Romney and Obama: students weigh in

DIEGO SALDAÑA-ROJAS 
Contributing Writer

Speakers, stickers and posters welcomed students as they gathered around the screen to watch President Barack Obama speak last Thursday night.

The convention watch party was hosted by the FIU College Democrats on the first floor of the Green Library on Sept. 6, where students watched speakers on and off the screen.

Joe Garcia, who is currently running for a seat in congress, briefly addressed the gathering. Garcia also took the opportunity to ask for support in his campaign. The University is part of the district Garcia would be representing if elected.

Before Barack Obama and Mitt Romney can go head-to-head in the presidential elections they must first be formally nominated by their respective political parties. The nominations for president are formally announced at each party’s convention.

Senator Marco Rubio, a Cuban-American native to south Florida, opened up his speech by asking those who were present to keep Cuba in their prayers as they gathered around the screen to watch President Barack Obama speak.

Later on in his speech, Governor Romney also briefly mentioned Cuba.

“We Americans have always felt a special kinship with the future when every new wave of immigrants looked up and saw the statue of liberty or knelt down and kissed the shores of freedom just 90 miles from Castro’s tyranny.”

A theme present at the RNC was the attempt to make Mitt Romney more likable, a view that is supported by junior finance and accounting major Norberto Esquivel, a supporter of the Republican party.

Esquivel stated, “That’s what the convention was trying to do, make him seem like a good person, not that boss you don’t want to work for.”

Recuset also holds the view that the Republican convention attempted to humanize Romney. He stated, “A lot of people view him as very out of touch because he is a business man.”

Both of the presidential candidates wives also spoke at the convention and both used emotional stories to humanize and rally support for their respective husbands. Both mentioned their experiences in college with their husbands and how they were trying times for both.

Michelle Obama directly mentioned how she and her brother were recipients of financial aid. She also mentioned that her husband is in favor of increasing student aid and lowering interest rates on loans.

Recuset said that this year’s conventions served as more of a rally to get party members excited about voting and the prospect of winning.

Junior English major Kerion Williams, who supports Obama but is an Independent, shared a similar view in saying that he relates both conventions to “pep rallies.”

Where Williams and Recuset differ is in the view of the individual conventions themselves.

“I feel like the Republicans are more based on blind anger…it’s like Republicans are throwing a tantrum during the convention,” Williams said.

Democratic supporter Ivan Aguilar, senior sociology major, thinks that the Republican convention’s agenda is more about making sure President Obama is not re-elected rather than supporting Governor Romney.

Recuset agrees with Aguilar’s statement, but believes it is merely a matter of ideology.

“The Republicans have always wanted to have Obama out. It’s right versus left wing at all times.”

Richard Leonard returned a 47-yard punt for a touchdown to give FIU the lead late in the game against Akron. Check out fiusm.com for full coverage on the game.

University President addresses critical issues

MELHOR LEONOR 
News Director

In the midst of an academic year challenged by Florida’s economy and with a student population crossing the 50,000 mark, University President Mark Rosenberg explains how the University plans to do more, with less.

Student Media sat down with the president to discuss what services he wants to improve, the University’s ongoing Strategic Plan and other university issues.

FIU Students: Some students note that most of the construction they see on campus is part of the Academic Health Center and the College of Medicine. Are there any plans in the future to fund the building and remodeling of other departments? Rosenberg: Yes, there’s a lot of investment in the
Legal status no longer reflected in tuition bills

MIRIAM ARIAS  
Staff Writer

The legal status of their parents will no longer be reflected on the tuition bills of undocumented students.

Currently enrolled at the University and approaching graduation, senior and sociology major Ivan Aguilar remembers a time in his life when things seemed uncertain and indefinite.

At the age of 10, Aguilar was brought to the U.S. without papers by his mother, who was also undocumented at the time.

In an interview with Student Media, Aguilar explained the difficulties experienced by his mother.

