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TALLAHASSEE

Rosenberg: not ‘enthusiastic about raising tuition’

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Editor in Chief
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Financial aid, the impact of STEM degrees and tuition are some of the issues that University President Mark Rosenberg, Student Government Association and members of the University community, will address in Tallahassee on FIU Day.

On Jan. 19, Rosenberg and other presidents in the state university system appeared before the State House Education Committee to address the possibility of tuition hikes—hikes about which Rosenberg had considerable misgivings.

“I can’t tell you that I’m enthusiastic about raising tuition to the national average in the next three years because that would have a significant impact upon students who matter to me,” said Rosenberg in response to questions by House Committee Chairman Rep. William L. Proctor. “I’m not convinced that the financial aid would be there to reduce the difficulty and the pain.”

According to the lobbying group Florida Student Association, its opposition to a tuition hike in 2012 comes “after a nearly 20 percent reduction in Bright Futures awards, decreasing state financial aid award amounts, and a 15 percent total (base and differential) tuition increase in 2011.”

The FSA sponsored “Rally in Tallahassee” as an opportunity for attendees to have one-on-one meetings, open forums, and to speak on issues relevant to students such as University funding.

O’Keefe, also serves as the external vice chair for the FSA’s Board of Directors.

Each year, attendees, through one-on-one meetings, open forums and discussions, speak on issues relevant to students such as block tuition, textbook affordability and University funding.

For the video of Rosenberg’s full presentation to the House Committee, go to http://1.usa.gov/A2zCH4.

A correction for Rosenberg’s quote towards Chairman Proctor, can be found on page 2.

CHERRY POPPIN’

Jacques Halbert, a French artist of the Eat Art movement, shot darts at his subject covered in balloons for his performance, “A table: Life is a bowl of cherries...” during dinner at the Tour de France/Florida on January 21 at the Frost Art Museum.
State funding for higher education has declined because of a slow recovery from the recession and the end of federal stimulus money, according to a study released Monday. Overall, spending declined by some $6 billion, near 8 percent, over the past year, according to the annual Grapevine study by the Center for the Study of Education Policy at Illinois State University. The reduction was slightly lower, at 4 percent, when money lost from the end of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act was not taken into account.

NATIONAL

Meth fills hospitals with burn patients

A crude new method of making methamphet- amine poses a risk even to Americans who never get anywhere near the drug: It is filling hospitals with thousands of uninsured burn patients requiring millions of dollars in advanced treatment because of a slow recovery from the recession and closure of some burn units.

So-called shake-and-bake meth is produced by mixing millions of dollars in advanced treatment amphetamine poses a risk even to Americans who never to its employees, pay for the next two pay periods. They will deduct employees’ pay for the next two pay periods.

Changes bring internal glitches

For the first three pay periods under the new system, HR is working with the University community to make sure it’s learned.

Matt Sedensky

GOP turns to new terrain in FL

After a crushing South Carolina defeat, Romney no longer faces the prospect of wrapping up the nomination quickly and now is forced to regroup. He has spent months planning for the Florida campaign, especially building a firewall in the state. He has the largest organization of any candidate. And just this week, he said even his aides admit they have had the TV airwaves all to themselves for weeks, overspending hugely roughly $6 million combined.

The second option made the culture of FIU," Flores said. "We were faced with a compelling event when the ADP contract ended," Flores said.

They made sure it’s learned.

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Eduardo Almaguer
Staff Writer
sports@fiusm.com

There is a very long and tedious, albeit metaphorical, line that college baseball players have to make if they ever want to have the chance to compete against athletes from the major leagues on a regular basis.

For some, that line takes years to complete. For the FIU baseball team, it is going to take all but two months.

On March 7 at 7:05 p.m., the Golden Panthers are going to play an exhibition game against the Miami Marlins in Miami’s new, state-of-the-art stadium.

It is the first time in FIU baseball’s 39-year history that the baseball team will get a chance to play against a major league squad.

Tickets

The Marlins will be selling 15,000 tickets to the game, each one selling for $10.

“There will be no student discounts,” confirmed Carollina Perrina, Director of Business Communications for the Marlins.

Individual tickets will go on sale on Jan. 27 at 10 a.m. at marlins.com or by dialing 1-877-MARLINS.

