**EDUCATE YOUR ETIQUETTE**

**PROFILE**

**VICTORIA RONDEROS**
Contributing Writer

The victim was stabbed over 100 times...

This is a case that University faculty member Jeannette Perr worked on when she lived in Ohio. Perr is both a senior forensic chemist at the Drug Enforcement Agency and a forensic science professor at the University.

Her work involves solving cases and teaching undergraduates to do the same, thereby opening the world of forensic science in her Survey of Forensic Science course.

"It was my very first real homicide case," Perr said. "The case was that the lady was stabbed over 100 times, and that case was not only interesting because you got to see [not only] the forensic aspect, but the psychology of it, like why she was stabbed over 100 times, why she was posed, why did the person do it and was it someone she knew and had some sort of relationship with her?"

Perr works within the field of forensic science and has contributed to many criminal cases. She received her bachelor’s from Ohio University and her Ph.D at FIU, both in forensic chemistry.

She said that although she enjoys both professions, there are moments where she doesn’t enjoy her DEA position as much.

"Working for the DEA is fun," she said. "I would probably say 95 percent is fun, but then there’s 5 percent where it interferes with your life and you can’t go out and do things you want to do."

"When asked the difference, she claimed that in television, it’s all about “a good story.”"

"Breaking Bad" is one of her favorite shows because “that really is how you cook meth in a lab.”

As for whether there is a real life demand and popularity for methamphetamines, or “meth,” on the streets of South Florida, she said, “It’s a trend. It switches on and off. One day it’ll be cocaine, and the next day it’ll be meth, and then the next day it’ll be those new synthetics, what they call ‘legal weed,’ which is actually the big priority right now.”

In the future, Perr sees herself as a full-time DEA chemist. “I don’t see that going 100 percent. It’s a wear and tear... you get fatigued. I see myself doing it long enough to say that I had a career as a DEA chemist. If I’m done with that and money’s not an issue, then I’ll go be a full-time professor.”

Jeannette Perr
Professor of Chemistry

**Drug Enforcement Agency keeps professor busy**

I see myself doing it long enough to say that I had a career as a DEA chemist. If I’m done with that and money’s not an issue, then I’ll go be a full-time professor.

"Breaking Bad" is one of her favorite shows because “that really is how you cook meth in a lab.”

As for whether there is a real life demand and popularity for methamphetamines, or “meth,” on the streets of South Florida, she said, “It’s a trend. It switches on and off. One day it’ll be cocaine, and the next day it’ll be meth, and then the next day it’ll be those new synthetics, what they call ‘legal weed,’ which is actually the big priority right now.”

In the future, Perr sees herself as a full-time DEA chemist. “I don’t see that going 100 percent. It’s a wear and tear... you get fatigued. I see myself doing it long enough to say that I had a career as a DEA chemist. If I’m done with that and money’s not an issue, then I’ll go be a full-time professor.”

- news@fiusm.com

**Panther Wire**

Mon, Wed & Fri 11am-12pm.
Listen in to 881.953.969.fiusm.com
**Graduation rates among key metrics**

Currently, the University is expected to receive $512.4 million, which will be used to target three key SUS issues: First Time In College six-year graduation rates, percent of bachelor’s degrees awarded and number of research productivity, the University and Math and number of research doctoral degrees awarded. In terms of other universities, as of 2011 FIU’s graduation rates stood at 41 percent in comparison to the state average of 65 percent. In STEM degree graduation rates, percent of bachelor’s degrees awarded stood at 84 percent compared to the state average of 65 percent.

**Entrepreneur shares seven keys to success**

**STEFANIE USECHE Staff Writer**

Students from the College of Business welcomed chairman and CEO of Medina Capital Partners, Manuel Medina as he explained the seven keys to succeed as an entrepreneur.

“Being an entrepreneur is the only thing that does not require skills,” Medina said.

President Mark Rosenberg introduced Medina on Thursday Oct. 18 in the College of Business Complex in the event titled Intensive Training for Entrepreneurial Success.

Medina Capital Partners is a company that invests in technology business. Medina also founded companies such as Terramark Worldwide, Inc., which was later acquired by Verizon Communications, Inc., for $2 billion and TransAtlantic Bank in Miami, which grew to more than $600 million in assets.

“Entrepreneurship is the only thing that does not require skill,” Medina said.

“If you believe in what you’re doing, keep trying,” Medina said. “You have to keep climbing back to you in a better way,” Medina said.

