**Student Government to address online representation**

**ASHELY MARTINEZ**  
Staff Writer

Students enrolled in online courses could soon be represented by University senators.

If passed, the Online Affairs Committee Creation Act of 2012 would create an ad hoc committee aiming to analyze the current state of online education at the Modesto Maidique Campus. Reviewed by the Senate Rules, Legislation and Judiciary Committee last Thursday, this project presents that there is no current representation for students who are full-time or enrolled in online or students that take at least 50 percent of their classes online.

The committee’s job will be to analyze the current state and future of online education and how it affects the student body. They will also work directly with FIU Online to observe the progress made in online education.

The committee will also formulate legislation that could lead to a proper growth of the online student representation after receiving progress results.

If approved at the next session of senate, under Senate Resolution 1230, a chairperson and senators would compose the committee.

Sponsors include James Harken and Celia Valde, business senators; Giovanni Castro, Steven Gonzalez and Liane Sippin, at large senators; Kevin Maestre, engineering and computing senator; Saman Sargolzaei, graduate senator; and Raul Alvarez, honors college senator.

**On demand car rental service available to students**

**DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS**  
Contributing Writer

Find a car, swipe a card and drive away.

Hertz on Demand program allows members of the University community to rent a car on campus by the hour, day or week at any time.

Lissette Hernandez, director of the Department of Parking and Transportation, said the program is geared toward students who live on campus but anyone who registers with Hertz can use the vehicles.

Hertz on Demand was implemented two years ago under the name Hertz Connect. The program began as a partnership between Parking and Transportation and the Department of Housing and Residential Life.

Junior marketing major Vinesh Kanusing is a housing resident who had not heard of the car rental program but said he would be interested because he does not have a vehicle of his own.

“Like many other students that live on campus, I don’t have a car and I can’t afford one at the moment so that actually sounds like a very good program and I would actually use it a lot especially since gas and insurance are included,” Kanusing said.

A gas card comes with the car and is covered by the rental fee, as well as insurance.

People can sign up for free with Hertz online and after approval, they are sent a membership kit within five to seven days. It includes a key card or keychain fob, which they use to access the vehicles.

The cars are located in a lot south of the Charles Perry building.

Members can then reserve vehicles on campus using the company site, www.hertzondemand.com/FloridaInternational-University, or through the iPhone app.

To register, applicants must be at least 18 years old and have a valid driver’s license.

“You don’t need to be 21 to rent the car, which is a problem you run into when renting a car...”
Obama sets conditions to deficit approach

ANDREW TAYLOR AND JULIE PACE
AP Writers

President Barack Obama, laying down his marker for grueling “fiscal cliff” negotiations, said Friday he won’t accept any approach to federal deficit reduction that doesn’t ask the wealthy to pay more in taxes.

“That was a central question during the election,” Obama said in his first post-election comments on the economy. “The majority of Americans agree with my approach.”

Following up, Obama’s spokesman said later that the president would veto any legislation extending tax cuts for families making $250,000 or more.

The president, speaking in the White House East Room, said he wasn’t waded to every detail of the plans he outlined during the election, adding, “I’m open to compromise.” But he offered no indication that he was willing to back down.

As director of CP&P, she works with other faculty members and attorneys. Randee Godofsky, attorney adviser, was assigned as the new assistant director.

“Godofsky served as a very good addition,” said Bierman. “Often times we’ll double team with other, they’re still struggling to recover from the recession. ‘I’m proposing that we agree that failure to address the automatic tax increases and spending cuts could cripple the economy. A Congressional Budget Office report on Thursday projected that the economy would fall back into recession if there is a protracted impasse in Washington.

Obama and Republicans have tangled over the tax cuts first approved by George W. Bush for years. The president gave in to Republican demands to extend the cuts across the board in 2010, but he ran for re-election on a pledge to allow the rates to increase on families making more than $250,000 a year. Republicans say raising tax rates on the wealthiest Americans is a non-starter. Boehner said it would hurt small businesses while they are still struggling to recover from the recession.

