**Undocumented youth apply for deferment**

**Natalie Baez**
Contributing Writer

Undocumented students eligible for deferred action were officially able to apply on Aug. 15. A few days later, the University’s College of Law was there to help.

On Saturday, Aug. 25, the University hosted a free workshop for undocumented youth who meet the requirements to apply for temporary residency through the Deferred Action for Child Arrivals policy, announced by President Barack Obama on June 15.

The workshop, held at the College of Law, was organized in conjunction with People Improving Communities through Organizing, Americans for Immigrant Justice, Students Working for Equal Rights and the Florida Immigrant Coalition.

Local attorneys working pro bono joined the effort, ensuring that the young adults applying knew the requirements for eligibility and, for those who met the requirements, helped them accurately fill out the forms necessary to be granted deferred action.

DACA grants eligible individuals two years of legal stay in the U.S. During this time, these young adults may get a driver’s license and acquire employment authorization.

George Duman, SWER volunteer, aspiring cinematographer and DREAMer, said, “I’m a student. I pay three times as much as a citizen would. It was an amazing feeling to hear about DACA on the news. Finally something for us.”

Duman explained one of his fears.

**See Dreamers, Page 2**

**CALL ME MAYBE**

Rosa Jones, outgoing vice president of Student Affairs, and Mark Rosenberg, University president celebrate Jones’ 40 years of service to University.

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**See Dreamers, Page 2**

**Undergraduate Education**

**Mariella Roque**
Staff Writer

**Freshmen get early start on their majors**

Incoming freshmen will now be more likely to graduate on time.

The Graduation Success Initiative is a University-wide resource aimed to help students graduate in a timely manner. The initiative began last fall when Dean Douglas Robertson of Undergraduate Education found that Arizona State University has a student population similar to that of FIU; the difference between the two universities is that ASU has a higher graduation rate.

Following this finding, a team of FIU faculty and administrators flew to Arizona and spent a week studying ASU’s system to determine what parts could be integrated into FIU.

“The provost mandated that this was something we needed to do,” said Director of the Office of Retention and Graduation Success, Consuelo Boronat. The GSI is composed of Major Maps and My_eAdvisor.

According to the GSI website, gsi.fiu.edu, incoming freshmen will now be more likely to graduate on time. The GSI is composed of Major Maps and My_eAdvisor.

The plan provides students with information on what classes they should take during specific semesters.

“We are trying to encourage people to graduate in four years because there’s data showing that the sooner someone graduates, the more money they end up making,” Boronat said. “Students who start and graduate in four years make two million dollars on average more than students who never graduate—that’s retirement, a comfortable retirement.”

Maps for part-time students will also be made available next spring, according to Boronat.

In order to account for students taking fewer classes a semester, maps for part-time students will map graduation to five years, instead of four.

Boronat shared that students who begin their first year part-time have a 10 percent graduation rate during their first year.

“I find it heart-breaking,” Boronat said. “That’s very, very low... I think people get discouraged because it takes too long.”

Maps for students who have not chosen a major are called exploratory maps. These

**See Mapping, Page 2**

**Isaac skirts University**

**Mariella Roque**
Staff Writer

Tropical Storm Isaac grazed South Florida last Sunday and residents bunkered down to wait it out. The University was not an exception.

According to Susan Vernon, a senior in computer science who spent the weekend in her University Park Towers dorm on the Modesto Madrigal Campus, “everything was pretty normal,” despite being “on lockdown.”

“I could leave the building as I pleased, although I was heavily advised not to,” Vernon explained.

Vernon shared that, although she did not see emergency personnel, she never felt that she was in danger.

“The power never went out,” Vernon said. “Overall, the weekend was relaxing. I met many of my neighbors and drank a lot of hot chocolate.”

Janiel Vargas, a graduate student in higher education administration, weathered the storm in Bay Vista Housing on the Biscayne Bay Campus.

“At no point throughout the duration of the storm did [I] ever feel unsafe riding it out in my dorm,” Vargas said. “[The University] kept us constantly abreast as to the status of the storm.”