Currently, fans can buy group tickets, though they must have a minimum of 20 people at the time of purchase. The $10 price tag remains the same for group tickets.

The Marlins have been planning to have a soft opening for their new, yet-to-be-named ballpark since April of last year. The $515 million stadium in Little Havana will play host to two games before FIU gets a chance to step onto the field.

Christopher Columbus High School will play against Belen Jesuit Preparatory School on March 5, followed by the Marlins and University of Miami on March 6.

Though this marks the first time UM has played the Marlins in a major league stadium, they have traditionally played the Marlins in spring training. UM has only managed to beat the major league squad twice in the past decade.

For FIU, the exhibition game is just another boost to a program that has enjoyed success in the past two years.

The Panthers have compiled a 73-65 record since the beginning of 2010, claimed a Sun Belt Conference Championship the same year and have made it to the Coral Gables Regional as well as the Chapel Hill Regional in the same timespan.

UPSWING

Perfectgame.org recently named FIU’s baseball program one of the top 10 teams that are primed for an upswing. The website cited senior outfielder Pablo Bermudez, senior infielder Mike Martinez, junior outfielder Jabari Henry and redshirt junior left-hander Mason McKay as a few of the reasons for success in 2012.

Panthers represented in Battle of Florida all-star game

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In the first ever Battle of Florida, held at FAU stadium, two FIU Panthers, seniors Wesley Carroll and Jonathan Faucher, got to show for the last time in their collegiate careers what they had to offer in front of 140 scouts at the game and many others watching on television.

Carroll was made captain for the South team and also started at quarterback. However, in the three drives that Carroll played, he totaled negative two yards on 1-6 passing and earned a net yardage of -9 on the ground, as the North side blew out the South side 51-3 and even went to a running clock in the fourth quarter.

“It was tough to watch, thank goodness I was able to allow the time keepers to let the clock run there at the end,” said former FAU head coach Howard Schnellenberger.

Faucher, a tight end who caught eight passes for 92 yards and two touchdowns this season, did not receive much playing time and ended the game with zero catches. Both Carroll and Faucher’s team, the South side, were being coached by Schnellenberger.

“It was great, it was great for him to be out there, it was really a lot of fun and he’s a good guy,” said Carroll.

Although Carroll did not put up great numbers, he said the practices were a really great experience for the now, former Panther.

“The game is set up to try and eliminate guys getting hurt,” said Carroll. “There’s not a lot of blitzing, not a lot of checks, it’s really just all about speed, a lot of one-on-one matchups. The week of practice was really the most crucial part of this whole week.”

In the practices leading up to the game, Carroll said that he got opportunities to try different offenses such as pro style and being under center, sets he didn’t run at FIU, which used a spread offense. He also said that he had a great week of practice and could not be more thankful for the chance to show the scouts what he had.

Out of the 140 scouts, 29 NFL teams were in attendance as well as four CFL teams and one AFL team.

“It’s good for the boys because it gives them an opportunity to show what they’ve got, maybe something the pros have not seen today,” said former FSU head coach Bobby Bowden. “I’m sure some of those guys out there attracted some attention.”

Even though his team lost, Carroll knows that this game ultimately is about having fun and getting one more chance in practices and in the game to show the scouts he can play.

“A lot of these guys had a great week of practice, a lot of scouts were out there and that’s really what this week was about,” said Carroll. “This game, it’s competitive but at the same time it’s really meant to be fun and a good atmosphere.”

His next step is to keep on working and preparing for his pro day.
Sportswriter: Anthony Guivas
Email: sports@fiu.edu

After a season that saw the Panthers go 31-27, finishing third in the Sun Belt Conference, FIU leads into a third consecutive Conference tournament appearance. After finishing third in the Sun Belt Conference, the Panthers’ softball team enters the 2012 season with a bit of a new look as this season marks the start for new head coach Jake Schumann.

Jake Schumann takes over as the skipper, inheriting a team that went 31-27 in 2011. Schumann is in charge of a program that has developed into a legitimate contender under the tenure of Beth Torina for the past four seasons. While Torina has left some big shoes to fill, Schumann’s track record may show that he seems willing and able to continue FIU’s recent success.

