The Beacon, February 27, 2012

Florida International University

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

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper/536

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.
Students’ Activity & Service Fees may see an increase pending deliberation.

**A&S Fee**

**SGC to deliberate on student activity fees**

**MELISSA CACERES**

**News Director**

mellisa.caceres@fiusm.com

Students’ Activity & Service Fees may see an increase pending deliberation.

The University Activity & Service Fee committee held two public hearings on both the Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay Campuses to listen to the concerns and opinions of students and faculty regarding the proposed increase in the A&S fee this year.

At the Feb. 23 hearing at MMC, several organization leaders pushed for the increase in order to expand their programs while a few students were hesitant to support their fees due to the money not going to areas that they preferred.

“If we do not get the A&S increase, we will continue to operate,” said Larry Lunsford, associate vice president of Student Affairs. “But as we gain 2,000 more students each year, we can’t continue to serve them and fund programs for them.”

The A&S fee, one of three fees that students pay for along with their tuition, is used to fund around 60 student organizations and facilities on campus. The committee that will decide the increase is comprised of four faculty members and the presidents and comptrollers from the Student Government Council and funds programs for them.

The A&S fee, one of three fees that students pay for along with their tuition, is used to fund around 60 student organizations and facilities on campus. The committee that will decide the increase is comprised of four faculty members and the presidents and comptrollers from the Student Government Council.

**ENVIRONMENT**

**Panther Dining offering new sustainable To-Go containers**

**MELIOR LEONOR**

Asst. News Director

melhor.leonor@fiusm.com

Eating at Pollo Tropical has now become the newest way to go green at FIU, as food sustainability takes the next step with the implementation of To-Go Boxes.

Previously exclusive to Fresh Foods, To-Go Boxes are re-useable plastic containers designed to reduce the use of disposable styrofoam containers.

We are trying to get more sustainable dining options out to the students,” said Celia Izaguirre, Aramark sustainability coordinator at FIU. “We wanted to offer more options to students who don’t want to use styrofoam and want to reduce waste.”

While ordering from Pollo Tropical, a one-time refundable deposit of $4 for all customers to unlimited the use of the boxes at both Pollo Tropical at the Modesto Maidique Campus and the Chлепн Works at the Biscayne Bay Campus. According to Izaguirre, customers can return To-Go Boxes at any time and receive their deposit in return.

Izaguirre also explained that the restaurants take care of the sanitation, taking used To-Go Boxes at the time of purchase and serving food in fresh clean ones at every purchase.

“We do the sanitizing so that it’s eventually you come down (to Pollo Tropical and we swap it for a clean one,” Izaguirre said.

According to Josefina Salazar, manager of Pollo Tropical, the restaurant goes through 150 non-biodegradable styrofoam containers every
Individuals divided over increase

**LOCAL**
Lawmaker resigns over texts to prosecutor

A Democrat lawmaker resigned Friday over suggestive and harassing text messages he sent to a married federal prosecutor using a hidden identity.

Rep. Richard Steinberg of Miami Beach said his resignation is effective immediately and asked for privacy while he deals with his personal affairs. He left the Capitol after The Miami Herald reported the story Wednesday and issued an apology.

“The events of the past week have been difficult for my family, friends and for everyone involved,” Steinberg said in a written statement. “As I did earlier this week, I want to once again, very directly and sincerely, apologize to everyone I have hurt.”

**NATIONAL**
NYPD’s monitoring of Muslims was legal

New York’s mayor offered a robust defense Friday of a secret police department effort to monitor mosques and Muslim businesses and student groups in several states, following a week of criticism from college administrators and politicians who said the intelligence-gathering pricked too deep into the lives of law-abiding people.

“We just cannot let our guard down again,” Mayor Michael Bloomberg said.

Speaking on his weekly radio show on WOR-AM, Bloomberg declined to discuss details of the anti-terror programs, detailed in a series of stories by The Associated Press.

**WORLD**
Red Cross holds talks with Syrians over wounded

Red Cross aid workers entered a besieged neighborhood in the Syrian city of Homs Friday and met with officials and rebels to evacuate all wounded, including two Western journalists, a spokesman said.

The effort to evacuate the reporters — who were injured in a government attack that killed American war journalist Remi Ochlik — is part of a wider international push to bring aid to people in the areas hardest hit by Syria’s repression programs, detailed in a series of stories by The Associated Press.

**HEARING, PAGE 1**

at Modesto Maidique Campus and Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus.

The increase percentage could be as low as 1 percent; each student’s A&S fee would raise by 50 cents per credit hour which would equal to $958,000 in more funds. The highest level would be 5 percent; each student’s fee would increase by $1.81 per credit hour to make around $2.4 million.

“We should push for a five percent increase as much as possible because every year in Campus Life, we’re pushing the envelope by doing as best as we can with the budget that we’re given,” said Natalia Lopez, SGC-MMC public relations coordinator.

“If it increases, that can bring bigger events and bigger names [to perform on campus],” said SGC-MMC president.

Several directors of campus organizations emphasized that the increase would benefit entertainment events like Homecoming, the inner workings of many structures and departments at the University, and the programs that develop leadership among students.

“Right now, I think we can suffice with what we have,” said O’Keefe.