“Sometimes it is very expensive to keep your word, but it doesn’t matter because it will come back to you in a better way,” Medina said.

“Attitude is the only thing you can control,” he said.

According to Board of Governors’ spokesperson, Kim Wilmath, the BOG is still working out exactly which metrics but added that they “are not creating metrics” but choosing from the ones the BOG already looks at.

“Attitude is the only thing you can control,” he said.

According to Board of Governors’ spokesperson, Kim Wilmath, the BOG is still working out exactly which metrics but added that they “are not creating metrics” but choosing from the ones the BOG already looks at.

Notably, Medina’s fifth key is to be humble and the seventh key is to try.

“Being an entrepreneur is the only thing that does not require skills,” Medina said.

“If you believe in what you’re doing, keep trying,” Medina said. “You have to keep climbing back to you in a better way,” Medina said.

“Sometimes it is very expensive to keep your word, but it doesn’t matter because it will come back to you in a better way,” Medina said.

“Attitude is the only thing you can control,” he said.

According to Board of Governors’ spokesperson, Kim Wilmath, the BOG is still working out exactly which metrics but added that they “are not creating metrics” but choosing from the ones the BOG already looks at.

Dean Colson, chair of the board, said that the BOG expects to have the criteria, referred to as a “decision matrix,” by next summer.

“The idea is that the matrix would not necessarily be a rigid formula, but rather would allow the Board [of Governors] to consider each universities’ different missions, goals and challenges individually,” Wilmath stated.

In the last Board of Trustee meetings, where the BOT hosted Colson, several trustees pointed to the importance of looking at University-specific metrics and goals.

Among these institution-specific goals are number of bachelor’s degrees awarded to minorities and percentage of full-time students. The BOT will reconvene in November at New College of Florida and is expected to discuss common metrics for the system.

“Entrepreneurship is the only thing that does not require skills,” Medina said.

“If you believe in what you’re doing, keep trying,” Medina said. “You have to keep climbing back to you in a better way,” Medina said.

“Sometimes it is very expensive to keep your word, but it doesn’t matter because it will come back to you in a better way,” Medina said.

“Attitude is the only thing you can control,” he said.

According to Board of Governors’ spokesperson, Kim Wilmath, the BOG is still working out exactly which metrics but added that they “are not creating metrics” but choosing from the ones the BOG already looks at.

Dean Colson, chair of the board, said that the BOG expects to have the criteria, referred to as a “decision matrix,” by next summer.

“The idea is that the matrix would not be a rigid formula, but rather would allow the Board [of Governors] to consider each universities’ different missions, goals and challenges individually,” Wilmath stated.

In the last Board of Trustees meetings, where the BOT hosted Colson, several trustees pointed to the importance of looking at University-specific metrics and goals.

Among these institution-specific goals are number of bachelor’s degrees awarded to minorities and percentage of full-time students. The BOT will reconvene in November at New College of Florida and is expected to discuss common metrics for the system.
**OPINION**

**Pantherization: Was it really worth it?**

**SHANNON COPELAND
Contributing Writer**

You may be wondering what ‘Pantherization’, and how it’s making a very spiritless campus look lively. Most students might have noticed that Academic Building I on the Biscayne Bay Campus has a new décor.

Whenever I went to ACI, I felt dreadfully depressed of being there. Not because I had to pay my tuition, but because the color on the wall reminded me of an old person’s home.

I often wondered, “Can this place be anymore depressing?”

One might say telepathy does not exist, but I feel it does, and I think someone in a position of authority read my mind and decided to make me happy by proposing to decorate the school.

So imagine when I paid a visit to ACI and found that, although the change was subtle at first, there was a different color on the wall. As the decoration was in progress, I started to feel at home; I felt that I was at one with ACI.

I felt that the first time I felt like I wanted to go to a home game, with my body painted in FIU colors, and cheer for our football team. I felt the pictures reflected the blissful cheerleader in me that was never shown.

According to Vice Provost Steven Moll, “The original idea came from President Rosenberg about two years ago when we were having breakfast in the cafeteria, he commented that there was no identification of FIU anywhere.”

President Rosenberg, this is a worthwhile venture and I appreciate it.

External Relations also played a huge part in the makeover, as did Vice President Terry Withershell who could not be contacted for a comment after numerous attempts.

