bjelica, both named to the Preseason All-Sun Belt Conference Team, will be less effective on the court of U.S. Century Bank Arena.

Head Coach Daniela Tomic (left) needs to make a choice on who will be main setter.

FOCUSING ON OPPONENTS

Players, such as Lakovic and libero Chanel Araujo, mentioned that the Golden Panthers will be focusing on themselves, as oppose to being dictated by which opponent they face on any given day. Though the strategy may sound good in

theory, it may not play out the same way in every match-up. Take this weekend’s road trip at the Cal Molten Invitational as an example.

The Golden Panthers face the University of California-Riverside, a team that put together a terrible 2:30 record last season. With a team that struggles, such as UC-Riverside, FIU can choose to focus on their strengths in their own game plan and enforce it upon their opponent.

On the other side, FIU will face UC-Berkeley, the defending PAC-10 champions and runner-ups to the 2010 NCAA championship season.

The Golden Panthers cannot expect to concentrate on improving themselves as a team when they are facing such a tough opponent. FIU must take the opportunity, when facing a difficult foe, to learn from their opponent, improve on their game plan and raise their game to a higher level of competition.

I hope the Golden Panthers raise their level of play to compete with whatever opponent comes their way. This team may have experience, and they can compete for the SBC championship, but the setter position battle must be addressed quickly if they want to be a force when tournament time comes around.

Luckily, for the Golden Panthers, the season is only just starting.
Renovations and outdoor events welcome students

SYLVIA SIMIONI
Contributing Writer

Housing & Residential Life kicked off the new semester on Aug. 19 by welcoming new and returning students to their residence halls with a series of outdoor events.

Students were invited to take a break from heaving their TVs, wall mirrors and other heavy appliances from their large blue carts to attend one of the many white tents at the Housing Quad that offered University services, including the FIU One Card, the Bookstore and Panther Dining.

“The move-in process is very time-consuming,” said Caroline Spitzer, a senior and theatre major who will be moving into the residence halls for the fourth time. “It’s more about getting organized and setting up everything before classes start, like running errands and buying everything you need.”

Spitzer remarked, “I feel like [these events] are a way of getting involved and feeling welcomed at FIU. They let people know they are now part of the FIU family.”

Some residents feared the imminent pandemonium of hundreds of students trying to check-in within the short allotted time, but most remained enthusiastic.

“I moved in on Friday at 10 a.m. and everything was pretty fast,” said Kristen Renée Hidalgo, a junior with an undecided major. “I first had to make a payment, then check in and get my keys; Everglades Hall was not too packed.”

Renovations were made to some of the residence halls just in time to welcome in the new semester. Panther Hall is complete with new flooring for the exterior stairs while the University Park Apartments received a new exterior and interior paint job.

“The renovations are looking great!” said Gricia Martínez, a hospitality management and public relations double major and transfer from Penn State, via the Housing & Residential Life Facebook page.

On Sunday evening, residents attended a mandatory floor meeting with their resident assistants to learn about the rules and regulations upheld in the halls, including the smoke-free campus policy.

Residents were initially asked to state their major, ranging from sports studies to fine arts to speech pathology and child development, and what wing of the hall they lived in.

Scott Kearny, a junior biology major and RA in Everglades Hall, said, “You can see how diverse everyone else is, especially at FIU. We have many transfer students and people studying from different countries.”

The RA’s also expressed their efforts in creating a comfortable and creative environment for the hall inhabitants.

Veronica “Nicky” Pereda, a junior architecture major and an RA for Everglades Hall explained, “We have been here for the past two weeks, working really hard and preparing for you guys. We had a lot of fun, but we worked from 6:30 in the morning until 7:00 the next day.”

However, restated that their main responsibility was to assist students. “We are RAs because we love people,” added Pereda. “We are here to refer you to any information that you guys might need.”

The meeting also discussed the Residential Hall Association, whose goals entail giving members funds to set up special programs that students are interested in implementing.

The deadline to apply for an administrative position is Aug. 31. There are also openings for the front desk of each respective residence hall.

