MELHOR LEONOR
News Director

From a ‘light ocean breeze’ to 157 mph winds, all in about 20 minutes. That is what spectators and members of the media experienced during the unveiling of the University’s Wall of Wind, a 12-fan wall capable of recreating the storm conditions of a Category Five hurricane.

The WoW, located inside a hangar at the University’s Engineering Center at the corner of 107 Ave and West Flagler Street, is the most powerful University research facility of its kind. According to the Laboratory for Wind and Engineering Research, each of the 12 fans that stacked compose the wall weigh approximately 15,000 pounds, about the same as eight Smart Cars.

The wall also mimics wind-driven rain and can generate winds of up to 157 mph.

The power of the $8 million contraption was demonstrated last Tuesday during its unveiling where those present got to experience the simulated storm from the safety of a viewing room.

During the simulation, two side-by-side house models featuring roofing from pre and post hurricane Andrew were tested against the WoW to demonstrate the type of research to be conducted at the facility.

“The two big goals are to develop and test products that will help reduce damages and to enhance the building codes and better predictions that will make them safer,” said Arindam Chowdhury, the director of the Laboratory for Wind Engineering Research at the International Hurricane Research Center.

While the pre-Andrew model, with the roofing requirements of Andrew’s time, started disintegrating at tropical storm winds. The post-Andrew model showed similar damage when the winds reached Category Two and at about 100mph.

According to Chowdhury, this type of simulation shows damage that can’t be predicted through other types of testing.

“It shows us that holistic testing is always better than small component testing to give you the whole picture, and how you can learn to have a better designed roof.”

Chowdhury further explained the difference between holistic and component level testing.

“In component level testing, you can only test one component at a certain wind speed but here you can see the whole system and it shows the amount of damage and how the damage progresses which is better.”

University prepares for Isaac

MARIELLA ROQUE
Staff Writer

Tropical Storm Isaac is expected to hit the southeast coast of Florida by Monday morning. The system made its way through the Caribbean Wednesday with 46 mph winds and it is forecasted to become a hurricane as it reaches Florida, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center.

“We are keeping a close eye on this storm,” said Amy Aiken, director of the University’s Department of Emergency Management. Aiken states that the student will be encouraged to seek a place of safe refuge.

“We will encourage students that live in the tri-county area to go home.”

Regarding class cancellations, “we will get that information out as soon as it is feasible,” Aiken said.

“IT is difficult to predict the outcome and we don’t want to cause a panic.”

In a University-wide email, External Relations encouraged the University community to have all necessary supplies ready and to stay up-to-date with news from the University regarding developments of the storm. The email stated that DEM is currently monitoring the storm.

“With hurricanes, we have the luxury of time, so we will keep students informed mainly through email and through the FIU home page,” Aiken said. The DEM website, dem.fiu.edu, also provides members of the University with information on how they can prepare for emergencies like hurricanes, tornadoes and pandemics.

The FIU Alerts and the FIU Ready program are initiatives by DEM that aid in maintaining “normal University operations in the face of disruptive events.”

“Our website has good information on what to do [before and after] an emergency. We want to encourage students to share it with family and to become familiar with the FIU emergency communication,” Aiken said.

“Our main goal is to keep students safe and prepared.”

The website has links to resources and emergency training opportunities. There is also a list of emergency communication methods, such as text message alerts, social media, the FIU Helpline or the University website.

“We are monitoring [the storm] and each day we get better and better information,” Aiken said. -mariella.roque@fiu.com

MIRIAM ARIAS
Staff Writer

Changes are being implemented along southwest Eighth Street between the Palmetto Expressway and the Florida Turnpike. Public Information Specialist Cynthia Vaquez stated: “The project is to enhance public safety.”

These include the repaving of the roads in that area and changes to improve traffic lights and lanes. Additional bicycle lanes will also be added.

Traffic light upgrades will be implemented on south-west 82nd Avenue, southwest 87th Avenue, southwest 92nd Avenue, southwest 98th Avenue, southwest 107th Avenue, southwest 109th Avenue, southwest 112th Avenue, and southwest 117th Avenue.

Changes include the shutting down of the westbound traffic separator at southwest Eighth street, a U-turn signal will be added at southwest 82nd Avenue and there will also be a turbo lane incorporated along the intersection of southwest Eighth street and 102nd Avenue.

