Rosenberg supports raise in tuition over next 3 years

MICHAEL FINCH Contributing Writer news@fiusm.com

University President Mark Rosenberg appeared before the State House Education Committee on Jan. 19 where he affirmed his support for raising university tuition.

"Cheaper isn't always better," Rosenberg said. "I'm enthusiastic about raising tuition up to the national average over the next three years."

For hours, a group of state legislators sat transfixed last week, as presidents from the 11 state-funded universities pitched their future needs in higher education. The one hallmark subject: tuition.

Early last week, presidents of both the University of Florida and Florida State University appeared before to push for higher tuition.

Rosenberg said he supports their efforts. State university tuition is currently a little over $5,000 per semester, while the national average hangs around $8,244 for in-state public four-year universities, according to the College Board committee.

But raising tuition remains a puzzling, but salient question for the State Legislature and the universities, while cuts to Pell Grants loom in Washington D.C.

Higher education saw major changes from a bill passed during the 2011 legislative session. The most far-reaching was the required submission of a Free Application for Federal Student Aid to be eligible for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship.

The matching grant program was also suspended, a three-decade old measure that matched certain types of fundraising for state schools. The exchanges between Rosenberg and Vice Chairwoman, Rep. Janet Adkins, got uneasy after the benefits some students receive under both Bright Futures and the Florida Prepaid College Plan were called the "Lexus award."

Rep. William Proctor the chairman of the House Education Committee made the "Lexus award" statement, suggesting that given Flori-da's low tuition rate, students who receive both awards are free to spend thousands of govern-ment dollars on a Lexus car.

Adkins later asked Rosenberg whether he also considered the combination of need-based Pell Grants and Bright Futures as the "Lexus-buying plan?"

Almost 50 percent of students at FIU receive the federally funded Pell grants and 25 percent receive the maximum $5,250, Rosenberg said.

"There is an overlap—the 'Lexus model' isn't necessarily my example. I know it does occur," Rosenberg said. "That problem may go away as we're forced to drive up tuition to stay competitive."

In a released statement, Rep. Proctor said the committee is beginning to sift through the information each university submitted.

"Any future reforms must strike the right balance between moving Florida's entire university system forward and allowing each institution to fulfill its individual mission," Proctor said.
Occupancy at FIU hopes to work with SGC-MMC

MEETING, PAGE 1

against tuition hikes.”

“We should be out at the Board of Governors meeting today, but this detailed us,” Nixon said. “We are addressing FIU suppressing our rights and confining us to areas where we have to follow certain rules, like the 9 p.m. curfew.”

Alex Castro, chief of staff at the Student Government Council at the Modesto Maidique Campus showed up to the event to extend acknowledgement to the group.

“From my personal stance,” Castro said, “I want to understand what the message is.”

“He’s trying to work with Occupy,” he explained, “Patrick O’Keefe, SGC-MMC president has been working with the leaders of the

movement.”

“We would like to work hand in hand,” he concluded, “I think Rosenberg should show. This is grabbing a lot of attention.”

A “mic-check” later, Sanchez explained that the group would likely invite President Rosenberg to speak to them in the upcoming week.

“Sanchez explained, donning the cream colored “FIU 7” shirt the group had made in a family gathering at 2 a.m. when the collision occurred two blocks from his home.

He was admitted to Kendall Regional Hospital on Bird Road.

Due to the injuries he sustained from the crash, Sanchez passed away January 4, 2012.

Sanchez had been an instructor in the Department of Public Administration.

He taught public sector budgetting. He was also a budget analyst for the City of Hialeah.

He had a bachelor’s in psychology and a master’s in public administration.

He leaves behind his parents: Olga and Jesus Sanchez, his brother, Jesus Sanchez, Jr., and his wife, Paula.

His brother, Jesus Sanchez, Jr. asked the university to relay his message of appreciation to the FIU community for the compassion and support that the family has since received from students, faculty and staff, according to University’s The Tender Love and Care Brigade.

He requested that FIU First Lady and TLC Brigade Co-Chair, Rosalie Rosenberg, Founding Professor and TLC Brigade Co-Chair, Raul Moncarz, and University Human Resources Relations convey a direct quote from the late professor:

“Whatever your dream is...go for it! Tomorrow is guaranteed to no one.”