Being a tropical storm at the time, Isaac’s winds did not exceed 65 miles per hour as it skirted Florida, according to the National Hurricane Center.

**See Storm, Page 2**

**Panther Wire**

Mon, Wed & Fri 11am-2pm. Listen in to 881.953.969, fiusm.com

**Frances Francia/The Beacon**

**UNdergradUate edUcatioN**

**Mariella Roque**
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**See Mapping, Page 2**
Rain leads to leaks

STORM, PAGE 1

“The main thing about Isaac was the heavy rain,” said Hugh Willoughby, a research professor at the department of earth sciences. [The University] "was concerned about people being on the road, getting the storms, and being aware of the weather." Willoughby attributed the cancellation of operations on both campuses to the rain, which were closed from Saturday evening to early Monday.

[The University] was a bit conservative, but it’s a lot of people to be responsible for,” Willoughby said. “This student had the potential to be much worse than it was.” Willoughby also mentioned the University having suffered “only superficial damage,” such as scattered debris, and speculated that, due to the rain, “things may start leaking that we didn’t think about.”

The main aftereffects of the storm on Miami were power outages and about 3.5 inches of rain running from Key West to Orlando, according to the Miami Herald. “The University has had a lot more experience since 2004 and 2005,” Willoughby said. He explained that the buildings at the University were designed to be “disaster-resistant” and “hurricane-resistant.”

People’s ‘decision-making has become more realistic,” Willoughby said “as a city responded well.”

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CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 24, Issue 7 of The Beacon on page 1 the headline that read “University fills VP vacancy” should read “University fills VP vacancy” instead of the headline that read “University fills VP vacancy”.

The editorial team regrets any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.
Getting by with a little help from a stranger

JENNA KEFAUVER  
Staff Writer

If you’ve ever gone to the Green Library at the Modesto Maidique Campus then it’s probable you’ve seen the giant booths between Starbucks and the escalators. And unless you’ve gotten to the library at 5 a.m., it’s very probable you’ve never sat in one.

Every day I walk in there I see an empty booth, that is until I see one person sitting in a booth made for at least six. And most of the time, that one person is asleep. Which makes me both very sad and somewhat irrationally angry.

Especially when I go on a day when the library has been open for about 20 minutes, in a tropical storm, and I still can’t sit down.

So here’s my idea everyone, let’s share. Haven’t you heard that sharing is caring? Make friends, share a table. Have an engaging conversation over coffee and a bagel. Or do what I do and sit at the booth with the guy asleep on his side of the booth; he’s not conscious so he has no clue what’s happening anyway. And if he wakes up, chances are he’ll look at you confused for about two seconds, realize he doesn’t care and pass out again.

One request about sharing though. Please don’t use them as your marital bed. I already see enough post-coital couples outside my place of work daily. I don’t want to see more while attempting to study and realizing I have to go attempt to fight for a place upstairs because couples can’t wait until they get home to cuddle and whatever else they happen to be doing.

Couples outside my place of work daily, I don’t want to see more while attempting to study and realizing I have to go attempt to fight for a place upstairs because couples can’t wait until they get home to cuddle and whatever else they happen to be doing.

But seriously guys, who knows what could happen if you just share a booth one day? You could meet your future wife, future husband, maybe even your future best man or maid of honor for your wedding.

So pull up a spot on a bench and possibly make some new, lifelong friends. Or feel really awkward for 10 minutes before you can attempt to nonchalantly walk away.

Que sera, sera. Just share. Make the world a better place. One library booth at a time.

JUNETTE REYES  
Staff Writer

The University has gained recognition by being classified as a top-tier research university by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, putting it in the ranks of the nation’s leading research universities. The University’s Department of Psychology alone has been a significant factor in developing its standing in research.

Areas of interest, such as industrial/organizational, legal, behavioral analysis, clinical and developmental psychology are all explored by the Department’s faculty in various labs. These studies range from improving the accuracy of eyewitness reports to improving the workplace and the performance of employees for the advancement of an organization’s success.

Student involvement in the research studies conducted by the various labs is one of the influential factors of the studies by the Department, for it works in its favor in two ways.