“I don’t think that now is the time,” said O’Keefe. “Right now, I think we can suffice with what we have.”

“Others didn’t feel the same way. “If we feel like we’re okay now with the budget, what’s going to happen in three years when we grow to around 60,000 students?” said Robert Jaross, director of Student Media.

“Panther Dining has also put in place reusable “Drink to the Earth” mugs, which students can upon purchase, give customers discounts on coffee and fountain drinks throughout the week and the initiative is to reduce this amount. “Styrofoam is not biodegradable and we can’t recycle it at FIU or in Miami,” Izaguirre said. “Currently styrofoam occupies 30 percent of our landfill space.”

According to Salazar, the students and faculty members are divided over the increase in student fees.

“Others didn’t feel the same way. “I don’t think that now is the time,” said O’Keefe. “Right now, I think we can suffice with what we have.”

“Others didn’t feel the same way. “If we feel like we’re okay now with the budget, what’s going to happen in three years when we grow to around 60,000 students?” said Robert Jaross, director of Student Media.

“Panther Dining has also put in place reusable “Drink to the Earth” mugs, which students can upon purchase, give customers discounts on coffee and fountain drinks throughout the week and the initiative is to reduce this amount. “Styrofoam is not biodegradable and we can’t recycle it at FIU or in Miami,” Izaguirre said. “Currently styrofoam occupies 30 percent of our landfill space.”

According to Salazar, the students and faculty members are divided over the increase in student fees.

“Others didn’t feel the same way. “I don’t think that now is the time,” said O’Keefe. “Right now, I think we can suffice with what we have.”

“Others didn’t feel the same way. “If we feel like we’re okay now with the budget, what’s going to happen in three years when we grow to around 60,000 students?” said Robert Jaross, director of Student Media.

“Panther Dining has also put in place reusable “Drink to the Earth” mugs, which students can upon purchase, give customers discounts on coffee and fountain drinks throughout the week and the initiative is to reduce this amount. “Styrofoam is not biodegradable and we can’t recycle it at FIU or in Miami,” Izaguirre said. “Currently styrofoam occupies 30 percent of our landfill space.”

According to Salazar, the students and faculty members are divided over the increase in student fees.

“Others didn’t feel the same way. “I don’t think that now is the time,” said O’Keefe. “Right now, I think we can suffice with what we have.”

“Others didn’t feel the same way. “If we feel like we’re okay now with the budget, what’s going to happen in three years when we grow to around 60,000 students?” said Robert Jaross, director of Student Media.

“Panther Dining has also put in place reusable “Drink to the Earth” mugs, which students can upon purchase, give customers discounts on coffee and fountain drinks throughout the week and the initiative is to reduce this amount. “Styrofoam is not biodegradable and we can’t recycle it at FIU or in Miami,” Izaguirre said. “Currently styrofoam occupies 30 percent of our landfill space.”

According to Salazar, the students and faculty members are divided over the increase in student fees.

“Others didn’t feel the same way. “I don’t think that now is the time,” said O’Keefe. “Right now, I think we can suffice with what we have.”
**SPORTS**

**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

**Seniors start fresh against Jaguars**

**RICO ALBARRACIN**
Asst. Sports Director
rico.albarracin@fiu.com

On the night that DeJuan Wright and Jeremy Allen played their final home game in a Panther uniform, both went out with a bang.

Wright had career highs in both points and rebounds, 34 points and 13 rebounds, and Allen chipped in with 21 points, to lead the Panthers to an 81-74 win over the South Alabama Jaguars on senior night.

“I was really happy for DeJuan [Wright] and Jeremy [Allen]. They’ve given us everything in practice and play,” said Head Coach Isiah Thomas. “We’re gonna miss them, but they definitely made their mark here at FIU.”

With the win, the Panthers will go into the Sun Belt Conference tournament as the 10th seed and will play the Florida Atlantic Owls in the first round.

“They’re our rivals. It’s definitely going to be a war,” said Wright.

**During the run, Thomas used a smaller lineup, with Deric Hill, Phil Taylor, Allen, Wright and Brandon Moore during the run and it seemed to work.**

“I like when Phil [Taylor] plays the two, he doesn’t have to dribble as much and it makes us faster,” said Allen.

The Jaguars would not go away quietly, scoring in small spurts. An Austine Rubit dunk and free throw cut the lead down to three, 72-69. It would be the closest that the Jaguars would get, as FIU finished the game at the free-throw line and with the win.

Now the focus shifts towards the conference tournament, where the Panthers will be playing on March 3 at 8:30 p.m. in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Thomas was happy that the team can start out fresh. We tried to come out and we can build on it,” said Allen.

On the night that DeJuan Wright had career highs in both points and rebounds, 34 points and 13 rebounds, and Jeremy Allen chipped in with 21 points, to lead the Panthers to an 81-74 win over the South Alabama Jaguars on senior night.

“We’re gonna miss them, but they definitely made their mark here at FIU.”

With the win, the Panthers will go into the Sun Belt Conference tournament as the 10th seed and will play the Florida Atlantic Owls in the first round.

“They’re our rivals. It’s definitely going to be a war,” said Wright.