Julie Gonzales, a senior and public relations and hospitality management double major, and RA for the Everglades West Wing said, “They were 13 hour training days, but it is part of getting involved on campus. and in RHA does a lot to your resume and it’s a great opportunity to meet new people. You’re living with everybody in this building, so why not represent them?”

REEL TO REEL

“One Day” lays down the foundations, leaves little else

The summer movie season is drawing to a close which can only mean one thing: back to school. The number of highly anticipated blockbusters may be dwindling down but that does not mean that there is a lack of quality movies to watch.

For a change of pace I decided check out “One Day,” a romantic drama along the same vein as “The Notebook.” I wanted to like “One Day,” but good actors and a story that could have been memorable can only do so much when a movie is this poorly executed.

The movie is about Emma Morley (Anne Hathaway) and Dexter Mayhew (Jim Sturgess) who just graduated from the University of Edinburgh. Morley wants to be a writer, she wants to sit back and enjoy life. After a few drinks and a failed attempt at sex, they decide to become friends. Over the next two decades we watch as she goes from a dead end job to a dead end relationship with a not-so-funny stand-up comic (Rafe Spall). Mayhew becomes a famous TV celebrity; the obnoxious host of a silly pop culture variety show.

Every year, on July 15th, the couple vows to get together and share their recent exploits.

Parents help new and returning students gather their bags during the Residence Hall Move-In last Aug. 19 and 20. Students were invited to participate in outdoor events during the move in process.

THE HIGH LOW

30 foreign journalists were freed from captivity in a hotel in Tripoli.

Apple says Steve Jobs resigns as CEO.

Hurricane Irene threatens the Carolinas to the Northeast. Experts predict dangerous waves and wind.

Kim Kardashian and new husband Kris Humphries raked in $17.9 million in profits from their wedding.
PC Recruitment week brings individual experiences

SANDY ZAPATA
Staff Writer

Both Katherine and Meaghan are a sorority, but because offi cial recruitment is less than a week away, their full name and affi liation cannot be disclosed at this time.

“Stand for good scholar- ship, guard of good health, maintenance of fi ne standards and serving our college community to the best of their abilities,” is a creed the National Panhellenic Conference, shortened to Panhel Conference at the University, lives by. The PC, which is made up of seven sororities, start the official recruitment for “future sisters” on Aug. 28, with a week long process of meet and greets, interviews, and socials, all with one purpose in mind to bond.

The president of PC, Meaghan J, a senior and hospitality major, said “My mind was completely changed by going through the recruitment process. Going in, I was biased because most of the women who were part of one particular organization and I thought I wanted to be a part of it; during the process, I ended in the organization that was the best fi t for me. I didn’t expect it but I was grateful. “Formal recruitment is the actual week where women can make the potential selection process take place,” said Katherine C, the vice president and the member recruitment chairperson of NPHC, a senior and hospitality major.

There are two main differences between recruitment in PC and the other two councils which house sororities. Under PC, the recruitment process is handled by the Pan-Hellenic Council, which coordinates the Recruitment process and the National Panhellenic Conference, which is the umbrella organization of women’s national sorority major, said in order to learn about the organization and later decide on their own if they want to try and be a part of it. The process is completely private and different for each organization; they are based on the individual rituals and traditions of each organization.

The main other difference is that PC has, Rho Gammas, unbiased recruitment guides, or disaffi liated members of a sorority under the council. Not only are the Rho Gammas disaffi liated with their organization’s process but the E-Board members as well.

These women have three stage phasing out process, in which they separate themselves from their affi liations and close relationship with their sororities in order to be unbiased, and assist and guide the new potential members towards the right organization.

The importance of secrecy is important to keep the ritual and distinguished selection process a success. “It’s important that we reserve the secrecy of our organization to give an unbiased opinion,” says Katherine C.

Although the actual potential members only have a week to interact and get to know the different organizations, they are given informal events during the summer to get to know PC sorority women.

Last year, 500 women signed up for recruitment. This year’s total, not including the number of women who will sign up by the Aug. 25 deadline at noon, is 400 women.

There is a $40 registration fee that covers all of the offi cial recruitment week’s events; each night there will be a programmed-event designated to lead potential members to an organization that will fi t her best, like “Sorority 101,” which is like speed dating. It is the fi rst night the potential members get to meet all seven sororities but have a chance to impress and get to know the schematics of the organization.

