Agroecology department earns federal designation

JENNIFER MARTIN
Contributing Writer

One of 71 in the nation and one of only three in the state, the University’s agroecology program is among those to receive the United States Department of Agriculture’s Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities designation.

“We are the largest graduating university out of all the Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities,” said Dr. Krish Jayachandran, co-director of the Department of Earth and Environment.

“We were seeing a much greater use of skateboards on campus and usage in areas that really were not safe,” Jessell said. “We were [also] seeing a lot of intentional damage done by skateboarders.”

Although not practiced by many, damage to University property caused by sliding down railings or scratching wooden benches “is criminal,” Jessell said.

According to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, if an individual is caught damaging University property or using a skateboard or a similar device inappropriately, sanctions may be imposed on the individual, including a written reprimand, fees and potential expulsion.

“I have noticed ‘No skating’ signs posted in areas such as [Deuxieme Maison]... but no individual reinforcement,” said liberal studies senior Andres Wu. “I can use my board all over FIU-MMC... but do so knowing the limitations and lack of enforcement of University laws.”

The regulation limits the use of skateboards “to a means of transportation on sidewalks and while crossing the street at crosswalks.” Section C. (2) of the regulation explicitly bans the use of skateboards in garages and parking lots.

“The garages gave my friends and me a few scrapes, but nothing to give FIU a liability panic attack,” said senior in international relations Nick Van Halen. “The cops would tell us to leave at night in the garages and occasionally claim we were ‘banned’ from coming back.”

FIU-115 also prohibits parkour and similar acrobatics “on or about University property.”

“Normally you’re supposed to respect your training area and take care of it,” said international relations major Juan Navarro. “I don’t think [parkour] should be banned, just regulated.”

Limited exceptions will be made to the current regulation and must be pre-approved by the president or a designee.

“Skateboarding on campus has a certain allure due to the fact that most of Miami is flat and Modesto Madique Campus has a variety of little hills,” Van Halen said. “I don’t see why there have to be so many restrictions.”

“This is no attempt whatsoever to discourage the use of skateboards; I think it’s fantastic. I wish I could do it,” Jessell said. “We just want people to be respectful of others and the property of the institution.”

Email at mariella.roque@fiusm.com
Dr. Beach ranks top sandy spots

MIRIAM ARIAS
Staff Writer

He swam in a volcano. Famous for his top 10 beaches in America list, Professor and Director of the Laboratory for Coastal Research at Florida International University, Dr. Stephen P. Leatherman, is also known as Dr. Beach. Leatherman has rated and evaluated over a thousand beaches all over the world. Leatherman began his career as an undergraduate doing surveys for storm damage. In 1991, he gave his first top 10 beach list and has been doing it ever since.

He later received his PhD in Environmental Coastal Sciences from the University of Virginia. Leatherman has written several books, shared his expertise with Congress and was the co-producer of the award winning film, “Vanishing Lands.”

“I never thought to be a beach professor, but it turns out beaches are very important; there’s great economic value in beaches. The number one source of income in Florida is beaches,” Dr. Leatherman said.

While he finds beaches to be of great economic and recreational value, he also emphasizes the importance of maintaining beaches and being informed of coastal hazards.

“We need to learn the impact of hurricanes and how to combat beach erosion problems,” Dr. Beach stated.

This fall, he will be teaching a course called Coastal Hazards, GLY 4881, Tuesday nights. The class provides a better understanding of beach erosions, hurricanes, earthquakes and global warning.

“I really enjoy teaching this course. I use a lot of powerpoints and have thousands of color slides of beaches, actually 60,000,” Dr. Beach said.

Dr. Beach shared a brief summary of his beach rating recipe with Student Media. Clean water and sand should always be number one; look for a beach with fine sand, warm water and safety. It should also be a good recreational spot with the right mix of nature and development.

His all time favorite beach is Cape Florida, which came in 8th place on his Top 10 beach list. He contrasts it to the spot with the right mix of nature and development.

