Dean of Libraries steps down, Breslin steps in

VINCENT FERNANDEZ  
Staff Writer

After leading the University libraries through budget cuts and the rapid evolution of technology for five years, Dean of Libraries Laura Probst has decided to step down as dean, effective at the end of August.

In a memorandum sent to the university community last Thursday, Douglas Wartzok, University Provost and Executive Vice President, announced Probst’s decision.

“Wartzok stated in the memo,” said Vancol. “In light of Probst’s decision, Wartzok has chosen Kenneth Furton, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, to serve as Interim Dean while a committee is formed to search and screen for a new dean.”

“I want to thank Dean Probst for her service. These five years have ... been a time of significant change in how information is stored and accessed. We have benefited from someone who kept FIU abreast of these changes,” Wartzok stated in the memo.

In regards to the search criteria, Furton said the University is looking for someone knowledgeable on the nature of the field. “We want someone who understands, appreciates and values the traditional role of libraries in universities while... attuned to the rapidly changing dynamics of the field as many resources move to digital and as student needs expand beyond quiet study spaces to collaborative learning areas and platforms.”

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Chick-fil-A reheats controversy

DANIEL URIA  
Contributing Writer

The “creator” of the chicken sandwich created themselves quite the controversy earlier this month.

Chik-fil-A CEO Don Cathy has said he and his company strongly support the “traditional family unit.”

“We are very much supportive of the ‘traditional family unit.’”

Chik-fil-A CEO Don Cathy has said he and his company strongly support the “traditional family unit.”

In light of Probst’s decision, Wartzok has chosen Thomas A. Breslin, chair of the Faculty Senate and member of the Board of Trustees, to serve as Interim Dean while a committee is formed to search and screen for a new dean.

“I will work with all the librarians to achieve [the University’s] goals. I have worked with so many of them in the senate to build and refine the University curriculum and advise the University administration as part of the shared governance process,” Breslin said.

Wartzok has chosen Kenneth Furton, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, to chair the committee that will search for a new dean. According to Furton, the committee is still being formed and the University aims to have it in place early fall.

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Florida’s blind spot? Cuba

NATALIE BAEZ  
Contributing Writer

Scholars may have to pursue interests in other countries that are not defined as “state sponsors of terrorism.”

The Florida “Travel to Terrorist States Act” of 2006 warrants a ban on the use of state appropriations to underwrite research work and student travel to “state sponsors of terrorism,” definition which includes Iran, North Korea, Sudan, Syria and Cuba.

Last month, the Supreme Court denied a certiorari, a writ seeking judicial review, requested by the University’s Faculty Senate in opposition to the law.

What the court would have heard was an appeal to the ban that had gone unopposed in its initial passing in Tallahassee in 2006. The law prohibits public schools and universities

SEE CUBA, PAGE 2

COMING UP | The Beacon

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It binds Floridians to a detached academic perspective on what is happening in Cuba.

Sebastian Arcos, director of the University’s Cuban Research Institute, said he believes this is a “misguided policy.”

“It’s ironic and unfortunate because, at a time when schools are struggling for resources and struggling to be competitive, we would have one of the major advantages in Cuban studies in the nation,” said José M. Gabilondo, professor of the College of Law.

Gabilondo explains the impact that the ban has within the University. “FIU is the most directly harmed because it has a large amount of students and faculty interested in Cuban studies.”

“Because it has a long-term impact that the ban has within the University, there are people looking for opportunities and looking toward the future, and others who are just stuck looking backwards.”

News@fiu.com

Amendment increases decal fee

added into their total tuition amount and every student, faculty and staff member is required to purchase an access fee. According to Hernandez, all students registered in the university, even those who live in the university dorms, must pay an access fee.

“This access fee helps pay for the construction of sidewalks, lighting on parking lots and the bond payments for the garages,” Hernandez said.

All students, even those who do not own a car, must still pay the same access fee.

“I understand the reason behind the [increase] in access fee for student decals; however all other prices seem to rise as well and it is difficult for us students to keep up,” junior and public relations major Maureen Gonzalez said.