As the week progresses, the time and information obtained about each organization gets more in depth as well as the potential bonds within the groups of potential women.

By the end of the week, the women choose their organization and the rest is in the hands of the sorority sisters who will bid on their initial member choices on Sept. 3. After bids are made and women are broken off into their individual organizations, each organization will hold what is called the “educational process,” an individualized and concentrated way each sorority introduces new information to their new members.

In the rare occasion a woman is not chosen by any organization, they have the chance to repeat the process but only after a year since their initial registration.

The goal for recruitment week is ultimately the same for all seven sororities: to fi t the right woman to her best organization.

Meaghan J said, “This is about joining an organization of women that are going to make you better.”

Romantic drama “struggles to keep a coherent story”

ONE DAY, page 5

Along the way, Emma writes a love story for her fanzine, while Dexter drifts off into a haze of work.倒是 working.

“Ripper Street” is a grim, 19th century detective show based on the real-life police force of London’s Whitechapel district, where Jack the Ripper operated.

I felt that Hathaway and Clarkson were either put up to a bet to see who could hold a British accent better. They were both trying to impress each other.

Aside from the accents, the actual plot was fine. Two people trying to find love with one another, yet can’t break through the friendship wall.

Although it sounds good on paper, Director Lone Scherfig struggles during the middle of their strange romance. The first few years of the relationship start out fine, but somewhere in the middle, which happened to be in the mid-90s, Scherfig struggles to keep a coherent story together, often leaving pieces of the puzzle out that left me have to put it together myself.

The biggest concern I had with the movie was the character arc of Dexter. It’s pretty obvious that he’s a douche bag from the very beginning of the film.

Even when the couple decides to give love a chance, I did not see any redeeming qualities to make Dexter a likable character.

I also found his profession a bit unreal. Dexter starts out as a teacher but out of nowhere becomes a television variety show host. Dexter is a womanizer and a jerk, but his new job shot it up to an extreme level of unbelievable.

Trying to get the audience to believe that a smart, conserva- tive woman would be attracted to someone with extreme regard for human feeling is ridiculous, but then again, that is how love can sometimes work.

Despite the struggle of the direction, there were still a few quality moments scattered throughout. The chemistry between Hathaway and Sturgess did not start well, but developed into a likable relationship once Dexter divorced his fi rst wife and learned the value of his relationship with Emma. There are moments that are gripping and emotional, such as when Dexter is dealing with his mother’s illness, or when Dexter can’t control himself from trying to get to know Emma when he is under the infl uence of drugs.

Those moments gave me an emotional connection to the characters, but, yet again, the fi aws of the movie killed what- ever momentum the movie was carrying.

The potential for a great story was there but Scherfig struggled to nail down a story that could have become an instant classic.

Reel to Reel is a weekly movie review column. Look for it every Friday this fall.

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SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION IN GC 210 OR WUC 124
Campus dining options need upgrade

KELLY MALAMBI
Staff Writer

One of the greatest differences between the Modesto Maidique Campus and the Biscayne Bay Campus lies in the variation of dining selections offered. In order to offer students at BBC options and amend the complete list of choices offered at MMC, the quality and variety of eating options must increase.

While it is clear that BBC should have more dining venues due to the smaller student body, the differences between dining at the two campuses are vast. Approximately 7,000 of the 44,000 students at the University attend BBC. The five venues offered to those 7,000 BBC students are not of equal quality to the 21 venues offered to MMC students.

By offering students more options, the University would successfully keep students on campus...

Many marine science, mass communication and hospitality students must take classes at BBC, and since they pay the same tuition, it only seems right that they get to experience the same variety of dining selections as those students who attend MMC.

I am a journalism student, and I spend most of my time at BBC. However, if I want to eat a healthy meal that does not consist of a salad made of soggy lettuce placed in a box, I am forced to waste time and money driving off campus to nearby eateries. We should not have to sacrifice dining amenities.