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

**Panthers tame Jaguars in overtime**

**BRANDON WISE**
Asst. Sports Director
brandon.wise@fiu.edu

Down by as much as 16 to South Alabama, the Panthers looked outmatched in every sense of the word. Nothing was going right. Every shot they took was clacking off of the rim and every shot the Jaguars took was going straight in. They looked tired and slow. Head coach Cindy Russo says it’s the change of defense that got the Panthers going.

“We went into a zone,” Russo said. “We just couldn’t keep up. There was too much motion. When we ran our zone, we just simply worked out well and we stopped it. It stopped the bleeding. There was a lot of bleeding out there in the first half.”

However, the Panthers battled back and found a way to get into the game and turned it up at 51 when senior Fanni Hutlassa hit two free throws with a minute to go in regulation.

After South Alabama failed to score and win the game at the end of regulation, the game headed to overtime. Both teams traded foul shots but then the biggest play of the game came in the form of a Hutlassa three-pointer to give the Panthers the lead.

They never relinquished the lead en route to their 58-55 win over the Jaguars.

Jerrica Coley led all scorers with 25 points, 12 of which coming from the charity stripe. She also had seven rebounds, three assists and three blocks.

“At the beginning, we started off a little slow,” Coley said. “But at halftime, we went into the locker room, huddled up and talked about it. We just really wanted to win.”

As to the physical nature of the game tonight where both teams were called for a total of 40 fouls, Coley knew that it was going to be a war.

**SBC tournament seeding format is very impractical**

**The Sun Belt Conference may want to grow trees out of their seeds, but the roots are so gnarled it’s difficult to tell them apart.**

**Instead of having all 12 SBC teams make it this year, there will be only 11, because last place Louisiana Monroe failed to meet the SCAA’s Academic Progress Rate. With 11 teams, the Sun Belt decided to take all of them, regardless of how difficult the task of seeding the teams has become.**

The seeding goes like this: The number eight seed will face the number nine seed, six vs. 11, and seven vs. 10 on the first day of the tournament.

On the second day, the number four seed will play the number five seed, and depending on which team wins the eight vs. nine game, they will face either the East or West regular season champion (game six).

The same goes for the winner of the seven vs. 10 game (game seven), and the winner of the six vs. 11 game will face the number three overall seed (game eight).

In the semifinals, the winner of game five plays the winner of game six, and the winner of game seven plays the winner of game eight. The finals see the winners of those two games.

If this is at all confusing to you, worry, it’s perplexing me too.

The Sun Belt can learn a thing or two from the Big South, which has 11 teams in their league, but can take only 10 because Presbyterian has not completed their Division One transition yet.

Therefore, the top six teams automatically make it to the second round, and the last four play each other in the first round to see who makes it to the quarterfinals.

If the SBC took 10 teams, Troy would not make the tournament.

If leaving one team out wasn’t cruel enough, SBC could be like the 11-team Ohio Valley conference, which with SIU-Edwardsville ineligible because of NCAA transition, they have.

Instead of taking all 10, they take eight, with the top two seeds automatically making it into the semifinals, the three and four seed going straight to the quarterfinals and five through eight playing in the first round.

Thanks to this setup, the Panthers would not make the tournament. That may be just what FIU would need as motivation to do better during the season.

Since FIU is going to make the SBC tournament every year regardless if they win a single-game, the only real reason to do well is to get a better seed. If there was a possibility of not making the tournament at all together, regular season games would hold a greater significance.

Not every team deserves a shot to go to the SBC tournament. For example, if ULM had been eligible, they would have made the post season with two wins in the season.

A team like that should not be rewarded with a chance to win the SBC tournament and get an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. For example, if ULM had been eligible, they would have made the post season with two wins in the season.

A six-team tournament, with the top two teams getting a first round bye, just like how the NFL playoffs run, is the best option for the Big South to go.

That way every conference game would have much greater implications than it does right now and you would get better competition and hopefully better fan support.

So, while ULM may have messed up a perfectly good 12 team tournament system, the SBC didn’t do a well enough job in making an 11 team conference have a better tournament bracket.

By being too kind, they made things far more complicated than they should be.

**See Women’s, Page 4**
Panthers and Seminoles split first two games

The last time the Panthers beat Florida State University in a base-
ball game, FIU’s winning pitcher had not been born yet.

In the first of a three-game series, FIU snapped its 22-year losing
streak against the Seminoles after 13 hits led the Panthers to an 8-5
win on the road in Tallahassee, Fla.

FSU was last ranked No. 8 in the
country by National Collegiate
Baseball Writers Association of
America.

On Saturday, however, FSU
managed to silence the bats that
dominated them the night before,
beating them 3-1 despite multiple
chances by FIU to score.

Both teams exchanged a second
set of two-run innings, leaving the
score at 6-5 as the sixth inning
opened.

The Panthers rallied with two
outs in the sixth, with sophomore
David Vazquez hitting an RBI
double to give FIU a 4-1 lead.

Sloppy defense in the third
inning allowed FSU (3-1) to get
back into the game with a two-run
double to make it 4-3.

Though the Panthers escaped
the jam by striking out the side. He was
not so lucky in the second inning.

After loading the bases again,
FSU’s James Ramsey hit a single to
drive in two Seminoles and give his
team a 2-0 lead.