The start date for the contract was June 18 and it is expected to last until April 2013. The contractor for the project is H & J Paving. Vaquez stated that the entire project is estimated to cost $6.8 million which will be paid through federal and state funds.

According to Vaquez, the project is meant to enrich safety in the area. In an interview with Student Media, she stated, “At the end of the project, the entire project corridor will be repaved and restriped, making for a smoother and safer driving experience. The construction of a turbo lane on southwest 102nd Avenue will lessen traffic backups by letting traffic flow for a longer, uninterrupted distance.”

Students appear to be concerned with how these changes will affect traffic around the University. Junior and journalism major, Jacqueline Rosado, expressed her concerns with the repaving. She stated, “I think the upgrades will be good in the long run, but I am a bit concerned with how this will affect traffic around the University.”

In accordance with Rosado, Christy Quesol, hospitality management and junior, stated, “Construction by any street or highway always causes traffic. The good thing is that the cops are controlling it.”

In regard to student, faculty and staff concerns on traffic issues due to the construction, Vaquez said, “There should be minimal impact to the University during the repaving process.”

Vaquez said that most of the construction will be done during the late evening.
Writing fellows cultivate writing skills in tutors

JOUETTE RE

Contributing Writer

University students spend a relatively small amount of time writing at the college level—at least that is what a recent survey at the University suggests, according to Paula Gillespie, the director of the Center for Excellence in Writing.

In an effort to cultivate better writing skills among students, the Writing Fellows Program was initiated in the spring of 2012.

Charles Donate, Title V director of online tutoring for the Center for Excellence in Writing and the Writing Fellows Program, said the program is “an outreach center.”

The program is designed to cross disciplines—meaning that a tutor could be a journalism major and tutor a student in architecture.

“Actually, most of the students we work with are outside of the English Department,” Jennifer Gonzalez, a writing fellow and a tutor at the Center for Excellence in Writing said about her experience working with her group, which consisted of architecture students.

“The tutors are assigned a group of 10 to 12 students; they will tutor a group of students in one-on-one sessions consisting of the span of the semester. The tutor and students coordinate a meeting day and time via email.

In the beginning of a semester, a fellow works on a project with each member of their group and helps them with a second, more detailed assignment at the end of the semester.

Moreover, fellows are not usually assigned with people of the same major because “that defeats the purpose” of the program, Donate stated.

A fellow must meet with each student twice a semester outside of the Writing Center because of the tutoring already going on and the amount of students passing through the Writing Center.

Although the writing fellows are tutors, Gillespie explained the difference between a fellow and a tutor at the Writing Center.

“There is a huge difference in the writing fellows: they already know the requirements of the assignments, they know the professor, and in the writing center, a student walks in the door and everyone works on different assignments.”

The application process for the Writing Fellows Program is similar to the application process for the Center for Excellence in Writing.

The applicants for each must enroll in a course that is designed to train aspiring tutors to the appropriate program: ENC 3491 is for the students who would like to tutor at the Writing Center and ENC 3492 is for the students who want to be a tutor at the Writing Fellows Program.

However, to apply as a writing fellow, applicants must submit a piece of academic or journalistic writing—not a creative writing piece. Applicants must also submit a recommendation letter from a professor to be emailed to Gillespie from a University&email account.

Jennifer Gonzalez, a writing fellow and a tutor at the Center for Excellence in Writing shared her experience when she worked with her group of architecture students.

“I like the opportunity to work with students who are outside the English Department and working on assignments that were a different subject matter I was familiar with...It was interesting getting to work with them and getting their take on things.”

According to Donate, the writing fellows who have completed the course and wish to return again do not need to retake the writing fellows course.

“Nevertheless, you’ll be assigned another 10-12 students...so we have, I think, 11 fellows that was returning this semester who won’t have to take the course again,” Donate said.

The tutors receive a stipend of $1200 a semester.

The Writing Center for Excellence in Writing is funded by the United States Government, under the Title V Grant.

Gillespie and Donate wish to see the growth of the program for online classes, but additional funding will be required for the program’s expansion.

-Deborah Brown/The Beacon

First-year student Tacara Turner chats with her best friend and translator, Wlaslaska Samuel, who is not an FIU student but helps her Turner pursue a higher education.

