Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper/564

This work is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections and University Archives at FIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon) by an authorized administrator of FIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact dcc@fiu.edu.
University introduces mini-term courses for students

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
News Director

The State University System Board of Governors has a set a series of goals that, if achieved, could lead to the University of South Florida's Polytechnic Campus becoming the 12th university in the state system.

The BoG, the 17 member body which oversees the current 11 state universities, gave the approval after a four-hour discussion in a 13 to 3 vote during their Nov. 9 to 10 meeting which took place at Florida Atlantic University. Governor Stanley Marshall is not present for the November Board meetings.

USF Polytechnic is a math and science-focused branch of USF located in Lakeland, Fla. about 40 minutes away from USF's main campus in Tampa. The BoG's approval came not too long after comments from Gov. Rick Scott in which he questioned why the state was graduating so many anthropology majors.

"Is it a vital interest of the state to have more anthropologists?" Scott said. "I don't think so."

The decision, however, isn't guaranteed for USF and its satellite campus. USF Polytechnic has several benchmarks it must meet before it can return to the BoG for final approval to be the 12th state university.

Among those benchmarks, after separate accreditation is achieved, Polytechnic will implement the programs identified in Phase I of the Business Plan upon approval of the programs by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, according to a press release from the State University System.

USF Polytechnic's benchmarks, which could take at least five years to achieve, are as follows:

Highest priority for program development and implementation shall be focused on programs in STEM fields and appropriate discipline-specific accreditation shall be sought.

Polytechnic must attain a minimum full-time enrollment of 1,244 as calculated in the Business Plan, with a minimum 50 percent of that FTE in STEM and 20 percent in STEM-related programs.

The following facilities and infrastructure shall be in place –

COMING UP | Sports
Check out the Nov. 16 issue for a preview of the woman's volleyball Sunbelt Conference Tournament.

ONLINE | www.fiusm.com
Follow us on:
Twitter - @FIUSM
Facebook - FIU Student Media: News, FIU Student Media: Sports

FINALLY

Panthers beat FAU Owls for first time in six years

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

When T.Y. Hilton chose to stay one more year at FIU, he made a promise. The senior made a pact between himself and head coach Mario Cristobal. He said that the promise would not be revealed until later in the year.

As the tenth annual Shula Bowl came to a close at Alfonso Field for Hilton's last ever home game as a Panther, he shared what the secret was – the Shula Bowl.

The Shula Bowl trophy resides at FIU for the first official time in the rivalry between the Panthers and FAU Owls in the decisive 41-7 win, and also the last time Hilton will play a home game.

"I cried about four times. I cried before I walked in just looking at the stadium, when they were announcing my name I cried again and the fans mean so much to me. I just love playing here and I wish I had another year," Hilton said.

Despite being senior night, Cristobal decided to give the start to redshirt freshman Jake Medlock at quarterback over senior Wesley Carroll. Carroll had thrown an interception in each of his last four games.

"We hadn't done real well offensively the last couple weeks, and the games that we hadn't won is not any indication that out quarterback was responsible for those losses," said Cristobal. "We just felt like we needed some kind of spark, particularly what he could do with his legs. You saw what he could do on those

Board of Governors sets goals for 12th university

"This winter term is primarily meant to increase graduation rate," Wartzok explained, "there are certain courses that students need that fill up quickly, and it poses a problem. This will give students the opportunity to move more quickly."

The winter courses are available to all students enrolled in a degree-seeking, undergraduate program who possess at least a 2.5 GPA at the beginning of fall.

"We started discussing this late summer, and we talked to the deans so they could ask their faculty about courses they felt they would fit into this condensed time frame," explained Wartzok. "This is a trial; it's not part of any
MINI-TERM, page 1

taught contract. We asked faculty to volunteer courses needed for students degree programs.

Astrid Arraras, professor and advisor for the International Relations department, will teach during the winter term.

"This is a great opportunity for students to take classes, especially those that are in high demand," Arraras said. "But it's a challenge because it's very intense; it's very short."

The challenges this will pose professors who teach during the winter term will affect everything in the classroom.