“I’m proposing that we defer the fiscal cliff together in a manner that ensures that 2013 is finally the year that our government comes to grips with the major problems that are facing us,” Boehner said Friday. He said cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and food stamps, known as entitlement programs, have to be part of the equation.

Boehner also indicated that raising the debt limit, which the government will reach sometime in the spring, should be part of any negotiations. Pressed for details beyond that framework, he said he didn’t want to limit ideas to address the problem. He said the burden is on Obama.

“That is an opportunity for the president to lead,” Boehner said. He repeated a version of that phrase four times during the 11 minutes he spoke. “This is his moment to engage the Congress and work toward a solution that can pass both chambers.”

New director leads law students to employment

DIRECTOR, PAGE 1

want to be a doctor because I’m also interested in how things work and how the human body works, but I work with my personality and the way I am, I’m more oriented to big ideas opposed to the one person and the interior. Plus, I hate blood.”

She looked for an area where she needed to analyze, and she found it on research.

As director of CP&P, she works with other faculty members and attorneys. Randee Godofsky, attorney adviser, was assigned as the new assistant director.

“She has a lot of experience as a career counselor, counseling young lawyers and young attorneys both here and at another major law school,” said Bierman. “She was a very good addition.”

Bierman and Godofsky are familiar to both career placement and to each other. They worked together at UM Law’s Career Placement Office, where Godofsky had started the full-time position.

According to Godofsky, the first person who was hired as full-time was Randee Bierman. Previous director, Debbie Millwood, left FIU to go to work at UM, said Alina Rivero, office manager. Rivero has been working as manager for four months, but officially started the full-time position on Nov. 8. When she started, the program was going through transitions and a lot of people were coming in and out. According to Godofsky, Bierman was the first person who was hired as full-time.

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College dating a luxury, not a necessity

ALEX SORONDO
Asst. Opinion Editor

My roommate is from Azerbaijan, and he was telling me recently that, back home, if a guy has slept with five or more women, he’s considered a lady-killer; the cock of the walk, as it were; the snake in the bush. At the same time, however, if a woman has slept with two or three men she’s dignified for not only having sex respect but for being almost spiritually tainted.

As he tells it, nobody is endeared – even carnally – by a consistent, comfortable, reliable boyfriend is so listless and she...the girl's worried about our partner's differences with her, so she just...she doesn't get it; or their ongoing friendship with...of Obstinate commitment; relation...when we reach that point where we want to slow and settle down, we’ll know how to accommodate our partner’s differences and past and make a relationship work.

I don’t know how many times a friend has told me, with tears in her eyes, that her boyfriend is so lustless and she...she just doesn’t get it; or that he was tormented with jealousy by his partner’s social life or their ongoing friendship with an ex.

Why are we doing this to ourselves at this age? While monogamy can be consistent, comfortable, reliable and rewarding in a number of ways, these are not the years when its benefits will serve us. If anything, they shackle and blind us, restricting our ability to form new relationships...the one that is on campus, not cost the University anything to

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Students required to ‘walk on water’ in order to pass finals

**STEPHAN USECHE**  
Staff Writer

Walking on water is considered impossible. Italian scientist, sculptor and painter Leonardo Da Vinci has defied it. And so have University architecture students.

On Nov. 8, 79 architecture students put their “walk on water” shoes on and prepared themselves to cross the lake in front of the Green Library in the Modesto Maidique Campus.

Their motivation: pass one more of their classes and win $500.

Jorge Ernesto Rodriguez, a junior architecture major, finished first in the race, receiving the grand prize of $500.

“The worst part isn’t walking,” said architecture student Jorge Ernesto Rodriguez. “As long as you get enough foam to hold your weight, it will never drown.”