“My mom did everything; she cooked, worked at flower warehouses, worked at clothing factories. The jobs were odd and changing,” Aguilar explained.

Both Aguilar and his mother have attained legal citizenship.

He also mentioned that his younger sister, who was born and currently resides in Florida, would be asked to pay out-of-state tuition because she is considered a nonresident.

According to Roman's assessments, young adults who meet the criteria should be eligible to pay in-state tuition just like their children.

Another important subject for Roman is the deferred action passed by President Barack Obama.

The young adults who fall under this criterion are those who have lived in the U.S. for a minimum of five years, arrived before the age of 16 and are 30 or younger.

Though the action in no way guarantees the attainment of legal citizenship, it will allow immigrants to receive a permit to work.

In-state tuition fees, however, do not apply to them.

Similar to the example of Aguilar, many young adults find themselves in this situation and although Aguilar received legal citizenship, many others have not been so lucky.

According to Roman’s assessments, young adults should be eligible to pay in-state tuition just like their children.

Roman believes that the deferred action passed by President Obama is a step in the right direction.

President Candidate Mitt Romney does not support the deferred action.

“It is an act of courage that they out themselves,” Roman said. “My hope is to continue to fight for the Dream Act.”

With Obama and Romney at ends on this issue, the future of this deferred action is still to be determined.

- miriam.arias@fiusm.com
Greek life, hell on earth

ALEX SORONDO
Asst Opinion Editor

Rush week has ended and, for better or worse, more have fallen to the fanaticism of Greek life.

I speak as an outsider, of course; a plebeian; a measly “GDI,” as they so charmingly label us. (I won’t spell out the acronym for you here. Rather, I encourage you to approach the nearest sorority or fraternity member and ask them yourself.)

Being uninitiated, having never pledged a fraternity nor set foot in a frat house, the immediate and valid rebuttal to my skepticism about Greek life will be that, in my simple naïveté and obstinacy, I fear what I don’t understand, and refuse to understand what I fear.

“We can speak only of the general risk in having them on campus, and weigh the pros against the cons.”

The argument has also been made that those of us who regard Greek life with suspicion and disdain do so out of envy. The parties, the familial camaraderie, the luxuries. We “independents” suspect we won’t fit in, and so rather than risking our self-esteem by pleading and being rejected we just deme them from afar.

The logic is clear. But while the philanthropic efforts of Greek organizations, when put together, do not yield gargantuan benefits for a range of charities, the overwhelming experience of its many members is perhaps immeasurably enhanced. Greek life is nonetheless, in the minds of many, paired by immeasurable association with elitism, gorging expenses, and—at least at our University—political corruption.

Let’s not forget rape. A few bad apples, the common Greek response has it, shouldn’t reflect the health of the bunch. Very true.

But when speaking of an institution that proves, consistently, to be corrupt and, in pockets, void of scruples (responsible, as they are, for everything from rape to granting certain leniencies in one’s definition of torture—“hazing”), there seems to me no objection to its inquisitiveness. Rebuttal: “Is the institution responsible for the indiscretions of its members?”

To a degree, yes. Sororities and fraternities tell their members incessantly that they, as individuals, reflect the integrity of the organization. Punishments are in order, for certain groups, for members who appear on Facebook with alcohol. They pursue the overwhelming majority, an upstanding image, encouraging charity and good will.

But people have been killed by hazings, women have been raped, and it’s all gonna continue.

It isn’t fair to speak of the moral fiber of each individual member on the basis of sparse crime; nor, even, to speak of the integrity of every sorority or fraternity.

We can speak only of the general risk in having them on campus, and weigh the pros against the cons.

Imagine, however, a group of rich men coming to our university, asking for housing.

The men tell us, in a public address, that they promise to give us tremendous parties, to donate $1 billion to charity each year, and to serve the University with unflinching devotion for the duration of their stay.

In exchange, however, one of them will kill a student every few years by forcing the kid to drink himself to death, and he’ll rape a handful of women each year.