Schumann previously coached at Texas A&M Corpus-Christi for the past four seasons, where he amassed a total record of 120-104. Just last season Schumann guided the Islanders to an overall record of 41-19, good enough to earn the Southland Conference regular season crown and the conference Coach of the Year award. "I loved everything about [Texas A&M Corpus-Christi], it’s just that it’s not a priority [athletics] and I’ve always wanted to climb the ladder," Schumann said.

Now with a new skipper comes new recruits in Marisa McGregor, Aleima Lopez and Corinne Jenkins. McGregor, an outfielder, seems to fit the mold of a lead-off hitter for FIU and will compete for a starting spot in the outfield.

Lopez is a versatile catcher that can be utilized in the infield if necessary. She will be looked upon this year to stop opposing runners. Although these players signed their letter of intent, they will not be available to play until the Fall semester.

Jenkins, the sole pitcher of the group, has been clocked constantly in the low 60’s (miles per hour) with great movement and looks to give a boost to an already strong rotation.

Along with the new faces come many players that made last season a success. Key players included Mariah Dawson, Jenn Gniadek, Brie Rojas and Kayla Burri. "There are a couple of holes that we have but for the most part we know who’s going to start at third, shortstop, second, center and right field," Schumann said.

But as the season nears there are some positions that are still for the taking. "At catcher we are looking at a couple of kids, left field is still a tossup and first base we are trying to groom a freshman from California, Shelby Graves," Schumann said. But the one player who became the team’s catalyst for the past three seasons is Ashley McClain, who batted an astounding .409 average to go along with 12 homers and 44 runs batted in this past season.

"Ashley is a special player without a doubt," Schumann said. "Ashley [McClain] is going to be a mainstay, a spark plug for us. She is a special player and I am ecstatic to have her and get to coach her for one year."

With fresh new faces joining an already talented group of experienced starters, the club seems prone to make some noise in 2012 and prove that the program’s recent success is no fluke.

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:

Center for Professionalism and Ethics
Florida International University

Center for Leadership
Florida International University
Fiction and poetry, a form of therapy for professor

KATHRYN HANSARD
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

“This is a story that took me a few years to write,” David Gonzalez said to his students while passing out a stack of papers, “but I’d like you all to analyze it and look for recurring themes and symbolism.”

The 34-year-old adjunct professor explains that the story he is handing out, titled “The Gift,” is about a woman who sends her ex-lover a package in the mail, but the ex-lover avoids opening it, and instead spends a week guessing the contents.

The inspiration for the seven-page story came from personal experience—one that Gonzalez fondly remembers. He said it may have been the first boy-meets-girl story he had ever experienced.

“I was in the fifth grade, and a group of my friends told me that a girl much younger than me had a crush on me. She was going to give me a present after school,” Gonzalez said.

“Remember waiting in the rain for my mother to come pick me up and just praying that this little girl wouldn’t show up with a present for me.”

But she did. A little girl with big curls cascading down her uniform ran quickly toward Gonzalez in thepouring rain, tripped and fell flat on her face. She got up and handed Gonzalez a gold necklace with her name on it, asking him to wear it.

“It was extremely brave,” Gonzalez said, “but I returned it the next day and apologized to her.”

He was on the verge of crying, and did not want to be seen dating a younger girl; it was not “cool.” However “uncool” it may have been 23 years ago, the anecdote still influences his writings of short fiction and poetry.

“The Gift,” is about a woman who sends a present to her ex-lover after he saw how happy she had been after deciding to join the priesthood.

“We share our experiences, and it makes us closer. If going to the seminary and becoming a priest makes him happy, then it makes me happy,” said Buehler.

At first, Buehler needed time to weigh Blasco’s decision. He eventually pledged his support to her after he saw how happy she had been after deciding to join the priesthood.

“She has applied to three seminaries in the north-east and will be attending for three years,” said Blasco.

“As a teenager, I was not sure what I’m afraid of, being homesick or not,” said Blasco. “I think the South Florida diocese needs highly qualified bilingual clergy,” said Blasco.

“There are so many jackets in different styles, such as army jackets or varsity jackets. The same applies to bottomsm: do not be limited to jeans. Instead, you can purchase chinos in khaki, blue or black. Please remember, leave the zip-off pants for hiking.”

The point in achieving a wardrobe with variety is to accommodate the versatility. The most versatile item ever is probably a white button-down; it matches with most color bottomsm, and can be worn to a formal event or to class (styled differently, of course). Make sure that with each clothing item you have, you can at least wear it in three or more different outfits or ways.