Students of the public administration professor expressed their grief through social media and sent their condolences to Sanchez’s family.

“The viewing and funeral for Sanchez was held at Memorial Plan of Kendall on Jan. 8.”

Written and compiled by Lauren Riviera.
Local

Former lawmaker seeking state attorney job

Former state Sen. Dave Aronberg is running for state attorney.

The 40-year-old Democratic lawmaker is running to become state attorney for the 15th Judicial Circuit which includes all of Palm Beach County.

Aronberg served in the Florida Senate between 2002 and 2010. He made an unsuccessful run for his party’s nomination for attorney general in 2010 when he was defeated by former Senate colleague Dan Gelber of Miami.

Republican Pam Bondi won the attorney general’s race and shortly afterward chose Aronberg as a special counsel to lead an anti-pill mill initiative.

Aronberg advertised for a prescription drug database to regulate the ownership and operation of pain clinics during his days in the state senate.

Democrat Michael MacAuliffe is not seeking re-election after serving a single four-year term.

National

Power outages in Northwest could continue for days

A Pacific Northwest storm that brought snow, ice and powerful winds left a mess of fallen trees and power lines Friday as tens of thousands of residents already without power faced the prospect of a cold, dark weekend and flooding became a top region-wide concern.

While temperatures warmed and the icy, snowy conditions abated in western Washington and Oregon, slick roads and fast-melting snow brought challenges for road workers, city officials and rescue crews. The region also faces more rain as swelling rivers lead to slick roads and fast-melting snow.

Meanwhile, the storm system continued its plod east, where it was expected to move into the Plains and Great Lakes regions by Saturday evening.

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Corrections

In Vol. 23, Issue 54 of The Beacon in the Sports section, the fist under the article titled “Defending champs start season against No. 14 Clemson” listed Christine Suresdeh as a freshman. She is a senior who went 18-9 in singles as a freshman.

She is a senior who went 18-9 in singles as a freshman. She is a senior who went 18-9 in singles as a freshman. She is a senior who went 18-9 in singles as a freshman. She is a senior who won 18-9 in singles as a freshman.

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SGA behind scholarship funding

First Gen, Page 1

The Student Government Association’s Board of Directors and President’s Council.

The donations were contacted by the Student Government Association.

According to SGA, 40 percent of students entering the University are first-generation students.

Sanjeev Udumian, vice president of SGC-MMC, was instrumental in providing hope for the project.

In addition to contacting board members and active donors to receive funds for the scholarship, he made it a point to remind his fellow students to contribute to the cause.

“I’ve taken it personal to fund as much as I can so first-generation students like me can receive the same benefits,” said Udumian.

Students who qualify for the scholarship must be Florida residents.

They are required to be enrolled at the University with a minimum of 6 credit hours, the students must demonstrate financial need.

In addition to the donors providing a large sum of money, SGA also hosted several events throughout the fall semester in order to support the First Generation Scholarship.

Due to the fact that the scholarship is limited to students that display financial need, they have tried to raise much money as possible.

The SGA interns of 2011 also raised money for the event.

“We have been given the task to help contribute to the future,” said Nyobee McCall, an SGA intern.

“It was a challenge at first to stay focused but we are doing our best: working toward our goal and it’s good to know we are helping future students attend our beautiful campus.”

The SGA First Generation Benefit Event serves the purpose of acquiring funding for the scholarship.

This event takes place every year and it’s what brings in most of the donors.

The contact list for the donors was acquired from the advancement department of FIU.

Their assistance has allowed for the event to run successfully the past two years.

“What we see is that this scholarship program is a partnership between the entire community, the legislature, the public and private sectors, and large and small donors,” said U.S. House Representa- tive Anitere Flores who has been a long time supporter of the scholarship program, on the First Generation Scholarship website.

“This program is working, it’s going directly to the students, and it’s good to know it is not on the chopping block.”

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Observer must know teaching

Prof., Page 2

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The Beacon – Monday, January 23, 2012

Published by students for students

The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring Semesters and every week during Summer. It is copy every 3-weeks. Additional editions are 25 cents. The Beacon is available in the student center, Koger and at the FIU Bookstore. Ads contribute to the value of the company or service. The Florida is a partially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by student government.
Racial Inequality in the United States Healthcare system and the disproportionality within the U.S. Medical education system is alarming. The disparities within the healthcare system warrant concern, but it commences with the medical education system.