Meanwhile, he and the rest of the group will be putting money toward cancer research, feeding the poor, having no scruples. All we have to do is look away.

For some, it’s worth it, and I can see the rationale; I, however, would rather not be complicit.

-Jenna Kefauver
Staff Writer

This week I did the last thing I ever thought I would do. I went through Panhel Sorority Recruitment.

I never really liked sororities. But for some reason, about two weeks ago, I decided that I should pursue one. I had lost was $40 and five weeknights. So on Friday, Aug. 31, about 30 minutes before the registration deadline, I ran into the Campus Life office, and turned in my application, part of me confident and a much larger part of me wondering what I had just done.

With butterflies in my stomach, I tried to assure myself that one of the sororities would recruit me. But, no matter how often I reassured myself, I couldn’t fight this feeling that I was going to show up on Bid Day and my Bid Card would say “No, just go home.”

My boyfriend, ever the reassurer, asked me the next night: “What happens if someone doesn’t get picked?”, to which I responded. “You go home to your friends and cry.”

I’ll be honest, I’m pretty awkward. I am socially inept when it comes to small talk, and then when I start talking, I don’t stop. It was cause enough, I thought, to doubt whether I could convince at least one of the seven sororities to choose me from 500 other, probably more sorority-esque girls.

At the Meet Your Rho Gamma night, they played a video, which almost made me cry. A surprise in that I wasn’t expecting to trigger my emotions; slightly less a surprise in that I cry at just about anything. I felt, feeling excited, planning my outfits for the rest of the week, but still absolutely terrified of rejection, and confused by feelings I was having.

They told us that night, when we asked how we’d know which sorority to join, that we would “just know”, that we’d “feel at home”. Which sounded like a lot of evasive nonsense to me at the time.

But when I went to Sorority 101, I felt that my image, not like I could spend the rest of my life in that room, but I was getting comfortable. Maybe this was because it was becoming somewhat more comfortable in my own skin and didn’t feel like passing out anymore.

The bad thing about sorority recruitment is that they ask you the same questions they ask 500 other girls, and they get relatively similar answers every time. You have to be that one different girl. So I tried to switch up the day I wound my answer each time.

At the end of that night, four out of seven of the sororities had dropped me. I’m not going to lie and say I wasn’t sad; I was devastated. And I was really upset that I felt that way.

So I went home and tried to not cry and be pathetic. And I somehow succeeded.

I went back the next day to find out that my top choice had dropped me. I was angry, but I decided that, having at least been invited back to two parties, I should try to make the best of things. And so I went to the first party of the night, watched their Sisterhood and Traditions video and I cried. And it was ridiculously embarrassing. So in an attempt to stop my crying, I asked a question I had asked Tuesday night, I asked a question I had asked Tuesday night, the same exact girl. And she remembered, which sucked.

But it was okay, because I had found that feeling I was looking for, the sophistication that I didn’t think existed.

Sends us your letters:
Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to Jonathan Szydlo or drop by our offices in Etherick MFB 105.

Disclaimer:
The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials 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@fiusm.com.
LOSE IT

REC Center helps students and staff lead healthy lives

We want to make sure that we educated the students and faculty on practical choices they can make outside the gym to help them reach their weight loss goals, as well as in the gym.

Janette Janero Graduate Assistant Fitness Program

University students open game studio for “dreamers”

HOLLY MCCOACH Staff Writer

Dreams can be difficult to remember for some University students, but they may now only be triangular, circular and x-shaped buttons away.

The term oneironaut refers to someone who explores and travels in their dreams. It became part of the name of the game studio, Oneironaut Games—a creation of two University students.

Incubated in late July at the Game Developers Guild on campus, Gio Peralto-Pritchard, a sophomore information technology major, and Carlos Gonzalez, a junior communication arts major, formed the studio.

“We have aspirations. People have dreams. As a company, we all have dreams,” said Peralto-Pritchard.