"How do we adjust our syllabi to meet the demands of such a short term?" Arraras asked. "This is something I'm facing right now. What you cover, and what you expect students to read has to change."

The short term will also affect how professors assess students.

"We can't give the students two exams, and we can't have exams that are out of state with a similar program," Arraras said.

Besides the College of Business that completely opted out of the program due to an inability of finding willing faculty, most of the other colleges are participating. Only regular faculty will be teaching during this term as this is a pilot program for the University. This winter mini-term is unique to the University in Florida, there are schools out of state with a similar program.

"We looked around [and] the staff found about a half dozen other universities that had classes during a winter term," said Watrakk. "We haven't heard that any of the schools were going to discontinue the program," he explained, "but we did find that some focused on condensed study abroad. If this works out this year, we are looking at possibly trying that next year."

Board will monitor progress of goals

The Board shall be the science and Technology Building. Phase I of the Wellness Center, the modular resident hall (70 beds) and the residence hall (120 beds).

Polytechnic shall have a full complement of the following services or functions, provided either directly or where feasible through a shared services model – financial aid, admissions, student support, information technology and finance and accounting with an internal audit function.

Students shall be given an option to graduate with a diploma from USF, subject to USF's criteria. The Board shall monitor the development of the campus and its operations, working in collaboration with the appropriate boards, on a semi-annual basis.

The Board shall be consulted on any significant change to the Business Plan prior to any action being taken on such change.

"One of the Board's constitutional responsibilities is to ensure a coordinated, accountable State University System. While growth is no doubt in our future, today we provided a set of reasonable benchmarks that USF Polytechnic Campus must reach in order to gain independence," said BoG chairwoman Ava L. Parker. These benchmarks ensure the development of a STEM-focused institution that will meet the growing demand for jobs in our state. The Board of Governors is committed to the support and oversight required to ensure the success of the University.
Knights shut down Panthers in NCAA Tournament

**ANTHONY GUINAS**
Staff Writer

With the Panthers entering the NCAA tournament for the first time in 18 years, the current SBC champions hoped to knock out UCF in the first round.

But even though FIU had the opportunity to continue their historic season, they could not seal another win as they lost to the Knights 2-0 in Orlando, Fla. on Nov. 11.

The game was very competitive between the two in-state rivals, but the Panthers simply could not match what the Knights were dishing out.

When both teams took to the pitch, both squads started the game with a lot of intensity. But soon enough, UCF outplayed and easily outmatched the Golden Panthers.

The first half saw the Knights controlling the tempo of the game, constantly applying pressure on the Panthers defense. And similar to the second half against WKU in the SBC final, the Panther offense was nowhere to be found, giving their defense more than it could handle.

Tisha Jewell scored her seventh goal of the year to put UCF ahead early on.

From that point on, UCF continued to march forward, challenging the Panthers on every possession giving FIU almost no chance to get a shot in.

This was also seen on the stat sheet, with UCF outshooting FIU 9-2 in the first half.

Then the second half came and FIU hoped to change the momentum of the game in their favor, but it was just not in the cards as UCF continued to control the game.

Even though UCF did control the tempo of the game throughout the first and second halves, the Golden Panthers were able to get a little traction going late in the match.

FIU had small spurts of momentum where the Panthers actually drove the ball into UCF territory, but the Knights defense kept FIU off balance and had them take bad shots.

That small window of momentum shut as quickly as it opened, which lead to UCF nailing the final nail into FIU’s season in the 77th minute.

“They controlled the game. We did enough to stay in it, but once they got the second goal it pretty much put it to bed,” head coach Thomas Chestnutt said.

The Knights Tisha Jewell fired a shot inside of the box that was rejected by goalkeeper Kailyn Savage, but was picked up by Emily Grider who drove it home to put UCF ahead 2-0.

The loss eliminated FIU from the NCAA tournament and ended their 2011 season.

Even though the season may have come to an abrupt end, it did not make the season any less remarkable for the team.

Not only did the Golden Panthers prove to the rest of the SBC conference that they are the team to beat, but have also for the first time in school history have three consecutive 10 win seasons.

The game concludes the collegiate careers of eight seniors, including April Perry and Victoria Miliucci, who depart as the third winningest group in FIU women’s soccer history.

