FOTBOL PROMOTING FOOTBALL

JILL BOUCHER Contributing Writer

The week-long series of events remembering 9/11 throughout the University brought many speakers and artistic performances for all to enjoy.

The Office of Global Learning put on the memorial for the University community.

Arianna Caroli, a world-traveler and artist, displayed her artwork on the exterior of the Frost Art Museum. With an admiration of the American flag, Caroli began photographing the flag a few years before 9/11, not knowing how powerful her photographs would soon be.

Caroli spoke in a more personal atmosphere on Thursday, Sept. 8. She presented photos and paintings from her world travels and spoke fondly of the children she has met on her journeys throughout the world.

Images were from her travels within the past four years in Asia, India, Italy and beyond.

“What’s important is not the final portrait, but it’s the process,” said Caroli. “Art is a universal language.”

The hour was filled with personal stories of Caroli. She always related her experiences back to movement, strength and resilience, words commonly associated with 9/11.

To speak about current issues surrounding Muslim-Americans, former Assistant State Attorney Asad Ba- yums met with a full house in the Frost Art Museum.

COMMEMORATION, page 2

FOOTBALL

Hype builds as game nears

You could not have asked for a better script. Central Florida, coming off of a 30-3 bashing of Boston College last week, and FIU, who just defeated its first school ever from a BCS automatic qualifying conference, are on a collision course for Saturday night when UCF travels the 240 miles south for the match-up.

The “Battle of the Turnpike,” as the UCF players have dubbed it, is shaping up to break the attendance record for an FIU football game set at the Rutgers game last season at 19,872. The only problem is how friendly this crowd will be, as numerous people have said that UCF will bring a lot of fans down to “The Cage.”

When the fans of another school are willing to buy season tickets from FIU to see one game, it goes a long way in showing the fandom that UCF has created around their program in the last 20 years.

It will be an embarrassment to this school if the Knights out number the Golden Panthers in the stands. However, the scoreboard has nothing to do with how both schools attend the game. The Golden Panthers will have to play nearly perfect football this weekend if they hope to come out on top.

The hype of this game has been building since the schedule was released and fueled even more this past month, with fans on both sides going at it on social media websites. Now, the players have even begun to give each other some bulletin board material.

Jeff Godfrey, quarterback for UCF and Miami native, has had a lot to say about coming back home to Miami and specifically about FIU when he talked to the Orlando Sentinel.

“They had a pretty good game over Louisville,” Godfrey said of FIU’s game over the Cardinals. “They played great. T.Y. Hilton, he had a great game. Broke their school record. He’s a phenom.”

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Orlando Sentinel

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This is the not the first time that opponents have doubted T.Y. and the rest of the offense personally and makes sure they remember exactly why they should have kept their mouth shut. Hilton will likely see double coverage again this week, but he will find the key of those handcuffs a couple of times yet again.

Last season, UCF faced off against one of the best receivers in the nation, A.J. Green. The Knights held Green, who is now in the NFL, to eight catches for 77 yards in a dog fight that UCF won 10-6.

Now, these are two different types of receivers with different characteristics.

COMING UP | Sports
Check out the Sept. 19 issue for a recap and analysis of the football game against the Knights of the University of Central Florida.

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COMMEmORATION, page 1

He addressed common misconceptions surrounding Muslim-Americans and why they seem to be a prime target since 9/11.

The theme of his lecture was Islamophobia, an irrational prejudice against Islam and the Muslims who practice it.

“We’re soldiers who have given [our] lives in this war,” said Bayyanu, while an image of a military official was projected for the room to see. “We’re integrated in every part of society.”

To begin the night, he showed a number of Muslim-Americans who were government officials, police officers, and firefighters to show the commonalities between ethnicities and not the alleged differences.

The hour-long lecture concluded with a question and answer section, where students could ask Yunus anything relating to Islamophobia.

The week concluded on Sept. 11 at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center, with the Vahab Ensemble. People congregated with an afternoon of oneness and unity while celebrating Sufism.