Without a South Florida or Miami game group, Peralto-Pritchard and Gonzalez harvested Oneironaut Games hoping to cater to the strong culture and community.

“Although the studio is young, and not yet at its peak, two games have already been strung up by the creators, along with other members of the studio. Their first game is currently available to the public. With the mindset of providing free, fun and games, Oneironaut Games starts its journey with “Battle Ninja Otter.”

Their second and newest game “HarmEvil” is their first real game with good development provided by a great programming team. Gamers create characters to match their personality with the public, because it’s interactive with the public.

Even though the creators are avid fans of all games, they have their preferences when it comes to how video games should be created.

Gonzalez is encouraged by the solid stories and characters of modern games, but finds their game tedious. However, his fascination with them continues to make his viewpoints positive.

“There’s a whole culture to fighting games. It’s a competitive feel to the game… it’s like reading a book,” said Gonzalez.

However, Oneironaut Games focuses on improving the foundations of mostly old school games.

“We are about the challenge. We are trying to reinvent all the ways of challenge. We are going for entertaining the players themselves while they are playing the game,” said Peralto-Pritchard.

Oneironaut Games is interactive with the public, because its creators demand feedback from students and gamers alike.

“We want to be open to anyone who is interested in our goals. We like testers, and we want people to really be critical,” said Gonzalez.

The creators recently began a Kickstarter account, a website that allocates a platform for projects of all sorts. With the Kickstarter, students and gamers can help support Oneironaut Games.

“If people are really interested in the game development industry, they can look at the Kickstarter tiers. We say in the Kickstarter that you can meet up with us,” said Peralto-Pritchard.

“Oneironaut Games is a small group, they work as a company and hope to create a culture, or perhaps even further current one. With influences from Nintendo to the Game Developers Guild, Oneironaut Games hopes to grow into something huge, something that gamers of South Florida can identify with and expand with.”

- holly.mccoach@fiusm.com

For enthusiastic gamers, “The Biggest Loser” is the opportunity to meet up with the game developers, provide feedback, and learn more about the industry. The Game Developers Guild also provides hands on experience for learning possibilities.

Although Oneironaut Games is a small group, they work as a company and hope to create a culture, or perhaps even further current one. With influences from Nintendo to the Game Developers Guild, Oneironaut Games hopes to grow into something huge, something that gamers of South Florida can identify with and expand with.
Making the most with what little time we have

ANTONELLA MORALES
Contributing Writer

With the fall semester already in full swing, many students walk around campus with their minds on fast-forward, running through everything they need to get done. The one thing most of these students have in common is the question of how they’ll be able to do it all.

When a new semester begins, it’s only natural for students to think about classes and how to do their best. But, like life, school is never all work and no play. Students also like to focus their attention on making new friends. And on a serious level, there are students who have to think about their jobs and how they’ll be able to fit studying into their schedules while completing their work hours.

While most students are still trying to figure it out, some have already been able to make the most of their time and become comfortable with their schedules. Jumi Ayo-Ajayi, freshman computer engineering major says that while she’s strict with her studies, she’ll find time to hang out with friends in between classes or she’ll hang out with them when she’s done with all her work.

Some students find it easy to keep track of their time. One such student is junior Ariel Diaz. Diaz works at the check-out counter at the Green Library, and his answer to the dilemma is, “Time management and no procrastinating.”

While some students tell themselves to stay away from procrastinating, others go to greater lengths to keep track of their schedules.

To keep balance of her sport and studies, freshman golfer player Megan McAaron added, “Make a list of everything you have to do and stretch your work to get it done, because that’s the most important thing.” However, there are still a few students out there who keep it simple and use their planners. Junior Becca Chavarria keeps a planner and organizes her week before-hand. She said that there is nothing really frustrating about her schedule and it’s about getting everything done while making time to study.