Rodriguez built his shoes with his team, Natalia Montana and Monica Rodriguez, architecture students, worked as a team to build the shoes. Wood, styrofoam, duct tape and two polyvinyl chloride poles were the materials these two students used.

“It will never drown with the foam,” said Rodriguez. “As long as you get enough foam to hold your weight, it will never drown.”

As some students successfully crossed the lake without falling, others struggled on the water for minutes, refusing to fail.

Rodriguez. “As long as you get enough foam to hold your weight, it will never drown.”

As the architecture students walked on water, others joined them and cheered during this event that started back in 1989.

“If you do the research and you test them and you go through the design process, you can almost achieve anything, including walking on water.”

-Stephan.useche@fiusm.com

**SA Ga Cram Jam to aid late night studying for finals**

**HOLLY MCCOACH**  
Staff Writer

Winter break is just around the corner, but students must climb one more mountain before reaching that break: finals week.

Try and deny it, but the semester is coming to a close, and exams are right under our noses. Thankfully, the Student Government Association at the University is continuing the tradition that comes every semester, Cram Jam, a series of fun, yet helpful events that are provided to students in preparation for finals.

One of the main offerings will be food for brain fuel.

Beginning Dec. 3, food and snacks will be offered by various food locations on campus. On Dec. 3, breakfast will be served at midnight at Fresh Foods. Here, President Mark Rosenberg, President of the Student Government Council at the Modesto Maidique Campus and SGC-MMC Vice President Alex Castro, along with volunteers, will serve food to students.

Other restaurants on the agenda include Subway and Dunkin’ Donuts, which will be served on Dec. 4. Grab & Go Bags will be served that day as well at 7 p.m. in the Green Library, room 220.

Crystal Horta, a senior hospitality management major and academic affairs coordinator at SGA, helps to encourage students to participate through games, prize giveaways and food.

GL is open late, so snacks and coffee will be served, especially for students who have their noses stuffed in their textbooks all day.

“For people who lost their Panther ID, we are giving them a chance to get one for free at the One Card office,” said Horta. “The purpose of Cram Jam is to take a break from your studies and go back to it later.”

Activities promote social interaction, and the events give students the opportunity to get their priorities in order.

Students required to ‘walk on water’ in order to pass finals

**KIMBROUGH**  
Staff Writer

Kimbrough. “I think it gave me a good break from my studies.”

With the amount of distractions with food, activities and people, it is possible that these events could hinder a student, rather than help them. But student feedback is positive, showing that these Cram Jams are successful.

Giorgio Izzo, a junior finance and international major, verifies that the Cram Jam is something worth experiencing.

“I have gone to at least three Cram Jams since I was a freshman. Even though I live on campus and have a meal plan, I think it is a good plan for studying,” said Izzo.

Some people may feel more comfortable studying at home or in their dorm, but the Cram Jam encourages hermit-like students to not only socialize, but to have fun while studying.

“I think it’s a really good initiative to kind of encourage late night studying. I think if you encourage people to stay on campus that late, people are more inclined to stay on campus,” said Izzo. “I like to participate in tradition. I think it is a really cool FIU tradition.”

With the end of November just around the corner, students are encouraged not only to begin studying, but to participate in these events to relieve stress, eat good food and develop a positive attitude toward finals.

-holly.mccoach@fiusm.com
The Frost to close fall semester with new exhibits

EDWIVE SEME
Staff Writer

After celebrating its 35th anniversary, The Frost Art Museum has more art events in store to close off this fall semester. Students and community members can expect one more Target Wednesday in December, the museum’s Art Basel event and other exhibitions.

On Nov. 17, the museum will host a reception from 5 to 8 p.m. to open two new exhibitions; these exhibitions were mentioned by Klaudio Rodriguez, assistant curator to the museum, during an interview on WLRN (91.3 FM) this past summer.

These exhibitions aren’t just about the art. Some will take attendees through history, others pay tribute to renowned artists and even contain foreign arts, as the museum never limits itself when it comes to acquiring artworks from all around the globe.