FIU had not been victorious against a top-
10 team since 2008.

With the win, the Panthers
were able to erase a 10-run deficit
for the second straight day and
secure a 3-1 win on the road in Talla-
hassee.

“Those batters just
were not as sharp as
those of the previous
night,” Coley said.

“After an FIU error set up an
RBI single to drive in senior
Mike Martinez.

After an FIU error set up an RBI
single for FSU in the same inning,
junior T.J. Shantz belted a two-run
double to give FIU a 4-1 lead.

FIU tacked on a final run in the
eighth inning with a Kirsch double,
and then called upon their left-
hander, prompting pitching coach
Drew French to remove him from
the game early.

The combination of both
results in 100 pitches for the left-
hander, prompting pitching coach
Drew French to remove him from
the game early.

FIU (1-3) this season after each had
had their best game at the plate for
Bermudez and junior Adam Kirsch
walking four in 5 1/3 innings.

R.J. Fondon was not as sharp as
his season debut, but he managed
to limit the damage, striking out
two batters, allowing eight hits, and
walking four in 5 1/3 innings.

Senior outfielder Pablo
Bermudez led the way for FIU with three hits in the opening game against the Seminoles.

Senior Iosmel “Bala” Leon hit a solo homerun in the eighth inning for
FIU, but they could not overcome
FSU’s Mike Compton, who pitched
six innings, allowing only two hits and struck out four Panthers.

McVay walked the bases loaded
in the first inning, but escaped the
jam by striking out the side. He was
not so lucky in the second inning.

After loading the bases again,
FSU’s James Ramsey hit a single to
drive in two Seminoles and give his
team a 2-0 lead.

FIU’s pitching staff managed to
hold FSU hitless until the seventh
until Ramsey struck again, this time
hitting a solo homerun off redshirt
sophomore Albert Cardenas.

Leon homered in the eighth
inning to cut the deficit to two runs,
but the Panthers were not able to
mount a comeback.

Senior outfielder Pablo
Bermudez led the way for FIU with three hits in the opening game against the Seminoles.

Both teams exchanged a second
set of two-run innings, leaving the
score at 6-5 as the sixth inning
opened.

The Panthers rallied with two
outs in the sixth, with sophomore
David Vazquez hitting an RBI
single to score Kirsch.

Both teams exchanged a second
set of two-run innings, leaving the
score at 6-5 as the sixth inning
opened.

The Panthers rallied with two
outs in the sixth, with sophomore
David Vazquez hitting an RBI
single to score Kirsch.

With the win, the Panthers
were able to erase a 10-run deficit
for the second straight day and
secure a 3-1 win on the road in Talla-
hassee.

“We expected it to be
a physical game,” Coley said.

“There was a physical team and
it was an important game for
both. We knew it coming
in.”

Not only did Coley have
a great performance but her
cousin, Kamika Idom, came
off the bench for solid minutes.

Idom finished the game with
eight rebounds and five points in
33 minutes of action.

This marks the first 20-
win season for the team since
the 2001-2002 season where
they went 13-1 in the Sun Belt,
becoming champions of the
conference.

With the win, the Panthers
are the three seed from the
East division in the Sun Belt
Conference tournament where
they will face Louisiana Lafayette
on March 5 at 12:00 p.m.

Coley feels that this team
is on the right track to get to
where they want to go: a
conference title.

“This is a good momentum
booster and we’ll be ready
to take every game one at a
time,” Coley said. “Every
game will be like this one.
Hopefully we’ll get to the
championship.”

Kristi Camara/The Beacon

Jerica Coley (right) led all scorers with 25 points against the Jaguars on Feb. 25.

FIU erases double-digit
deficit to win in overtime

WOMEN’S, PAGE 3

Jerica Coley (right) led all scorers with 25 points against the Jaguars on Feb. 25.

FIU erases double-digit
deficit to win in overtime

Jerica Coley (right) led all scorers with 25 points against the Jaguars on Feb. 25.
Third time is the charm for hospitality student

Wen Zheng Guo (right) was one of the student volunteers that Velez directed.

Gipsy Velez (left) worked the V.I.P. happy hour event at the Betsy Hotel on Feb. 24.

Although Gipsy Velez would not share every name she has had the opportunity to network with through her experiences at the South Beach Wine and Food Festival, you can tell that they are names she’s proud to be associated with. Velez, who is a senior hospitality major with a minor in beverage management, feels lucky to be involved with an event at the level of grandeur of the South Beach Wine and Food Festival.

“You have the opportunity to work with the people who are in the industry, which you may not get if you weren’t involved in events like this one,” said Velez.

This year was Velez’s third festival, where she’s played a variety of roles. Her first year, Velez was involved in registration.

Often forgotten about, the students who work in registration direct the flow of traffic at events, answer guests’ questions and more.

This role allows for a lot of observation, which is perfect for a festival newbie.

Her second year, she was involved in culinary. “I loved my role, it’s a lot of work though,” said Velez.

More attuned to her interests is the role she played at this year’s festival as a student coordinator.

Student coordinators are responsible for recruitment, hiring and training for the festival. There were 16 student coordinators overall, and each is in charge of a group of students assigned to different events throughout the festival weekend.