Nathan Katz, chairman of the Department of Religious Studies, welcomed the crowd and expressed how uplifting the show would be.

He went on to remind the audience how lucky they were to live in Miami while there was terrible somberness in New York City.

“On such a sunny, beautiful Florida afternoon, we celebrate a great tragedy not only in American history but global history, too,” Katz then welcomed Peter Ragan, a New York based actor, and the Amir Vahab Ensemble, the first performers of the evening.

Ragan began the show with a brief overview of what Sufi is and what it means.

“The word Sufi means filtered, pure, clear, clean, seeing the message of Sufi is love,” said Ragan. “There are not much difference between the religions. We all believe in equality.”

Sufi is traditionally an Islamic tradition. With such hatred directed towards those of Islamic descent since 9/11, it was beneficial to show such a different, more positive side of this ethnicity.

Acts varied between musical productions to poetry readings. During many musical acts, the Amir Vahab Ensemble recited lines of Persian readings.

The instruments used were as unique as the bearded scarfs the artists wore. Round cloth-like drums made a deep, soothing sound, and instruments such as the wood flute were played.

With each performance came a story. Each story had a similar message: unity.

The theme of the night was the oneness of the world, the nature and the people on earth. The performers put 9/11 into a global perspective.

Sept. 11 anniversary honored through lectures, ceremonies

We’re soldiers who have given [our] lives in this war. We’re integrated in every part of society.

Asad Ba-Yunus, Former Assistant State Attorney

NEW SENATORS, page 1

resolve these issues.”

Samma also “intends to make the student body more united through more on-campus housing activities, which will be available for both on-campus and commuter students.” He went on to say that he plans to promote community awareness for issues residents are experiencing and plans on fixing them in a timely manner.

The new College of Business senator Tatiana Medina brings with her experience from the community college level.

Medina recently transferred to the University from Hillsborough Community College and brings concepts and two years of senatorial experience from HCC to SGC-MMC.

Medina attended many state conferences addressing new opportunities for students she formerly represented and she stated that she “plans to bring these opportunities with her to the University.”

She also wants to “promote on-campus and off-campus groups and activities within the College of Business to students who are unaware of the opportunities the University has to offer, for example promoting more student clubs and organizations for business majors at orientation.”

Senior Karen Iglesia, the new senator for the College of Public Health & Social Work, is a graduate student who has “the privilege to participate in many events promoting public health awareness within the University community and within other communities, such as founding a public health group and volunteering at a women’s abuse center, which focuses on physically and mentally abused women in New York.”

Iglesia plans to create more opportunities for students within the public health field, as well as promote awareness for public health at the University.

Senior Stephanie Guzman, representing the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, “intends to bring the goals of SGA and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences together by representing the needs of the students and meeting with the Dean of her college.” Guzman plans on “expanding this relationship by promoting student activities and events which could benefit students within her college.”

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences received a new senator after a current one changed her major.

Janis Verwey changed from her former position as senator for RSCPH. Verwey changed her major from public health to nursing and felt that she “would better represent students by being constantly involved with the environment she will be studying in and surrounding by on a day to day basis.” She intends to continue working with and for the students, making every opportunity for success possible.

The next SGC-MMC Senate meeting will be on Monday, Sept. 19.
**“BATTLE OF THE TURNPIKE”**

Knights’ quarterback says defense will “shut out” FIU

**JACKSON WOLEK**
Staff Writer

Coming off their first ever win against a BCS opponent in Louisville was a great accomplishment, but that is already yesterday’s news as the team quickly switched their attention to the next opponent, the University of Central Florida. The two schools have never played each other before and the rivalry has already begun building amongst fans of both teams while each team goes into the game undefeated. The players have been excited as well, since the Knights have 27 players who graduated from high schools in the south Florida area.

“You can’t ignore it, it’s there, but I do believe that when that ball is kicked off and you start playing the game it does become a faceless opponent,” said head coach Mario Cristobal.