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**SPOTLIGHT ON**

"Blue Girl" fearless Panther full of pride

**Alfredo Apracio**

Staff Writer

The unseen connection between everyone, from humans to animals to plants, will be explored in the Department of Theatre’s final play of the Alternative Theater Festival, “As The Globe Warms.” Written by award-winning stand up novelist Heather Woodbury and directed by Assistant Professor Mark Yawney, “The Globe Warms” will run on July 6-7, 13-14 and 20-21 at 8 p.m. in the Wurt- heim Performing Arts Center. Admission is free, with a suggested donation of $10.

Presented in a six-hour instalments over three weeks, the play tackles many issues, such as global warming and its ever-growing consequences by following the work of one scientist who attempts to save an endangered species of frog, leading to unexpected consequences for everyone in the town in which he lives.

"Not all endangered species are animals though," explained Yawney. "This is a play about the World Wide Web, as well as the world wide web of life. So often the technologic environment that unites us through the Internet and the ecological environment that unites us through the processes of the natural world are seen as separate. Heather’s brilliance is in seeing how much these two environments mirror each other."

The idea for the play’s plot came to Woodbury after picking up "The Weather Makers: The History and Future Impact of Climate Change" by Tim Flannery. While reading, Woodbury saw a photo of the Platypus frog that had given birth to another frog in its mouth; the accompanying text revealed that this species, native to Australia, was now extinct because of global warming.

"It moved me and, at the same time, I could see a lot of people having trouble economically, as well as the changes in the economic climate and the political climate and our relation- ship to the natural world and our relation- ship to animals," said Woodbury. "I wanted to make a story that was entertaining, as cable television that tackled these issues."

Woodbury, whose trademark has become "Performance Novels," first with "What Ever Ever" in 1994 and "A Tale of Two Cities" in 2006, will act out at least 200 characters as well as a large number of animals. "It’s like an adult game of pretend. This format enables me to play scores and scores of characters and tell lavish, amb- itious stories in a minimalist scale. Otherwise, I’d have to have a big, high cost production with a cast of thousands," said Yawney.

"The biggest surprise is that even though Heather’s performances look so spontaneous and even improvised, she is incredibly disci- plined in crafting the production; she leaves nothing to chance. Her performance is filled with hilarious details that are well worth looking for. The thrill of watching her on stage is that she does everything, even the sound effects come out of her mouth."

Woodbury’s biggest challenge has been the"As The Globe Warms," I think she wanted someone who could embrace the insanity of such an ambitious work. I think she knew I would not say no to this," said Yawney.

While preparing herself for the various roles, Woodbury’s biggest challenge has been memorizing the material. "I make recordings of the dialogue and constantly play them while reading along with it, like you would memorize a song by playing constantly," said Woodbury.

"I did a lot of serialized plays back in New York. We wanted to make going to the theater fun, in the same way that tuning into television shows or going to see the latest Star Wars film was fun. Episodic theater tends to do that," said Woodbury.

Yawney has been exposed to her creativity and her performance style since last year, where she decided to develop "As The Globe Warms," I think she wanted someone who could embrace the insanity of such an ambitious work. I think she knew I would not say no to this," said Yawney.

"Don’t be scared to come up to me. I am a college student just like you," said "Blue Girl."
“Moonrise Kingdom” captures the essence of childhood romance

Wes Anderson’s films have always walked the thin line between realism and fantasy, and his new film, “Moonrise Kingdom,” is no exception. The film is set on the island of New Penzance during the summer of 1965. Here, we are introduced to the love story between Sam (Jared Gilman) and Suzy (Kara Hayward), the “troubled daughter” of two unhappy lawyers, the orphaned member of the Khaki Scouts, and Suzy’s “troublesome” father, who is a member of the island’s police force.

This decision leads to a missing person investigation, and as per usual, the film is filled with Anderson’s signature style. Each scene is meticulously crafted, utilizing symmetry and bright colors, providing a simple but enchanting approach to storytelling.

There are some that may complain that “Moonrise Kingdom” features style over substance, a frankly outrageous claim. While the idea of childhood romance may not seem appealing to many, Anderson and Roman Coppola’s writing works hard at mixing humor and drama to provide a genuinely interesting adventure, full of tension that some of his older films lack.