Wall of Wind ‘legacy’ of Andrew

The event will take place adjacent to the FIU Wall of Wind located at the FIU engineering center. Special speakers and guests include U.S. Congressmen Mario Diaz-Balart and David Rivera; Rick Knabb, director of the National Hurricane Center; and Kate Hale, director of Miami-Dade County Emergency Management at the time of Hurricane Andrew.

More special speakers and guests include Robert M. Atlas, director of NOAA’s Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory; Elizabeth A. Zimmerman, deputy associate administrator for Response and Recovery with the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and Mark B. Rosenberg, University president.

Representatives from the National Weather Service Miami Office, Miami-Dade County Emergency Management and the City of Homestead will also be in attendance.

-Beaonee@fiusm.com
Problems with decals begin, where others end

LOURDES GINART
Staff Writer

And summer is over. Our months of freedom from homework, exams, and Moodle—or at least for those of us who avoided summer courses—are over.

Nonetheless the long-anticipated dilemmas with FIU have begun. Last fall, students waited weeks past the disbursement date to receive their Florida Prepaid and/or Florida Bright Futures payments. This year the University changed its course of action from delaying our financial aid to “improving” our beloved parking system. I will give the University the benefit of the doubt in its handling of last fall’s disbursement delay, considering the parties responsible were not directly affiliated with FIU. However, when it comes to this year’s parking and decal situation, they are to be held entirely accountable.

This year, the University somehow came to the conclusion that, in order for students to receive parking decals, it would be a good idea to insist that they pay the parking fee—which is included in tuition—ahead of the nation’s due-date. Not only is this an inconvenience for every student, it also further complicates matters for students on financial aid—which is half of the undergraduate student body. Since students on financial aid are dependent on grants, loans, and scholarships to pay for their tuition, their textbooks, housing and myriad fees, to have these students pay the fee ahead of time, and out of pocket, is ridiculous. As a result, commuters would have had to pre-order a decal. Students would have been allowed to place an order for a decal as long as they were enrolled, but would not receive it until the parking fee was paid. As far as that may sound, pre-ordering decals would have been disastrous for two reasons: financial aid and FIU Police.

Had a rendition of last year’s delayed disbursement occurred this fall, students would go weeks past the tuition due date without a decal. Which brings FIU Police into the picture.

Campus security would have no way of knowing which cars belong to owners waiting on financial aid and which cars belonged to students procrastinating on payments. Citations and parking boots would have decorated each car on campus.

Finally, after much given thought and hundreds of phone calls relaying the same problem, the University decided it would give its best attempt to fix a problem that was never really an issue.

Students may now order a decal and will receive it three to five days after the order has been placed—this is the very efficient method the University has been using throughout the past years. However, there is now a catch. Students must be enrolled and registered in classes in order to receive the decal. As well, students whose parking fee has not been paid past the disbursement dates are subject to paying the fee out of pocket.

After decreasing parking space due to construction, prohibiting cars from backing in to parking spaces, and creating an unnecessary problem for students to receive decals, it makes me anxious to see what the next hassle will be.

Sex, drugs, drinking: advice for freshmen residents

ALEX SORONDO
Asst. Opinion Editor

Dearest Freshmen,

So you’re living on campus now. Setting your own hours, having your friends over whenever you want, stocking the fridge and pantry as you please. The perks are high.

There are three things that most campus-life newcomers are concerned with above all else, synonymous with the mythical college experience, and while you sidestep them in your previous letter, speaking as though school is your highest concern, we all know what you’re really thinking. Without condoning sex, drug use, or underage drinking, it would nonetheless be senseless to pretend that you won’t be confronted all three in your stint as a campus resident, and unfair of me to offer no advice. Let’s start with drugs and alcohol.

People will smoke pot in their dorms. It’s going to happen. They might not realize how far the smell has traveled, but you’ll probably notice it from down the hall. So will the Resident Assistant.

One thing to keep in mind about RAs: they don’t want to get you thrown out. They’ll turn their heads from quite a lot if there’s no real harm being done and nobody’s being offended or inconvenienced. They’re college students, too, they know what goes on.

Still, in my three years on campus, I’ve seen a few people booted from housing and arrested for smoking marijuana in the dorms, one of whom was as bright, disciplined, and devoted as any I’ve met so far.

If your RA catches on, and other residents start noticing, you’ll be confronted. If your RA is exceptionally nice, you might get a warning. Most likely, though, you’ll have the cops at your door, and—being one of the few who gets caught—you’ll be made an example of.