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans together make up 25 percent of the U.S. population; however, only 6 percent of practicing doctors come from these groups. There is no reason African Americans account for over 13 percent of the United States population but less that 4 percent practicing within the medical system.

Being mindful of this and many other statistics on minority affairs and healthcare, we are able to identify the reason that groups such as the Medical student association seeks to uplift minorities through aiding medical students by providing pipeline programs such as Minority Association of Premedical Students (MAPS) and opportunities for the future of our educational directives. We host many forums as defined in our Mission Statement, with the assistance of local SNMA chapters like UM Miller School of Medicine and Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine, we attain mentoring opportunities from pioneers in an effort to accomplish this goal.

But that is not the only thing that they do. MAPS is deeply vested in community work, whether it is through medical students in local health fair in medically underserved areas in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties, or volunteering their time and services to local orphanages. As future physicians, we believe in instilling the value of service to our fellow man.

With that said, we host many forums to educate the FIU community on health issues such as smoking cessation, violence prevention, HIV/AIDS, diabetes prevention, and mental health awareness to name a few. The President of the MAPS Chapter of FIU, Jonathan Ryan Batson, with the help of his Vice President Natasha Rivera and the rest of the executive board, has also made certain that many of MAPS protocols are patterned with other on-campus organizations such as Latino Student Medical Association, the French Club, Black Student Union, and Premed AMSA to establish camaraderie and unity throughout FIU. Also, a key component to this chapter is that we have created a pipeline to assist and motivate more minority students to pursue the sciences in hopes of matriculating to medical school one day.

Due to this, Student National Medical Association has made it a priority to help increase more minority physicians in the medical community. They essentially do this by providing pipeline programs such as Minority Associations of Premedical Students (MAPS) and opportunities for minorities which will allow them to have a more competitive edge in hopes of matriculating to medical school.

At FIU MAPS chapter, the main objective is to increase the rate of minority students matriculating to medical school. This objective is expected to be achieved through study groups to support academic enrichment, educational discussions with dialogue to provide critical thinking skills, and MCAT preparation. With the assistance of local SNMA chapters like UM Miller School of Medicine and Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine, we attain mentoring opportunities from pioneers in an effort to accomplish this goal.

Dear President Rosenberg,

We members of the student body as represented via Occupy FIU are greatly disappointed that you were unable to meet with us last Thursday, Jan. 20, 2012.

We had hoped at the meeting we could put a face on the man who is president of our university. We formally wanted to discuss recent events on campus and off-campus which have affected conditions at the university. These events include the recent Board of Governors meetings in Tallahassee. Disconnect from the FIU community, these meetings have immense implications for the future of our educational directives.

A direct dialogue would allow you, the president, and us, the students, to engage in the discussion and exchange of ideas that we feel need to be addressed, investigated, and reevaluated.

We sadly discovered after visiting your office that you were in Tallahassee attending the Board of Governors meeting.

We respect and support the importance of your presence as president of FIU at such meetings. We continue to expect that you can share your presence and ideas openly with us, your students as you did with the Board of Governors.

In fulfilling the university’s objectives as defined in our Mission Statement, we hope in the future you may be able to engage the surrounding local community as well. However, we the students do not believe that we must wait for you to be comfortable to engage us directly.

So again we would like you to meet with us students next Thursday, Jan. 26, 2012 at the GC lawn to have an open, respectful discussion about the state of the university.

We are very eager to meet and discuss issues, objectives and solutions affecting the quality of education here at Florida International University.

-Students of Occupy FIU
The Architecture school — comprised of the department of architecture, interior architecture and landscape architecture — is expected to boost enrollments, participate in national events and produce award-winning projects like those of previous years.

Roberto Rivino, professor and chair for the landscape architecture department, confirmed that his department is expecting two occasions this spring.

LaHiLa, a national student conference that the landscape architecture department will hold, is one of the most anticipated spring events taking place in March. It serves as an opportunity for the University’s landscape architecture program.

Another upcoming spring event is the National Competition for National Parks. Rivino announced that the “90s” landscape architecture and architecture [departments] in competition, named today as the “National Park’s.”

“New design studies have been solicited from an extraordinary field of submissions from schools across the United States.”