But like the Panthers always do, they are not dwelling in their sorrows but instead they look forward to next year.

“We will get back at it and work hard…we will battle harder than ever before,” Chestnutt said.
The Panthers were very aggressive in their season opener as teammates Jerica Dierickx and Tyla Wozniak all logged new backcourt from last season. George Mason who will start a completely new backcourt, the backcourt has in their backcourt, the backcourt and no longer have in the backcourt on Monday night against the Golden Rams.

Jeremy and DeJuan… they are very potent. "Phil, " head coach Isiah Thomas said. "Phil, is a tremendous little guard. With the experience that the Panthers have, opening the game with a 14-2 lead, the Panthers did not give up. Impossible to score more than three points, until it was tied 14-14. USA scored three points and never looked back.

The speed of the Panthers’ backcourt ended up leading the game with 14 fast break points. The whole night the Panthers were tenacious to the basketball and defensively they held Jacksonville to 20.6 percent shooting for the night. They also rebounded well, as they led the rebounding category 48-39, minimizing the Dolphins’ shot opportunities. Freshman Kamika Idon was a huge spark plug off the bench, chipping in with 12 points, a couple of three-pointers, and three assists. Another category that FIU shot incredibly with 57.1 percent was from behind the arc.

With all of the firepower on the team, the Panthers must do a better job of controlling the ball on offense. They have had 24 turnovers, often because they tried to do too much, pressing the issue. With a cut down of the turnovers, they could have easily had 20 more points. This season’s roster boasts a great balance, and this team can do well after finishing last season with a loss in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament. The next game FIU will host will be against Florida Gulf Coast on Monday, Nov. 14 at 6 p.m. inside of the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

The win keeps a Sun Belt Tournament berth alive for the Jaguars. FIU is already guaranteed a spot in the Sun Belt tournament.

Late surge comes up short for FIU in road loss

Volleyball

FIU WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

DECEMBER
FIRST UP: GEORGE MASON

NOVEMBER

FIU WOMEN’S BASKETBALL HOME SCHEDULE

4 (Fri.) JACKSONVILLE 6 p.m.
14 (Mon.) FGCU 5:30 p.m.
21 (Mon.) FAU 6 p.m.
25 (Fri.) MARYLAND 6 p.m.
27 (Sun.) CSU BAKERSFIELD 3 p.m.
30 (Wed.) LVNN 6 p.m.

JANUARY

29 (Sat.) AIBANY 6 p.m.
3 (Tue.) MORGAN STATE 6 p.m.
7 (Sat.) ULM* 5:30 p.m.
12 (Thurs.) MTSU* 5:30 p.m.
21 (Sat.) FAU* 4:30 p.m.
28 (Sat.) WKU* 5:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY
9 (Thurs.) NORTH TEXAS* 4:30 p.m.
11 (Sat.) DENVER* 5:30 p.m.
23 (Sat.) TROY 5:30 p.m.
25 (Sat.) SOUTH ALABAMA* 5:30 p.m.

*Conference games

All home games are played at U.S. Century Bank Arena

EDUARDO ALMAUGER

Perhaps the Panthers were never meant to beat a team on Veterans Day that had its school initials come out to USA. FIU dropped its second straight road game on Nov. 11 at the hands of the University of South Alabama in four sets, (25-23, 22-25, 18-25, 20-25). This marks the second consecutive road game that they lose to a team with a sub .500 record. The Jaguars (10-10, 5-10 SBC) snapped their seven-year losing streak to the Panthers (18-9, 9-6 SBC) with the win.

Blocks were the main component of the match for USA. When FIU is out blocked, it does not fare well, and the match showcased that perfectly.

The Jaguars notched 20 block assists. It is only the third time FIU has let an opponent surpass the 20 mark in that category this season. The Panthers were extraordinarily sloppy on the court, posting 28 errors for the second straight road game. The errors took a toll on the efficiency of the offense, as only one Panther with at least five kills, senior Sabrina Gonzalez, posted a hitting percentage above .200.