ライフ@fiusm.com

**CALENDAR**

**FALL 2012 EVENTS**

**UPDATE OF EVENTS HAPPENING AROUND FIU**

**KEEP UP WITH THE CALENDAR FOR A FRESH UPDATE OF EVENTS HAPPENING AROUND FIU!**

**CAHOMEDY**

**MONDAY, SEPT. 10**

CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES: #1

**CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES: #1**

**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Wertheim Performing Arts Center 10915 SW 17 Street, Miami, FL 33199

**CASA DE NA-HAS FOUR YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

**WHERE:** 9 p.m.

**HOW MUCH:** Free

**WHERE:** Swarn Records

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 11**

ONCE UPON A TIME IN LITHUANIA AND THE FLORIDA COLLECTION

**WHERE:** 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

**HOW MUCH:** Free

**WHERE:** Broward Pines Center Main Lobby

BEER AND BUTCHERY PAIRING

**WHERE:** 5 p.m.

**HOW MUCH:** $75

**WHERE:** 801 Burger Bar

WRITE TO CALENDAR@FIOUSM.COM TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED!

**ARE YOU READY?**

**BE INFORMED**

FIU will provide emergency information via:

- Updates on the FIU homepage www.fiu.edu and http://news.fiu.edu
- Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/ -dc “tips” “#4”
- Twitter: http://twitter.com/FIUnews
- FIU Help Line: 305-FIU-HELP (305-348-4375)
- Email messages to your FIU account
- FIU Alerts (just phone text messages)*
- InformaCast (phones in classrooms, offices and outdoor speakers)*
- Local news media (FM radio)*

Only used for emergency situations in which there is an imminent threat or ongoing threat to life and safety.

**MAKE A PLAN**

Preventative actions you should take now include:

- Speak with loved ones about a communications plan or a meet up plan. Cell phones are not always reliable in times of emergency.
- If you live in a hurricane evacuation zone, have a plan on where you will go.
- FIU residence hall students should plan on going home or staying with a friend if a hurricane threatens. Student shelter will be available, however it will be a last resort and amenities will be limited.

**GET A KIT**

At minimum, a kit should contain enough food and water for 3 days. Other items include:

**FIU Department of Emergency Management 305-348-0670**

South Florida is entering the most active part of the hurricane season with September 10 marking the peak of the season. Are you ready? Go to egrid.fiu.edu or scan the QR code for more preparedness information. Be informed, make a plan, get a kit!
**Club gains experience in tournaments**

**LUIS D. GUTIERREZ**  
Staff Writer

Twenty years of blood, sweat and overcoming stereotypes have finally put Mixed Martial Arts on the map.

One of America’s fastest-growing sports has captivated audiences by combining aggression with artistry to create a spectacle performance.

Now Daniel Perez, lead instructor of FIU’s MMA club, hopes his program can create a spectacle of their own.

“Every day I’d love to watch this club continue to grow,” he said. “The mixed martial arts have been a huge part of my life for the last ten years and I hope to pass my passion on to other people in order to make this club one of the best.”

Founded in 2009 by student David Cano, the club has already competed in various tournaments during their young history. Among those is the North American Grappling Association’s tournament held annually across various U.S. states.

For Ramirez, it was without question that he wanted to coach swimming and diving program. Ramirez comes into FIU with a lot of success under his belt. (While at the University of Miami, Ramirez won four national championships.)

He won the one-meter event in 1997, 1998, and 1999. In addition to winning championships in the three-meter, in 1999 he won the platform event as well.

Ramirez also had multiple Olympic Trials the same year. “It was always thrilling for me and a very exciting time of my life. It was generally exciting to be coached by one of the best coaches in the world (Univer- sity of Miami diving coach Randy Ableman),” Ramirez said.

“Always going to practice and seeing so many talented divers kept me always wanting to be better.”

This will be Ramirez’s first time coaching for an NCAA swimming and diving program. For Ramirez, it was without question that he wanted to coach at FIU.