Pablo Hespel, president of the Student Government Council at the BBC said, with regard to further decoration, “This is just the start of it, there will be more work.”

**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 unsigned 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.
EDWIVE SEME
Staff Writer

“Something evil’s lurking in the dark” at Phi Gamma Delta’s haunted house.

It’s become a tradition for the brothers of FIJI to join the Halloween spirit and organize their annual haunted house as their main philanthropy event, which is unique to them in the University community.

“We thought it would be an original idea to host the haunted houses, since nobody else at FIU does it,” said John Navas, official event coordinator.

On Friday, Oct. 26, they will host their ninth annual haunted event in the FIJI house from 7 p.m. to midnight in collaboration with the sisters of Alpha Xi Delta for a second year.

This year they made some upgrades.

Besides the haunted mansion, they will also have a mini-carnival in the back of the FIJI house, so the night isn’t limited to the haunted mansion.

Unlike the past years, instead of donating to the American Red Cross, they will support the Dori Slosberg Foundation and Autism Speaks.

John Navas explained the reason behind why they decided on supporting the Dori Slosberg Foundation. “We’ve had two brothers pass away in a motorcycle accident,” said Navas. “We chose a new organization…to help raise awareness for driving safety.”

This year, their goal is to raise $10,000, which they will split evenly and donate to the two organizations.

After all the work they put into the event and their new addition to the festivities, they believe they will be able to reach their goal.

The carnival will have plenty of food that participants can buy and enjoy, including food trucks, cotton candy and popcorn. There will also be many activities in the carnival, such as the bounce run and apple bobbing. Those with a competitive spirit can compete to win cash prizes.

One of the contests involves riding a mechanical bull and whoever stays the longest can win a $50 cash prize. Feeling artsy? There will be a pumpkin carving contest for another $50 dollar prize for the best looking pumpkin.

Attendees can also grab a friend and enter the cornhole competition, a bean bag throwing game, and win the $75 cash prize by designing the best cornhole.

The night will also be full of music, which will include a band and a DJ battle.

If any student happens to be a DJ, they can enter the Battle of the DJ’s and compete for a $150 cash prize.

“This is not just a fraternity event. It’s an event for the entire community. We’re raising money for these two organizations and raising awareness as well,” said Navas.

“FIU students are going to be able to have fun on a Friday night and at the same time help out two good causes which could affect anybody,” said Navas.

Those interested in signing up can email Navas at jnava013@gmail.com.

LIFE!

PHI GAMMA DELTA

FIJI haunted house hopes to raise a frightening $10,000

Dear Nick,

What are some things I can do if I’m not decided on my major?

R.T.
Sophomore
Mass Communications Major

Q.

Dear R.T.,

A.

A career decision is a wonderful journey of matching your interests and passions with an occupation. There are many avenues of discovery. A great place to begin would be identifying your gifts and talents. Ask yourself, “What can I do that no one else can do quite like me?” Sometimes, you already know the answer and it’s clear, other times you may need a little guidance.

The University has a wonderful Career Services Department, located in the Graham Center 230, where you can take the Myers Briggs Type Indicator or the STRONG Interest Inventory. These are assessments that can help you determine a career that might fit your interests or personality.

Another option would be to talk to friends or family members who are in jobs that seem interesting to you. They can usually tell you how the job will be and details you only get in the real world. Our counselors at the Counseling and Psychological Services are also a great resource and can help you identify goals, values and a career path.

In the journey of life, college is a stepping stone to the real world of a career. Many people change their minds on their majors or careers multiple times; this is a normal part of life. Using professionals and resources to help you make a clear decision can be very helpful in this time of uncertain feelings. I know you will make a great decision and I hope some of these resources can help!

Be Well,

Nick

What to do when you’re undecided

Fall weather calls for layers and bold choices

Fall in Miami is odd. While in other parts of the country, fall means below 70-degree temperatures, hot chocolate, layering and chilling breezes, for Miami it means continuing 80-degree temperatures and sweltering humidity. Fall fashion campaigns and magazines promoting the next best fall jacket have little influence over us.

However, if we’re lucky, fall sometimes brings the occasional cool weather to Miami, giving us the opportunity to wear some fall pieces we would otherwise suffocate in.

One of my favorite trends that have been returning in fashion is the ’90s grunge-oversized shirts, Dr. Martens, bindi beads and dungarees.