The two biggest names at each school, wide receiver T.Y. Hilton of FIU and quarterback Jeff Godfrey of UCF, know each other very well. Godfrey played at Miami Central while Hilton was at Northwestern, and they even played on the FIU field for some home games.

“He’s a great kid and he’s very talented,” said Hilton on Godfrey.

**FOOTBALL, page 4**

T.Y. cannot carry offense alone against Knights’ defense

**COLUMN, page 1**

Green was a possession receiver who wanted to beat the defensive backs with his height and jumping ability. Hilton wants to get down field as quick as possible and beat the defense by getting behind it. While Green had some success against last year, I think that Hilton will be able to get through and post at least 100 yards and a touchdown.

The rest of the offense will have to pick up the slack after not showing up against Louisville. The rushing attack that dominated against lowly North Texas, 208 total as a team, ran into a roadblock at Papa John’s Cardinal Stadium, going for only 45 yards on 26 attempts. For the offense to be successful, the running game has to be working better. The offensive line will have to handle a defense that is ranked in the top 10 in nearly every statistical category in the nation. However, that can only mean so much since their first game was against an FCS opponent, Charleston Southern.

But, the way that UCF handled Boston College’s offense is worrisome. **FOOTBALL, page 4**

Golden Panthers travel upstate for UCF Challenge

**EDUARDO ALMAGUER**
Staff Writer

After every point the Panthers score in the middle of a game, the team quickly huddles up in the middle of the court, cheers loudly and gets ready for the next serve. These constant short bursts of energy help boost the team spirit and keep the crowd on their toes waiting for the very next point their home team scores.

Surprisingly enough, however, the players themselves point out that energy is something the team desperately needs to work on. It is possibly their biggest priority heading into the UCF Challenge this weekend where FIU (6-3, 0-0 SBC) faces off against Jacksonville (7-3, conference) and either University of Central Florida (8-3, 0-0 C-USA) or University of Texas at El Paso (6-2, 0-0 WAC).

Andrea Lakovic, captain of the seniors and usually the most vocal in practice, knows that time to work on the team’s energy is warming.

“Our [Sun Belt Conference] season starts next week,” said Lakovic. “We have to work on our energy now instead of in November.”

“We need to show more energy on the court. That would really help us to not be stressed out,” said junior Rachel Fernandez.

Head Coach Danijela Tomic was pleased behind until a late dramatic run gave them a 2-0 lead. In the third set, however, they played the majority of the game from behind until a late dramatic run gave them the win. “So how do you fix energy on the court?” “Communication,” said Tomic blandly. “Talking to each other when things are not..."
Golden Panthers hope to capitalize on opportunities

With expectations riding high this season for our Golden Panthers, it is a definite surprise that they stand with a 2-4-0 after the first six games of the season.

The Panthers’ struggles have ranged from failing to execute plays, to small mishaps and to losing a midfield battle. But the Panthers have historically been slow starters. As of midseason, they have all the cogs to power up a winning machine. With rising stars, like Junior Jovana Bjelica who is second in the conference with 4.28 kills per set and Middle Blocker Sabrina Gonzalez, third in the conference with 1.19 blocks per set, it is not in their system to lose.

“I’m always confident in my team. I believe in them,” said Lakovic. “They need to believe in themselves that they can do it. If everyone gets a little bit out of her comfort zone, we’ll be fine.”

The UCF Challenge will definitely pose a test as just that: a challenge. With all possible opponents owning records well over .500, any loss of energy in game can very well cost them the match.

Junior Marija Prsa has already set her sights, as well as the teams, on their goal. “We need to really kill those two teams, 3-0, and play our game not theirs,” added Prsa.

Despite this, Tomic and her team know that they have all the cogs to power up a winning machine. With rising stars, like Junior Jovana Bjelica who is second in Women’s soccer

Tough opponents await FIU in weekend tourney

ANTHONY GUNAS  Staff Writer

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However, to do so the Panthers will have to step up their game and finally add a “W” to their win column. But before that can occur, the Panthers believe that they can compete for the conference championship in 2011.