The labs have ease of access to both participants for their research as well as possible candidates for research assistants all from the University’s student population.

In terms of participants, it really all depends on whether the professor of a course is allowing his or her students to receive extra credit in this manner through FIU Sona Systems, a website in which students can sign up for studies listed and view their progress as they earn credits. More likely than not, the professors allowing their students to participate.

According to the final fall 2011 headcount, the undergraduate enrollment of psychology majors represented a mere 3,006 students of the full 47,966. There is pride shown in the University being a force in the research community but it cannot reach its full capacity if the pool from which they receive their participants is not expanded.

Although it does make sense that psychology students are the only ones technically capable of participating, it should not be limited to just them. A larger population could possibly improve the way the studies are conducted, which could enhance the way these studies help in real-life situations.

Of course, involving more students would present the issue of providing them with incentives to participate. This can be as simple as professors cooperating with the Department to allow their students to earn extra credit by participating, as some psychology professors do.

If not this, the Department would have to encourage the additional students to participate with offerings such as meal vouchers or $5 checks.

As previously mentioned, research assistants can also be acquired through the student population. While some studies might have specific requirements, students can, for the most part, apply without having much experience.

So those that have not taken Research Methods (SYA 3300) yet should not be discouraged from volunteering. In fact, those that have taken the course tend to be closer to graduating, meaning they would have less time available to help out in studies that go on for a longer period of time.

Psychology students in their early years are more preferable, seeing as they have more time ahead of them to volunteer.

Besides being beneficial to the study, students can also gain much-needed experience, which can help them get into other labs as well as work in their favor beyond their undergraduate studies.

The Department has certainly shown its effort in striving for excellence through research but this does not mean there is not room for improvement.

In this case, it applies more to the student involvement. An increase in both participant numbers and volunteer numbers should be encouraged, for it could only mean good things for the Department and, in the case of volunteering, the students as well.

Send us your letters

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to jonathan.szydlo@fiu.edu or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

Disclaimer

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editors and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

Editorial policy

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to jonathan.szydlo@fiu.edu.

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UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA STUDENTS DISCUSS VOTING

By JUNETTE REYES

With his first term as pres-ident coming to a close, new voters will get the chance to decide if he deserves a second term or not.

Some students are excited by the opportunity to flex their democratic muscle and decide who the next president will be. When asked why he chose to vote in this election junior jour-nal major, Randy Van said, “It’s the first time I get to vote.” Van expressed that he would likely cast a vote for Obama. A certain sense of maturity also accompanies the excitement of exercising one’s right to vote. This is the case for Paola Franceschi, a junior and journalism major. When asked about the prospect of voting for the first time Franceschi replied, “I feel old.” Despite this feeling, Franceschi said she would make it to the polls to vote for Obama.

Although exciting, the pros-pect of voting for the first time isn’t enough to drive everyone to the polls. For example, juniors, Noel Buranday and Kiara Amodt have chosen not to vote in the upcoming election. Buranday, health service administration major, believed he wouldn’t have the time to go out and vote. “I’m too busy with schoolwork and my job,” he explained.

On the other hand, expressed no interest in voting at all. The public relations major expressed skepticism over vote’s value saying, “I don’t really think it makes a difference.” Voting isn’t for everyone. But, those students who do decide to vote are then faced with the task of deciding what to do with their vote. There are many different factors that go into choosing which candidate to vote for. When asked why she would vote for Barack Obama this November junior journalism major, RaShonda Jackson explained, “I go by party.” Freshman biology major, Jacob Salzman also expressed party loyalty as an reason he would vote for Romney although he said that he didn’t feel that any candidate is exceptionally better. Despite his republican lean-ings Salzman also expressed disappointment in Obama’s recent term. “I believe he could have done a better job.”

No matter what candidate prevails, students should make sure that they are registered to vote under their current address.

One way students can register to vote or change their registrata-tion address is by speaking with the various campus representa-tives stationed around campus like Janet Occidental. Occidental found her way to the University campus through an exchange program from her school in Los Angeles that allowed her to work for the Obama campaign. She expressed that since Florida is a swing state, a student’s individual vote could drastically change their bank account.