Junior Jovana Bjelica led her team with 15 kills, and setter Jessica Egan led both teams with 47 assists. Junior Marjana Pjesa was the only Panther to post a double double with 11 kills and 11 digs. FIU began the first set strong, scoring five of the first six points. The Jaguars battled back to tie it 10-10 as FIU let the lead slip away.

The Panthers made another push to create a big lead by scoring four consecutive points punctuated by a kill from Bjelica. USA refused to back down and again tied the match at 15-15. The set continued this way until the match 23-23. Freshman Silvija Cari scored a point to put FIU in a set-point position and send USA to a time-out.

It did the Jaguars no good, as Egan and senior Andrea Lakovic teamed up for a block to score the final point and take the set 25-23. Another tug of war ensued in the second set as no team could build a lead of more than three points, until it was tied 14-14. USA scored three points and never looked back.

Bjelica slammed down a kill to bring her team to within two points, 21-19. Cari then tried giving her team the push it needed by scoring back-to-back kills to make it 23-21. FIU’s hopes ended there as they eventually committed an error to lose 25-22.

At some point during the 10-minute halftime interval, FIU lost its will to play, as a 7-7 tie in the third set turned into a 16-9 deficit. USA continued to punish the Panthers as they widened the lead to 23-13.

Though FIU had a late surge, they lost the third set on another error to fall behind 2-1. FIU could not dismantle the wave of momentum that USA rode into the fourth set, once again falling behind early. A 7-2 deficit turned into a 22-13 deficit.

The Panthers did not give up completely. However, Lakovic scored a point to make it 24-19 and the Jaguars committed an error to tally another point for FIU. In the end, another Panther error ended the set, this time, the match.

The win keeps a Sun Belt Conference Tournament berth alive for the Jaguars. FIU is already guaranteed a spot in the Sun Belt tournament.
ART BASEL
FIU increasingly involved

Brooke Wartman
Staff Writer

Football fans bide their time all year waiting for the Super Bowl, baseball enthusiasts count down to the World Series and tennis buffs have a summer full of tournaments to keep them entertained. But what about those who feel compelled to create, like those who feel a paint brush or a camera is an extension of their arm, and could easily squander a sunny afternoon in a museum? For them, there is Art Basel.

Art Basel Miami, a four-day convention dedicated to all things art, is the sister event of the original Art Basel, which took place in Switzerland every year. Now celebrating its 10th year, the event is a monumental attraction and is widely known as the winter meeting place for the international art world. Art Basel draws crowds from around the world, bringing over 60,000 visitors to South Florida and generating close to $500 million in spending for the local economy.

Art Basel attracts collectors, designers, curators and critics from around the world, providing panels and lectures on design, architecture, art and fashion. As one of the largest contemporary art fairs, the event takes place over many days and in multiple locations, including Miami Beach, Lincoln Road, the Design District, Wynwood, Midtown and the University’s Modesto Maidique Campus.

Throughout the years the University has become increasingly involved in the festivities and will be hosting several events this year in conjunction with Art Basel.

The first of these will take place on the night of Nov. 30 at the Ritz Carlton in South Beach. The hotel will be hosting the Masters’ Mystery Art Show, an international annual art event featuring over 1,000 artworks by more than 500 artists from 31 countries.

By attending this event, guests can admire and purchase works of art while taking a guess at the artist that created it, as each piece is signed on the back instead of the front.

The event raises funds for the University’s MFA in Studio Art program, while providing exposure for both internationally-recognized and newly-emerging artists.

On Dec. 1, the art galleries at the Miami Beach Convention Center open to the public. This attraction will be open daily from noon until 8 p.m. and will feature works from over 200 leading galleries from North America, Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa.

The collection of works is by more than 2,000 artists of the 20th and 21st centuries.

On Dec. 2, at night, Wolfsonian-FIU will host a party in honor of their new exhibit — Liberty, Equality and Fraternity — as part of Art Basel. The exhibit will explore the ways French design has embodied the French motto “liberte, egalite, fraternite.”

On Dec. 3, in the evening, patrons of music can enjoy a free concert at the Betsy Hotel in South Beach provided by the University’s New Music Ensemble, under the direction of Jason Calloway. University students will play a variety of songs by Latin American composers and finish the night with a piece by John Zorn, titled “Cobra.”