A unique sound for the new year

KADY PAZ
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It is almost impossible to walk the corridors of the University’s Harbert and Nicole Worthen Performing Arts Center at the School of Music without hearing the sounds of various instruments seeping through the building. With the spring semester now underway, the School of Music is ready to share its upcoming season with the rest of the student body. Strike up the orchestra and the ensemble because it’s almost show time, and all students are invited.

In the coming months, the School of Music will present multiple events as part of the New Music Miami Festival that runs throughout the spring. The NMFM is known for diverse instruments and bringing together esteemed composers and performers. The first of these events takes place Jan. 21 with Wil Smith, composer and organizer. He will be joined by the University’s NOUGS Ensemble.

The next NMFM event will take place on March 11 at 8 p.m. in the concert hall of the Worthen Performing Arts Center. The “Jazz at the Worthen Series” takes place on March 1 and March 2 at 8 p.m. in the concert hall of the Worthen Performing Arts Center.

The “Jazz at the Worthen Series” takes place on March 11 and features a night of music with the FIU Studio Jazz Big Band, directed by Jim Hacker and guest trombonist and composer Tom Grafting. Rounding things off is March 18 in the FIU School of Music at the Worthen Series: FIU Jazz Center.

March 22, charismatic clarinetist Esteban Leon and the FIU Laptop and Electronic Arts Ensemble take the stage at the Miami Beach Botanical Gardens. The first two events feature more than 95 students and the last two events are open and free to the public.

At the beginning of March, the University’s Opera Theatre will be presenting a special two-week-long performance of Benjamin Britten’s ghost opera, “The Turn of the Screw.” This psychological drama is based on the horror novel by Henry James of the same name. The story depicts the struggles of a young governess trying to protect the children in her charge from two, maiming ghosts at the country manor.

“This opera is one of the masterpieces of the 20th century and a great challenge for our students,” explained Robert B. DuBose, director of the Opera Theatre. “However, the unique vocal requirements in the cast of the specific talents of our present group of students, it was an achievable challenge for all of us.”

The role of the governess will be played by Evelyn Salesville and Sarah P.Zippe, both soprano voice major. The rest of the cast will be comprised of other School of Music students and the production will be designed in collaboration with the University’s Theatre Department.

Britain’s accompanying musical score will be conducted by Professor Gisele Simons. “The Turn of the Screw” takes place on March 2 and 3 at 8 p.m. in the concert hall of the Worthen Performing Arts Center.

Get closer than ever to art and artists at The Frost

MARCY DIAZ
Staff Writer
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Experience never before seen African and Italian exhibition selections, hang out with contemporary artists from France and admire Eastern-inspired works from one of China’s artistic innovators at the Frost’s spring semester events.

The opening reception for the spring semester includes exhibits from the Wolfsinn Teaching Gallery as well as artists Maria Theresa Negroni, Antoni Tàrrega and Qin Feng. The evening includes guided museum tours, a speech from the President of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Jimmie Huffman and a presentation by the Landscape architecture department.

“Meet and Greet” events are scheduled throughout the semester to give the public a personal and sometimes rare interaction with present artists. The current list includes Luchita Hurtado, Anais Wharam, Michelangelo, Grandma and Lynn Goldman.

A one-day educational workshop titled “How to Look at Art!” is also underway for art lovers who want to strengthen their observational skills. The seven-hour class, taught by Dr. Arnhem Blumenthal, will guide participants through various collections within the Frost Museum.

The event has limited space available so making a reservation is recommended to anyone interested in participating.

By the end of March through the first three weeks of April, the Frost will host an impressive Art in the Homeowners of Los Angeles. Small and fine art is the focus of the exhibition, giving a special lending to new semesters with Michelangelo’s Public Sculpting Project. The Frost will present its first “launch-pad” art that has been in the making since 2008.

Students have been asked to etch their thoughts and views on how they put the show together from their perspective as a designer, actor or director. This lets the audience take a closer look behind the curtain and see how the magic happened, explained Skow.

The spring semester continues with the “Audience Time” by Mary Zimmerman and directed by Associate Professor Phillip Church.

“The play has that dualistic—first act and second act will be available for those who want to; Compared to ‘In the Next Room’ this play has the opportunity to be more familiar because it doesn’t have specific locations like ‘a doctor’s office’; it allows our facility design information interpretation and devise aasonal itinerary,” said Skow.