RAs are pretty forward about drinking: “If you’re a minor, don’t do it.” They also know that you’ll probably do it anyway. For this, I can only offer generic advice: if you’re going to drink, be careful. Date rape and alcohol poisoning will soon rise from the fuzzy, didactic melodrama of ABC Family to the grim plane of reality, with the casualties of an Orgasm a Day.

The value of an evening, or a semester for that matter, isn’t measured in bottles. Remember that booze has all the capacity to humiliate you, lower your defenses, and ruin the morning as it does to enhance an evening. Just ask Bill Clinton.

Speaking of which: we come, finally, to sex, for which attention should be paid to matters of consent, and how alcohol invariably nullifies it: about respecting your partner’s boundaries and using protection—all that. Free contraceptives are available from health services, and those who dispense them will be happy to answer any questions about safety and sickness and things of the like.

But let us speak of etiquette. Precious, neglected dorm room sex etiquette.

While you might feel like The Most Interesting Man in the World for bringing some body home and rocking the Casbah into the wee hours, it should be known that—as the roommate of a Casanova there’s nothing more aggravating than being woken at 2AM by the scrape-scrapping squeak of the mattress next door. Particularly when it’s supplemented by the moans and groans of the sex you’re not having. Just ask Hillary.

So mind your manners, know your limits, and respect your RAs; and stay cautious, my friends.

Your Affectionate Uncle, Screwmate

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So mind your manners, know your limits, and respect your RAs; and stay cautious, my friends.

Your Affectionate Uncle, Screwmate
Students consider if Greek life is really worth the green

For many college students, being “Greek” is more than just letters and going to parties. It is the opportunity to be part of an organization that helps make lasting friendships, builds character, and defines your individuality. It is a support system created to ease the transition from adolescence to young adulthood.

During rush week, fraternity and sorority members line the walls of the Graham Center to promote their individual organizations. Members encourage students to join based on the experience and contacts made along the way. However, for those who know many students initially fail to realize, is the cost associated with membership.

Not only will you have to put the majority of your social life into “Greek” life, you will have to put in a good amount of money to become “Greek.” In today’s economy, spending hundreds of dollars for a spot in “Greek” life is a gamble. Membership does not guarantee that dream job after graduation, nor finding that Thelma-and-Louise relationship you’ve longed for. This is why students must decide if joining is really worth the experience alone. At the University, all fraternities and sororities are accompanied by a membership known as dues. These dues help pay for insurance, national/international dues, operating expenses and programming in addition to initiation fees that can run as much as $700. Also, each person is responsible for purchasing gear, such as T-shirts, date dashes, formal wear, and other incidents that may arise. Social pressures to maintain the organizations image also become part of the “Greek” life and add to your expenses. Some chapters may run fines if you miss a mandatory meeting or do not maintain a certain grade point average. Though each chapter varies, first-year members face well over $1000 every year. According to students and alumni, building friendships seemed to be the primary goal for most. Some alumni had the opportunity to stay in Florida and maintain the friendships they made. Still, those who moved away were no longer in contact with most of their brothers or sisters. According to some students, they did not have time to work due to their busy schedules. Parents seem to have taken on the responsibility to pay for their costs.

The expenses that come with “Greek” life may not be so different than what students would pay as a non-Greek student participating in any other extracurricular activities, such as sports, clubs, University-wide events and social gatherings. Expenses do vary significantly by chapter, so students may want to steer clear of “Greek” life and focus on investing in something else that might give them a more concrete result.

SPC movies to catch or pass this fall semester

If there are two things college students are short of, it is time and money. Every Friday night of this fall semester, Student Programming Council offers a free movie at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. in room 140 in the Graham Center. The only thing students need is a valid Panther ID.

Every University student is allowed one guest, free of charge. The films being shown are varied in genre and quality so there is something for everyone.

The Hunger Games (8/31) 142 Min
Metascore: 67/100
Rotten tomatoes: Fresh 85%

This movie is based on Suzanne Collins’ novel of the same name. However, issues are that if you knew that, you already saw this movie. Although this movie is very much aimed at a younger crowd, as long you enjoy sci-fi and adventure, you’ll walk away satisfied. With a solid story and strong acting, “The Hunger Games” should not be missed.