The event will feature ongoing exhibitions such as “Material and Meaning: Earth-enware, Stoneware and Porcelain” from the Wolfsonian-FIU Collection, to “Beauty: A Tribute to Mike Kelley,” American Sculpture in the Tropics” and “Mark Messersmith: Fragile Tribute to Mike Kelley, American Sculpture in the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, the National Museum of the American Indian and more.

“Ivan Navarro: Fluorescent Light Sculptures,” curated by Julia P. Herzberg, presents Ivan Navarro’s exploration of light and electrical materials through his fluorescent light sculptures. The series called “Nowhere Man” features three floor sculptures and 14 wall sculptures.

Navarro also makes videos part of his range of works, and thus three videos by the artist will be shown along with the sculptures.

The sculptures of the “Nowhere Man” series were inspired by and use images similar to the pictograms created by Otl Aicher for the 1972 Olympics. It will be the first time the entire series will be shown together in the United States.

“We hope the public will be amazed at an exhibit of works made of tubs of light,” said Carol Damian, director of the museum. “We can recognize their independence and what they looked like through these artworks.”

It will be exhibited with artworks from the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, the National Museum of the American Indian and more.

“Reflections Across Time: Seminole Portraits,” curated by Annette B. Fromm, museum studies coordinator, includes 150 portraits of Seminole leaders and tribal members by artists such as George Catlin, Edward Curtis and other artists from the 19th and 20th century. The artworks will show the Seminole artists’ pride and vision of their heritage and will illustrate their history.

“As an educational institution, we want our students and our community to recognize our neighbors and to understand that they never surrendered,” said Carol Damian, director of the museum. “We can recognize their independence and what they looked like through these artworks.”

The length of her dress hit right above the knees, making it already time to start thinking about Thanksgiving, winter break plans, family reunions, and of course, the sure to be many holiday themed parties.

What do you wear, or more importantly, what do you not wear?

Spending the majority of your days on a college campus tends to give you a distorted idea of what is acceptable in public, but when coming home for the holiday get-togethers, your sweat pants and shirt from the day before are not holiday-party appropriate.

Not only did Kilcoyne nail a youthful and humorous look, but he did it with class and something completely parentally-approved.

On the other side of campus near the housing dorms, I met junior political science major Rayehanna Salkey, who spiced things up with a baby blue, pearl-embroidered dress and white Oxford flats.

The holiday season is officially here, as we can all tell with the temperature dropping to a chilly 68 degrees and every department store filling their aisles with Christmas decorations.

With Halloween still freshly behind us, it’s already time to start thinking about Thanksgiving, winter break plans, family reunions, and of course, the sure to be many holiday themed parties.

What do you wear, or more importantly, what do you not wear?

Spending the majority of your days on a college campus tends to give you a distorted idea of what is acceptable in public, but when coming home for the holiday get-togethers, your sweat pants and shirt from the day before are not considered acceptable.

Freshman Kearney Kilcoyne, Asian studies major, was seen outside of the MMC Green Library sporting a classically cut gray tweed button down; however, the shirt was covered in a repetitive print of antlered-deer and topped off with a clip on bow-tie.

Not only did Kilcoyne nail a youthful and humorous look, but he did it with class and something completely parentally-approved.

Overall Rayehanna’s outfit was completely parental and holiday-party appropriate.

As you all go out and have your parties and shindigs to bring in the festive season, don’t forget as you’re picking out your attire to keep in mind what my mother always told me, “There’s a place and a time for everything.”

HOW MUCH:
FREE
WHERE: MMC
GC 316

How to dress for the upcoming holiday season

Junior political science major Rayehanna Salkey [left] wears a baby blue, pearl-embroidered dress, while freshman Asian studies major Kearney Kilcoyne wears a tweed, antlered-deer print button down with a clip on bow-tie.