In Sept. 2010, Jennifer Moreno wrote: “Finding a variety of places to eat around Biscayne Bay Campus isn’t always easy. So many students venture off to the local area searching for different restaurants to feed their appetites.”

By offering students more options, the University would successfully keep students on campus, increasing activity there and improving the campus environment while benefiting students.

On the contrary, a recent article, published in *The Beacon* on June 29, 2011, explains BBC will actually soon eliminate one of the five dining venues, replacing it with vending machines serving Hot Pockets. This addition will not be helpful in keeping students on campus when they are looking for dining options.

Grad student assistants not the ideal instructors

JUSTIN JANS
Contributing Writer

I have had many classes taught by a graduate student teaching assistant instead of an actual professor. Through my experience, I have found that most graduate students do not want to be teaching the class, nor do they have the time for it.

Most of the graduate students that taught me seemed as if teaching was simply a way to help get through graduate school. These ones were, and are currently, simply using the teaching job as a way to pay tuition and are not adequately helping undergraduate students.

A problem with a graduate student teaching an undergraduate course is that students need someone who will help them understand the subject. While graduate students may know the subject, it does not mean that they can communicate the information clearly. Being able to communicate information to a student is sometimes the difference between passing and failing a class.

Many graduate students simply regurgitate notes that were given to them by the professor. Vanessa Somarriba, junior psychology, said, “I’ve had to deal with graduate student instructors who know less of the material than I do and do nothing but read from the book during class.”

It also comes down to the fact that graduate students are still students. Along with teaching classes, many of them are writing papers for their own. Many students tend to become overstressed during finals week. Combine grading a multitude of student papers with completing required courses, it is a tremendous workload to place on a graduate student.

Looking at the 2011-12 Graduate Assistantship Program Summary Chart, which details the eligibility requirements for a student to become a teaching assistant, a graduate student must be enrolled in at least 9 credits in the Fall and Spring semester, and at least six in the summer while maintaining a 3.0 GPA. If they are hired, they must then work 20 hours per week. All of these responsibilities do not give a graduate student adequate time to concentrate on teaching the class.

Allowing graduate students to teach undergraduate classes is a flawed policy. Many times, graduate students do not have the attitude or the desire to teach the class. They are using this job as a way to help pay for graduate school.

In other cases, the graduate student simply has too many things to do in their own classes, which they prioritize higher than the classes they are teaching. Graduate students simply have too much on their plates with teaching classes as well as attending their own.

I was disappointed to read in *The Beacon* this week a commentary by Brandon Wise, who seems to rejoice in the troubles currently upon University of Miami’s athletics and suggest that FIU can use this to its advantage.

At FIU we are building a clean and competitive athletic program that is already well on its way to national prominence, having won our first bowl game and a Sun Belt Conference title last year alone. It is not in the character of a proud Panther to use someone else’s troubles to advance in the classroom or on the field.

FIU’s dedicated faculty and staff, 46,000 hardworking students, and 160,000-strong alumni base generate more than enough energy to power our own spotlight.

Sincerely,
Mark B. Rosenberg
University President

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Unhappy with commentary

I am a journalism student, and I think the company also has a responsibility to see how the consumers are reacting to these charges and from there guess to stop them.”

-Aiana Flores
Freshman, International Relations

“I’m against it because I don’t like people benefiting for the work that others do and not paying them what they need to be paid for their time and effort. Every store does that. But in a way I wouldn’t [shop there].”

-Camilo Arteaga
Senior, Political Science

“Yes, I would continue shopping at Zara. Because that’s probably not the only store that does that... For me, I don’t care, I want to still buy clothes but there’s some extremist people that don’t buy at all just for that [reason].”

-Alicia Dario
Sophomore, Business

Compiled by Brooklyn Middleton

Gathering Opinions, Generating Discussion

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**Getting involved to be showcased**

**JONATHAN SZYDLO**  
BBC Managing Editor

Niches are found, not made. On Aug. 29, Campus Life and Student Organization Council will co-sponsor the Involvement Fair and SOC Club Fair, designed to inform the 7000 students enrolled at Biscayne Bay Campus about educational and social options that go beyond work and class.