Hernandez offered explanation on the matter by briefly stating, “Decal increase was approved by the BOT last year in expectation of the construction of the next parking garage. Once a site is determined, planning will immediately follow.”

“I don’t think many students want to see an increase in the amount they pay for school, but with a rise in student enrollment and the addition of a new parking garage, it is understandable that the parking department needs to increase its revenue stream,” said junior and journalism major Diego Saldana.

One key point in the amendment prohibits parking in backwards.

Don’t Be A Dummy, a non-profit organization for student innovations and startups, campaigns outside of the Graham Center “to help students get serious about getting a more meaningful work experience.”

news@fiu.com

Former county manager brings ‘practical knowledge’

George Burgess, former Miami-Dade County Manager is now part of the University as professor in the Department of Public Administration. Burgess holds 28 years of public service experience across various levels of government. In Miami-Dade, he served for eight years as Assistant County Manager, County Manager and County Budget Director.

Currently, Burgess also doubles as Chief Operating Officer for Becker & Poliakov, a local law firm.

“Every issue imaginable can and will come up,” Burgess said. “Hurricanes, elections, crime, airport renovation projects... It is different than the leadership role I now have in the private sector.”

During the current summer semester and in the fall, Burgess will teach PAD 6227 Public Finance & Budgeting to roughly 20 graduate students.

“I feel the experiences I’ve had are going to be really interesting to the students,” Burgess said. “I look forward to showing the students how to perform in the working world [with] knowledge that will be useful to them in their careers.”

As County Manager, he managed over 27,000 employees and a multi-million dollar budget.

“The course provides a kind of practical knowledge of experience that you just can’t get out of a book,” Burgess said. “It really compliments the academics and the theory to be able to share the reality of things. This is how it happens in real life.”

Currently, Burgess’s course is taught at the graduate level only, yet he is hopeful that if the need arises, the course will be opened to undergraduates as well.

news@fiu.com
Where’s the beef?

At a University which takes pride in the diversity of its student population, proclaiming that it is “Worlds Ahead,” the perfect opportunity to moralize and justify its beloved catchphrase has finally presented itself.

It’s a violation of the First Amendment for a state entity to keep a business out for its political and/or moral views. It would also put forth the view that students themselves are unable to form their own opinions. The University pushes out a company for its religious beliefs, what message will that send to its religious students? Hardly “Worlds Ahead.”

A majority of students decides that they do not want to continue as Chick-fil-A customers, then it is their right to simply not buy their product. The converse is also true: it would be ridiculous to assume an individual’s political and moral character based on whether or not they eat a chicken sandwich.

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Students meet and greet “one blindfold at a time”

**ALFREDO APARICIO**
Staff Writer

Meeting new people has never been easier than this summer. In a school of thousands, rushing daily to get to classes, with extra-curricular activities or work after-school, meeting new people can be a hassle. Pick Your New Opportunities is making the experience of meeting others easier, but there’s a catch. You have to be blindfolded when doing so.

Founded by Michael Diaz at the University of Central Florida on February 2011, Pick Your New Opportunities is taking strides to perfect their craft, which includes blindfolding whole classrooms on the first day of class, as well as one-on-one conversations between strangers.

Joshua Moussa, a senior psychology major at UCF and Director of Research and Development at Pick Your New Opportunities, found out about the organization when he met Diaz at a get together among friends.

“Everyone has a fear. We are so into our phones or on the computer and we have Facebook, but it’s not the real way to meet someone. This encourages people to take the mask off and express themselves more fully,” Moussa said. “It’s about meeting new people and creating new opportunities to meet others that can go on to be a friend, co-worker or even date. I’m Moussa said. “It’s about meeting new and express themselves more fully,”

For Gonzalez, there are three "gates" he needs to get through when choosing a person. First, the person needs to be open to meeting new people. The second "gate" is whether the person is willing to be blindfolded during the meeting, and the third is time constraints. "A new one I discovered, so I usually try to get people during their free time when they’re just unoccupied with homework or getting to class," said Gonzalez.