Marvel’s The Avengers (9/07) 143 Min
Metascore: 69/100
Rotten tomatoes: Fresh 92%

“The Avengers” is one of the smarter superhero films out there. It will probably not go down as one of the all-time classics, but nevertheless it does exactly what it sets out to do. Full of moody atmosphere and legitimately creepy moments, your pulse will speed up as you root for the protagonists. Whatever this movie lacks in lasting appeal, it makes up for in enthusiasm. All in all, a not bad movie to watch for free.

The Strangers (10/26) 86 Min
Metascore: 47/100
Rotten Tomatoes: Rotten 45%

“The Strangers” is one of the smarter horror films out there. It will probably not go down as one of the all-time classics, but nevertheless it does exactly what it sets out to do. Full of moody atmosphere and legitimately creepy moments, your pulse will speed up as you root for the protagonists. Whatever this movie lacks in lasting appeal, it makes up for in enthusiasm. All in all, a not bad movie to watch for free.

The Dark Knight Rises (11/2) 165 Min
Metascore: 78/100
Rotten Tomatoes: Fresh 87%

This is not your little brother’s superhero movie. With a meaty story, complex characters, and some really solid acting you don’t even need to know who Batman is to enjoy this one. It can feel a bit long and it can get a bit convoluted, but be sure to check this one out if you’re one of the few who hasn’t already.

The Expendables 2 (11/9) 102 Min
Metascore: 53/100
Rotten Tomatoes: Fresh 65%

This movie is dripping with testosterone. Just about every famous 1980s action star is here and while for some that is reason to be excited, for a lot of others it is reason to run away. It is full of unintentional humor, shoddy writing, even shoddier acting and a paper-thin plot.

That being said, as long as you have the proper mindset, it can be a lot of fun. Be warned, your voice will drop a couple of octaves after seeing this one.

Magic Mike (11/16) 110 Min
Metascore: 72/100
Rotten Tomatoes: Fresh 79%

On the surface it would appear that the only people that would enjoy “Magic Mike” are those anxious to see some hunky men strut their stuff on stage. However, the truth is that this isn’t 100 percent true.

With some enjoyable performances, both clothed and not, and a solid story; “Magic Mike” elevates itself to be more than just the movie where Channing Tatum gets naked.

It would be a lie to say there’s something here for everyone, but if you don’t mind looking at some oiled up Holly- wood A-listers, there is a quality story to be found.

Ted (11/30) 106 Min
Metascore: 62/100
Rotten Tomatoes: Fresh 70%

Ever wonder what a live action “Family Guy” movie would be like? Well, “Ted” is about as close as Director Seth McFarlane is going to get. There are some great laughs throughout this movie, just as long as you don’t mind some whacky humor and the occasional fart joke. If for whatever reason you missed this one while it was in theaters, this is a great opportunity to see one of the more inventive comedies of 2012.
Minutes to midnight craze

RENE GONZALEZ
Contributing Writer

Sometimes the best part of the night is found in the preparation, but the GameStop in the Graham Center aims to change that. Midnight releases exemplify everything we love about entertainment: the anticipation, the companionship and the conquest of being among the first to see that new movie or play that new game.

This fall is packed with highly anticipated titles, and our very own campus GameStop will have several midnight releases this semester to add to the excitement.

As a casual gamer, most of my attention goes to sports games. No other title is as coveted as the yearly release of Madden. Aug. 28 marks the release date of Madden 13. This game will be available on PlayStation 3, Xbox 360, and the new PS Vita and even the Nintendo Wii.

The good folks at EA have finally revamped the franchise a bit. With no real competitor in the market, it can get difficult to stay cutting edge, and so the franchise held.

The last decent version was Madden 10 and before that maybe Madden 08. NCAA Football has actually turned into a better franchise with more intuitive controls and faster gameplay, making it a lot more fun. EA took notes from the new PS Vita and even the Nintendo Wii.

Defense has been overhauled, the controllers seem to be smoother and now you can disguise your coverage. Calling motion on offense to see if the defense is in man or zone won’t help you anymore. The offense received some favorable upgrades as well.

The passing trajectories have been improved. Using the left joystick, you can place passes in spots only your receiver can catch, push him to the sideline while running the two-minute drill, or pass it over his inside shoulder if the coverage is tight.

The overall improvements to the controls come coupled with more realistic audio commentary and additional cut scenes to add to the drama.