“It was his way of creating a piece of music based on game theory,” said Calloway. “When you take a piece, instead of directing them, it will be more like loosely controlled improv. It’s something that has to be seen to really be appreciated.”

The Frost Art Museum will host its annual Breakfast in the Park on Dec. 4, where guests can enjoy a complimentary breakfast, receive tours of the museum and sculpture park and listen to a guest lecturer.

Each year, we invite a noted sculptor to explain all about their art and why they do what they do,” said Amy Pollack, who works for the Special Projects department at the Frost Art Museum.

This year’s sculptor will be Joel Perlman, an artist who works with the mediums of steel, bronze, copper and aluminum, and who created a piece of music that is much needed and appreciated in a time when campaigns about “NOH8” and sexual acceptance are ramping everywhere.

In the beginning of the novel, which took Krupa 11 years to write, his dialogue is slightly hard to understand as the book progresses. “The concept is my own. Interdisciplinary in nature, the play follows a mandate from President Mark B. Rosenberg to develop projects, on and off campus, that bring disciplines together,”

Marcia Littley, the area coordinator for strings and violinist of the Amernet String Quartet, was immediately captivated by Matel’s string arrangement which she came upon by chance. “I found it in a box of music my friend gave me which had a sample copy of the music. It’s not published in this country so it’s something that hasn’t been done before.”
“Glee” improves after mediocre start to season three

By SANAH FAROKH

Sanah Farokh is a junior mass communication major and a member of the Fiat Ed Board.

CHANNEL SURFING

“Glee” improves after mediocre start to season three

While “Glee” has been known to inspire many, it was evident that the show, which was met with mixed reviews last season, was returning with a bang.

The show’s first episode, which aired on Oct. 5, was met with some backlash from fans, but now, in the latest episode, viewers can see that the show has improved. The episode, which aired on Nov. 9, saw the return of fan-favorite characters like Rachel Berry, Kurt Hummel, and Finn Hudson, as well as the introduction of new characters.

The episode started with a scene in which Rachel and Kurt were discussing their relationship with their respective boyfriends, Finn and Santana. The scene was heartwarming, as viewers could see the progress in their relationships.

The next scene showed Finn and Santana having a discussion about their upcoming performance. The scene was funny, and viewers could see the chemistry between the two.

The episode then moved on to show the students preparing for the upcoming performance. The scene was filled with energy, and viewers could see the excitement on the characters’ faces.

The episode then showed Finn and Rachel preparing for their performance. The scene was tense, as viewers could see the lack of chemistry between the two.

The episode ended with a scene in which the entire cast was reflecting on their past and their future. The scene was emotional, and viewers could see the characters’ growth.

Overall, the episode was a great improvement from the earlier episodes. The show has improved in terms of writing, direction, and acting. The characters have grown, and the show has become more relatable.

While “Glee” still has some way to go, it is clear that the show is on the right track. The improvement in the episodes is a testament to the hard work of the writers, directors, and actors.

It is evident that “Glee” is coming into its own, and viewers can look forward to more exciting episodes in the future.

To continue reading this article visit our website. You can find this article under Life! columns.
Lagging education system in US needs improvement

The education system in the United States is not where it needs to be to address the needs of our society. The labor force of the future is being educated in other countries to a degree that leaves the U.S. workforce far behind. The status quo in how we educate our children has run its course and has proven to be ineffective.

For a solution, the U.S., commonly encouraged by President Barack Obama, CNN’s Fareed Zakaria and Microsoft founder Bill Gates, is to allocate more funds, time, energy and resources to education. One means to get to all of those objectives is through the Department of Education.

The original Department of Education was created in 1867, however, Congress re-established the current U.S. Department of Education in 1980. The department’s official mission is to “promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.”

In Oct. 2010, I wrote a column for FIU Student Media addressing global competitiveness by explaining the differences between the lagging education system in the U.S. and the progressive education systems of China, Finland and India.

Ayars has passed, and yet, no concrete steps have been taken at the legislative level. Worse yet, some members of Congress and GOP candidates for the 2012 presidential elections have proposed the elimination of the Department of Education.