Certain moments between the children seem straight out of a fairy tale, running through a lightening field, dancing together on a beach where they know about and telling stories to their friends like Wendy might have done for Peter Pan and the Lost Boys – and yet, Anderson does not stay away from placing them in adult situations.

Both writers seem to know better than most how much children long to engage in the adult world, to be sexual exploration or simply mindless violence, regardless of how unhealthy those adults around them might seem.

While capturing the essence of childhood, “Moonrise Kingdom” features one of the best ensemble casts in ages. Every child in this movie knows exactly what they’re doing, which is rare for a movie that features a cast with this many young actors.

Both Hayward and Gilman perform excellently, never allowing any of the adults in the film to take the spotlight off them. An all-star collection of actors, including Bill Murray, Frances McDormand, Edward Norton, Bruce Willis, Tilda Swinton, Jason Schwartzman, Bob Balaban and even Harvey Keitel, comprise the adults of “Moonrise Kingdom.” While some might complain that their characters don’t get the development they deserve, it is something that fits further into the childhood world that Anderson has created. Children can see glimpses of the issues that adults face, but they can never truly understand just what it is that makes them so unhappy.

Regardless of this, all of the adults dish out solid performances, especially Murray and Norton, who know just how to twist your heart with just a few words and facial expressions. Schwartzman’s “Cousin Ben” does some much-needed humor to the older bunch, engaging with the children and delivering some of the funniest lines of the film.

Anyone who has seen one of Anderson’s previous films will know just how impressive his soundtrack selection tends to be, but “Moonrise Kingdom” fits it out of the park with a stunning collection of a mix of music and songs. In addition to pieces of music like “Simple Symphony’s Planty Prizaco” and the introduction to “The Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra,” Alexandre Desplat provides a simple but enchanting score that enhances the child-like nature of the film.

Some will complain about its being a “Wes Anderson” film, but “Moonrise Kingdom” does an excellent job at capturing the spontaneity and magic of childhood romance.

Reel to Reel is a weekly movie review column, email at juan.barquin@fiusm.com.

Novel brings to life blue-haired heroine

Closing portals, demon made wishes and a blue-haired girl prowling the streets of Prague to fulfill unworthy deeds are only beginning glimpses of Laini Taylor’s “The Daughter of Smoke and Bone.” This novel will definitely send readers into a whirlwind of imagination and fast-paced action; however, Taylor frequently blends the two into a whiz of unexpected twists and plot clichés that often time distract from her creative qualities.

Karou, the story’s protagonist, is a tough, karate-kicking 17-year-old who has been living a mysterious life among monsters, more specifically named chimera. Student by day and down world teeth collector by night, the blue-haired heroine is then abruptly separated from her adventures with a bunch of kids and watched with a bunch of kids through a camp site.

In the form of showcasing Suzy’s house during the opening credits, watching Jason Schwartzman walking with a bunch of kids through a camp site, the sixties period that the film is set. It might seem like an unconventional period piece, but it is a daring fine one that pays close attention to detail, regardless of if being in the non-existent island of New Penzance.

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COVER TO COVER

Novel brings to life blue-haired heroine

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Her prayers to how she can find her family, ironically, are answered by an angel, though not the expected glittery winged being with iron wings. The novel brings to life blue-haired heroine Karou, manages to pry an unexpected smile from Karou, does not lose her signature edge to her character, and action alive with many touch-and-go battle scenes, where Suzy and Sam, two 12-year-olds, fall in love and run away together after meeting at a church meeting of “Noye’s Fludde.”

Still, Taylor attempts to keep the mystery and action alive with many touch-and-go battle scenes, where Suzy and Sam, two 12-year-olds, fall in love and run away together after meeting at a church meeting of “Noye’s Fludde.”

Top picks

South Beach: Take the number one spot for its versatile beaches that are both relaxing and fun. Las Olas, a closed second. This beach offers an array of bars and restaurants right on the shore.

HAULOVER BEACH, MIAMI

With a close proximity to the BBC campus, this beach is ideal for after class getaways.

SUNNY ISLES BEACH, FL

Sunny Isles is known for its recreational activities on the shore and off shore too.