Madden 13 is not the only major title that will see a big release on our campus this semester. This past Aug. 19 was the scheduled issue date of the new Super Mario Bros. Wii game for Nintendo 3DS. September will be an exhilarating month with three striking midnight releases. Battlefield 3 for PlayStation 3 comes out Sept. 11 and Borderlands 2 will be available across three platforms on Sept. 18 — PlayStation 3, Xbox 360 and PC. The same can be said about another desirable sports title that unveils Sept. 25 — FIFA Soccer 13 will also be seen on those three consoles.

Midnight releases not only drive sales for big titles, they also assure awaiting fans a copy of the game if they pre-order. There are quite a few perks for attending these events; some stores offer exclusive packaging or collector edition versions. Students here appreciate the campus store’s ability to host these releases.

“They offer a nice early grab for gamers to get their hands on those games they are just itching to play. It also saves time from picking it up during the day the next day. It’s especially nice when they offer little prizes to win like T-shirts,” said senior Jonathan Jeff Mejia, biology major.

Students go to on campus Gamestop and ask about any game, they’ll be happy to help you.

Midnight releases not only drive midnight crazes, they also attract the campus store’s ability to host these events. Some stores offer a nice early grab for gamers to get their hands on those games they are just itching to play. It also saves time from picking it up during the day the next day. It’s especially nice when they offer little prizes to win like T-shirts.

All in all, it’s just a nice event that can be fun, just like the midnight viewing of a new movie,” said senior Jonathan Jeff Mejia, biology major.

So grab your buddies and a few containers of heavily sugared soda, because this fall our GameStop will be host to various midnight releases of some sensational titles. Call Of Duty Black Ops 2 is out in November, but stop by the store in the Graham Center and ask about any game, they’ll be happy to help you.

www.fiusm.com
With a new coach, the Panthers look to improve on last season's 5-8-4 record.

Panthers hope to take advantage of new size

JONATHAN JACOBSKIND  
Staff Writer

The metal poles are raised and the nets are tied down, it’s time for volleyball season.

The 2012 squad is set to play under the guidance of newly-appointed Head Coach Trevor Theroulde. FIU returns eight-letter winners, including three starters from the 2011 campaign. FIU posted a 20-10 overall record in 2011, capped by an early exit in the Sun Belt Conference semifinals to the hands of conference rival — Western Kentucky University.

The Panthers welcome seven new members to the program and after months of offseason practices, Theroulde expects the incoming players to vie for plenty of playing time, including the freshman.

“Everyone has a chance to play. The preseason is for players to come in, demonstrate their skill and earn their position,” Theroulde said. “I told the freshman. When you enter a university, your job is not to wait until a senior graduates to try and earn playing time, but it is your job to come in and play like if you’re going to take their spot.”

FIU will look to its returning seniors to set an example for the incoming freshman, including Siberian native, Jovana Bjelica, who some believe will become the team leader in 2012.

Bjelica embraces the role as a leader, as well as the pressure that comes with the title. Her numbers do all the talking as she led the entire Sun Belt Conference with a whopping 4.52 kills per set — a mark that ranked 13th in the nation. Bjelica also led her team with 1138 total assists and notched a leading 533 total points.

After spending the previous four years under the direction of Danijela Tomic, Theroulde inherits an FIU program that is not only transitioning into the new coaching regime, but is also poised for an excellent run in the upcoming season.

“[Theroulde] is definitely a bigger, faster and better-conditioned athlete,” senior Renele Forde said. “I'm here to improve one of the best teams in the country. History has shown that FIU can be competitive in the country. History has shown that FIU can compete at the highest level.”

Theroulde said, “Now with the new coaching staff, we hope to win the Sun Belt Conference, go to the NCAA Tournament and finally become a top 25 team this year.”

All throughout the offseason, Theroulde raved about shifting a new team dynamic for the 2012 campaign with a different athletic prototype, unlike any other that FIU has seen before. A team dynamic that will feature a lot more patient with us in terms of allowing players to develop and learn from their mistakes,” redshirt senior Renele Forde said.

“Every year for me it's about the experience and the challenge of playing so many road games is exciting,” Arena said.

FIU was last in goals, 7, and assists, 6, in a 5-4-8 season. FIU strives to reach these goals with the addition of some talented players like Gonzalez, who was named All-Miami Dade and team MVP in his junior and senior seasons at Miami Killian Senior High School.