With FIU coming off the heels of two devastating losses in which the Panthers lost by the exact score of 3-2, they now look to improve their transi- tional play and make each shot count.

“We are just concentrating on cleaning up the little things, working harder defensively and also in transi- tional play we have done a lot,” Chest- nutt said.

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Golden Panthers hope to capitalize on opportunities

Record crowd expected for first ever game vs. UCF

FOOTBALL page 3

FOOTBALL page 3

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Rethink Possible
HEATHER ARMAS  Contributing Writer

William “Billy” Sergio is not like anyone; his experiences have given him a unique perspective on life and music. Sergio is presently a junior business major, minoring in marketing and the bassist for the band, Seizurely.

He was born in Santa Monica, California to an Italian father and Dominican mother. His father, who was known as the “King of Infomercials,” lost his company and money when Sergio was two years old.

It was then that his family moved to Miami. The move to Miami was a way of getting away from the crazy world of Hollywood and a way to get closer to family since Sergio’s mom’s great aunt lived in Miami. At 21 years of age, Sergio has conquered demons that most people never learn to leave behind.

“I have always been an impressionable kid,” explained Sergio. “I grew up around television and movies that made hardcore drug use look okay.”

With this mindset, Sergio tried cocaine for the first time at the age of 14. As his addiction got worse, he was kicked out of Coral Gables Senior High School’s International Baccalaureate Magnet Program and started attending Southridge.

The expulsion was looked upon as just a phase that he was going through.

At his worst, Sergio was spending $200 on cocaine without a second thought. "My parents had and still have no idea about my addictions. They knew something was wrong but never knew exactly what it was.”

“At the time, I knew I was dying and I was okay with that. I was 17 and the drugs were taking a heavy toll on me. I had nothing to look forward to; I was lost.”

William “Billy” Sergio  Junior, Business Major

William “Billy” Sergio, a business major, minoring in marketing and the bassist for the band, Seizurely, is presently a junior business major, minoring in marketing.

Sergio’s list of influences include: George Clinton, Herbie Hancock, Marcus Miller and many others. "I’m stuck in the seventies because I can’t bring myself to find music from today’s day and age that I like. Music today is horrible; even the Red Hot Chili Peppers sound washed up now.”

Now, Sergio is a student at Miami Dade College with an associate degree in music. He is currently working on finishing his bachelor’s degree while also trying to get his band’s name out there. Seizurely, which is a Jazz/Funk/Fusion band, is gaining a following though playing gigs all over South Florida.

“My most recent gig was at Black Point Marina. We will be playing there again on Sept. 21. Good music is music people can make love to,” said Sergio. “That’s something I hope people find in my music.”

Food choices for every palate

Coffee is the lifeblood of many college students; it is how we get up in the morning and how we pull off “all-nighters” during the season of midterms and finals.

There is not a day where I step foot on campus and do not see a small army of students and staff clutching their paper cups and travel mugs as though they were filled with liquid gold.

As a student and a writer, I too have developed a “two cups per day” habit. Not only does the precious caffeine keep me alert, it also tastes delicious. Here are a few of my favorites coffee drinks that can be found right here on campus.

CAFÉ BUSTELO DULCE DE LECHE CAFÉ CON LECHE

Café Bustelo, located right next to Burger King in the Graham Center, consistently serves up amazing Cuban coffee and its cousins. I know anything involving dulce de leche sounds like a lot of sugar to have during the day and, to be honest, it is. In keeping with my current healthy kick, I get it made with skim milk.

Even so, the richness of the drink is still present and the caramel is more than enough sweetness, no additional sugar necessary. On a “cheat day,” it pairs perfectly with toastda. At only about $3 for a small, it is quite a bargain in comparison to my next on-campus pick. I just wish we could tip the staff again for their friendship.