Freshman Yulinda Zeledon, a psychology major, and senior Camila Davis, a religion and African studies major, both found their participation in the activity to be "fun." "I’m still processing what happened. It’s surprising how you have a mental image of someone, but it’s never exact," said Zeledon. "When I took it off her blindfold and seeing Davis for the first time, it was not what I expected. I think it'd be good for a class project," Davis said. "The topics between them ranged from a simple, "how was your day," to heavier topics, such as their stance on gay rights and politics.

"We never ask heavy questions; we never ask heavy questions; we usually share what they want to share. We never ask heavy questions; we usually share what they want to share. We never ask heavy questions; we usually share what they want to share.

"Sometimes people just want to visit or hear others’ opinions."

For Gonzalez, his job as a facilitator’s most important aspect is the safety of the volunteers. "I always say, ‘your safety is my reputation,’ because the volunteers put their trust in me; in a sense, they’re flexible and open to trying out this new thing. I always thank the volunteers because they put their belief in this weird idea, and it really shows a lot about them," said Gonzalez.

Two other volunteers, freshmen Laura Corchete, English major, and Alexandra Saund, art major, were able to keep their conversation going before Gonzalez even asked the first question, eventually finding out that they had education in common, as Corchete wants to become a teacher and Saund has three teachers in her family.

I always talk to people,” said Corchete. "Even when I was small my mom used to get mad because I would talk to strangers."

"Being a transfer student, meeting new people is always good," said Saund. "It was a good activity, cool and interesting."

During the time he’s been doing this, Gonzalez has heard a variety of conversations among the volunteers, from short clipped answers to long, engaging discussions about things they have in common.

"I once had a conversation go on for 30 minutes; I love those because it’s the kinds of people I’m looking for. Michael [Diaz] showed me the ropes, and it’s basically about getting people’s vibe when you approach them, gauging their body language and making eye contact."

In the future, Gonzalez wants to make a club and hopes to have events, such as tabling on campus, as well as recruit new people and perfect the craft of introducing people to one another with a blindfold.

"I want to have a ‘friendship hour’, ‘relationship hour’ and ‘business hour’, especially business because sometimes you go to a party and say your idea, and the reactions around you might discourage you from expressing yourself. I want to make meeting people a possibility all the time," said Gonzalez.

For more information on Pick Your New Opportunities, visit www.pickyournos.com or to get involved on campus email Carlos Gonzalez at carlosgonz12@ucf.edu or gonz145@fiu.edu.

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**CHICK-FIL-A, PAGE 1**

Along with the efforts of the LGBT Advocacy Coalition, members of Stone-wall, the University’s LGBT pride alliance, have chosen to dine elsewhere on campus. Giovanni Correale, Stonewall student advisor and former president of Stonewall, also expressed his desire for the University to have the on-campus Chick-fil-A removed, but claimed he did not seek for the company to back down from their stance.

"Personally, I feel that if we pressure Chick-fil-A into coming out in support of marriage equality, then we are no better than they are by having an opinion other than that of those who do support marriage equality," said Correale.

Student Media requested a response from the University on whether it would reexamine its contract with Aramark in light of Cathy’s comments but one was not sent as of press time.

Other opinions around campus on the CEO’s comments are as waffley as his company’s fries. “I don’t, myself, agree with it, but [Chick-fil-A] can do what they want,” said freshman Jennifer Harrigan, a history major.

But Harrigan and Giovani Ross’ stomachs are what are on their minds when they eat. “I don’t thinking about gay rights or Christian rights when I think about Chick-fil-A,” Harrigan said. “People are entitled to their own happiness, and right now my happiness is Chick-fil-A,” said Ross, junior and pre-med student.

Freshman Chris Dirube said while the CEO is entitled to his opinion, it may have an effect on his business. “There are consequences to every action,” said Dirube as he expressed his skepticism toward publicly criticizing his values. “If Chick-fil-A wants to put that out there, that’s their choice. But it actually can affect their business.”