Last Oct., Zakaria dedicated his show, “Global Square,” and his tweets to fixing the education system in the U.S. One of his tweets explained a fundamental difference between the U.S. and South Korea.

He said, “There are 205 school days in South Korea’s calendar - 25 more than in the U.S.” Bruscially, over an academic career, South Korean students spend two more years in school than U.S. students. As a result of rigorous education, Seoul, the capital of South Korea, is one of the world’s fastest-growing economies.

He quoted an article in the New York Times that says, “The U.S. must catch up to its counterparts, and do it fast in order to remain as the dominant economic power in the world. Aggressive steps are needed to reverse the course we have been on for so long. The time for marginal improvements has expired.

Instead of supporting additional spending on education, some members of Congress are vehemently allocating funds and adamantly seeking cutting funds to all departments, including the Department of Education. Republican Representative John Kline claims that supporting the Department of Education is a waste of time and resources.

He said, “Throwing more money at our nation’s broken education system ignores reality and does a disservice to students.”

Bluntly ignorant statements, such as these given by Rep. Kline, are part of the reason why America is economically struggling. We need to increase our hours students attend class, increase the work load, improve teacher qualification and so forth. These things can only happen with more funding.

Aggressive steps are needed to reverse the course we have been on for so long. The time for marginal improvements has expired.

Rep. Michelle Bachmann, Minnesota representative and GOP candidate for the 2012 elections, is notorious for her blatantly ignore comments. According to the Associated Press, Bachmann “wants to abolish the Department of Education, which she calls unconstitutional.”

At least Mitt Romney, also a GOP candidate for the 2012 elections, now understands the importance of a strong Department of Education; he said he was “wrong earlier in his career when he wanted the Education Department shut down.”

Words alone won’t fix the problem we face. It is time to reeducate our efforts to revamp our educational system to prepare our workforce for the global challenge we face.

“Econ with Neda” is an economics op-ed column that runs every other Monday.

Message from President Obama to all college students on loan issues

Over the last few weeks, I’ve had the opportunity to get out of Washington and talk with folks across the country about how we can create jobs and get our economy growing faster.

This is a tough time for a lot of Americans – especially young people. You’ve come of age at a time of profound change. The world has gotten more connected, but it’s also more competitive and on edge. Too many of our institutions – from Washington to Wall Street – failed to adapt, culminating in the worst financial crisis and recession since the Great Depression.

For the last three years, we’ve worked to stabilize the economy, and we’ve made some progress. But we still have a long way to go. And now, as you’re getting ready to head out into the world, many of you are watching your friends and classmates struggle to find work. You’re wondering what’s in store for your future, and I know that can be scary.

The truth is, the economic problems we face today didn’t happen overnight, and they won’t be solved overnight. But the fact that you’re investing in your education now tells me that you believe in the future of America. You want to be a part of it. And you know that there are steps we can take right now to put Americans back to work and give our economy a boost.

The problem is, there are some in Washington who just don’t share that sense of urgency. That’s why it’s been so disappointing to see Republicans in Congress block jobs bills from going forward – bills that independent economists say could create millions of jobs though the kinds of proposals supported by Democrats and Republicans in the past.

Now, the best way to attack our economic challenges and put hundreds of thousands of people back to work is through bold action in Congress. That’s why I’ve been pushing to get employees of Congress to vote on common-sense, paid for jobs proposals. And I hope you’ll send them a message to do the right thing for your future, and the future of our country.

But we can’t wait for Congress to get its job. So where they won’t act, I will. That’s why, I’ve announced a new policy that will help families whose home values have fallen refinance their mortgages and save thousands of dollars.

We made it easier for veterans to get jobs putting their skills to work in hospitals and commu- nity health centers. And at the University of Colo¬rado at Denver, I announced steps we’re taking to make college more affordable and to make it even easier for students like you to get out of debt faster.

Michelle and I know what it feels like to leave school with a mountain of debt. We didn’t come from wealthy families. But by working hard from law school, we had about $120,000 worth of debt between us. And even though we were lucky enough to land good jobs with steady incomes, it still took us almost 10 years to finally pay it all off. It wasn’t easy.