“If we have an audience beyond the audience who were involved with the production, we have an audience, we have a chance for the production to go everywhere and everywhere and everywhere.”

Audiences get behind the scenes look

AURORE AMARICCI
Staff Writer
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The early history of the women will come to light in the literary production of the spring semester. “In the Next Room (The Version Play)” is set in the 1880’s, this production details the first use of new technology, the “vibrator,” in the women’s body. The story explores the sexual desire and role of women in changing roles and combines historical facts with humor and playful humor.

Maria Thereza Negreiros, Annette Marcy Diaz and most events on campus are $5 and many events are free. Staff Writer

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Makeover your fitness and nutrition habits

It's your New Year resolution to dominate your diet and fit into those skinny jeans you have been dying to buy? If you are in fear of another failed resolution, here are some tips to help you make a nutrition makeover for 2012.

THE KITCHEN

Just like you clean out your closet to make room for the new clothes that will fit your ideal body, it is important to perform a kitchen cleansing to allow space for healthier food. Let's start with the refrigerator.

The refrigerator stores a safe haven of muscle building proteins, craving cutter cheeses, and cancer fighting milk, it can also be home to a detrimental diet. Say goodbye to sugary sodas and cakes, and cancer fighting milk, it can allow space for healthier food. When shopping for milk, I like to reach for the two-percent milk without compromising the taste. Depending on your dietary needs, choose the milk that corresponds with how much fat your body calls for. As far as grains go, opt for whole grains if you have not done so already.

If you read the nutrition label and notice words that you cannot pronounce, chances are it is not good for you. The nutrients you need to live a more enjoyable and healthier life, but you will also be consuming low calorie fiber filled foods that will help keep your stomach satisfied longer. In addition, purchase some protein at the deli counter with lean turkey and chicken cold cuts, and pick up some healthy fat containing eggs for a filling breakfast or daytime snack.

Don’t forget calcium rich foods like Greek yogurt and your favorite cheese, which will also keep you full without the extra carbohydrates that you will find in most packaged foods. When shopping for milk, I like to reach for the two-percent container because it takes out some of the unhealthy fat from regular milk without compromising the taste. Depending on your dietary needs, choose the milk that corresponds with how much fat your body calls for. As far as grains go, opt for whole grains if you have not done so already.

THE SUPERMARKET

Now that you have let go of last year’s trends, it is time to make a shopping list. Stock up on fruits and vegetables of all shades and colors. Not only will you receive the nutrients you need to live a more balanced meal, you will also be consuming low calorie fiber filled foods that will help keep your stomach satisfied longer. In addition, purchase some protein at the deli counter with lean turkey and chicken cold cuts, and pick up some healthy fat containing eggs for a filling breakfast or daytime snack.

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If you read the nutrition label and notice words that you cannot pronounce, chances are it is not good for you.

Do not think of this as a new diet, but as a healthier lifestyle. By saying goodbye to your old habits and welcoming a change in your kitchen, you will be saying hello to your new skinny jeans in no time!

Fit for Life! is a biweekly fitness column. Natasha Irribarren is a fitness instructor at the Recreation Center.

What Would You Do?

STUDENTS, STAFF AND FACULTY: YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN AN OPEN DISCUSSION TEACH-IN

The Trouble at Hamilton State: A Case Study in Leadership, Ethics, and Values (A fictional case based on the incidents at Penn State)

Moderated by:
Professors Mitch Maidique and Jose Gabilondo

Thursday, January 26, 2012
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Graham Center Auditorium, Room 140

Registration is required. Please visit: LEAD.FIU.EDU to RSVP.

Presented By:
HEARTBREAKER
Coley misses game-winning shot

Coley, the “do it all Panther,” led all scorers with 21 points, four rebounds, four assists and two steals.

She struggled early on to find her shot, going 4-9 and 1-3 from three-point range.

FAU then had a chance to seal the game when Latavia Dempsey put up a three that went begging but Takia Brooks pulled down the rebound.

FAU fans better take more time off the clock before finally deciding to call a timeout with 17.3 seconds left in the game. Their shot missed, giving Coley and the Panthers their final shot to get the win.

Finda Mansare only saw limited action, as she picked up two fouls in the first three minutes of the game.

When she did re-enter the game, she picked up another foul in just nine seconds. Head Coach Cindy Russo saw her struggling early and it continued throughout the game.