Heyani Meniru, a sophomore and international business major who works for Chick-fil-A on campus, identified himself as a Christian and supports his CEO’s stance, up to a point. “I believe in traditional marriage — that a man, and a woman should be together," Meniru said. “However, I don’t ridicule it. I don’t criticize it. They’re human beings just like us.”

Despite their personal views on the issue and their thoughts on the effect of Cathy’s comments on business, the group of students interviewed said they welcomed the presence of Chick-fil-A on campus and would not like to see it replaced.

Although Correale felt that this incident represents “a big step back,” he did express some optimism.

“All in all, other food chains have come out in support of LGBT rights or at least against the views of Chick-fil-A, and that is progress.”

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“Target Wednesday” brings innovation to The Frost

EDWIVÉ SEME
Staff Writer

This past Wednesday, July 18, the Frost Art Museum presented two new exhibitions as part of their first “Target Wednesday After Hours” for the new academic year of 2012-2013. These two exhibitions, “This and That” and “Shared Thread,” came from artists of different cultural backgrounds who used different art styles to convey different messages.

“Target Wednesday” is sponsored by Target and after visiting the museum, Target representatives fell in love with the Frost and saw a perfect opportunity to reach out to students and advertise what they have to offer while promoting the values of art and culture, so they decided to support the museum, as they do for multiple other cultural institutions, creating “Target Wednesday After Hours.”

According to Carol Damian, Director and Chief Curator of the museum, these exhibits allowed them to use works from their permanent collection and provide a platform for museum staff to curate.

Klaudio Rodriguez, who set up “This and That,” and Ana Estrada, who displayed “Shared Thread,” are both staff members who creatively put this exhibit together. “Klaudio Rodriguez was given the freedom to choose these very non-traditional objects and organize an intriguing exhibit. Ana Estrada, also on our staff, has been working in the Amazon for her graduate work and presented this proposal to me last year, and when the space became available, she was happy to create the exhibit,” said Damian.

“This and That” was selected from the museum’s permanent collection. It featured works from artists such as Guerra de la Paz, Pepe Mar, Jillian Mayer, Bert Rodriguez and Graham Hudson.

The works of this exhibit presented a wide range of mediums and might seem to look out of the ordinary at first glance, either by the subject’s matter or the artist’s use of materials or art principles.

Be it either fun or mysterious, it can definitely change people’s expectations when it comes to art, stimulating their reactions and causing them to pay more attention to the hidden meanings behind the artworks. It introduces visitors to a new way of viewing art. This exhibit is scheduled to run until Oct. 21.

“Shared Thread” is the result of two artist’s collaboration in the Amazon region of Pucallpa, Peru. These two artists, Maria Lino being the key artist, merged their different cultures, artistic traditions, design and technique to create this exhibit, most of which was done over a period of 10 days spent collecting video footage in Pucallpa to depict the portrait of a Shipibo-Healer. This is part of Lino’s series of video portraits put together over a period of eight months working in Peru. She’s an FIU graduate, a Cantor Fellow and was awarded a Fulbright Scholar Grant in 2011.

The exhibit features Shipibo textiles and is sponsored by “Latino Magazine.” This exhibit is scheduled to run until Sept. 30.

The event ran from 6-9 p.m, and being a summer event, the outcome was favorable. “We had around 200 people. The people who came were very interested, so it was a good night,” said Damian.

The next “Target Wednesday” will be on Sept. 12 from 6-9 p.m, featuring two new exhibits, “Out of the Ordinary Geometry” by Lydia Aztou and “The Faculty Show,” an annual FIU exhibition of the Art & Art History Department.

REEL TO REEL

“Beasts of the Southern Wild” wastes no time in dropping audiences right into the midst of an isolated and unfamiliar world. Surrounded by nothing but water “in the Bathtub,” an extremely poor community off the coast of Louisiana, a little girl named Hushpuppy (Quvenzhané Wallis) lives with her father, Wink (Dwight Henry). As her father’s health declines due to a mysterious illness, and the world around her begins to fall apart, Hushpuppy must learn to survive through these troubled times in order to remain in her beloved home.