Lastly, quality over quantity. Spend the extra $30 on a regular T-shirt; it will last longer and probably look better. Yes, designer clothing may hurt your wallet now, but in the long run, it is worth it because designer items are made from high-quality fabrics that will stay in your wardrobe for years.

Chances are you will probably end up wasting the same amount of money in rebuying the same low-quality items throughout one year. Does anyone really want to walk around with lumpy, colorless, wrinkly clothing?

“Blazer girl” (talking from personal experience).

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Haute Topic is a weekly fashion column. Juan Satzibal is a guest columnist on men’s fashion.

Being female not a hindrance to priesthood for student

PRIEST, PAGE 1

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“We share our experiences, and it makes us closer. If going to the seminary and becoming a priest makes her happy, then it makes me happy,” said Buchler. Although she did not have to study anything in particular for her bachelor’s degree before applying for the seminary, she chose religion because she wanted to be well-rounded.

Despite her dedication to her church, don’t expect Blasco to proselytize in class.

“I would never want to make anyone think I want them to think how I think,” said Blasco. She has been to three seminaries in the north-east and will be attending for three years.

“I am excited but there’s also this fear. I’m not sure what I’m afraid of, being homesick or not succeeding,” said Blasco.

After graduating, she plans to come back to South Florida.

“I think the South Florida diocese needs highly qualified bilingual clergy,” said Blasco.

Blasco projects the opposite image of a priest, so it is no wonder she has a drink now and then. “I won’t get drunk, but I’ll go to a bar and have a few drinks,” said Blasco. After all, she is a college student.

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“All the religions that I have studied since I’ve been here I have found really interesting. I find a lot of religions to be beautiful and just misunderstood because they haven’t been studied,” said Blasco.

Despite her dedication to her church, don’t expect Blasco to proselytize in class.

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“Paralytic Stalks” an intimate look into frontman

Kevin Barnes is an immensely challenging artist to follow. While there are certain aspects of Montreal fans have come to expect both in their records and live performances, every hint at a possible new release always leaves the followers with a nagging sense of uncertainty, a bitter-sweet prospect of what is to come.

This, in itself, is a big reflection of Barnes’ persona, as his lyrics tend to reveal his most intimate thoughts, and the turn of a verse or a simple chord change completely alter the mood of a song—and sometimes the album itself.

“Paralytic Stalks” is a fantastic example of this, presenting what could best be described as controlled chaos: an amalgam of carefully crafted pop songs, paired with distorted sounds and landscapes, leading to claustrophobic moments that dull a sense of noise, before reigning the song back into a tight melody, making this one of the most exciting records of Montreal has released to date.

The starting track, “Geld Ascend,” presents a reverb-heavy melody that draws back from ‘90s rock angst and offers an early look into the record’s themes of solitude, loss, tragedy and growth.

The lyrics, mostly lost behind a massive wall of guitars, beg for the presence of someone no longer present, showing a rather melancholic look into mending broken relationships and ending in media res, yet immediately continuing the themes in the next track, “Spiteful Intervention.”

“It’s sad that we need a tragedy to occur to gain a fresh perspective in our lives,” Barnes said, kicking into a bass-driven jam where he rails against humanity all the while having multiple key changes, creating a sense of instability, a sour sensation of disaster that permeates throughout.

This constant feeling of doom presented by Barnes is what ultimately makes Montreal so attractive, a rather miasmic entity that never departs the music, despite the uplifting nature of the song. With each track, Barnes finds a new clue about life, death, and beauty, and every crescendo often feels like a massive celebration, a cathartic burst of instrumentation that injects a grain of hope in the sea of bitterness he often portrays. And while this formula might become repetitive under any other artist, Barnes adds enough variety to the record where no two tracks feel the same.

His sense of personal confusion, his quest for soul-searching and personal growth “rather than wallowing in depression.”

For Gonzalez, writing Departure 3 offers a brief sight into his creator’s mind, and often feels like therapy session, observing the fluctuations of a single man’s ID and his personal monstrosities.

Yet, the intimate nature of its lyrics and attractive instrumentation keeps pulling the listener back once more. It only seems fitting, then, in its contrast between the beginning and ending track, starting with overly aggressive tones, and ending, in a whimper, but rather a sigh of resignation with the world, and most importantly, with himself.