When I saw senior international relations student Heidi Bryce reading The New York Times behind the Green Library, I was immediately thrown back to the ’90s mix-and-match layering and beanies.

“I love beanies. They complement almost everything,” said Bryce. “Layering is fun, and flannels are extremely versatile and easy to dress up or down.

Later that week, I crossed paths with another ’90s throwback. Junior Alex Jaramillo, sociology major, was seen strolling around campus in a polka dot sundress, layered with a chambray shirt and matching Keds. Her outfit was sweet and simple, yet there were still strong references to “Clueless” fashion and casual ‘90s layering.

One thing that is definitely coming back into fashion is the ‘90s mix-and-match layering and beanies.

FALL FASHION CAMPAIGNS AND MAGAZINES PROMOTING THE NEXT BEST FALL JACKET HAVE LITTLE INFLUENCE OVER US.

FALL IN MIAMI IS ODD.

WHILE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, FALL MEANS BELOW 70-DEGREE TEMPERATURES, HOT CHOCOLATE, LAYERING AND CHILLING BREEZES, FOR MIAMI IT MEANS CONTINUING 80-DEGREE TEMPERATURES AND SWEATERING HUMIDITY.

FALL WEATHER CALLS FOR LAYERS AND BOLD CHOICES.

FALL IN MIAMI IS ODD. WHILE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, FALL MEANS BELOW 70-DEGREE TEMPERATURES, HOT CHOCOLATE, LAYERING AND CHILLING BREEZES, FOR MIAMI IT MEANS CONTINUING 80-DEGREE TEMPERATURES AND SWEATERING HUMIDITY.

FALL FASHION CAMPAIGNS AND MAGAZINES PROMOTING THE NEXT BEST FALL JACKET HAVE LITTLE INFLUENCE OVER US.
Students dress for fall season in Miami weather

style easily fits into this description. Sporting thigh-high socks with combat boots, an oversized goodwill shirt and a huge gold chain to bring the whole look together, McGregor gave grunge a modern twist.

Another fall fashion trend is statement jewelry. This ranges from ear cuffs, multiple hand rings, bold necklaces, body chains and more. McGregor’s gold necklace added a hint of glamour to an otherwise casual outfit.

Junior Anam Parpia, a marketing student who says her style is modest overall, sported a hot pink blazer with a heavily-studded detachable collar. She says her provocative style choices that day were “basic gone awry.”

This is a perfect description of another trend seen in fall fashion: metal spikes on knit sweaters or neon shades on classically constructed purses. Although she still looked professional enough to walk into any board meeting with her well-cut blazer, the bold color choice and necklace made her look unique, fall fashion forward and perfectly fit for a vibrant and rebellious Miami lifestyle.

-mail@fiusm.com

University students dress in Miami appropriate fall clothing with fashion forward looks and bold pieces.

Wanted PSY, OT& SLP Majors for Behavior Asst. Position

New Way Day Services, Inc. Looking for individuals who would like to work with children with Autism. Salary $9.00 to $12.00 and hour. Venue and time of service will be coordinated to your schedule and location. For more information: Call (305) 597-3861 or Fax resume/Email to (305) 597-3863/ resume.nwds@gmail.com. Those seeking certification as BCaBA to increase being marketable. Supervision Will BE Free.

REGISTER TODAY

Society of American Law Teachers (SALT) B.A. to J.D. Pipeline Project

Pre-Law Advisors as Gatekeepers: Strategies for Diversifying the Legal Profession

Host
FIU College of Law Center for Professionalism and Ethics

Themes
• Educational Pipelines: Their Value and Their Future
• Update on Fisher v. Texas: What This Might Mean to the Pipeline
• The LSAT: What it Assesses and How it Fails
• The Adverse Impact of the U.S. News & World Report Rankings on the Admissions Process
• How Minority Students Succeed (Concurrent Sessions for Prelaw Advisors and Prospective Students)
• Law Fair: Opportunity to Meet with Law School Representatives

law.fiu.edu/salt-pipeline-program/
Offseason training nearing end with season in sight

KEVIN CASTANEDA Contributing Writer

Head Coach Rick Pitino knew from the beginning what the goal for the men’s basketball team was in the offseason: conditioning.

The Panthers have been practicing every day since the start of October, and they lift weights about three times a week. Pitino feels that conditioning will be what gives his team the edge against their opponents.

“We want to physically be stronger. We want conditioning to be a factor. We want depth to be a factor,” Pitino said.