You can vote in a difference between a student loan having a high interest rate, or a low interest rate,” she said.

Framed in the Florida Union, the “Vote to make a difference” campaign sign encourages students to register to vote.

JUNETTE REYES

UNIVERSITY ALUMNA INES SERRITELLA DANCES THE ROYAL ASHES

By JUNETTE REYES

University alumna Maria Ines Serritella has danced her way into an acting career. She strayed quite a bit from the Bachelor of Arts she received from the College of Education in 1997 when she pursued her passion for dancing that began years before.

From there, I received a full scholarship to work with New World School of the Arts in Downtown Miami for high school. Right there, I received a full scholarship to attend the NWSA College Program, where I stayed for two years to acquire my Associate’s of Arts in Dance. I was then offered a full scholarship to attend the Bachelor of Fine Arts Program at NWSA, but I let that go in order to finish my Bachelor of Science in Education at FIU.

Did you ever do anything specifically with FIU, performance wise?

I did work with instructors and choreog-raphers that were on staff with FIU because they were also working as adjunct staff with NWSA.

So, since I was at NWSA, I had the opportunity to work with those FIU instruc-tors as well, but on the NWSA campus. But actual performances in the FIU theater, no I have not yet had the opportunity to perform.

But I would love to.

At what point did you know that this is what you wanted to pursue as a career?

That clicked when I was in my senior year of NWSA High School. I was like, “This is what I want to do.” I want to dance with (at the time) Freddie Bratcher and Company. It was the Miami-based jazz and contem-porary modern dance company. I was just in awe of them and was completely struck when he invited me to join his company as a soloist. That, for me, was a real turning point.

What would you say to someone pursuing a career in dance?

Be polite. Be appreciative. Be persis-tent. Fully commit. Be open to taking direction and constructive criticism. Don’t shy away from what you know you can do. Say “please” and “thank you.” These things really do go a long way.

Always approach things with a positive attitude. Smile when you meet somebody. Shake a hand, if that’s appropriate. People really do enjoy working with others who come with that disciplined attitude versus someone who is going to be problematic or diva-ish.

Serritella will be in the short film, “Out of Time,” by Iris Saunders as a leading role known simply as Secretary. The film is in its pre-production stage and centers on the topic of modern day slavery in the U.S.

She will also be involved in a “Random Acts of Culture” exhibition, funded by the Knight Foundation. The exhibition is set to occur on Sept. 1 in a location that has yet to be disclosed. She is also going to perform with fellow ‘Soulé’ dancer Primer Water in the Art Live Fair 2012, which is set to occur Oct. 26-28, so keep a look out for this multi talented FIU grad.

- junette.reyes@fiusm.com

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Friday, August 31, 2012

2012 ELECTION

Some students consider voting, others “too busy”

By JUNETTE REYES

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- junette.reyes@fiusm.com
Looking back on Tony Scott’s most memorable
directors.

T he news of Tony Scott’s death a couple of weeks ago came as a sad shock to film fans everywhere, especially those with fond memories of his ‘80s hit “Top Gun.”

“Top Gun,” as it is known through Scott’s signature sound. The production takes advantage of this dynamic, often separating the track and changing the origins of the vocals, accentuating the multitude of voices, which stays true to the live shows, and makes the record interesting to listen to on headphones. “Just from Chervon” for instance, collapses Coffman’s vocals to the right channel along with Longstreth’s guitar, while rhythmic clapping takes over the left, as the song builds up the sounds unite, only to separate once more later in the track. This draws a parallel to the reactions from the listener. If you’ve only heard about this band because of “Bitte Orca,” this record might not necessarily feel as “fun” as the prior LP; there is no “Stillness is the Move” type of dance-along song, but in reality, the record doesn’t need it.