“He's already developed great leadership qualities,” Arena said. “I can see him making an impact right away.”

Some of the other talents that have come to FIU are defender Kevin Barber, from Lipscomb University in Nashville, defender Kness Alleyne from New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) and midfielder Icaro Marcos Cesar De Oliveira, from Tyler College in Tyler, Texas.

However, according to Arena, FIU does not plan to rely only on its incoming talent. The Panthers are also looking at their veteran leaders to provide leadership to these young players. Senior defender Anthony Hobbs is one of those being counted on to lead. He was recently in press with the New Zealand team for the Olympics.

Even though Arena and the team hope to change students' outlook of men's soccer, he realizes that the program has gone through recent struggles.

“Even though the last five years have been tough, it doesn’t take away from what FIU is capable of,” said Arena.

If the Panthers look to truly change how people view FIU soccer, then they are going to have to start off the season strong and take advantage of the few home games they will have.

Only seven of the 18 games in 2012 will be held at FIU. Arena, however, sees nothing but positivity coming from their 2012 schedule.

“Every year for me it's about the experience and the challenge of playing so many road games is exciting,” Arena said.

Though FIU will be looking to get off to a strong start, the team has their eye at the tail-end of the schedule where they begin a tough series of 10 games in which eight of the teams were ranked higher than FIU in the Conference USA standings last year.

“The rankings from last year don’t mean anything. It’s who wins at the end of the day. I’m excited that we are playing teams that did great last year but I feel this year everything is going to be different,” Arena said.

New players, new playbook and even a new head coach. All signs point toward a great year, but Arena and his team have expectations for a national championship. FIU believes they have the players with the right talent, the coaches with the right game plan, and a schedule that will encourage strong players through grinding challenges. The quest for a tournament berth begins at FIU on Aug. 24 at 7 p.m. against Bryant University.
Maurice Jones-Drew’s holdout appears far from over.

His agent, Adisa Bakari, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the Jacksonville Jaguars running back is upset with owner Shad Khan’s recent public comments about his client’s 27-day holdout.

“Maurice wants to play for an organization that wants him and for an owner who respects him and values what he brings to a team — on the field, in the locker room and in the community,” Bakari said.

ESPN reported that Jones-Drew is open to being traded.

When asked Tuesday whether he would trade Jones-Drew, Khan said he is “not going to get into all the theses and hypotheses.” Khan added that Jones-Drew is “a great player, and we would love for him to be back.”

Last week, however, Khan said MJD’s absence “doesn’t even move the needle” in terms of stress. Khan reiterated his stance Tuesday by saying, “This is not a team about one person.”

His message to Jones-Drew?

“Train’s leaving the station. Run, get on it,” Khan said.

Bakari made it clear that those statements don’t sit well with Jacksonville’s biggest star.

“Obviously, he’s not happy that what started as a very cordial and private conversation is now public and contentious,” Bakari said.

Now, with both sides seemingly digging their heels in as deeply as possibly, it is unclear when or if Jones-Drew will show up in Jacksonville. The Jaguars open the season Sept. 9 at Minnesota.

Jones-Drew’s holdout is fairly simple. He wants a new deal after leading the NFL with 1,606 yards rushing last season. He has two years remaining on a five-year, front-loaded contract worth $31 million. He is scheduled to make $4.45 million this season and $4.95 million in 2013.

Khan and general manager Gene Smith insist they have no plans to negotiate a new deal with MJD, not wanting to set a precedent of paying players with two years remaining on lucrative deals that included large signing bonuses.

Jones-Drew skipped the team’s entire offseason workout program, including a mandatory, three-day minicamp last month. If new coach Mike Mularkey is trimming Jones-Drew’s maximum allowed under the collective bargaining agreement — $20,000 for each day of minicamp and $30,000 for each day since training camp opened — the total is up to $870,000.

Mularkey said Tuesday he has had no recent contact with Jones-Drew or his agent.

Coming off a career year, Jones-Drew wants to be one of the NFL’s highest-paid backs. His average salary per year ranks behind Minnesota’s Adrian Peterson, Tennessee’s Chris Johnson, Philadelphia’s LeSean McCoy, Houston’s Arian Foster, St. Louis’ Steven Jackson, Carolina’s DeAngelo Williams and Seattle’s Marshawn Lynch.

Both sides have valid arguments.