“At first, I definitely knew I wanted the job, I saw a great opportunity here because there is just so much potential. Just meeting with [Swimming coach Randy Horner] and knowing his coaching style and his philosophy,” Ramirez said. “I really resonated with me. Also always finding moments to teach [swimmer] not only to swim and dive but life lessons which I love doing that.”

Ramirez said that under Ableman, he learned countless intangibles in the art of being a coach.

“He always encouraged people to bring a positive attitude. He was always coaching in a good positive light, very supportive.”

Ramirez said, “He was always believing in the athletes and seeing the good in them. I feel like that is something I can bring not only here but everywhere I go.”

So far Ramirez has had one week of practices with his new squad and is pleased with what he has seen especially from junior Sabrina Beaupre, and incoming freshman Madalyn Golightly.

“Sabrina, she is very talented and has an amazing training background. I know her coaches from before and their coaching style which is very high level. The other diver recruited this year, Madalyn Golightly is a very strong diver, she doesn’t have much experience in diving yet, but I can see she is hungry for taking more information, experimenting new things and improving her diving,” said Ramirez.

With Beaupre, who is already becoming one of the top divers in the NCAA, and with another promising incoming freshman in Golightly.

It is clear that excitement is brewing for the swimming and diving team and for coach Rio Ramirez as he begins a new chapter in his life as the new diving coach here at FIU.

“I’m looking forward to recruiting more divers for this program, making a bigger, something that can transcend. That’s my goal.”

-Luis.gutierrez@fiu.com

**New diving coach brings championships pedigree**

**STEVEN ROWELL**  
Contributing Writer

In late August, the swimming and diving team announced the addition of new diving coach Rio Ramirez.

Ramirez comes into FIU with a solid success under his belt. (While at the University of Miami, Ramirez won four national championships.)

He won the one-meter event in 1997, 1998, and 1999. In addition to winning championships in the three-meter, in 1999 he won the platform event as well.

“Always going to practice and seeing so many talented divers kept me always wanting to be better.”

This will be Ramirez’s first time coaching for an NCAA swimming and diving program. For Ramirez, it was without question that he wanted to coach at FIU.

“At first, I definitely knew I wanted the job, I saw a great opportunity here because there is just so much potential. Just meeting with [Swimming coach Randy Horner] and knowing his coaching style and his philosophy,” Ramirez said. “I really resonated with me. Also always finding moments to teach [swimmer] not only to swim and dive but life lessons which I love doing that.”

Ramirez said that under Ableman, he learned countless intangibles in the art of being a coach.

“He always encouraged people to bring a positive attitude. He was always coaching in a good positive light, very supportive.”

Ramirez said, “He was always believing in the athletes and seeing the good in them. I feel like that is something I can bring not only here but everywhere I go.”

So far Ramirez has had one week of practices with his new squad and is pleased with what he has seen especially from junior Sabrina Beaupre, and incoming freshman Madalyn Golightly.

“Sabrina, she is very talented and has an amazing training background. I know her coaches from before and their coaching style which is very high level. The other diver recruited this year, Madalyn Golightly is a very strong diver, she doesn’t have much experience in diving yet, but I can see she is hungry for taking more information, experimenting new things and improving her diving,” said Ramirez.

With Beaupre, who is already becoming one of the top divers in the NCAA, and with another promising incoming freshman in Golightly.

It is clear that excitement is brewing for the swimming and diving team and for coach Rio Ramirez as he begins a new chapter in his life as the new diving coach here at FIU.

“I’m looking forward to recruiting more divers for this program, making a bigger, something that can transcend. That’s my goal.”

-sports@fiu.com
Wade entering busiest offseason of career

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Staff

Dwyane Wade’s offseason is now pretty much over.

The Miami Heat still have more than three weeks before assembling for training camp and starting the defense of their NBA title, but for Wade, summer vacation is essentially complete.

He’s been cleared to return to the court and rehab from offseason knee surgery, a process he’s already started.