It feels far more rewarding listening experience when compared to BO and presents a far more earnest approach to songwriting — both musically and lyrically. “Dance For You,” one of the stand out cuts from this album — and possibly the summer — presents a romantic serenade of devotion for a lover’s happiness, and working a simple drumming pattern into a more ornate string arrangement that create a shimmering sense of bliss in the song. “Maybe That Was It” also stands out in this album, despite its completely different mood. The dark, nostalgic guitar work, more akin to Longstreth’s inspiration of West African music leads to a very emotion-ally charged anthem of blame and regret. This plays well thematically with other tracks such as “Gun Has No Trigger,” where constant buildup of an impending suicide is only thwarted by the mechanical malfunctioning of a weapon, leading to a release of both frustration and life as death is prevented, much to the chagrin of the perpetrator, reflected in the burst of vocal harmonies.

Dirty Projectors have always been a challenging listen, if not for the overtly structured to the point of chaotic music of albums past, then for the emotional nature of their songs. It’s very refreshing to see this certain eagerness for challenge and innovation turn into a rewarding and highly entertaining experience as “Swing Lo Magellan” offers.

Radial review is a weekly music review column. Email life@fiusm.com.

DIGITAL REVIEWS

Swing Lo Magellan: an explosion of Indie sound

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Pass defense the focus in first game of new season

Kedrick Rhodes (above) returns this season after running for over 1,000 yards last year.

BRANDON WISE
Sports Director

The secondary is often referred to as a security blanket. Heck, even one of the positions is called a “safety.” When FIU played Duke last year, somebody took the safety off and let the Blue Devils run free.

Last season, the Blue Devils came into FIU and threw up and down the field on the secondary, racking up for 300 passing yards and three touchdowns in route to a 31-27 victory.

“We certainly cannot play the same as we did last year. An extraordinary amount of attention was put to helping us prevent big plays following that game.”

From the Duke perspective, the majority believe that FIU’s speed is their biggest concern heading into Saturday’s matchup, including head coach David Cutcliffe.

“We don’t have a T.Y. Hilton, we have a lot of good football players capable of making a lot of big plays,” Cristobal said. “But we don’t have that year.”

While the receivers may lack the production of Hilton, the Blue Devils connected for seven big plays, including the duo of Renfree and Vernon, now captains of the team, multiple times.

“They’re timing is off the charts. They obviously spend a lot of time practicing together,” said Cristobal. “You hear coach Cutchliff talk about the 2.8 seconds in terms of getting rid of the football, that’s accurate.”

The secondary will have their hands full this week with the Duke Receiving Corps, and Cristobal knows that his squad has to remain disciplined throughout the game.

“If you’re not discipline with your eyes, they’ll catch you in what they do with their play-action,” Cristobal said. “We certainly cannot play the same as we did last year. An extraordinary amount of attention was put to helping us prevent big plays following that game.”

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LUI S D. GUTIÉR E Z
Staff Writer

Four years ago, a slender receiver from Miami Springs Senior High signed a letter of intent to continue his football career at FIU with a desire to make a name for himself.

“I believe we need to execute things that we didn’t do as well last year, some coverages, some mishaps, some things that we did wrong. Being discipline in our assignments,” said Cyprien.

Quarterback Sean Renfree and wide receiver Conner Vernon connect eight times including head coach David Cutcliffe.

Preseason Accolades
Kendrick Rhodes
Doak Walker Watch List
Preseason All-Sun Belt Conference
First team All-Sun Belt in: Athlon’s, Blue Ribbon, CBSSports.com, Lindy’s and Phil Steele

Preseason Accolades
Winston Fraser
Rotary Lombardi Award Watch List
Preseason All-Sun Belt Conference
First team All-Sun Belt in: Athlon’s, Blue Ribbon, CBSSports.com, Lindy’s and Phil Steele

Cristobal is expecting better execution against Duke this year.

However, if the roster in place serves as a precedent towards upcoming success, finding that spark plug could be a simple task. Head coach Mario Cristobal understands the hole heading into this season.

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While the receivers may lack the production of Hilton, the Blue Devils connected for seven big plays, including the duo of Renfree and Vernon, now captains of the team, multiple times.

“They’re timing is off the charts. They obviously spend a lot of time practicing together,” said Cristobal. “You hear coach Cutchliff talk about the 2.8 seconds in terms of getting rid of the football, that’s accurate.”