Lives with that much debt forces you to make some tough choices. And when a big chunk of every paycheck goes towards student loans, it doesn’t feel like pain for you – it’s painful to our economy and harmful to our recovery.

That’s why we’re making changes that will give about 1.6 million students the ability to cap their loan payments at 10 percent of their income starting next year. We’re also going to take steps to help you consolid¬ate your loans and to instead of making multiple payments to multiple lenders every month, you only have to make one payment a month at a better interest rate.

And we want to start giving students a simple fact sheet called “Know Before You Owe” so you can have all the infor¬mation you need to make your own decision about paying for college. That’s something Michelle and I wish we had.

These changes will make a real difference for millions of Americans. We’ll help more young people figure out how to afford college. We’ll put more money in your pocket after you graduate. We’ll make it easier to buy a house or save for retirement. And we’ll give our economy a boost at a time when it desperately needs it.

That’s not just important for our country right now – it’s important for our future. Michelle and I are where we are today because our college education gave us a chance. Our parents and their generation worked and sacrificed to hand down the dream of opportunity to us. Now it’s our turn. That dream of opportunity is what I want for my daughter, and for all of you.

And even in these tough times, we are going to make that dream real once again.

In the weeks ahead, I’m going to keep doing everything in my power to make a difference for the American people – including young people like you. Because here in America, when we find a problem, we fix it. When we face a challenge, we meet it. We don’t wait. And I hope you’ll join me.

Barack Obama is the 44th President of the United States.
Yoga by the Bay gives guests a ‘happy and energetic’ morning

BARBARA CORRELLINE DUARTE Contributing Writer

With a dawn sun and a nice breeze outside, some students chose to start their day in a different way.

“It’s a good idea to have yoga classes outside, we can enjoy the fresh air, I feel very happy and energetic,” said Nina Korneva, senior international relations major.

Yoga classes are available for students every week at the Biscayne Bay Campus; yet, the opportunity to exercise, stretch and meditate by Biscayne Bay is rare.

At 10 a.m. on Nov. 9, the Student Alumni Association gave students the first opportunity of this year to participate on Yoga by the Bay classes.

The group of 14 people attending included students, non-students, and alumni of all ages. SAA was distributing beach mats for the first 10 students, which was convenient, since many of them forgot to bring a towel.

Quiceno has been teaching yoga classes at FIU for more than a decade.

“I make a blending of different styles of Hatha Yoga, always taking into account who is in the class and what do they need for that day,” explained Quiceno.

Quiceno made constant references to the environment surrounding the students.

“Look around. You can see that all trees are moving. Take a moment to challenge yourself and do this more often. Lie on Earth, or practice it at the beach.”

Even though the class was disrupted a couple of times by the noise of landscape machines and cars, the participants maintained their focus and followed the yogi’s instructions.

“The class, I feel very relaxed and happy. It’s great for students, because FIU can be very demanding and stressful, and we have a chance to work on all of this through yoga,” said Maria Colazzo, graduate student of criminal justice.

Gene Yllanes, a sophomore, added, “I recommend it to everybody, it’s great for everyone to take part in it makes you focus on breathing, which is the most essential thing, and people often don’t realize it.”

Quiceno finished the class with the advice, “If you missed the moon yesterday, you have another chance to see it tonight.”

Intramurals are possible if students demand it

Want to play flag-football at the University, but don’t know where to go? That’s the same question some students at the Biscayne Bay Campus are pondering.

Most students choose a college or university for its academic merits, but another key factor in their decision is the recreational sports programs and facilities.

Recreational sports are an important component to students’ quality of life on campus and to a college’s recruitment and retention of students.

Intramurals help play a key role in meeting new people and having opportunities on campus to get involved through sports, making them an intricate part of the collegiate experience. Unfortunately, not all students are privy to their existence, especially those at BBC.

Campus recreation and intramurals at FIU involve basic sports like flag-football, basketball, volleyball and soccer, to list some options.