The Panthers plan to play a very fast style of basketball that would require fresh conditioned legs rotating in and out.

“We want to make it where we can play nine or 10 guys and not miss a beat,” said Pitino.

Considering that Pitino plans to utilize the full-court press this season only lends to the ideology of proper conditioning.

According to Akomolafe, Pitino’s up-tempo style is adding another piece to the repertoire of his big men.

TEAM UNITY

One prevalent theme Pitino and the players demonstrated was the notion of team unity.

“Can you tell they are getting closer with each other on the court,” said Pitino.

With 12 new players joining the team, plus a new head coach, the transition could have been difficult, but that has not been the case.

“A lot of the new guys came in with respect. The communication level has been even better when I compare it to last year,” said Akomolafe.

The improved communication from the team has helped the players accept the roles Pitino gives them. The chemistry is transcending the basketball court too.

“Most of us have classes together. We go eat together. This is all we have right now,” said Belardo.

Pitino is excited about the positive response from his players.

“As you know, you have to have a close group in order to have a good team,” said Pitino, “and they are becoming that.”

SPORTS

MICHAEL ORTEGA Contributing Writer

After a long and scorching first half against North Texas, FIU women’s soccer player Johanna Volz took an ill step on a play for the ball and injured her ankle.

She was reluctantly taken out of the game by the trainers at the point when her team needed her the most. On the sideline, Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt did not believe she would return to the field.

Yet Volz could not just sit by and watch her teammates take on a conference rival without her help.

So she mustered up all her will and strength and demanded Chestnutt to put her back in. She returned to the game to help lead her team to a 1-1 draw against NT.

“No one expected her to return to the game, no one thought she would be one of the first to practice that Monday after the game. She is the type of person that can’t sit around and do nothing when her team is out on the field fighting for the win,” Chestnutt said.

“She is a great person and player to have on this team. The sophomore from Portland, Ore. has become more of a leader on the field than most would have thought at the beginning of the year. Not only is Volz one of the toughest players on the team, she is also someone who will not let her teammates down.

Many of her friends and teammates take her enthusiasm, work ethic and love for the game and use it in their own plays and on the practice field.

Volz looks forward to leading her teammates on and off the field for the rest of the season and the next.

Volz said she got into this leadership role on the field, in part, because of her mother, who played soccer through college, travel teams and even coached Volz when they played on the weekends with her mother’s team.

“Johanna is very tactic and will always be there. I can’t imagine life without soccer, even when I’m done with college and working as a physical therapist, I would still want to play soccer on the weekend or join a team and continue playing,” said Volz.

The Portland Ore., native has hit her stride with the Panthers this season, scoring four goals in 10 games.
There was no lack of drama during the FIU intramural soccer match between What Would Jesus Do (0-1-1) and The Internationals (0-1-1) on Oct. 19. Internationals defender Fernando Albornoz came up big in the final minute of the game to prevent a loss for his team.

With WWJD leading 5-3 in the waning minutes, Albornoz launched a shot from his own goal and connected to inch The Internationals closer to knotting up the score. Thirty seconds later, Albornoz found the back of the net for his fourth goal, this time from three feet out. The final whistle blew right after that and the game ended in a 5-5 tie.

“They were not just lucky shots. I could tell that the defense was falling asleep when possession changed so I was trying to catch them off guard and it worked several times,” Albornoz said.

WWJD walked off the court looking very disappointed. They dominated possession for the entire game and took six more shots than The Internationals. WWJD also squandered many opportunities around the goal that could have put the game out of reach.

Forward Hector Rodriguez completed his hat trick on a breakaway goal 22 minutes into the game, giving WWJD a 5-3 lead. The game seemed to be over, but the two quick strikes from Albornoz caught WWJD off guard.

“We had it in the bag and we let it slip away. Our strategy to dominate possession with quick passes was successful but we just could not finish. Nobody likes to end a game in a tie,” Rodriguez said.

After this week, WWJD finds itself in last place of the division due to a greater point differential than The Internationals. The Internationals are looking forward to building more team chemistry throughout the regular season to prepare themselves for playoffs.

“I just met most of these guys so it is going to take some time and some practice for us to get used to playing with one another,” Albornoz stated.

Both teams will be trying to pick up their first wins of the season on Thursday, Oct. 25.