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Brandon Wise
Sports Director

As part of its final year in the Sun Belt Conference, FIU is set to host the 2013 Men’s and Women’s Track and Field Championships – without a track on campus.

The tournament will actually be held 22 miles up the turnpike at the Ansin Sports Complex in Miramar.

“We don’t have a track at this time,” said Head Coach Eric Campbell in an interview with Student Media. “Our athletic department is working on building us a track, but until we actually get a home facility, we will be using the Ansin Sports Complex.”

Last season, the track and field team did their training at Tropical Park, located five miles off campus on Bird Road.

Campbell said the Ansin Sports Complex is one of the biggest facilities in the southeast and one of three certified tracks in the International Association of Athletics Federations.

In the Sun Belt Conference, only FIU and University of Arkansas at Little Rock do not have an on-campus facility for the school’s track and field programs. According to UALR Student Media, the school’s soccer-track and field complex is scheduled for completion in September 2012.

In fall 2011, Executive Director of Sports and Entertainment, Pete Garcia said to Student Media that “The long-range plan is to spin the soccer field from where it is now, from North-South to East-West. That’s a long-range plan that's going to cost millions of dollars.”

So far, no construction date is set, but according to both Garcia and Campbell, it will be combined with the soccer stadium for the three programs to share.

Campbell believes that not having a home facility has caused some issues for the team in terms of recruiting, but for the most part, his team has not suffered without a facility.

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It’s pretty difficult, but we sign some of Florida’s best talent out of high school without having a [home] facility,” Campbell said. “I really try to teach my staff that when we go out and talk to these young people, it’s not about the facility, but about the people and the relationships. We sell ourselves, we sell our personalities, we sell FIU as an institution and we get quite a few recruits.”

Without a home facility last year, the 4x100 relay team of Marissa McElwee, Lakeshia Kelley, Carla-Kay Mills and T’Keryah Dumoy qualified for the NCAA national championships in Des Moines, Iowa after posting a 45.05 at the East Regional in Jacksonville in May.

Nevertheless, Campbell is resilient. “That’s something I try to preach to the kids,” Campbell said. “We are proud of the fact that we don’t have a facility and are able to go out and be nationally recognized. “We realize once we get a track, it’ll be hell to pay for some of these other schools. We don’t lose too many recruits as it is, but once we get a facility, it’ll be a wrap.”

Brandon Wise
I can't tell if the Sun Belt Conference is trying to play a joke on FIU. After announcing that FIU was going to host the 2013 Track and Field Sun Belt Tournament, I was confused. How do we intend on hosting a tournament for 10 other schools when we have no track to begin with?

It is a farcical moment, really, and an issue that finally brings to light the silliness of the track and field program that has endured for the better part of the last decade. The Panthers have recently trained in Tropical Park and now they'll head to Miramar, Fla., specifically to the Ansin Sports Complex, to host the tournament.

Don't get me wrong; the complex itself is a great spot for the tournament. The home page of the complex has a video with epic, Charlot of Fire-like music playing up the facilities and its “IAAF-certified super FTX Mondo track with an eight-lane oval and a nine-lane straight-away” also known as, well, a track.

But how does the Sun Belt expect a large turnout of FIU fans when the complex is 22 miles from the Modesto Maidique Campus?

I was in attendance for the 2011 Sun Belt Volleyball tournament in the U.S. Century Bank Arena and the roaring teams’ fans outnumbered FIU fans 2-to-1. And that is when the tournament was held on campus.

Who will show up for the track and field tournament? I’d say the families of the FIU athletes and maybe, just maybe, one or two die-hard track and field fans from FIU, if they exist. The Panthers can once again expect to be one of the least-cheered for teams and that’s a damn shame.

Head coach Eric Campbell has done a tremendous job training his squad into championship form in recent years. In June, his women’s 4x100 team qualified for the national championships. Each year, his squad is predicted to finish at the top or near the top of the SBC tournaments.