The secondary will have their hands full this week with the Duke Receiving Corps, and Cristobal knows that his squad has to remain disciplined throughout the game.

“If you’re not discipline with your eyes, they’ll catch you in what they do with their play-action,” Cristobal said. “We certainly cannot play the same as we did last year. An extraordinary amount of attention was put to helping us prevent big plays following that game.”

From the Duke perspective, the majority believe that FIU’s speed is their biggest concern heading into Saturday’s matchup, including head coach David Cutcliffe.

LUI S D. GUTIÉR E Z
Staff Writer

Four years ago, a slender receiver from Miami Springs Senior High signed a letter of intent to continue his football career at FIU with a desire to make a name for himself.

“I believe we need to execute things that we didn’t do as well last year, some coverages, some mishaps, some things that we did wrong. Being discipline in our assignments,” said Cyprien.

Quarterback Sean Renfree and wide receiver Conner Vernon connect eight times including head coach David Cutcliffe.

Preseason Accolades
Kendrick Rhodes
Doak Walker Watch List
Preseason All-Sun Belt Conference
First team All-Sun Belt in: Athlon’s, Blue Ribbon, CBSSports.com, Lindy’s and Phil Steele

Preseason Accolades
Winston Fraser
Rotary Lombardi Award Watch List
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Offense, Page 6

Gore, known for his football bloodlines, was also known for his cut-back skills, speed and elusive-ness during his time at Columbus. He is expected to sit out the upcoming year under guidelines of the NCAA’s transfer rules, but is a potential bright light for the Panthers going forward.

FIU also returns four of its five top receivers from last season, including Wayne Times who alongside Hilton was part of a special team unit that finished first nationally in punt returns in 2010 to eleven appear-ances in 2011, and also made headlines after solid outings during two of the three preseason scrimmages. Glenn Coleman, Dominique Rhymes, and Ohio State transfer James Louis round out the corps post-Hilton that can prove to be an effec-tive unit.

At quarterback, Jake Medlock enters his first season at the helm replacing graduated senior Wes Carroll. Medlock made his way onto FIU’s radar last season by completing 17 of 27 passes and throwing for 216 yards in a loss to Louis-ianna-Lafayette, the season’s first for the Panthers. He went on to make his first start against rival FAU where he notched a season-high 18 completions on 24 attempts and threw his first career touchdown to date.

To no surprise, the Panthers have now given Medlock the keys to Cramsey’s offense heading into Saturday night’s season opener at Duke. But rest assured there is no shortage of talent behind him. Before redshirting and sitting last season out, Lorenzo Hammond came to FIU labeled by ESPN as South Carolina’s best high school football player in 2010. He threw for 2,446 yards and 21 touchdowns, and rushed for 652 yards and 14 touchdowns in a breakout junior campaign for North Augusta high school.

E.J. Hilliard arrives as a true freshman this year, and with a similar track record. As a senior at local powerhouse Miami Northwestern, he threw for 2,010 yards and 18 touchdowns on 21 attempts and notched nine touch-downs on the ground, thus earning First team All-Dade county honors.

Panther fans and coaches will miss Hilton’s fireworks. However, the extent of how much they long for his skills will depend on the offense in place. With a preseason all-conference pick in Rhodes and a flashy playmaker in Times, fireworks could still be present this batch of Saturdays at Alfonso Field. At one point, T.Y. Hilton was just that guy with a desire to make a name for himself. With his absence already in effect, it’s time for another one to do the same.

Brandon Wise
Biscayne Bay Campus introduces paddleboarding

SKYLAR SIGEEL
Contributing Writer

Students with problems balancing work and play can try to find it - on a paddleboard.

A new sport has been introduced to the Biscayne Bay Campus Sept. 1 with the first paddleboarding event to take place at BBC. Followed by two other events on Oct. 6 and Nov. 3.

“It is a new and upcoming sport here in Miami,” said Jonathan Torrey, departmental administrator recreation specialist for BBC. “It came to my attention to start the sport here on our campus, since we already have kayaking and other aquatic sports here.”