At the VIP happy hour event on the roof of The Betsy hotel, Velez was consulting with festival representatives, monitoring the guest list and directing student volunteers.

The festival allows students of the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management hands on experience that would be difficult to get otherwise during their undergraduate career.

Students are also allowed the opportunity to work with right decision by majoring in hospitality. I loved watching celebrity chefs to event planners, and given a chance to demonstrate their expertise, hopefully to make recommendations towards a future job.

“It’s hands on. Where else can you work with industry people like we do? Some of the people I’ve worked with have offered career advice and told me they’d recommend me to other people,” said Velez.

The festival isn’t the only time of year that students are being offered volunteer positions.

Throughout the year, events like fundraisers and expositions send requests to the school of hospitality for student volunteers.

“Because so many people [hear about the University’s hospitality students] they’re constantly offering events for FIU students,” said Velez, who has had the chance to work for events like Pink Petals and Grovetoberfest.

“I love special events, so what I’d like to be doing is exactly what I’m doing now,” said Velez.

“Three-peat” for Chef Symon

Burger Bash event draws $15 million

Bash, PAGE 1

“Guy Fieri brought a restaurant,” said Blais. “I think he bought out an acre of land on the beach.”

Fieri’s team had an enormous line, both for the burgers and to meet the Food Network celebrity chef. Fieri took home the Heinz Best Dressed Award for his “Straight-Up with a Pig Patty” burger.

For many students working in the hospitality industry, networking is key. An event like Burger Bash allows students to work directly with successful and influential chefs, restaurateurs, distributors, event planners and more.

“I got to meet really talented well-known chefs and was able to ask them questions about their business. It was actually very surprising by majority of the people that I met and in hospitality, networking is everything. You don’t know who the person next to you is going to be in the future,” said junior Alfredo Diaz who was working at the little owl’s burger station.

Chef Michael Symon of B Spot won the People’s Choice Award for the third time with his Porky Burger, a pork and bacon burger topped with pulled pork and slaw.

Before saying goodnight, Ray and event manager Randy Fischer said their thank yous to the chefs and students.

Fischer reminded the crowd that all proceeds from the South Beach Wine and Food Festival, which reached $15 million, go to the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

“This event definitely assured me that I made the right decision by majoring in hospitality. I loved watching guests enjoy themselves and the food we helped prepare, and that’s what I think hospitality is all about,” said Joffe.

Congrats to best

wine and dine

#Top left: The Meatball Shop’s chili cheese burger, a chili flavored patty topped with cheddar cheese and a side of chips. #Top right: Maria Iragorri, a student of the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management works at one of the burger stations.

#Bottom left: Chef Michael Symon (center) accepts his award for People’s Choice Award from Rachael Ray (left). The prize money will be donated to his choice of charity.

@rachael_ray: Congrats to best dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon, Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3peat peoples choice @chefsymon. Runner up @bflay w dressed burger @GuyFieri, 3pe
WHERE: Frost Art
WHEN: Daily
Restaurant caters to nightowls
menus.
you better order your stuff
to the point it sometimes
rather good after-club spot
anywhere; we got lucky it
were greeted and told to sit
is on 84th Avenue, you will
some interesting burgers and
Colombian place that makes
Perros, a quasi-trendy
thought we would have a
Flagler Street where I
She was not exactly up for
as far as late night eateries.
1 a.m. Where to eat? Some
and “offerin GS”

MONDAY
Airlines Arena
WHERE: American
HOW MUCH: $45.00 to
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
TUESDAY
“YOGA AND AYURVE-
DA”
WHERE: 11 a.m.-12:30
p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free and
open to the public
WHERE: MMC PC 428
THE ROLE OF SHA-
RRAH IN MIDDLE
EASTERN COUN-
TRIES POST-ARAB
SPRING
WHERE: 12-2 p.m.
WHERE: Large Court-
room
TO HAVE YOUR EVENT
FEATURED EMAIL:
CALENDAR@FIUSM.COM