I give a lot of credit to Campbell. He’s taken this massive negative and turned it into a positive, saying he’s proud that his team can still compete without a facility. He says it allows his school to focus on the people and relationships of the sport.

I wonder, though, if he speculates how great it could have been to host the tournament on a track to call his own. While the Sun Belt’s decision to tab FIU to host the tournament baffles me, I’m not going to let FIU itself escape unscathed. The “long-range goal” is to create a track surrounding the soccer field on Modesto Maidique Campus, but I sincerely feel that there will be no movement on that for a few years as FIU busies itself with its money-makers like football.

University of Arkansas at Little Rock is the only other Sun Belt school to not have a track, but there’s a big asterisk on that statement because as you read this, they are building one that’s to be completed in September. I can only wonder why FIU spent its entire time in the SBC without an adequate track on campus.

Next year will be FIU’s last year as a member of the Sun Belt Conference before they join Conference USA and this has to be one of the worst going-away presents ever.

-Jill Lawless

ASSOCIATED PRESS

So far, London Olympics wins gold medal for gaffes

Ellis Cashmore, professor of culture, media and sport at Staffordshire University, said the sheer number of Olympic errors has had a numbing effect.

“It’s almost as if we’ve become accustomed to them,” he said. “It’s almost as if we’re expecting another gaffe.”

“If everything had gone smoothly up till now, (the missing keys) would be a catastrophe. Losing the keys to the stadium! If you lose your house keys, it’s a major crisis.”

The farcical moments started more than a year before the games, when the official Olympic countdown clock was unveiled in London’s Trafalgar Square — and promptly broke down.

On Friday, during a mass celebration bell-ringing to mark the start of the games, Olympic Secretary Jeremy Hunt’s bell went flying off its handle and narrowly avoided a bystander. No one was hurt, but the incident, captured by a TV camera, drew comparisons to Mr. Bean, the accident-prone Englishman created by comedian Rowan Atkinson.

“It’s fortunate that the British have knock for laughing at their mistakes. That talent for self-deprecation helps explain the popularity of London Mayor Boris Johnson — a brainy but gaffe-prone politician once forced to apologize to the entire city of Liverpool after accusing its residents of “wallowing in victimhood.”

Putting a positive spin on things, Johnson listed Hunt’s bell-ringing clanger as one of the reasons to be cheerful about the Olympics.

“Jeremy Hunt has introduced a new sport to the games, to go with the discus, shot-put, javelin,” Johnson wrote in Monday’s Daily Telegraph. “It is bell-wanging... The rules have yet to be codified — there is still a dispute about whether you get extra points for hitting a spectator — but you can be sure they will be codified in London.”

In this new age of social media — and with the eyes of the world on London — mere blunders are inevitable, Cashmore said.

“I think previous Olympics have been just as marred by security lapses, but now we are so acutely aware of everything that these things are magnified,” he said. “We are looking at things microscopically now.”

Jill Lawless
AP Writer

An appearance by the hapless comic character Mr. Bean was one of the highlights of the London Olympics opening ceremony. Yet a series of Keystone Cops moments has games organizers hoping they don’t keep up this slapstick routine in real life.

London police acknowledged Monday that last week they lost a set of keys to Wembley — one of the most famous stadiums in the world and an Olympic venue in London — and had been forced to hastily change the stadium locks.

It was the latest unintentionally comic moment to beset the games and has raised fears of what else might be in store.

News of the lock debacle followed a diplomatic tiff with India, triggered when a woman who was not part of the country’s athletic delegation marched right beside India’s flag bearer at Friday’s opening ceremony.

Olympic officials insisted there was no security risk from either incident. Games chief Sebastian Coe said the Indian team’s interloper was an accredited cast member from the opening ceremony who “got slightly over-excited.”

Police said the Wembley keys appeared to have been lost rather than stolen and “measures were taken immediately to secure all key areas of the venue.”

Earlier Olympic glitches ranged from worrying to merely embarrassing.