Paddleboarding is a water sport where a person stands, sits or kneels on a board and propels him or herself using a paddle. It’s a combination of surfing and kayaking.

The launch will take place behind the aquatic center where there is an entry point to the bay.

There will be three time slots for each event, trip one will launch off at 9:30 a.m., trip two at 11:15 a.m. and finally the third trip will launch at 1 p.m.

Torrey explained that paddleboarding is a healthy sport because a person has to use both upper and lower body strength.

“It’s definitely a real workout, but the great thing about the sport is that it is actually enjoyable, which is why I think students will really find it exciting,” said go-to host and instructor for the event.

A total of 15 students are expected to participate and all slots have been filled. Students can participate for free and guests can participate for a $10 fee.

Participants should bring a swimsuit, hat, sunglasses, towel, sunscreen and any other items they would bring for a day of fun in the sun.

“Forme, having a paddleboard is like having a boat. In fact, it’s even better than a boat because you can approach the wildlife without scaring them away,” said Brenda Lowe, alumnus with a bachelor’s in journalism. “I’ve seen countless types of animals on my paddleboard - manatees, dolphins, sharks, stingrays, alligators, even tiny seahorses.”

The recreation department has attained five paddleboards to utilize in the event and is hopeful for additional department funding so that they could be able to purchase more. That way, the campus can hold larger events for more participants.

“For now, the five boards are ideal for the event, which is why we have three launch times so the 15 participants can divide into three groups, allowing everyone the opportunity to get in the action,” said Torrey. Torrey feels that paddleboarding will be exciting for students.

“After all what other campus has the Biscayne Bay right in their backyard?”

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Dream Machine picking up steam

FILIP PANOVSKI
Staff Writer

Plastic bottles and aluminum cans don’t need to go to waste.

Near the beginning of the spring 2013 semester, the Biscayne Bay and Modesto Maidique campuses saw a new addition to their landscape: the Pepsi Co. Dream Machine.

The Dream Machine is part of an initiative undertaken by Pepsi Co. in partnership with Waste Management, the country’s largest recycling company.

The machine itself is fitted with an interactive display, allowing frequent recyclers to be rewarded with redeemable points.

So far, the Dream Machines have accumulated more than 31,053 plastic bottles and around 6,000 aluminum cans, corresponding to around 2,500 pounds of recycled material.

Carrie Kashar, assistant director of the Office of University Sustainability, believes that awareness is one of the most important factors in getting people to recycle.

Earth Day and Recyclemania have been some of the events associated with an increase in environmental awareness and recycling rate. The University is taking the top spot in the latter event this year with around 250,000 pounds of recycled material.

Kashar is enthusiastic to see the University working towards the state-mandated requirement of a 75 percent recycling rate.

“It’s just a matter of awareness and we’re slowly getting there,” she said.

The University plans to implement a 30-50 percent recycling rate by 2015, and reach the state requirement by 2020.

Recently, students recycle only around 15 percent of their plastic bottles – a number that is foreseen to sharply increase as more events and Dream Machines are added around the campuses.

Unfortunately, Kashar notes that more Dream Machines may not be as easy to come by.

“The machines were a donation by Pepsi Co., around $30,000 in value, so we’re trying to contact them and get them to contact a few more right now,” she said.

Some students had a positive reaction towards the Dream Machines’ concept but feel more information is necessary.

“There needs to be more advertising on the machines and a little more information on how FIU is trying to go green, but it’s a good start,” said Brian De Paula, a junior majoring in biology.

De Paula would be more inclined to use it if a neat set of instructions was put next to the machine informing people of its capabilities.

John Pisciotta, a freshman majoring in biology, never used the machines, but he thought that the addition of a recycling bin near every trash can is a good idea because it makes people recycle without having to walk much.

“I’m taking classes where a lot of the materials are online, on Blackboard, and professors encourage us to print them out all the time – sometimes 20 pages at a time and bring them to class. It defeats the purpose of it being an online class.”

The machines still lack redeemable coupons for local vendors on campus, most of which are present on the national level.

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