EDIBLE INFO
Restaurant caters to nightowls

A
other late studio
session drove me
past my hunger threshold at
1 a.m. Where to eat? Some
people would say there are
not many options in Miami
as far as late night eateries.
I say these people are
licking the wrong
spoon. I
did
don't
want
to
see
like
a
total
fatty, so I
called up a friend and asked
if she wanted to join me.
She was not exactly up for
it until I said these magic
words: “My treat.”
Our hunt took us down
Flagler Street where I
thought we would have a
few more viable options.
We ended up at Los
Perros, a quasi-trendy
Colombian place that makes
some interesting burgers and
hot dogs.
It is a bit hidden, so if you
know where the Blockbuster
is on 84th Avenue, you will
find it in the same plaza.
Upon entering, we
were greeted and told to sit
anywhere; we got lucky it
was a rather good after-club
spot to the point it sometimes
looks like a club.
If you are not into not-so-
great Top 40 house music,
you better order your stuff
to go. Our waitress was
attentive and brought us
the menus.
After I asked her
about the hours of operation,
I realized this is a great place
to brush up on my Spanish.
Do not expect perfect English,
but that is the norm for most
places in Miami.
After so much ranting
and raving from my Colum-
bian friends, I had to order
the burger despite not being
much of a red meat eater.
Everything on it is the
only way to go; taking
stuff off is doing yourself a
disservice.
My friend ordered the
chicken fingers, and I had to
get an order of wings. The
wings were only $7.49 for
10, and both of our entrees
were under $10, too.
Before we get our food,
I decided to test Free Wi-Fi.
The restaurant has
free Wi-Fi. You have to
create a free account to use
it, though, which is a tad
annoying, but I see the busi-
ness sense in this.
Since you have to confirm
the account from your email,
you now have a working
email address for you. As
a business owner, I would
use this information to learn
about my clientele as well
as send out special offers
to increase the business.
By the time I was fully
logged in, our food had
arrived. Our order took up
the entire table. The burger
was an interesting juxtaposi-
ton of flavors.
The semi-art sauce at the
bottom mixed with a hint of
pineapple glazed up top, and
with enough cheese to
create a tomato orange cheddar
form. The meat was almost secondary
as far as the flavor palette.
The wings were nothing
spectacular—rather small—but
the breading was interesting.
It was a similar granule
texture to the one on the
chicken fingers, as opposed
to the heavier coated feeling
usually associated with wings.
This burger was bomb! I
deserved the entire thing
with blatant disregard for my
stomach, (I am not a habitual
red meat eater, so it messes
me up every time) and then
continued to lick my fingers
clean. Who needs a napkin?
Not this guy.
There are several loca-
tions around town, but this
is the closest to the Modesto
Maidique Campus.
In fact, they can deliver
your food on campus. Almost every item on
the menu is under $10, and they
have some appealing exotic
items.
Try it safe with wings,
you can order some
strange combination—like
cheeseburgers and hot
dogs, or even
guacamole and
tostadas.

The Colombian burger mixes
two sweet and savory flavors.

Rene Gonzalez/The Beacon

GIRL TALK
Conference aims to connect women with role models

CAROLINA SOUTO
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

Almost 100 years have passed since women
were given the right to vote, and though we have risen
above the archaic images of a housewife and stay-at-home
mother, the glass ceiling hovering above the workplace
has yet to disappear.

Luckily, cracks are beginning to appear, and the Women
Who Lead Conference is back at the University, ready
to hammer away old notions of success. The purpose of
the conference is to enhance the development of leadership
for women and to connect students with women who are
leaders.

Events are being held at the Biscayne Bay Campus
on March 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in WUC 221, and at
the Modesto Maidique Campus on March 29 from 8 a.m.
to 4 p.m. in the GC ballrooms.

“One of our goals for this conference is to show
women—and men—that women have so many choices in
the way they create their career path and leadership path,”
said Bronwen Bares, associate director of the Universi-
ty’s Women’s Center.

Miss Holly, two-time winner of Food Network’s
"Cupcake Wars," will be a keynote speaker.

“We really try to use this event to connect our female
students with role models,” said Bares.

Conference participants will have the opportunity
to mingle with women who are leaders in networking
events, followed by guest speakers Dionne Stephens
and Paige Telan.

Registration is required, but it is free for students and
available throughout February.

“I’ve been in the shoes of our students who are trying
to navigate between who they are, what they want to
become, and how to get there,” said Monique Catoggio,
director of Advancement, Alumni and Corporate Rela-
tions for the College of Business Administration.

“Being a student and young professional today can be
either exhilarating and overwhelming. As such, I hope to
impact upon all present my personal philosophy on lead-
ership—defining what it is, defining who we are as indi-
viduals, women, and leaders in our own right, and share a
holistic leadership model that I feel speaks to everyone,”
said Catoggio, also a keynote speaker.

While the conference is centered on women and leader-
ship, there is also much to be gained in practical areas.
At the MMC event, there will be two concurrent panel
discussions both women and men can learn from by
attending.

One will focus on competing in a tough economy,
which will be hosted by Shawna McNair, associate
director for University Career Services.

Another, hosted by Heidi Von Harisch, director of the
College of Medicine, will focus on creating balance.
A third panel discussion will focus on how to diversify
investments, which will be hosted by Carolyn Runowicz,
executive associate dean for Academic Affairs at the
College of Medicine.

“I was inspired by many testimonies, and felt moti-
vated to continue pursuing my dreams without giving up,”
said Christya Salazar, a graduate assistant at the
Women’s Center who attended the conference for the
first time last year. “I also realized that I may have more
things in common with other women than I ever thought
of, and that support is always available.”
The merry-go-round of Republican candidates taking hold of the spotlight has been dizzying, with nearly a dozen different people holding front-runner status and nearly all of them falling from that distinction nearly as quickly as they rose into it.

Even so, the erratic ride may soon be coming to a stop, and weary Republican voters may have found their man.

Rick Santorum is the latest Republican to emerge as the “anybody-but-Mitt Romney” candidate, and the timing of the “Santorum Surge” may just work to his advantage.

With the field rapidly thinning, conservatives have very few others to look to, but they may not need to look any further.

Santorum is possibly the best-equipped potential nominee of the four remaining GOP candidates to unite the three key sectors of the Republican Party: Social conservatives, fiscal conservatives, and foreign policy conservatives.

He has the strongest record on preserving the lives of the unborn, including constructing and advocating the Right to Edit for space, content and clarity.