Radiate Reviews is a weekly music review column. Email at carlos.sucreparra@fiusm.com
Recent death reminds about dangers of hazing

In 2008, the Chad Meredith Act made hazing a felony in Florida in hopes that organizations, Greek or non-Greek, would stop this dangerous practice. However, the brutal death of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University student Chad Meredith, the University of Miami student for which Florida’s anti-hazing policy is named, died in 2002 when he, after getting drunk in a binge exercise, drowned in a lake on campus.

Joining an organization should build character and make college life more fun, not break you down and cause you pain.

As a member of a Greek organization, I proudly say that my sorority has faithfully upheld the friendship in beating someone with a paddle, or non-Greek, have experienced some form of hazing: “It is tradition,” “It builds character,” or “You never break a tradition.”

Even after this incident, as a student at the University, I can proudly say that my sorority has faithfully upheld the zero-tolerance hazing policy as outlined by the University and the state. I can only hope that this is the case for all student organizations on campus.

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According to a hazing study, 55 percent of college students in an organization, Greek or non-Greek, have experienced some form of hazing.

For those who don’t know, tuition hasn’t risen by 15 percent every year since 2009-2010 – seven percent from the University and eight from the State University System Board of Governors.

Joining an organization should build character and make college life more fun, not break you down and cause you pain. Although, I can’t see this honor or the friendship in beating someone with a paddle, coercing a new member into binge drinking or putting a new member through any other mortifying or painful ordeal to join an organization. Even if a practice doesn’t result in death or serious injury, by hazing we discourage others from desiring to join a prestigious national organization.

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Greek organization or not, every one of us profess to uphold high standards of conduct. In one way or another, honor and friendship make up the core of our values. As a human being and a society member, I cannot subscribe to this honor or the friendship in beating someone with a paddle, coercing a new member into binge drinking or putting a new member through any other mortifying or painful ordeal to join an organization. Even if a practice doesn’t result in death or serious injury, by hazing we discourage others from desiring to join a prestigious national organization.

“Class Dismissed” is a biweekly column critiquing education in America. Email jasnyn.elliot2@fiusm.com.

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Greek organization or not, every one of us profess to uphold high standards of conduct. In one way or another, honor and friendship make up the core of our values. As a human being and a society member, I cannot subscribe to this honor or the friendship in beating someone with a paddle, coercing a new member into binge drinking or putting a new member through any other mortifying or painful ordeal to join an organization. Even if a practice doesn’t result in death or serious injury, by hazing we discourage others from desiring to join a prestigious national organization.

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In celebration of the Chinese New Year, students came together in the Wolfe University Center's Panther Square to welcome the Year of the Dragon with a variety of activities being tabled on Jan 23. (Top-Left) Fang Chen, senior hospitality student, takes part in the entertainment. (Left) Zibo Ding and Ye Chen, hospitality alumni, provide as (Top-Right) hospitality professor Jinlin Zhao watches.

Environment a key issue in GOP Florida Primary

MATT SEDENSKY AP Staff

Four years after the GOP's rallying cry became "drill, baby, drill," environmental issues have barely registered a blip in this Republican presidential primary.

The candidates' positions on environmental regulation, global warming as well as clear air and water are all but certain to get attention ahead of the Jan. 31 primary in a Florida, where the twin issues of offshore oil drilling and Everglades restoration are considered mandatory topics for discussion.

"It's almost like eating fried cheese in Iowa," said Jerry Karnas, who actually believed in solving some of these problems," said Navin Nayak of the League of Conservation Voters. "Now we're faced with a slate that doesn't even believe in basic science."

The candidates, of course, dispute such a characterization. But their stances have generally grown more conservative. And even when they haven't, they often offer positions that aren't in line with conservationists.

Romney heralded the passage of stricter limits on carbon emissions in 2005 when he was governor of Massachusetts but last year said it was a mistake. He previously agreed with the scientific consensus on global warming and humans' contribution to it but now says "we don't know what's causing climate change."

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich supported tougher environmental regulation early in his congressional career and appeared in a 2008 TV spot with then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi pleading for action on climate change. Now he's says appearing with the San Francisco liberal was "the dumbest thing I've done in the last couple of years" and is calling for lifting restrictions on offshore drilling and rebranding the Environmental Protection Agency a "job killer" that must be replaced.