Barnes and Noble Bookstores’ Caffé Vanilla Frappuccino Come on, you know I could not write a coffee review without mentioning at least one of the Starbucks flagships on campus. For the Frappuccino lovers, I know the Caramel variety is the go-to standard favorite.

However, the Caffé Vanilla Frap is a cult favorite among those who frequent the second floor of the campus bookstore for their fix. This beverage gives you the mellow flavor of vanilla with the coffee kick, which makes it much more worth the $4 for a tall cup than the glorified milkshake that is the Vanilla Bean Frap (delicious, but really, it’s Burger King for that).

JAVA CITY STRAWBERRY MOCHA

A campus secret for coffee lovers is Java City, located in the College of Business Complex. When I saw the Iced Strawberry Mocha on the menu, I was instantly curious.

Thankfully, my curiosity rewarded me with a refreshing drink that makes chocolate-covered strawberries seem like child’s play. It is also a pretty quiet place so you can get some studying done between sips. It might be out of the way, but the tip is worth its weight in coffee beans.

DUNKIN’ DONUTS FRESH BREWED COFFEE

Sometimes, coffee does not need any special syrups or creamers to taste amazing — that is what makes it a true winner.

By far, Dunkin’ Donuts’ brewed coffee, which can be found at the POS Market Station, is the absolute best on campus.

They never overheat their beans, so all that is left is a truly smooth finish. Like Starbuck’s, they will gladly sweeten it and add creamer for you.

Maybe that is why there is always a line at 7:30 a.m. waiting for the gates to open.

I hope you keep this short-list in mind when it comes time to grab your next “cup of Joe.” Cheers!

Food for Thought is a bi-weekly food column. Look for it every other Friday this fall.

At the high low  FIU vs. UCF game expected to be one of the biggest games of the year.

Miss Angola won the Miss Universe 2011 crown on Sept. 12. She is the first Angolan to do so.

Obama’s disapproval rating has hit a new high: 55%.

FIU rated 2.5 out of 5 stars on LGBT-friendly Campus Climate.

State laws requiring teen drivers to get limited to full licenses do not prevent fatal car crashes, says Journal of the American Medical Association.
Reel to Reel

Driving toward the best movie of the year

Ryan Gosling as the Driver delivers an intense performance in his new film, “Drive.”

Movies like “Faster” and “Drive Angry” feature well-known actors such as Dwayne Johnson and Nicolas Cage acting as furious or revenge-stricken men - sometimes both - who are amazing behind the wheel. Unlike “Drive,” those films were neither great nor memorable. Directed by Danish filmmaker Nicolas Winding Refn, “Drive” is a gritty and violent film that features an intense performance from actor Ryan Gosling.

Set in Los Angeles, Gosling’s nameless character is a Hollywood stunt driver who moonlights as a getaway driver. One day, the driver meets and befriends his next-door neighbors Irene (Carey Mulligan) and his son Benicio (Kadens Leo). When Irene’s husband, Standard (Oscar Issacs), is released from prison, he gets a vicious beat down from some guys he owes a lot of money to. In order to ensure that Irene and Benicio are safe, the driver decides to assist Standard in pulling off a heist at a pawn shop. However, things go downhill from there as the situation causes the driver to move toward extremely violent and methodical acts to ensure the safety of Irene and Benicio.

The opening sequence of “Drive” immediately captures your attention with a getaway that quickly turns into a cat-and-mouse game among the driver, his clients and the Los Angeles Police Department. As the opening credits roll, the text and the music that play are very similar and reminiscent of “Grand Theft Auto: Vice City,” or some cheesy 1980s action movie.

Even though the movie starts with an exhilarating chase scene, “Drive” is a quiet and subdued film that does not require a lot of action sequences in order to keep it exciting. The movie slowly unfolds from being a car-chase action movie to a fantastic modern-day crime story. This movie is not for the squeamish, as “Driver” features intense and violent scenes that appear at the most unexpected moments in the film.