Santorum is possibly the best-equipped potential nominee of the four remaining GOP candidates to unite the three key sectors of the Republican Party: Social conservatives, fiscal conservatives, and foreign policy conservatives.

He has the strongest record on preserving the lives of the unborn, including constructing and advocating the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003.

His “pro-life” label also extends beyond the womb in going out of his way to fight for funding to battle AIDS in Africa and leading the way in finding solutions to poverty in this country, boldly walking out his compassionate conservatism.

More intriguing is that Santorum’s favorable rating among Republicans is higher than the other candidates.

A recent ABC News poll showed strong favoritism among conservatives and Republicans and rising marks among a key bloc of voters in a general election: Independents.

In a head-to-head matchup with President Barack Obama, the latest polls show that it is almost a virtual dead-heat with Santorum. Momentum is on the senator’s side.

The latest Rasmussen and Quinnipiac polls, both released on Feb. 22, show President Obama holding just a three percent advantage (46-43 percent and 47-44 percent respectively) over Santorum.

All the trends are all pointing upward for the former senator from Pennsylvania, who has thus far ran a mostly positive campaign, steering clear of the mudslinging that has unfortunately marred the Republican primary.

OUT OF LINE

The opinion piece written by Brooklyn Middleton that was published on Feb. 24, ripping the personal character of Santorum, was an unfortunate rant that exposed her own intolerance and disrespect for those who do not share her views.

In her hate-filled diatribe, Ms. Middleton failed to mention that while Santorum does privately oppose the use of birth control (I disagree with the senator on that point), he has said publicly time and time again that he will not try and ban birth control if he were elected president.

“Just because I’m talking about it doesn’t mean I want a government program to fix it,” Santorum said in a primary debate in Arizona on Feb. 22.

It is also unfortunate that Ms. Middleton would resort to name-calling in order to make a point.

It is this kind of dialogue, which takes place all across the political spectrum, that stunts intelligent discussion and debate on a number of topics that our nation faces today.

With the field rapidly thinning, conservatives have very few others to look to, but they may not need to look any further.

Santorum is possibly the best-equipped potential nominee of the four remaining GOP candidates to unite the three key sectors of the Republican Party: Social conservatives, fiscal conservatives, and foreign policy conservatives.

He has the strongest record on preserving the lives of the unborn, including constructing and advocating the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003.

His “pro-life” label also extends beyond the womb in going out of his way to fight for funding to battle AIDS in Africa and leading the way in finding solutions to poverty in this country, boldly walking out his compassionate conservatism.

More intriguing is that Santorum’s favorable rating among Republicans is higher than the other candidates.

A recent ABC News poll showed strong favoritism among conservatives and Republicans and rising marks among a key bloc of voters in a general election: Independents.

In a head-to-head matchup with President Barack Obama, the latest polls show that it is almost a virtual dead-heat with Santorum. Momentum is on the senator’s side.

The latest Rasmussen and Quinnipiac polls, both released on Feb. 22, show President Obama holding just a three percent advantage (46-43 percent and 47-44 percent respectively) over Santorum.

All the trends are all pointing upward for the former senator from Pennsylvania, who has thus far ran a mostly positive campaign, steering clear of the mudslinging that has unfortunately marred the Republican primary.

OUT OF LINE

The opinion piece written by Brooklyn Middleton that was published on Feb. 24, ripping the personal character of Santorum, was an unfortunate rant that exposed her own intolerance and disrespect for those who do not share her views.

In her hate-filled diatribe, Ms. Middleton failed to mention that while Santorum does privately oppose the use of birth control (I disagree with the senator on that point), he has said publicly time and time again that he will not try and ban birth control if he were elected president.

“Just because I’m talking about it doesn’t mean I want a government program to fix it,” Santorum said in a primary debate in Arizona on Feb. 22.

It is also unfortunate that Ms. Middleton would resort to name-calling in order to make a point.

It is this kind of dialogue, which takes place all across the political spectrum, that stunts intelligent discussion and debate on a number of topics that our nation faces today. How do we go about getting the economy back on its feet? How do we build strong families in America again? How do we handle the threats that face this country and its allies? These are discussions that need to take place, with civility, among all Americans.

So maybe Ms. Middleton can take a page out of Santorum’s playbook and focus on the issues with conviction and respect instead of slapping labels on others.

Our political system would be better for it.

To read Brooklyn Middleton’s article, please visit www.fiusm.com.

Select sports teams losing points in student attendance

EDUARDO ALMEGAUER
Staff Writer
eduardo.alme gaucer@fiusm.com

Late last year, FIU hosted the Sun Belt Volleyball Tournament for the first time in a decade.

At the time, I was the beat writer. The University had just advanced to the semi-final round of the tournament for the third consecutive year, and its match against Western Kentucky was minutes away from starting.

I gazed out onto the crowd and was shocked. The U.S. Century Bank Arena was barren.

The box score showed that 353 people attended that game, but that number had to be skewed, unless they counted actual volleyball.

I analyzed the home attendance records of the volleyball, football, baseball, women’s soccer and women’s basketball team.

I knew we live in Miami. I know that FIU, a commuter school, is less than 40 years old, still a University community.