Be a part if the next picks and vote by liking Life’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/lifesun. sun

Photos by Vanessa Paredes and Andres Bedoya
Division I college football finally has a playoff system. Proposed by Notre Dame athletic director Jack Swarbrick alongside all eleven conference commissioners, the playoff system was approved by a presidential oversight committee on June 27.

Set to embark in 2014, the new four-team playoff system will help to determine college football’s national champion on a yearly basis through 2025. Head coach Mario Cristobal believes that this is a step in the right direction.

“The initiative to create a system that allows for a championship to be settled on the field is a very positive one for college football,” Cristobal said in an interview with student media.

However, Cristobal did express uncertainty with how the system would work in practice.

“Without us having all the details of how it’s going to work out and not having one season of having a playoff system, it certainly leaves some question marks,” Cristobal said.

The playoff would consist of four teams chosen by a distinct selection committee, which has yet to be determined. Assembling a proper selection committee core with the correct personnel would be considered essential in the development of a playoff system.

University of Texas-San Antonio, which will be moving into Conference USA with FIU in 2013, will also start to feel the effects of this format. Head coach Larry Coker emphasized in a local radio interview last week that those added to the process must be “involved” with the game itself.

A well-rounded committee has the potential to diminish “glitches” that the current Bowl Championship Series (BCS) ranking system may bring up. The BCS uses a combination of polls and computer projection methods, which places the two best teams in a matchup for the national championship.

However, a school such as Boise State, which holds the highest winning percentage of the last decade, has yet to make a national championship appearance and has placed no higher than third in BCS polls.

The Broncos have beaten the likes of such top-caliber programs as Oklahoma, Oregon, Virginia Tech, and Georgia, yet have seen themselves at the headline of a BCS controversy year after year.

Officials are confident that an organized playoff system would level the playing field in determining college football’s best.

“Everybody gets a chance to compete,” said BCS executive director Bill Hancock in a radio interview with Mike and Mike in the Morning. “Now there are four teams instead of two.

However, Cristobal states that controversy in the playoff system would be inevitable, regardless of the new additions.

“Whether it’s a four-team playoff or a 16-team playoff in the future, someone is going to be left out,” Cristobal said. “Any time that is the case, there is going to be a point of discussion or an argument.”

Coker also pointed out a similar kink in the playoff process that could leave some programs disgruntled.

“If you have four teams, number five won’t be happy,” Coker said. “If you have eight teams, number nine won’t be happy.”

Regardless of a potential logjam, Cristobal is enticed by the flexibility that a playoff system would bring to the sport.

“(The playoff) grants a few more schools an opportunity for all programs around the country, including (FIU)… it certainly provides more opportunities, and that is what every coach would push us until the last game. He would throw in a couple jokes here and there, but he wouldn’t have happened.

“Basketball wise, we’re going to be competitive,” Pitino said. “It certainly leaves some question marks,” Cristobal said.

The new era is set to launch with a roster that is quite typical. The former Louisville assistant coach Richard Pitino at the helm. The newly appointed head coach will be bringing the men’s basketball squad with director Jack Swarbrick along -

For the former St. Anthony power forward, his championship back to where he led the highly ranked Little Leaguers to the state of New Jersey according to ESPN, tallied 10 points and 5.8 rebounds per game earning him several accolades including a spot on Star-Ledger First Team All-State.

What impressed Pitino about his 6-foot-7-inch power forward was his championship background -

“Michael McVay’s dad was always at my high school,” he said. “I watched him to start, and I started in high school,” he said.

He finished his final season with a record of 2-3 and an ERA of 3.36.

With college in the books, McVay now has his sights set on making it in the big leagues. He is approaching it in a calm and professional way.

“I’m looking forward to the competition, and it’s a business now. Don’t worry too much, and don’t get too high or too low, and just work hard,” the left hander said.

As of July 9, in rookie ball for the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes, McVay has a 1.23 ERA with nine strikeouts in 7.1 innings of work.

Email to gosports@fiu.edu
Horner dives into recruits, schedule

STEVEN ROWELL
Contributing Writer

Head coach Randy Horner has his sights set on one thing: winning the Sun Belt conference.