ASHLEY GARNER
COLUMNIST

Get up to the minute news coverage, instant sports updates, what’s new in student life, music and talk shows, event photo galleries and more.

To have your event featured, email us at calendar@fiusm.com
Sports

Deportivo Lara dominates Dream Team in playoffs

JOLSON DIAZ
Contributing Writer

It was a lopsided soccer match between Deportivo Lara and Dream Team – in more than one way. Deportivo Lara took advantage of the five on four matchup against Dream Team and dominated them 9-3 on Nov. 8 at FIU’s Recreation Center at Modesto Maidique Campus during the indoor soccer “A” bracket playoff.

Tony Assenza got things started as he scored Deportivo Lara’s first goal of the game. Victor Sigala followed right after with an impressive head shot, increasing the lead to 2-0.

Amir Zalloum cut the lead in half after scoring the Dream Team’s first goal of the match. Deportivo Lara’s医药 continued to miss goals after being awarded a yellow card due to a rough defense.

Dream Team began to show life as they finally picked up their fifth player and Zalloum was able to score a penalty shot increasing the lead to 2-0. Although Deportivo Lara’s offense would not give up, Rodriguez scored their last three goals and sealed the win.

Focusing practice on defense proved helpful for Deportivo Lara. “We’re a group of friends,” said Rodriguez. “We all get along great and we know how we all play. We actually focus our practices on defense since we feel very confident offensively.”

Deportivo Lara advances to the next round as they take on Alcoholicos Anonimos on Nov. 14.

Buck Nasty Prevails to Defeat Do Work

Buck Nasty’s offense helped them recover from a two-goal deficit to defeat Do Work 5-3 on Nov. 8 in the indoor soccer “A” ladder playoff bracket at the Rec Center.

Do Work got right to it two minutes into the game as Endrieca answered back with another goal to pick up the early 2-0 lead.

Buck Nasty’s defense began to wake up as they blocked a total of 10 Do Work attempted shots. Ian Jones got their offense going, scoring Buck Nasty’s first goal of the game from about mid-court.

Endrieca answered back once more with another goal, protecting Do Work’s lead to 3-1. Buck Nasty retaliated and came back, taking the lead thanks to goals from Jones and Diego Perez.

After allowing Buck Nasty to pick up a free kick attempt, Do Work’s frustration got the best of the players. They received a yellow card because of tempers flaring on the court. Rudy Damas put the cherry on top after scoring Buck Nasty’s fifth goal to end the game with a final score of 5-3.

Buck Nasty was able to overcome the 2-0 deficit as patience and confidence proved vital. “It looked bad for us, the first five minutes or so, but we just knew we could pass the ball well and we were able to score a lot of goals,” Jones said. “We stayed patient and after about halfway through the game, we were able to gain some confidence.”

Buck Nasty advances to the next round and must wait until a winner emerges between Tre Beria and Free Agent at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 14. The winner plays Buck Nasty at 7:30 p.m.

Sports

Belly putters, on the way out, give a punch in the gut

E very once in a while, something happens along that revolutionizes a sport. New gear and rules appear frequently and very often change the game entirely.

Protective gear in football has ultimately affected every aspect of it.

The three-point line added a new dimension to basketball in 1979. The three-point shot expanded and modifications, but sometimes they are for the worse instead of the better.

Introducing the belly putter – a golf club used for putting that is anywhere between five to 12 inches longer than the conventional putter. It is the center of the new controversy in golf. Unfortunately for the users, it is looking to be banned.

The belly putter is being scrutinized as an advantage for its users. Standard putters are typically about 3 feet long and require you to use your hands, wrists and shoulders to rotate you through the swing. The belly putter, at its longer length, rests the end of the club on your belly. The user consequently requires a lot less effort on their part to stabilize the shot and ultimately makes it more consistent.