“[Mansare] never really found her game tonight. She only shot six times,” Russo said. “I’m sure she got paralyzed because she knew she was in foul trouble.”

The game see-sawed back and forth with 14 different lead changes and the largest lead, seven, coming just three minutes into the game.

Brooks and Kimberly Smith both hit key three-point shots with under five minutes left in the game to keep the Owls ahead. The Owls shot 6-13 on the night from three-point range.

The game was lost in the paint, where the Panthers were dominated on the glass, getting out-rebounded 34-24. Russo wasn’t thrilled.

“We squeaked one out in South Alabama where we got terribly out rebounded,” Russo said. “They are going to have to make a decision because we were not going to win a whole lot more games unless were on the boards.”

Coming out of a timeout, Terri Stamps drilled a three off of the in bounds pass to give the Owls the lead at 50-47. Stamps ended the game with eight of the Owls 50 points.

Despite forcing 18 turnovers, the Panthers could not capitalize and shot only 45.2% for the game, where they also had 13 turnovers themselves.

Students showed up in full force for the huge matchup of Sun Belt teams on Jan. 21 when the Panthers took on Florida Atlantic. Unfortunately, during moments, it had a feel of a tennis match rather than a basketball game.

What they do like to do is sit there, enjoy the game, and ohh and ahh every so often when an exciting play occurs. And when it is time to pass out free t-shirts, that’s probably the most probably you will see the arena get during the entire game.

There are, however, solutions that can be made. One is to have a student section move down from the high bleachers that they have been secluded to, and down to the court. That way, it at least allows students to have a chance to participate more in the game.

It should be noted that there is a small student section behind one of the baskets. Usually, if a student to have a chance to participate more in the game.

Contact Us
Igor Mello
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Mansare (right) picked up two fouls early and only played 23 minutes in the Panthers 50-49 loss to FAU on Jan 21.
Men’s Basketball

Panthers lose to Owls on last second free-throws

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Staff Writer
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The last three of four meetings between the Owls and Panthers have been decided by five points or less. There was no surprise that their match-up on Jan. 21 came down to the final moments at U.S. Century Bank Arena. A controversial call in the final seconds propelled the Owls to snatch a 66-64 victory.

Jeremy Allen finished with 20 points, DeJuan Wright followed with 14 points and four rebounds and Dominique Ferguson finished with 14 points and five rebounds for FIU.

“It came down to a situation at the end of the game where they went to the line and made free-throws to end the game,” Head Coach Isiah Thomas said. “It was a terrible way to lose the game.”

With the game tied at 57 with less than four minutes remaining in the game, the Owls. And Panthers have been decided by five points or less. There was no surprise that their match-up on Jan. 21 came down to the final moments at U.S. Century Bank Arena. A controversial call in the final seconds propelled the Owls to snatch a 66-64 victory.

After the game, there was no conscience on the Owls. And Panthers have been decided by five points or less. There was no surprise that their match-up on Jan. 21 came down to the final moments at U.S. Century Bank Arena. A controversial call in the final seconds propelled the Owls to snatch a 66-64 victory.

“Man, our game was a little bit of everything. We had a good team effort,” said senior forward DeJuan Wright. “It’s a rivalry game. It is not as big as Duke versus [North] Carolina, but to us it is.”

Allen continued his scoring spree as he recorded his fifth 20-plus game of the season. For most of the game, the Panthers (5-14, 2-5 SBC) struggled to contain the inside and outside play of the Owls. Jordan McCoy, Raymond Taylor and Gantt combined accounted for 51 of the Owls 64 points in the game.

“Rivalry game. It is not as big as Duke versus [North] Carolina, but to us it is.”

The Panthers next game will be at home on Jan. 28 against Western Kentucky.

Men’s Basketball

MEN’S BASKETBALL
Panthers lose to Owls on last second free-throws

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“Man, our game was a little bit of everything. We had a good team effort,” said senior forward DeJuan Wright. “It’s a rivalry game. It is not as big as Duke versus [North] Carolina, but to us it is.”

Allen continued his scoring spree as he recorded his fifth 20-plus game of the season. For most of the game, the Panthers (5-14, 2-5 SBC) struggled to contain the inside and outside play of the Owls. Jordan McCoy, Raymond Taylor and Gantt combined accounted for 51 of the Owls 64 points in the game.