Coming off a 9-4 season and a fourth-place finish in the Sun Belt Tournament, Horner revamped his team with a strong recruiting class.

"Last season, we did very well individually. We are looking to be a contender and make a run at the title," Horner said. "I feel like we have a great group and a lot more depth with the recruiting class we have brought in."

The recruiting class is led by junior transfer Sarah D’Antoni from Indian River College. She brings plenty of experience and was a part of two National Junior College Athletic Association Championships.

"[D’Antoni] being a multiple event junior college champion, she’s going to bring to a lot of experience and depth and will help the team immediately," Horner said.

Horner also has high expectations for Tennessee transfer Marina Ribi. "She’s going to be one of our top athletes in multiple events. I definitely think she has the talent and caliber to be an NCAA qualifier," Horner said. "She didn’t make it last year in Tennessee but I feel like she’s got that ability."

Horner also believes that Rebecca Wilde, a native of England, can make an immediate impact as a freshman this upcoming season. Horner cited her ability to perform in the mid distance freestyle.

Out of the remaining recruits, three other notable incoming freshmen include Danielle Albright, Ashley Isaacson and a diving prospect, Madalyn Golightly.

16-team playoff unlikely

BOWL SYSTEM, PAGE 6

College team is looking for," Cristobal said. "We are always looking for opportunities and we want to play against the best for the very best prize."

However, Coker believes that a four-team playoff is just right.

"Limited travel is essential. 16 teams is too many. Four teams would be good enough. I think the fans will follow, and the TV revenue will be high."

In his interview, Hancock shot down the possibility of an eight or 16-team playoff in the future by stating that "it was never an option" while discussing the formation of the new playoff.

Whether the playoff does expand in the near future or remain in place, it seems to be as much approved by coaches, players, and fans as it was by the presidential oversight committee.

All in all, the playoff shines a bright light towards the future of college football and it has definitely caught Cristobal’s attention.

“It is certainly a step in the right direction,” Cristobal said. “Any time you move towards deciding champions on the field, I think it’s positive for college football.”

FIU-UL start series this year

PITINO, PAGE 6

Diamante “Dee” Lewis, a high-scoring combo guard out of Ocala, Fla., relished in his senior year exploding for 28.4 points per game, 6.1 assists per game, 7.2 rebounds per game and 2.9 steals per game in his final year with the Lake Weir Hurricanes.

"Both guys come from winning programs and they have a very high ceiling," Pitino said. "When you bring in a freshman, you want guys that are going to improve throughout the course of four years and I think with both [of] those two guys they’ll definitely be able to do that."

With the addition of Lewis and Frink, as well as seven transfers, Pitino has had success on the recruitment trail as he and his staff have hosted nine official visits from recruits that resulted in all nine signing with the Panthers.

CARDINAL CLASH

If the pressure of resurrecting a basketball program was not enough, Pitino will be pitted up against his former team, and father, over the next three seasons.

The series begins on December 19 as FIU travels to Louisville and be able to bring them back down here. It’s something that is great for our program, great for our fans and great for Miami.”

$2 million?

That’s how much MORE you make by age 65 if you graduate in 4 years

Go to gsi.fiu.edu, NOW!
Running out of options
Without financial aid, students find alternatives to pay for classes

STEPHAN USECHE
Staff Writer

Loans, debts and even grandma’s checks. These are some of the consequences students are facing without summer Pell grants.

Having congress cancel summer Pell grants for 2012 hasn’t been a receptive alteration; this has come hand in hand with a full 15 percent increase in tuition, making the University raise $608.70 a year for a student taking 30 credits.

It has also been stated by other reports that 1,110 students will lose eligibility to financial aid and 1,500 student awards will be reduced.

These changes have left students with no other option but to seek out different ways to pay for their classes. The Summer Pell Grant cancellation for 2012 has affected students’ pockets and academics.

“I wanted to take two classes this summer, but that would have been $1000 and I can’t afford that, so I’m going to have to take 17 credits next fall,” said Emerald Nesbitt, psychology major. “I’m paying, my mother is paying and my grand-mother is paying.” Nesbitt said. “I work here at the computer lab, my mother works, and my grandmother doesn’t work, but she gets her check every month.”