The debate is12 over this ability of the club. The belly putter is mostly used by players who have trouble with the regular putter. This raises the question as to why they are allowed to use something to overcome their handicap.

Players in every sport have one or more aspects of the game they need to improve on, but they don’t just come up with some new technology to overcome it.

The perfect example is the body suits that were designed for swimming competitively. In the 2008 Olympics and the 2009 Rome World Championships, a combined total of 109 records were broken in the aftermath of the bodysuit. It became a competition between technologies as opposed to a competition between athletes. What is athletic about putting on a suit designed to make you swim faster?

The Olympic Committee eventually decided to outlaw all suits and simply make the competitors swim in the basic swimming attire. After all, players who don’t drive as well aren’t allowed overly-sized clubs off the tee.

In basketball, you can’t play on a nine-foot rim if you have difficulty dunking. In football, they don’t move the goalpost closer for a player who can’t kick as far. Why should anyone be allowed to use an instrument to their advantage over the rest of the field?

The argument can be made that everyone can use the club if they feel it is an advantage. This simply allows a player to enhance their game without actually becoming better at it. Being a great putter can be the difference in a match. What happens if everyone becomes a great putter?

The belly putter ultimately creates a discussion that never existed. There were no arguments of whether or not some players had an advantage with legal clubs before. Everyone played their game and the outcome was eventually decided by skill and not gimmicks. If you want to lower your strokes, practice. You want to become a more consistent putter? Get the greens and put the time and effort in, the way the legends of the past and present have.

I believe the sport will ultimately do away with the club and keep it practical. There is no need to let the ember turn into the flame. The sport was loved before the belly putter and it will be loved after it is gone. They’ll decide to keep the controversy in its other more appealing aspects, like Tiger Woods.

-sports@fiusm.com
Federal authorities have dropped their investigation into sexual abuse claims that cost a Syracuse University assistant basketball coach his job, threw a top-ranked team into turmoil and threatened the career of Hall of Fame coach Jim Boeheim.

"After a probe spanning nearly a year, U.S. Attorney Richard Harturian said Friday there was not enough evidence to support claims that Bernie Fine had molested a boy in 2002 in a Pittsburgh hotel room.

"The nature and seriousness of these allegations, which involved conduct typically considered in private with individuals who are reluctant to come forward, warranted a thorough federal investigation," Harturian said.

It wasn't clear yet whether Fine, 66, could get his job back. His lawyers, Karl Sleight, Donald Martin and David Botsford, said in a statement that they were not surprised by the decision.

"The damage inflicted upon Bernie and his family is simply immeasurable," the lawyers said. "Bernie hopes and prays that the lesson learned and remembered is that a rash to judgment has irreversible consequences.

The investigation erupted in the glare of a spotlight on child abuse done by the Penn State University scandal that broke shortly beforehand. Two former Syracuse ballboys, Bobby Davis and Michael Lang, came forward Nov. 17 and accused the longtime assistant of forcing them when they were teens. Davis said the sexual contact continued for years.

But the claims by Davis and Lang had happened too long ago to be prosecuted. Ten days later, though, a third man, 23-year-old Zachary Tomaselli, of Lewiston, Maine, went public with an accusation that Fine had molested him in 2002 in a hotel room when the team played in Pittsburgh.

The same day, ESPN aired an interview in which Fine's wife, Laurie, apparently acknowledged and remembered is that a rash to judgment has irreversible consequences.

The university's prompt investigation turned the school into a source of much noise, with secretaries just beyond the closed door, at Syracuse basketball headquarters.

Tomaselli is serving a prison sentence of more than two years in 2010 and whose father had said that Davis and Lang were "confabulating and misleading.

Another accuser, Floyd Van Hooser, said Fine abused him for years but later said he was lying.

That left Tomasselli, who was himself accused of sexually abusing a boy at a camp in 2010 and whose father had said the boy was lying, Tomaselli accused of sexually abusing a boy at a camp in 2010 and whose father had said the boy was lying.