And he’ll spend the next couple weeks bouncing from coast to coast on a tour for his book on fatherhood that was released Tuesday.

It means long, not-exactly-relaxing days will be the norm for Wade until training camp.

Case in point: He was out of his hotel room in New York before 8 a.m. Tuesday, and didn’t return until after midnight, at least a half-dozen events jamming his calendar.

He calls the people around him Team No Sleep, and for the next couple weeks, that’ll be accurate.

“He’s been cleared to return to the court and rehab from offseason knee surgery, a process he’s already started.

And he’ll spend the next couple weeks bouncing from coast to coast on a tour for his book on fatherhood that was released Tuesday.

It means long, not-exactly-relaxing days will be the norm for Wade until training camp.

Case in point: He was out of his hotel room in New York before 8 a.m. Tuesday, and didn’t return until after midnight, at least a half-dozen events jamming his calendar.

He calls the people around him Team No Sleep, and for the next couple weeks, that’ll be accurate.

“I think when it’s hard to find the energy, I think about all the things I want to do,” Wade said. “Whenever I feel like I don’t have the energy, I have to go back and think about where I’ve come from. This is what I wanted so let’s keep going, let’s keep pushing, let’s keep doing.”

That’s his business mantra. It also applies to basketball.

Miami’s first game against the Boston Celtics isn’t until Oct. 30, so there’s plenty of time to get sharp.

But Wade’s process of getting ready for his 10th NBA season, physically and mentally, is under way.

He had a couple slices of pizza for lunch Tuesday, meaning that when he got to the taping of CBS’ “Late Show with David Letterman,” Wade had to pass on cookies left in his dressing room.

Such is life for those who want more NBA titles.

“It’s about now I start thinking about certain things,” Wade said. “The season, it’s still buck here, in the back of my mind. It’s not right here yet, not all the way in the front of my mind yet. But we’re getting closer.”

Wade said his rehab is ahead of schedule. He was on the court for workouts last week.

Clearly, though, he’s not going to maniacally test his knee for a while. With his itinerary of promoting “A Father First: How My Life Became Bigger Than Basketball” in New York jampacked through the rest of this week, before the tour moves on to other cities, Wade is taking a few days off from court work.

And when eyebrows rise when he says that, Wade quickly points out that going a bit easy at first not only was the plan, but is the smart plan as well.

“Coming off knee surgery, I couldn’t possibly work out every day anyway,” Wade said. “I have to work my way into things. I just left Los Angeles. I worked out for the whole week I was there. And now I needed a few days off. So when I leave here, I go to Miami and I’ll work out again there. It’s the way we mapped it out. It’s no good for my knee right now to put that much pressure on it.”

His shoulder, that’s getting a workout now.

Wade signed 575 copies of his book at two events on Tuesday, both of which had people lining up hours before the doors opened. One man told him he flew in from China just to get an autograph.

A woman told him she missed her first day of classes at Penn State to make the trip to New York and stand in line to spend a few seconds with him instead.

When the Heat visit the Knicks this winter, Wade will be booed.

Apparently, New York loves him the rest of the time, as evidenced by people standing outside his hotel for 12 hours to catch a glimpse, or others somehow who figured out his traffic pattern and ran up to his vehicle at red lights, unsuccessfully begging for autographs.

“All the people want to be associated with winners,” Wade said. “Phones get picked up a lot easier when you’re a champion. I understand some people might want to see my book, some people might want to see me, some people might want to be there because you’re a champion. I see all sides of it. I appreciate it. When someone says ‘Hey, Champ,’ it never gets old.”

Lynne SLadky/aP ImageS
Ballot by Ballot, the polls fill up
Organizing for America registers voters on campus

STEPHAN USECHE
Staff Writer

Are you registered to vote? Presidential elections are approaching and Organizing for America is making sure everyone at the University is registered to vote.

The project has been initiated by a group of volunteers that promotes and supports the democratic campaign, but don’t advertise for President Barack Obama when they register students.