Both fairs, held at Panther Square from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., expect to draw 40 organizations to provide students with information on what the Biscayne Bay Campus has to offer, both on and off-campus, according to Rebekah James, Campus Life graduate assistant at BBC.

The organizations involved include multiple University departments, such as: the Center for Leadership, University Health Services, Center for Academic Success and the Women’s Center, the African Student Association, the Chinese Hospitality Management Student Association, Travel and Tourism Club, and Stone-wall 2: religious organizations like the Muslim Student Association, Inter- varsity Christian Fellowship and the Catholic Campus Ministries.

Thanks to the turnout of over 500 students at Welcome Back BBQ on Aug. 22, both Campus Life and SOC have optimistic expectations for attendance.

As for the type of students turning out for the fair, what with increased enrollment, expectations are high as well, said Wolfgang Acuvelo, graduate assistant for Campus Life and Orientation.

“We’re expecting three types of students: those that don’t want to get involved, those that aren’t sure about getting involved but end up changing their mind because of the tabling at the fairs, and those that want to get involved but can’t do too much,” said Ivy Siegel, coordinator for Campus Life and Orientation.

There will also be organizations that, according to James, “allow students to get more involved in order to build their resumes and expand their college experience outside of the classroom.”

There will also be five off-campus housing representatives who will be there to promote student housing alternatives near the Modesto Maid- ique and Biscayne Bay Campuses.

**FBI looks into corruption in state’s private prisons**

**BILL KACZOR**  
Associated Press

Former Rep. Ray Sansom, who resigned as Florida House speaker when he was facing unrelated corruption allegations, on Aug. 24 denied he had anything to do with a privately run state prison that a federal grand jury is investigating.

The Destin Republican said he never discussed the project with Boca Raton-based GEO Group, which won a contract to build and operate the $140 million Blackwater River Correctional Facility in the Panhandle near Milton.

“If there’s one project I cannot take credit for, it’s that project,” Sansom told The Associated Press.

The Pensacola News Journal (http://bit.ly/qOmkf6 ) reported the FBI has served subpoenas seeking legislative travel vouchers for Sansom and records from a former aide.

The FBI also has served subpoenas on the Santa Rosa Board of County Commissioners and Team Santa Rosa, the county’s economic development agency, for records and agents Tuesday seized a computer used by two of the commissioners.

Special Agent Jeff Westcott in Jacksonville declined comment, noting grand jury investigations are supposed to be secret.

Sansom resigned as speaker in 2009 and from the House in 2010. He said he believes the investigation resulted from a complaint to the FBI last year from a state worker who was worried about being laid off as a result of the private prison project.

Blackwater is virtually next door to a state-run prison, the Santa Rosa Correctional Institution.

The travel vouchers include a trip that Sansom, then the House's budget chairman, took to Boca Raton in March 2008 for what was listed as personal business. Sansom said he didn’t even realize until a few weeks ago that GEO was head- quartered there. He said he took the trip to hold leadership meetings with other lawmakers.

“You did not meet with any company while I was in Boca Raton,” Sansom added.

Sansom resigned as speaker in 2009 after the St. Petersburg Times reported he had steered $26 million to Northwest Florida State College before being hired by the school on the same day he became speaker in November 2008.

A state grand jury indict- ment subsequently accused him of scheming to appropriate $6 million to the college for a building at the Destin Airport allegedly for use as a hangar by friend and political supporter, Jay Odom.

Prosecutors in March dropped corruption charges against Sansom, Odom and former college presi- dent Bob Richtberg after a judge rejected a key witness and the defen- dants agreed to pay $300,000 in restitution.

Santa Rosa Commissioner Jim Melvin said the FBI on Tuesday took a computer that he and his predecessor, former Commissioner Gordon Gooden, had used. Melvin defeated Gooden in last year’s election.

Melvin and Gooden said they had no idea why the FBI wanted the computer.

The subpoenas served on the county indicate the grand jury is looking into more than just the prison. The panel is seeking files on various land deals, an ambulance contract, trips taken by commissioners and construction of a new courthouse as well as contracts, vouchers and correspondence between the county and Sansom.

They ask for custodians of those records to present them to the grand jury on Sept. 27.