Security arrangements were thrown into chaos weeks before the opening ceremony when private security contractor G4S acknowledged it would not be able to provide all the guards it had promised.

Thousands of soldiers, sailors and air force personnel — some many unsuccessfully.

Organizers are now scrambling to fill rows of empty seats allocated but not used by members of the “Olympic family” — national federations, sponsors and the media. Among the remedies: 150 key operators — there is still a dispute about whether you get extra points for hitting a spectator — but you can be sure they will be codified in London.”

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A vast ocean for young summer campers

Diego Saldaña-Rojas
Contributing Writer

Squid and shark dissection, observing microorganisms underneath a microscope and building a coral model. These would sound like activities for graduate students in a science lab, yet they are being performed by children in the EcoAcademy Summer Camp organized by the School of Environment, Arts and Society.

“These kids know more than you would imagine,” said Nicholas Ogle, camp counselor and University alum. According to Grimm, the camp is in its fourth year and caters to children ages 6 to 16 who have an interest in marine biology and the environment. Children can register by week, so the number of campers is usually around 30 or 40.

“This is a great opportunity to expose the students to environmental programs,” said Jennifer Grimm, environmental programs manager. The counselors working in the camp are University students or graduates. Middle and high school students also have the chance to volunteer as junior counselors.

“It’s interesting to take them out and show them how the ecosystem is, the animals that live there, what makes it function efficiently and what makes it healthy,” said Kimberly Weisenberg, marine biology senior and counselor.

Each week has a different theme regarding what the campers learn and participate in activities related to that specific topic, such as creatures of the sea, Florida environmental, deep sea and global warming.

“A lot of people think that it’s slow and see how the center functions,” said Ogle. “This has been a great lesson for me in how you take that science and turn it into a lesson that you can actually get people excited about.”

Additional reporting by Barb Corbelini Duarte.

“Some of them are just remaining at lower levels and not being able to make that management jump,” said Kopenhaver.

Kopenhaver was inspired to create a center like this because she experienced the hardships of working in a field where only men were able to reach. She was the first woman to reach positions of graduate studies within the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. “There were a lot of women colleagues and it was really hard for us to get in the field,” said Kopenhaver.

Kopenhaver witnessed this demarcation throughout her career. “As a result,” the center counselor for the first time, explained that the counselors have discussions with the children about the activities they are doing so they can understand the science behind it.

Ogle, who recently graduated in environmental studies, told the story about the day that the children dissected a squid in the lab. After working on the squid, they took the campers to the teaching food lab in the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management where Chef Mark D’Alessandro cooked calamari.

“The chef asked the children what was a calamari and one of them raised the hand and said, ‘It’s a cephalopod!’”

Ogle, who is working as a counselor for the third time, was pleased to see the campers applying what they had learned in the classroom. His experience working at the camp has given him much insight into how to spread awareness of environmental conservation.

“This camp has been really important for me in taking that message to kids which is one of the biggest things in public outreach,” said Ogle.

Bueso shared the story about the day that they built a coral model with candy, which they ate by the end of the day.

“Even though it sounds like a simple and entertaining activity, the campers studied the coral parts and built it step by step, from the skeleton to the tentacles — different types of candies built different parts of the corals.

“The children kayak and snorkel every Tuesday and Thursday. On Monday and Wednesday they go to the pool, and on Fridays they go on field trips to places like the Miami Science Museum, Gumbo Limbo Nature Center and Monkey Jungle.”

Ogle acknowledges the challenges of raising awareness, not only for children but also in the community and in politics.

“A lot of people think that it’s pretty easy to take that science and make it real. It really isn’t,” Ogle said. “This has been a great lesson for me in how you take that science and turn it into a lesson that you can actually get people excited about."

As a result, the center will also perform research to examine why this happens in many cases. “Some of them are just remaining at lower levels and not being able to make that management jump,” said Kopenhaver.

Kopenhaver was inspired to create a center like this because she experienced the hardships of working in a field where it’s mostly male-dominated. Nevertheless, she has been able to be one of the first women to reach positions where only men were able to reach.

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