Alternatives, such as kickball, dodge ball, and even electronic game tournaments are available as well. However, these options are only available at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

BBC does host some events, however, they are infrequent. Most intramurals at BBC occur once a semester or even once a year, which cannot compare with the weekly and monthly events at MMC. For instance, the highlight of MMC’s intramural schedule is the five week flag football 7-on-7 season in the fall, which featured an open six division, 26 team season, on top of fraternities and sorority competition and 4-on-4 competition.

For BBC students, there are opportunities to participate in the intramural programs, providing they commute to MMC, which is roughly 40 minutes away.

Activities like these give students leadership experiences and opportunities to develop their people and teamwork skills, but with most options being at MMC, where does that leave students on the BBC?

“We have intramurals!” said David Klein, junior English student. “I’ve never heard anything about them. If we do, they should put up posters or signs and really promote these sports. I’d love to play some football.”

FIU gives out championship t-shirts after winning a league or a tournament championship, and these shirts are sought after on campus by all participants.

These victory garments can be seen floating all around MMC, but are hard-pressed to be found on BBC.

There are three main reasons:

First, a lack of coordinators to initiate games; secondly, the almost invisible advertising for upcoming events around campus; thirdly, students not giving a voice to their wishes.

“Sports clubs can take on events themselves,” said Assistant Director of Campus Recreation Warren Shaw, who is responsible for intramurals at BBC. “We’d be happy to give them any equipment they need to facilitate that. If the need were actually there, we’ve done the best that we can do with the staff there.”

Some students don’t see an issue with the infrequency of intramurals on BBC.

“Just the way it is is fine,” said Daniel Triche, senior criminal justice. “If it was once a month, people wouldn’t show up as much because they’d know it’s there next month.”

Yet, not all students agree with Triche.

The lack of intramurals is sad,” said Javier Friguls, senior sports management major. “I want to see them have a championship versus a champion from this campus.”

Intramurals are orchestrated by Recreation Services, with a specific coordinator and graduate assistant for the position.

“FIU’s Intramural and Club Sports Coordinator, Matt O’Connor, believes that BBC doesn’t have the necessary infrastructure to accommodate intramurals just yet.

“[BBC] doesn’t have the facility space and the number of people to participate,” said O’Connor. “If promoted properly, students would definitely be as interested as they are at [MMC]. Intramurals are one of the most popular activities on campus. [Students] should go to student government and show that’s something [they] want and need. [The Student Government Council] will recognize and see what they can do to mix things up on campus.”

It’s clear that FIU sports and recreation need help to create a more accessible way and better promotion for both campuses to enjoy frequent intramural sporting events for eager participants. More importantly, students need to voice their concerns and needs in what they would like to see on both campuses.

There is enough interest to have, at minimum, a 4-on-4 flag football season in the soccer fields next to housing, where occasional tournaments are held.

BBC students can unify their mutual ideas and goals and request a course of action from the entities in charge of these events.

Campus recreation, like intramurals, allows students to continue their education outside of the classroom as well as make memories and friendships that can last throughout their collegiate careers.

These memories can live for a lifetime, but only if created and supplied for those who wish to reach those goals.

Steve Mesta Staff Writer

As part of International Education Week, the Bay Vista Hall Council, Student Association and International Student Council will host Culturefest on Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Wolfe University Center Ballroom 244.

Students will dance, sing and recite poetry.

Some of the participants who will be performing the activities that will be showcased at Culturefest are from other FIU organizations, including the African Student Association at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

“We have a lot of people at FIU who come from different backgrounds,” said Dalia Esty, BVHC president. “We hope to expose other students to different cultures through this one event.”

The idea of Culturefest originally came from the advisor of ISA, Sanjay Dhawan, who used to organize Culturefest at Modesto Maidique Campus.

“He thought it would be really cool if we did an event like that here at BBC,” said Maria Reynaga, the Student Organization Council representative for ISA.

Reynaga, who will be one of the masters of ceremonies for Culturefest, helped attract some of the performers to participate in Culturefest. However, confusion arose over organization.

“The difference of how it was set up before and how it is set up now is not that big of a difference,” Desty said. “It was a matter of just deciding where to put the speakers in the event.”

“This event is meant to give FIU students a little taste from each culture and show through all the activities that will be showcased at the event,” Reynaga said.

“I really hope to do this again next year if we get a really nice turnout.”