Texas Rep. Ron Paul said during his 2008 campaign that "human activity probably does play a role" in global warming. Now he calls the science on manmade global warming a "hoax."

Former Penn-Ivans Sen. Rick Santorum shows fewer signs of a shift on such issues. He has called for more drilling, including in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and doubts research that points to a human role in global warming, calling it "junk science."

An analysis by the non-partisan Center for Responsive Politics found about $2.8 million in campaign donations were made by those in the energy and natural resources sector, according to Federal Elections Commission data, with about 84 percent of it going to Republicans.

Meantime, the EPA, which is responsible for policing environmental rules, has been singled out for Republican criticism this campaign season. Paul has called for its outright elimination as part of his plan to drastically curtail the federal government. Romney has said it is "out of control." Santorum has railed against the EPA's limits on mercury from coal-fired power plants. And Gingrich has called for overhauling the EPA, saying it should be converted to an "environmental solutions agency."

Nayak says: "There's no doubt that this kind of slate of presidential candidates is one of the most regressive and most closely tied to polluters that we've seen at least in decades."

Some Republican presidents and nominees have been strong environmentalists. Teddy Roosevelt was seen as a role model to environmentalists, using his presidency to establish wildlife refuges, preserve forests, and conserve water. Richard Nixon helped create the EPA that has been vilified by his successors on the campaign trail today. And the last Republican nominee, Sen. John McCain, was the chief co-sponsor of a bill that sought mandatory caps on greenhouse gas emissions.

Michelle Paetz, a political science professor at the University of Dayton who focuses on environmental policy, said the current slate of Republicans may not be giving much reason to applaud their environmental stances, but it may not matter much overall with the economy taking center stage.

"The bottom line is both with the GOP primary and looking to Obama and the general election, the green vote is a non-issue," Paetz said. "There are too many other issues crowding out the environmental ones."

But Tony Cai, the national political director for the Sierra Club, said taking what he calls "extreme" views on the environment won't play well come Nov. 6.

Jim Deluca, of Republicans for Environmental Protection, said he hopes to see a shift as Election Day draws closer, but that the state of politics right now has made ecological issues untouchable.

A way to keeping New Year's resolutions

BARBARA CORBELLINI DUARTE Staff Writer barbara.duarte@fiusm.com

Almost half of Americans make New Year's resolutions, yet, after the first week of the year, only about 75 percent of this people keep their goals, according to a 2002 survey collected by the "Journal of Clinical Psychology."

Over the past two years, the FIU Recreation and the FIU Biscayne Bay Wellness Center have been helping to keep up the common promise of health resolutions, promoting the New Year Get Fit Challenge.

"Every one has New Year's resolutions, we want to provide an extra incentive for them," said Val Butler, programming assistant for the Recreation Center and coordinator of this year's event.

The 2012 Challenge will start on Jan. 27. Participants can do the initial weight-in from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the FIU Biscayne Bay Wellness Center located on the third floor of Wolfe University Center.

"It has always grown every year, this is an event that pulls out the staff and the faculty to come out a lot, as well as students," Butler said. "So it's great to see an overall competition throughout the University."

According to Butler, participants will have the chance to receive assessments where they can find out their strength score, body mass index and body fat percentage.

Participants will be divided in groups of two.

"You can come and make a team or you can sign up with the free agents and we will partner you with someone," Butler said.

The person that signs in will get discount for the Wrap It Up Food Truck.

"This is the first year that along with the program we have our recreation training, which is our own brand of personal training," Butler said. "When a team registers, you automatically get a free personal training session."

The Challenge will last eight weeks. Teams will compete to lose the highest percentage of weight, not necessarily the highest amount. Every Friday, teams must weigh-in at the Wellness Center.

In 2011, the winner team lost 166 lbs, which is equivalent to 11.6 percent of body fat, according to Butler.

Throughout the competition, participants can receive nutrition tips from Anden Berrettos, senior health educator for the Wellness Center, and physical assistance from Joel Palau, Recreation Center personal trainer.

"Anyone from the community that purchase a membership, faculty, staff and students are always welcome to partici-pate," Butler said.

The competition ends on Mar. 23. The winner team will receive a trophy and personal training benefits.

"You have nothing to lose, but weight," Butler said.