Nesbitt is not the only struggling student; many other students have had to rely on loans to pay for summer classes, creating debts to pay after graduation.

Students like Rachel Georges, sophomore majoring in psychology, says that she’s going to have to “work real hard” to pay for the loan; however, she has a plan B. “I’m planning on using the refund checks that I get for full and spring to pay back the loan,” said Georges.

Although some students aren’t obtaining any financial aid for the summer, others are. The grants don’t cover full tuition, but they help pay for a portion of the amount.

Financial Aid Coordinator Jorge Lenivy declined the request for the interview about new requirements and eligibility changes.

Students must be enrolled full-time during the summer in order to obtain the grant, but the award does not cover the entire cost. This jeopardizes their eligibility of acquiring full financial aid.

“For my summer classes right now I’m using the money financial aid granted me,” said Junior Fiorella Lopez, business major. “It was originally about $2200, but since I’m only taking three credits it covers about $700. So, I’m paying the remaining amount out of my pocket.”

According to the Office of Academic Planning and Accountability, the goal of an academic plan is “to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of University operations and the quality of student learning.”

This entails students having to meet with an academic adviser with an academic plan on which classes they will be taking and how they’re going to be taking it.

Walter also explains how there used to only be one kind of F, but now there’s something called “F zero.” “You assign that F to a student who never attended class,” said Walter. “If they get an F zero, that goes back to financial aid and financial aid can demand the money, because in their mind, if you didn’t try to do the class and you fail, then in their sense it’s fraud.”

Junior Jimmy Pertil, biology major, had no choice but to take out a loan to pay for summer classes. “I really don’t know how I’m going to pay for these loans,” said Pertil. “I have to pay for my car insurance, my cell phone bill and rent but my mother, so there are a lot difficulties.”

Email at bbv@fiusm.com

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Exhaustion: the academic energy epidemic

SEIMA HUSSAIN
Contributing Writer

Energy drink cans and empty coffee cups litter the floor of junior finance major, Yuying Hong’s, dorm. Notebooks and highlighters lay scattered across the desk under the fluorescent glow of a laptop screen.


Hong is one of the many college students who gravitate toward energy drinks like Rockstar and Red Bull in order to stay awake to study. Students will overlook the 8-hours-of-sleep-a-night regime and instead use the time to immerse themselves in human biology or modern American civilizations.

“I study best at night,” said Sarah Maylew, a junior psychology major. “I know energy drinks aren’t the healthiest things in the world, but they are a really big help to me when I’m trying to stay awake. I catch up on my sleep later.”

Maylew isn’t the only college student with this mindset. According to a study by Nutrition Journal, over 67% of University students use energy drinks as a substitute for insufficient sleep.

Those who don’t use energy drinks prefer drinking strong cups of coffee.

Red Bull, which contains about 76 mg of caffeine and 27 g of sugar in a 8.3 Fl. OZ can, is one of the energy drinks that students rely on to stay awake and continue studying.

“I went through about five cups of coffee a day,” said Furida Wangdals, alumnus finance student. Other students, however, have different opinions on quick fixes.

“I tried Red Bull once,” said Caitlin Opatz, a junior business major. “I got jittery and passed out. When I used 5-hour ENERGY, I had hot flashes.”

Richard Azimov, junior business major, also stays away from the liquid energy.

“I don’t use the intense energy drinks because of the high sugar content,” said Azimov. “I prefer drinking Boost, because it’s packed with vitamins and doesn’t have as much caffeine.”

While some students, like Azimov, tend to search for alternatives to energy drinks, the fact remains that college students are likely to use them at some point.

According to Timothy Silky James, a personal trainer and nutritional expert at the Recreational Center, energy drinks aren’t always the best—when taken in moderation.

“There are some energy drinks with vitamins and nutrients and don’t have as much caffeine,” said Azimov.

Although some proponents of energy drinks are not swayed.

“Something that would instantly energize me the same way Rockstar energizes my body, so there are a lot difficulties.” -Email at bbv@fiusm.com