I know that the Sun Belt Conference isn’t something we can go pounding our chest about when it comes to competitiveness.

I know that FIU, a commuter school, is less than 40 years old, still a ways away from being considered anything close to a dynasty.

But, I look at it from the athlete’s eyes.

I’ve covered a few of them and not once have they complained about it, but I know deep down that it can’t be fun playing in front of more plastic than flesh.

When you win a game, only a handful of people are there to see it, and when you lose the game, it scares off those that showed up to begin with.

It’s fantastic that the football program has seen such a boon to its fanbase, but the football program is one that cannot eclipse the 30 percent mark in attendance.

The FIU spirit is trapped in the Cage and it’s not getting out any time soon.
Students get a taste of the industry at the Village

**BARBARA CORBELLI DUARTE**
Staff Writer
barbara.duarte@fiusm.com

As the palm leaves gently swayed against the sky, the Feb. 25 morning sun set upon the Whole Foods Market Grand Tasting Village on what would be a day filled with international sights and tastes.

The tasting village was one of the premier events at this year’s South Beach Wine and Food Festival presented by FOOD & WINE and host-sponsored by FIU.

Attendees walked along Ocean Drive towards the white sands of South Beach where tents were lined up.

As entrance lines shrank, masses of people entered the village to try the festival’s selection of diverse options of dishes and drinks, and one could hear excited exclamations such as, “This is like Disney for adults.”

Pearl South Beach Restaurant and Champagne Lounge offered Peruvian dish, Pupusol Olivo to attendees at the Whole Foods Market Grand Tasting Village on Feb. 25.

Attendees walked in three different pavilions that presented more than 30 options from different restaurants offering food tastings, and over 30 choices from wineries and wine makers from all around the globe.

According to Manuel Cedeno, senior student of public relations, between 150 and 200 FIU students were working on this event from a variety of majors.

The Chaplin School of Hospitality and Management held a tent in the main pavilion of the event; their students were serving flank steak and coleslaw sandwiches.

“It’s a lot of work but it’s fun,” said Julie Goncalves, junior student of hospitality major, while placing some sandals in the front of the tent.

“We are loving it. We are loving the crowd as well,” said Goncalves.

According to Nydia Sandino, senior hospitality major, working as restaurant exhibitor assistant, over 3,000 people were expected to have walked through the village.

“We assist every restaurant, every exhibitor. This is what I want to do when I graduate. I want to work on event planning,” Sandino said.

A dozen chefs gave live culinary demonstrations on site, including Sunny Anderson, Guy Fieri, Rachael Ray, and Geoffrey Zakarian among others.

Andrew Zimmerman made the audience laugh by even giving a piece of his grilled octopus to one of the cameramen on the stage.

“It must be horrible to be doing close ups of food all day and not get a bite,” Zimmerman said.

The dark cloud that loomed over the afternoon show dimmed as people propelled attendees to try the specialties of the North and South Grand Tasting tents, which were covered.

Wine tasting tents offered over 150 wines from different parts of the world, including Spain, Austria, Germany, France, New Zealand, California, Chile, Argentina and Italy.

Chef Gabrielle Ferrer, owner of a rice company in Verone, Italy, worked at Ricketts West, hospitality graduate student, who worked as a supply associate, reinforced the chance that students have to make contacts at the festival.

“I think this festival is important for hospitality students of any type of business so they can know who is out there and network very easily.”

---

**ENVIRONMENT**

---

**EUGENIA NIKITINA**
Contributing Writer
bbc@fiusm.com

Fernando Bretos, a marine biologist and a strong advocate for the conservation of our ocean’s resources, is scheduled to speak on Feb. 28 at the Luna Star Café in North Miami. The event begins at 7 p.m.

The discussion will focus on the importance of the decade-long collaboration between the American and Cuban marine science communities and how it has shed light on the significance of the resources shared by the two countries.

The event, sponsored in part by a grant received from the National Science Foundation, is a part of the Est, Think, Be Merry Science Café Lecture Series hosted by the School of Environment, Arts and Society.

“The idea behind the ETBM Science Café is to create an informal dialogue between scientists and the community to encourage conversation and debate,” said Elaine Pritsker, coordinator for SEAS. “Rather than the traditional academic lecture, ETBM Science Café is a casual, interactive forum in which scientists share and discuss cutting-edge research with members of the community.”

Bretos is a research associate at The Ocean Foundation, which aims to build scientific collaboration between Cuba and the United States.

Most of the work is conducted in partnership with the University of Havana’s Center for Marine Research. ([The program] establishes enduring, locally-supported marine research and conservation programs, contributes to marine science and helps conserve the marine environment), said Bretos.

Bretos has worked in Cuba for 14 years. According to Bretos, the biological, geographical, and cultural links between the US and Cuba unite the two countries more than they divide.

Bretos aims to engage and inform the community about his work in hopes that they will understand the importance of the marine resources, which seem to be an under-valued resource in the eyes of the public.

“The embargo prevents a lot of information exchange between the two countries,” said Bretos. “While Science is an avenue of exchange that is permitted by the US and Cuba, we need to expand our contact with Cuba in order to share important conservation tools and lessons and effectively manage our shared marine resources.”