-Jarek Hamzych

SigEp swept Coin under the rug with an 8-0 victory on Oct. 18 playing indoor soccer in the FIU Recreation Center. Minutes after the starting whistle was blown it became evident SigEp (2-0) was going to be a force to reckon with. They completely dominated the game scoring the first goal within three minutes. Their passes were crisp and accurate, and their overall chemistry as a team was seamless.

“As a team, we had more touches and better stamina,” said Jeffrey Hernandez, center back for SigEp.

Hernandez scored three of the team’s eight goals that night and didn’t have to put forth much effort in defending his team’s goal.

Coin (0-2) made a few attempts at scoring against SigEp, but accuracy and ball control just weren’t there.

“It’s just not their sport,” said SigEp’s forward Robert Grimal.

The skill level of Coin compared to SigEp was mediocre. Their footwork and technique were no match for SigEp, which took full advantage of their ability to complete smooth give-and-go’s. Their players consistently found the open space, allowing them to complete almost every pass.

“The competition tonight wasn’t great,” said Felipe Londano, center midfielder for SigEp. “The level of play was very different.”

After the first 15 minutes of the game, SigEp had already scored five of their eight points and Coin was still struggling.

This was an easy win for the fraternity, that has been playing as a team for quite some time now.

“It’s always fun to come out and play, we’ve played together for two years now and we did very well tonight,” center midfielder Nick Jones said.

-Kayla McGregor

-sports@fiusm.com
Students discuss the benefits and negatives behind alcohol

When students start college, they enter a world filled with long lectures, daunting assignments and often, an overload of drinking.

Peer pressure is sometimes seen as one of the reasons why students start drinking, but not all students agree with this.

“I never felt any pressure to drink. I always try to make my own decisions.” said Oluwatamilore Odumayo, a senior psychology major.

Teddy Rood, a graduate student in the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, said drinking is only bad if done in excess or if a person does not know his or her limits.

“Drinking is something I do socially, when I am around my friends,” Rood said. “It’s just the normal thing to do in my circle and we all try to drink responsibly now that we are all of drinking age.”

1,825 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 die from alcohol-related unintentional injuries and 97,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are victims of alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape per year, the Annual Review of Public Health of 2005 found.

Shan Davis, a junior and hospitality major, only ingests alcohol if wine is added to a meal.

“Drinking causes cancer, alcohol is a depressant and it causes problems in friendships, marriages and family,” Davis said. “Even one sip can be enough to make someone drunk, you don’t know other people’s limits.”

Studies and surveys by four Harvard School of Public Health colleges and the Southern Illinois University found about 25 percent of college students report academic consequences of their drinking including missing class, falling behind, doing poorly on exams or papers and receiving lower grades overall. Although there are negatives to drinking, Teddi Rood, a graduate student in the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, believes there is no healthier beverage than wine.

Unemployment rates fall in 7 US swing states

Unemployment rates fell or held steady last month in nine key swing states at the center of this year’s presidential election.

Rates dropped in Ohio, Florida, Wisconsin, Colorado, Iowa, Nevada and North Carolina. They were unchanged in New Hampshire and Virginia.

The declines could help President Barack Obama at a critical time. With just 18 days until Election Day, polls show GOP challenger Mitt Romney gaining momentum with voters in key states.

Overall, the Labor Department says rates fell in 41 states last month, rose in six and were unchanged in three.

Two weeks ago, the government said the national unemployment rate dropped in September to 7.8 percent. It’s the lowest level since Obama’s first month in office. The government will report Nov. 2 on October employment, just four days before the election.

Friday’s state unemployment report is the last before the election.

Many key states are still facing high unemployment. The rate was 11.8 percent in North Carolina and 9.6 percent in North Carolina.

Still, voters are often more influenced by the trend in unemployment than the rates themselves, according to political analysts. Nevada will likely test that theory. It has the nation’s highest unemployment rate. But it has also experienced the steepest decline in the past 12 months.

The unemployment rate there was 13.6 percent a year ago.

Six of the nine swing states gained jobs last month: Colorado, Florida, Nevada, North Carolina, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Virginia, which is considered one of the most crucial states in play because of its 13 electoral votes, added 11,500 jobs last month. That was the most of any swing state. The unemployment rate remained 5.9 percent, far below the national average.

Three states lost jobs: Ohio, Iowa and New Hampshire.

The number of jobs added or lost is determined by survey of businesses. The unemployment rate is derived from a survey of households. The two can sometimes produce divergent results.