“Rivalry game. It is not as big as Duke versus [North] Carolina, but to us it is.”

The Panthers next game will be at home on Jan. 28 against Western Kentucky.
throw at that basket, you would see fans waving their arms, making lots of noise and doing whatever they can think of to distract that player from making is free throw. Not this student section though.

If another free entry student section is made opposite of the teams benches near the court, the seats should be changed as well. What most colleges have are bleachers, not for students to sit on per say, since they expect the students to be standing the whole game, cheering on their team.

With new renovations made to the outside of U.S Century Bank Arena, it should be only a matter of time when the inside of the arena jumps into the 21st century too. Another way to get a better atmosphere at the game is to get Greek Life more involved.

If fraternities and sororities are involved right now, then they should be ashamed of themselves. Football had a great atmosphere to it this year because, yes, the team was winning, but also because of all the Greeks that showed up embracing their school spirit.

This is where most schools get their rowdy fans from. An excuse given to South Florida teams and their fans attendance is that it’s “Miami.” That Miami is not really a sports town, it’s an event town. So maybe it’s just something to expect out of fans, and that people like me, and others on press row who make jokes about the fans should just deal with.

Heck, senior guard Jeremy Allen doesn’t expect much.

“It can be improved, but this is Miami, I really don’t expect it,” said Allen on the fans reactions during the Middle Tennessee game on Jan. 12.

Allen also stated that the fans have been great and had been supporting the team since day one, and that he never saw so many fans show up at the game, which gives him a great feeling.

Credit should be given to the students who showed up to watch FIU lose their 12th game of the season out of 16 this year. Hopefully, if the team starts to get it together, more fans will come. That being said, they only have six more home games this season.

Not surprisingly, FIU is dead last in Sun Belt average attendance this year at 1,014. Denver is first with 5,234 and Troy is in second last with 1,352. The conference average is 2,933.

It does not always come down to whether the team is doing well or not either. For instance, Western Kentucky is just one game better than FIU, but still manages to pull 3,302 fans a night. This isn’t just a problem this year, but for the past 2 years Isiah Thomas has been coach. Last year an average of 1,417 fans came in, and the year before 1,142, which shows very little improvement. Compared to the year before Thomas came, when an average of 681 fans attended, it has been a great improvement.

It is always in limbo how long the Hall of Fame coach will stay at FIU. What is interesting is that when the Panthers go on the road, they average 4,513 fans this season.

Some of that is because of the other team’s home fans that would show up regardless of who their school was playing, but also possibly because of away team fans interested in seeing Thomas.

Whatever the case may be, it is clear that the allure of Thomas the first season he arrived has not grown.

An average jump in attendance from 2008-2009 to 2009-2010 could probably be credited to Thomas’ celebrity image brought to the FIU sidelines. But into his third year and with no dramatic change in attendance since his first season, his celebrity image seems to have worn off, and winning is going to bring them back.

“They’ve been great, they still continue to support us and I want them to keep on supporting us and eventually we’re going to get it together,” Allen said.

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Writing about the environment raises student awareness

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The environment has always served as an important thematic element in literature; its mysticism, inexplicable beauty, and strength have influenced writers for centuries.

It is this strong connection that led the School of Environment, Arts, and Society to offer Professor Darrel Elmore a grant to further explore the relationship between literature and the environment, by creating the class “Writing about the Environment.”

Elmore wants to not only teach literature, but also to develop and raise student awareness of the importance of the environment. He hopes that in taking his class, students will learn how to analyze different environmental issues through the means of writing, reading, and conducting their own research.

His goal is for students to “gain an opportunity to develop their writing and research skills,” as well as to form “a sense of community among South Floridians in studying the environment, and a chance to express their topics as points of inspiration.”

Darrel Elmore, professor for Writing About the Environment, takes his class out to the Biscayne Bay

Biscayne Bay, and other natural landmarks and habitats around Florida. He also focuses on environmental issues outside of Florida such as the Southwest area of the United States.

To engage his students further about the various environmental issues, he created websites and YouTube videos. One such video was a skit featuring a former student of his dressed up as a mermaid speaking about the dangers of mercury pollution in Biscayne Bay.