Ryan Gosling delivers his most intense performance to date, even though he does not say much. His character starts out as a likeable and shy person, but when the moment calls for it, he can become a vicious psycho who will do anything to protect his friends. Gosling works with a top-notch supporting ensemble that includes Bryan Cranston and Albert Brooks. Cranston is great in his portrayal of a man who is way over his head when things begin to spiral out of control. As Brooks is better known for his comedic performances rather than dramatic films like this one, he is surprisingly excellent as a villain while his character becomes progressively more violent and sleazy as the movie develops.

After directing a few independent films, such as “The Pusher Trilogy,” “Bronson” and “Valhalla Rising,” Nicolas Winding Refn’s latest film proves that he is an amazing storyteller with a unique cinematic vision. The film is visually stunning with a unique use of lighting that is unlike anything I have seen before. The stylish cinematography is fantastic; the movie displays some amazing aerial shots of the Los Angeles skyline that are smooth and do not require quick cuts to enhance the film.

“Drive” features a synthesizer-driven soundtrack composed by Cliff Martinez, who recently scored Steven Soderbergh’s “Contagion.” The soundtrack also includes songs that will instantly transport you to the 1980s with songs like “Tick of the Clock” and “A Real Hero.”

“Drive” is the best movie of the year that features another great performance from Ryan Gosling and showcases Nicolas Winding Refn’s skill as a brilliant filmmaker.
Security measures absolve our rights

JORGE MENDEZ
Contributing Writer

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, Americans have lived in constant fear. Many are oblivious to the freedoms they have lost, and many violations of The Constitution have been made legal. Like Benjamin Franklin once said, “Those willing to give up liberty for security deserve neither and will lose both.” An anxious and borderline panicked nation passed the Patriot Act. This act was sent to the congressional floor with no debate, and was passed even though many congressmen did not read it to a full analytic extent.

The Patriot Act violates the 4th Amendment by expanding the power of the government to search and spy on its own people without their consent or a warrant. It expands access to personal records by third-parties, and it gives the government unchecked power to rummage through citizen’s individual records, such as medical, Internet and financial records.

The extent to which we have given up our freedoms becomes glimmer when we put into perspective certain expenditures. The two wars in the Middle East have amounted to $1.3 trillion. The United States spends nearly $700 billion annually on defense – less health care, but more than education.

We have let these cowards, these so-called “martyrs” who do not represent even the smallest speck of human love, ingenuity or courage dictate how we should run our society. We have let them win by becoming their proxy for the continuance of fear.

Fear has masked itself under the fear of terrorism. It has become normal to be afraid, to lose privacy, to have your calls, your texts, your emails, your credit cards and your position tracked. Ask yourself, “Am I more free now than before 9/11? If so, at what cost?” We pay for the government and its actions with our taxes. We are paying for our own enslavement, and with that, we are blinding ourselves from a fulfilling existence. Ask yourself next time you walk down a New York City street if you are safer now, if you have not become prejudiced, if you have not ever questioned whether or not you should get on that plane, on that train, on that subway.

It is not about guns or scanners; it is about our mannerisms and habits that mirror the fear in our hearts. There is no fulfillment in fear. Only in liberty and freedom can we find ourselves whole. Whether that is worth giving up is up for debate.

Until then, until we realize what kind of marginalization we have put ourselves in, we will have to wait and see how free we citizens of this country really are. Until then, do not forget the pain and do not forget our freedom, because after all, we are the lucky ones.

The boundless optimism of inexperience leads invariably, to promises that cannot possibly be fulfilled.

Security measures absolve our rights

VERBATIM

“When you tell a lie, you steal someone’s right to the truth.”
- Khaled Hosseini, author

“Men are really good at making fun of other people and women are really good at making fun of themselves.”
- Amy Poehler, comedian

“It’s just better to be yourself than to try to be some version of what you think the other person wants.”
- Matt Damon, actor

“Often times when you face such an overwhelming challenge as global climate change, it can be somewhat daunting - it’s kind of like trying to lose weight, which I know something about.”
- Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State

The comments 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.
DCC invaluable resource for medical research

LAURA GONZALEZ Contributing Writer

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine’s Division of Research & Information Data Coordinating Center opened new offices in the Biscayne Bay campus this past April.