Jones-Drew signed his deal in 2009, before rushing for at least 1,300 yards in three consecutive seasons. Not only has he seemingly outperformed his contract, MJD is the face of the franchise and probably the only player on the roster known outside small-market Jacksonville.

The Jaguars, meanwhile, paid him based on the expectation that he would flourish as a starter after spending the first three years of his career splitting carries with Fred Taylor. The team isn’t enamored with paying a running back into his 30s, especially one who takes as many pounding hits as Jones-Drew does. Plus, the Jaguars have missed the playoffs in each of his three seasons as the starter.

Jones-Drew is entering his seventh season. He has 6,854 yards rushing, 2,473 yards receiving and 74 total touchdowns. He carried a career-high 333 times last season, averaging 4.7 yards even though defenses knew he was the focal point of Jacksonville’s offense.

Opposing schools unsure of how FIU will play this year

Maurice Jones-Drew has asked the Jaguars for a new contract that he has yet to receive.
DODGING THE SECOND AMENDMENT’S BULLET—OR NOT

GENE YLLANES
Contributing Writer

The discussion has been fired up again; gun control is not a new topic in the American agenda, but recent events have reignited the flame.

The shooting attack during “The Dark Knight Rises” premiere in Aurora, Colo. on July 23 that killed 12 people and wounded 58 started the debate. It was followed by the attack on a Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, Wis., where 6 were killed and 3 were critically wounded by army veteran, Wade Michael Page.

The Second Amendment, which allows citizens the right to bear arms, has set precedent for over 200 years here in America - but now, as gun attacks are increasingly publicized, this constitutional right is being questioned.

Brad Owiye, president of the Campus Student Initiative, seems to be divided on his opinion.

“It is impossible to uphold a particular rule [or] regulation above human life,” Owiye said.

“Yet I believe that we can have both protection for citizens and the Second Amendment. One doesn’t necessarily contradict the other.”

Owiye’s opinion is reflective of much of the American public. According to the Pew Research Center from 1990 to 2012, public support for gun limitations dropped by nearly 20 percent. Each year, more and more Americans believe that the right to own a gun should be protected while gun control has continually lost support.

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The Brady Act which Block is referring to dates back to 1994 and requires all citizens to have a background check before purchasing a firearm.

John Morris, the Team Ropes Adventure Challenge program manager, believes that there need to be more restrictions.

“[Gun sellers] need to be more effective with their background checks, instead of just looking for a sale,” he said. He brings to light the darker side of human nature - one where people are motivated more by money than integrity. The fundamental problem with gun control has nothing to do with guns themselves; in fact, it is the people who possess them.

Sandra Woehlkens, a study abroad student from Germany majoring in hospitality, believes regulations should be more strict.

“Weapons are ridiculous for me because [no one] is allowed to have guns [in Germany] only police officers and hunters.”

However, she explains that even hunters need to have a license, and when they have it, the gun needs to be locked in the house away from any other person without a license.

Woehlkens acknowledges that violence exists independently of guns, yet she affirms regulations would be helpful.

“Guns are not the only thing that hurt people, but with regulations you can minimize the problem.”

SELMIA HUSSAIN
Contributing Writer

Dexter Quinn is driving on Biscayne Boulevard trying to get to his 11 a.m. physics lab class, while cars screech, hail, and honk around him.

He weaves in and out of lanes pressing the accelerator harder to speed up the journey, just to find himself stuck behind the accelerator. He weaves in and out of lanes pressing the accelerator harder to speed up the journey, just to find himself stuck behind the accelerator. It’s harder to speed up the journey, just to find himself stuck behind the accelerator. I don’t usually make headlines while driving.

“I feel like girls are very careful drivers. Guys… I don’t feel they follow road rules as much. [They] drive very fast, and I’ve been cut off so many times by guys who don’t put on their signal,” she said.

According to research conducted by David Gerard, a Carnegie Mellon University professor, men are 77 percent more likely to get in an automobile accident than women.

Melinda Pointdjual, junior majoring in nursing, often thinks that bad driving is related to texting or making phone calls while driving.

“College students are always texting,” she said.

However, she believes stereotyping is always on the move, on the road.

“Everybody is going to stereotype at the end of the day,” she said. “Everybody will think there’s a reason for a person to drive badly because the way they are raised or [because of] different back-grounds. We are all different.”

Are scathing stereotypes driving you?