He also assigns his students readings by important figures in environmental science such as Henry David Thoreau and Charles Darwin. In addition, Elmore alludes to the works of contemporary thinkers such as Rachel Carson, whose groundbreaking book Silent Spring warned of the dangers of pesticides and Al Gore, whose primary focus was the dangers of global warming and climate change.

Elmore credits his time at Arizona State University for allowing him to appreciate the natural world around him. “Camping in the desert or mountains and waking up to find deer, coyotes, or tarantulas milling about really allow a person to get in touch with nature and the environment,” he said.

Carlos Forero is pleased with the direction of the course. “My interest in taking this class is because as a literature major, the art of writing can be applied to any topic or interest. Because we live in the environment and such attention is paid to it, writing in order to call attention to a certain environmental cause is important,” said Forero, a senior and English literature major. “I think that it will help me sharpen my focus and make my writing much more effective.”

For Professor Elmore the knowledge he hopes to impart on his students taking this class is invaluable, he firmly believes that “if these student are ‘our future,’ then we are in good hands.”

Research project focuses on correlations in AIDS and mental health

JONATHAN RAMOS  Staff Writer  jonathan.ramos@fiusm.com

Upon coming to the University in 2001, Professor of Public Health Robert Malow has directed a slew of research projects within the Department of Interdisciplinary Prevention and Disease Prevention at the Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work at the University.

Under the umbrella of the FIU AIDS Prevention Program, Malow has focused on doing research to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS in various communities.

The most recent study by the APP was published online on Jan. 1, “Cognitive Behavioral HIV Risk Reduction in Those Recently Diagnosed with HIV: A Clinical Trial,” which was centered in intervening with severely mentally ill (SMI) people who are at risk.

Participating in the study was Malow, Robert C. McMahon, Jessy Devieux, Rhonda Rosenberg, Anne Frankel, Vaughn Bryant, Brenda Hesse and Maria Jose Mizguern. Malow was unavailable for comment at press time due to previous engagements.

Although the study confirms that the SMI community has a higher level of HIV risk, there is also a lack of “meaningful improvement” in HIV-prevention knowledge, according to the study. The study was conducted on mentally ill patients over a six week period that concluded with a six month follow up.

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This confirms that this is still a high risk population that is worth intervening with. There may also be some gender difference,” said Devieux, who is a Research Associate Professor of Public Health at the University. “There may also be strategies that can be issued differently within males and females in that population.”

In the study, the group compared enhanced cognitive behavioral skill building intervention and Health Promotion comparison, which are based on Information Motivation Behavior model that states that risk will be reduced if individuals are informed about the topic. The E-CB model focused on information and motivation enhancement while the HPC route stressed the benefits of overall health through effective activities.

Compared to females, males in the E-CB improved on intention to practice safer sex and in condom use skills and in unprotected vaginal sex, but did not differ in HIV knowledge, perceived susceptibility and anxiety, among other risk factors. Across intervention groups, there were improvements in all areas except self efficacy and number of partners.

“There was something going on in the way men and women responded to the intervention,” said Rosenberg, a research assistant professor at the University. “I wouldn’t want to say more about it because what that means is we need to examine it to make conclusions about what is working for men vs. women. We can hypotheseize that women may have more burdens in negotiating condom use. Usually it’s going to be a different thing is a women demands a condom be used or a man does.”

“This is actually a characteristic of many studies. If a women requests that a condom be used, even in this day and age, leads certain men to question what kind of women they are morally. You would think it’d be equal now.”

Since the study was based on patient testimony, the accuracy of the study cannot be completely verifiable. However, the promise of confidentiality with patients, along with other methods, increased the probability of validity of the results.

“We have a number of things to make people comfortable to feel they can be truthful. The bottom line is it’s based on self report. Usually there are a number of questions we ask. We start with the less threatening than we move with the more sensitive issues like sexual behavior and what they have done as well as drug abuse behavior,” Devieux said. “But people got a consent form and everything they say is strictly confidential and they don’t have a problem being totally honest about what they’ve done, but it’s always a question people have.”

The project, like other APP projects, was funded by the National Institute of Health. The APP has recently submitted a study of adolescents at risk in the juvenile justice system that is awaiting approval.

The study amongst severely mentally ill people is not complete, however. “I think if we were going to follow up on this study we would want to do something similar to what we just did with juvenile offenders,” Rosenberg said. “Try to distinguis with different subgroups of this popula tion. It’s less clear in that area.”