“We are a branch of the school of medicine that does the research part,” said Grettel Castro, a research analyst for the center. “We survey the area and collect the information for the [medical] students, so that they can interact with these families.”

Designed to be a resource for university students as well as the communities it serves, the Data Coordinating Center collects research from actual participating communities in order to better understand where improvement of health is needed most.

According to its recently released data analysis report, “The Community Benchmark Executive Summary – Northwest Miami-Dade,” “the program’s fundamental pivot is visitation to households by medical, nursing, and social work students.”

These students visit each home to determine racial and social characteristics, as well as the state of the community’s health. The report is an extensively detailed survey of the Northwest Miami-Dade community and consists of 156 basic questions designed to provide a snapshot of the condition of health there. Since the area has never been surveyed before, the report reflects only the baseline of the community.

But, researchers plan on continuing to study the community in order to better serve it.

“We aspire to inform future research, support programmatic activities designed to affect change, efficiently translate findings into relevant public policy recommendations, and train the next generation of health care providers in the proper use of evidence-based medicine,” said Patti Stauffer, the associate director for administration.

The next project the center will be working on is concentrated in Little Haiti.

“The Little Haiti Benchmark study will provide valuable baseline information needed for the FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine to form an equitable partnership with the Little Haiti community,” said Stauffer.

The Data Coordinating Center is located in Academic One, room 2234, and can be reached at (305) 919-4802.

According to Stauffer, the center is important for it’s ability to “establish a socially responsive program designed to close the gap in health disparities and provide short-, mid-, and long-term mitigation efforts, thus improving prevention strategies and the overall health status of local residents.”

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MELISSA BERNE Contributing Writer

Avid fans of poetry, fiction and non-fiction can fuel their insatiable appetite for stories very soon. The Creative Writing Center’s Writers on the Bay announces their series of readings for fall.

Although all readings usually take place at 8 p.m. in Academic One 194, the “Master’s in Fine Arts Alumni” reading will take place at Books and Books in Coral Gables on Sept. 18 at 4 p.m.

“Books and Books is the cultural heart of Miami literary life,” said Debra Dean, coordinator of the Writers on the Bay Reading Series.

For students who have just acquired their MFA in the last year or for those still on their way to getting their MFA, this event is of particular interest.

They will get a chance to listen to readings by the MFA Alumni, who have written books. For some of the speakers, like Jen Bartman and Norma Watkins, it is their very first books.


Norma Watkins has a master’s and doctorate in English, and an M.F.A. in creative writing. Her memoir, “The Last Resort: Taking the Mississippi Cure,” was recently published. She teaches creative writing at the College of the Redwoods in Fort Bragg, Calif.

Other speakers that will be attending include: Jennifer Ammon, an award recipient of the 2008 FIU Literary Awards Competition, who is writing her second book named “A Girl from Ohio,” Cecilia Fernandez, a print and broadcasting reporter in both California and Florida, recently finished a memoir called “Leaving Little Havana,” which was a finalist in the 2011 Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference Literary Book Contest.

Michele Jessica Fieve has written several books in French. Her short stories and poetry in English have been in The Southeast Review, The Caribbean Writer, and Haiti Noir.

Nick Garnett, a former nonfiction editor of the University’s journal, Gulf Stream, had his work selected to appear in the 2010 “Best of the Net” Anthology.

Diane Marshall has worked over 20 years in New York and Florida as a journalist. She earned an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from FIU, and has completed her first collection of short stories.

Molly McGreevy is working on her own collection of short stories, which all have to do with magical events that transform the character’s day to day life.

The event is free and open to the public. All readings have a reception and a book signing after the reading series. Writer’s on the Bay is supposed to be fun and engaging, especially for the students who are aspiring writers.