Tomasselli was recently convicted of sexual abuse and started a prison sentence of three years and three months in April.

Before he went behind bars, Tomasselli took the media on a wild spin, repeatedly lying in a bid to cover up the whole thing, that Fine had never touched him.

He said that he had lied about the whole thing, that Fine had never touched him.

He reiterated to his old claim and insisted Fine abused him.

Tomasselli is serving a prison sentence of more than three years in Maine and could not be reached for comment.

His lawyer, Justin Leary, was in court and could not immediately respond to a request for comment.

There were other sordid claims to come out, including that Fine's wife had sex with players and that Boeheim knew, or should have known, of his assistant's behavior.

While his No. 1-ranked Orange continued to rack up wins — they wouldn't lose their first game until Jan. 21 — Boeheim endured criticism and scrutiny and was questioned during news conferences about the case.

Boeheim, who just completed his 36th year coaching Syracuse, vehemently supported his longtime assistant when the accusations broke and said Davis was lying. "The Penn State thing came out, and the kid behind this is trying to get money," he told the Syracuse Post-Standard.

Amid criticism from victims' rights advocates, Boeheim apologized and said he spoke out of loyalty and was basing his comments on a 2005 university investigation that failed to corroborate Davis' claims.

Boeheim referred questions to the university's press office. University spokesman Kevin Quinn said that Syracuse appreciated the work done by the U.S. attorney's office and that the decision to fire Fine was appropriate.

"It was made in the best interest of the university," Quinn said.

Davis and Lang sued Boeheim and the university for defamation, but a judge dismissed the lawsuit, saying Boeheim's defense of his friend was clearly opinion.

Gloria Allred, the lawyer who represented the two men, did not immediately comment.

Fine, who put his Syracuse home on the market in March, has been in Florida and was recently hired as a consultant for an Israeli basketball team.

Laurie Fine has sued ESPN, alleging defamation and claiming the network knew that Davis was lying and ruined her life. That suit is pending.

The university's prompt response to the allegations was done in good faith but was flawed because, among other things, there was no direct contact with law enforcement.

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Davis, who
An “exception to expectation” in our ecosystem

MADISON FANTOZZI Contributing Writer

In a time of technological development and cruel climate change, society can still preserve the Everglades if water resources are managed correctly.

Evelyn Gaiser, associate professor in the department of biological sciences, will touch upon this topic along with others on Friday, Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. in Key Largo in the Ocean Life Series’ lecture “Expecting the Unexpected: Paradox in an Upside Down Estuary.”

Gaiser will also discuss how the ecosystem functions differently from other coastal wetlands.

“The Everglades provides the exception to the rule for many hypotheses about how coastal ecosystems work,” said Gaiser.

The lecture is free, open to the public and will be held at the Murray E. Nelson Government and Cultural Center in Key Largo.

According to the Florida Coastal Everglades, algae are extraordinarily productive in the Everglades despite extreme nutrient limitation. This production would be expected to support a large population of aquatic consumers, but it does not. This phenomenon is what the FCE refers to as the “productivity paradox.”

There is more energy stored in plant matter and fewer animals in the Everglades than ecological models predict.

Many of the predictions scientists and researchers make about the Everglades from a general understanding of coastal lines do not hold true, according to Gaiser.

“I hope students leave the lecture with a greater appreciation for the Everglades and for the process of how science progresses by finding exceptions to expectations,” Gaiser said.

“Students have fun experiencing exceptions to rules.”

The lecture will address distinctive features of the Everglades, how people depend on them and how the ecosystem can be preserved by correctly managing resources.

Long-term observational data has been paired with long-term manipulations of phosphorus to determine its influence on the productivity paradox. Research indicates that nutrient enrichment temporarily increases algal edibility, increasing production of aquatic consumers.

However, phosphorus enrichment leads to a loss of algae overall, which reduces structural refuge for aquatic animals and increases their vulnerability to predators.