Organizing for America also tabled at involvement fairs during freshman orientations, and according to Leonardo Curiel, president of College Democrats at MMC, they register 30 new students coming into campus every day.

“This ceremony is a way to appreciate the population that votes, so we just need to make sure they vote,” said volunteer Alexandria Salvo, public relations major.

This movement has so far targeted on Malespino Campus, but with its three new acquired Biscayne Bay Campus members, they hope to expand to BBC as well.

“I really think we should get more people to vote,” said Marisol Medina, journalism major. “I personally can’t vote, but if I could I would like that they come to me so I don’t have to go somewhere else.”

On the other hand students like Daniel Pallares, architecture major, finds it really annoying when they approach him since he’s already registered.

Even though this group supports the Democratic Party, they’re also receptive to register republican students.

“Even if you’re a Republic, we’re not going to take your registration and just throw it away,” said Salvo. “All we’re trying to do is make sure that every vote counts.”

According to Salvo, the Republicans’ strategy is voter suppression. Instead of trying to educate young people on the importance of voting, they would rather not and have the least amount of people involved.

The College Republicans at MMC did not register as many students as Organizing for America, but they have been promoting and encouraging the republican campaign.

Organizing for America has also been updating voter’s information, so when election day comes along, there are no problems at the polls.

“We not only want people to see our side; we want people to notice what each party is for,” said Curiel. “And that they decide on their own on which party to vote for.”

-OFFICE OF CAMPUS LIFE

Four impacts—thousands of memories

SKYLAR SIEGEL
Contributing Writer

Eleven years have passed, but the memories haven’t.

Sept. 11, 2001 marks the day the nation was scared—close to 3,000 people died and this in turn, robbed the nation of its sense of security.

To remember those who lost their lives, the Office of Campus Life at Biscayne Bay Campus is holding a commencement event on Tuesday, Sept. 11 in Panther Square from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

“It has been held in different magnitudes, from religious/interfaith services, to displays and candle vigils,” said Gary Santos Mendoza graduate student assistant in the Office of Campus Life.

Between 100 to 150 students and University employees are expected to attend the commencement event.

“This ceremony is a little bit more solemn,” said Mendoza who is also a co-organizer of the event.

Sanjeev Udhani, a senior finance and international business major, was in band class when it happened.

“It was pretty traumatizing, no one knew what was going on at school and parents kept pulling my classmates out of class,” Udhani said. “Everyone was worried and scared that Miami would be the next target.”

For Natalie M. Lopez-Rivera, senior majoring in english, 9/11 helped her appreciate those around her more.

“I was one of the fortunate ones whose family members were unharmed by the tragedy but this event really made me appreciate my family even more and taught me to learn to appreciate the people in my life,” she said.

Most students were in school when the attacks happened, but Daniel Usma, vice president of programming for Student Programming Council at BBC had a closer experience.

He was in La Guardia airport in New York waiting for a flight to return to his home country, Colombia.

“Because I was traveling alone and didn’t speak English, I had no idea what was going on,” he said. “Once someone finally told me why my flight had been cancelled, I was in shock thinking how lucky I was not to have had an earlier flight.”

At the event, students can speak to one another about 9/11 and reflect upon how it has changed them.

“A year after 9/11, I moved to New York from Colombia. Because of 9/11 it was very difficult being an immigrant in that time, not only because of the color of my skin, but also because the government’s increase in security measures, making it very difficult for immigrant to obtain a legal status,” said Usma.

For the students who may have lost a loved one, the commencement event will give a chance for everyone to open up.

After his experience in the airport, Usma changed his view on life. “9/11 made me value life so much more, it made me aware that life can be taken away in seconds when you least expect it, therefore we must not regret any moment we are alive.”

-PANThER SQUArE SIZZLES

The Heat dancers, Sophie and Alex, visited Panther Square to promote the Miami Heat and interact with students during the Vendor Fair.