This research contributes to restoration of the Everglades and for protection of wetlands, as it describes how hydrology controls food web structure directly.

The FCE has also shown through collaborative research in the Caribbean that this phenomenon is not only present in the Everglades, but in other limestone-based wetlands.

“Students should attend the Ocean Life series because it provides a venue for learning more about the fascinating ecosystems in which FIU is embedded,” Gaiser said. “The more we understand about our local ecosystems, the more we enjoy them and the more we want to learn about them.”

GENE YLLANES Contributing Writer

Down the road, just around the riverbend

If a student stands at the beach across from the Biscayne Bay Campus swimming pool, looking towards Haulover and A1A, Oleta River State Park is the tropical strand about 500 yards away.

Stretching over 1,200 feet, Florida’s largest urban park is a stone’s throw away from FIU.

Located at 3400 NE 163rd St., off I-95 in North Miami, this park is nestled in the metropolitan area, hidden off the beaten path.

Oleta’s river is fresh water, surrounded by saltwater as well as mangrove preserves, creating a brackish mixture which attracts indigenous wildlife.

Melinda Poindjaur, a junior and nursing major, said she saw a manatee when she was there, and it is normal to see even a pod of dolphins.

The park sports numerous things to do, ranging from kayaking to camping as well as hiking and 10 miles of off-road bicycling trails.

“They have the best mountain bike trails in Florida,” said Brian Scott Older, park services specialist. “We are consistently rated among the top 15 nationally.”

Oleta State Park is one of the few places in North Miami with off-road trails. Poindjaur also rode on those trails.

“I am a beginner and I was scared the first time I tried. But after that, I biked on all the trails possible,” she said.

With over four miles of beginner trails to ride, there were plenty of places for her to ride, and although she brought her own bike, there is a shop where students can rent a bike.

Cruisers are $17 for an hour and a half and $22 for two hours. Hardtail bikes are $24 for an hour and a half and $30 for two hours.

The admission fees vary from $6 per vehicle with a limit of two to eight people per vehicle and $4 for a motorcycle or a single-occupant vehicle.

“Oleta is so close, with so many things to do,” said Michael Aquino, a junior in business administration.

Aquino goes there about once a month to enjoy the scenery.

He said the park is focused on maintaining the natural South Florida mangrove forest preserve, but he feels that it can grow.

“It would be great to see new activities within the next couple years, but for now it is fine enough for me,” Aquino said.

“Other students feel differently about it,” Ingrid Martinez, a junior biology major said that there could be much more.

“Although there is a beach and bike trails, that’s all there is. I wish there were more open spaces to picnic, or just hang out,” she said.

Most of the park is covered in either mangrove preserve or bike paths, leaving the majority of this park to paved roads and lots, yet there are still some large pavilions scattered along the exterior that are rented for private parties.

Steven James, guest relations and reservations assistant in Wolfe University Center, has visited there for a couple of private parties, and from where his office is on the third floor of WUC, the pavilions and beach are visible.

“I’ve seen that they have the kayaking and biking there,” he said. “But I haven’t tried them.”

Juliana Aragon, a senior and international relations major, knows Oleta solely for those pavilions.

“Last year I visited there for a barbeque with the Intervarsity Club. It was great, but I didn’t try any activities,” Aragon said.

Jennings and Keller will perform. Tickets are $32 for an hour and a half and $38 for two hours. A tandem kayak costs $32 for an hour and a half and $22 for two hours.

It costs $22 to rent a single kayak for an hour and a half and $28 for two hours. A tandem kayak costs $32 for an hour and a half and $38 for two hours.

On Dec. 1, Oleta River State Park is holding the first of their Moonlight Concert series at 7 p.m. Acoustic duo, Jennings and Keller will perform. Tickets at the door are $8 for adults, $5 for children and free for children under 6 years old.

Additional reporting by Nadra Mahtrook.