ENROLLMENT

Estimated 7,000 drop from fall to spring

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Editor-in-Chief

If the student centers don’t seem as packed as they did last semester that’s because they aren’t.

As of Jan. 7, the first day of the spring 2013 term, an estimated 43,608 students are enrolled in the University compared to a total of 50,400 enrolled in fall 2012. This amounts to 13 percent fewer students enrolled in the University in spring 2013.

While there are usually fewer students enrolled between fall and spring semesters, the 13 percent fewer students is the biggest change between semesters over the last four years, going back to the 2009-2010 academic year.

In 2009-2010 there were 0.05 percent fewer from fall 2009 to spring 2010, 0.1 percent in 2010-2011, and 2 percent in 2011-2012.

The above numbers reflect grand total enrollments.

As of full-time enrollment, the semester to semester differences were 3.5 percent lower from fall 2009 to spring 2010, 2.8 percent in fall 2010 to spring 2011, 5.6 percent in fall 2011 to spring 2012, and 10 percent in fall 2012 to spring 2013.

The number of first time students in college has consistently dropped 7 percent from fall to spring semester over the last four years going back to the 2009-2010 academic year, but in 2012-2013 there was an 8 percent drop.

However, the University does not consider the fewer students as an actual “drop,” according to Luisa Havens, vice president of enrollment services during an interview with Student Media. “No institution will consider that a drop,” Havens said, adding universities do not take into account fluctuations in semesters.

Havens said the University will know whether enrollment is up or down in fall 2013. This is because variances occur between semesters — such as students graduating, classes that start at different times, students dropping out, and the timing of enrollment based on enrollment periods. The variances make using semesters not a complete scale to determine enrollment.

Based on trends, Havens said, the University has been growing.

“I won’t worry right now because it doesn’t look like I’ll be behind,” Havens said.

While there may not be an actual drop now, there will be one in fall 2013.

Part of the University’s 2010-2015 Worlds Ahead Strategic Plan is an increase enrollment by 2,000 students per year. However, following a $24.3 million budget cut earlier in 2012, University President Mark Rosenberg made temporary changes to the plan for the 2013-2014 academic year. The specific changes were decreasing student enrollment and hiring less faculty advisers.

“We did expect to grow by about 10,000 students during that five-year strategic plan but...”

SGA takes care of students’ health

STEPHAN USECHE
Asst. News Director

The Student Government Association and University Health Services came together to look after the students’ health. 300 flu shots have been donated to UHS to administer them to FIU students for free Wednesday, Jan. 16 at 9:30 a.m.

“Florida has been identified as a red flag state, being that there is flu identified here,” said Lourdes Diaz-Berougnian, nurse manager at University Health Services. “So we’re taking a proactive approach to make sure students have access to the flu shots.”

Diaz-Berougnian reported seeing flu-like symptoms in students, and even when the numbers aren’t big, the changes of weather and the holiday traveling might make the flu more noticeable.

According to Diaz-Berougnian, the flu has always been around and the symptoms vary from sore throat, cough, headache, bone and body ache to weakness, loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting depending on the person.

Jose Toscano, interim director of Campus Life, coordinated with UHS and SGA to bring this service to the school. “All the directors were at a meeting last week, and the director for Student Health Services, Oscar Loytanza, was surprised that students weren’t coming around for flu shots and seeing that there is a national issue in many states, and Florida could be one of those issues,” Toscano said. “So after the meeting I sat down with him and asked how SGA could help out.”

There is an associated cost of $16 per student for each of the 300 flu shots being brought to the University, totaling $4,800, which SGA is picking up.

There is concern on those students that suffer of chronic conditions, such as diabetes and asthma. Diaz-Berougnian recommends they receive the shot because the symptoms can take a bigger toll on them.

Also, there are a few limitations to

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Editor-in-Chief

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UTS working on Wi-Fi improvements and other updates

MARIA BRITO
Contributing Writer

Robert Grillo, vice president and chief information officer, said in a previous interview with Student Media, “We built a very robust and a very good infrastructure to support the Wi-Fi technology.”

However, some students have reported bad experiences with the availability of Wi-Fi on both campuses, while others have recounted little to no problem.

“It takes a longer time to set it up than it [does] to sometimes use it, because you lose signal at different spots [within the University],” said Hannah Kandlewicz, a sophomore majoring in nursing.

She also noted some buildings such as Academic Health Center 3 and Chemistry and Physics, located on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, have experienced low Wi-Fi connections, especially inside classrooms.

Whether it is to do some research for homework, or just surf through Facebook, just about every FIU student and staff member depends on the Wi-Fi service.

“I actually use it a lot because during my breaks, it is convenient to stay out of boredom, but I have never really had a lot of trouble with it,” said Maria Baradles, sophomore hospitality major.

According to Grillo, the bad connectivity in some places around campus can be attributed to the need to replace the Wi-Fi equipment or a need for a new access point.

“We continue to upgrade and improve our wireless infrastructure. Our strategy is for students to have access anywhere and anytime [on campus],” said Grillo, who also suggested that in case there are any other “bad connection” zones to make the University Technology Services department aware of it.

Aside from the Wi-Fi improvements, UTS has engaged in many new updates for the University. One definite change has been the migration of courses from Moodle to Blackboard.

“There have been complaints from students and the faculty about using two webpage systems at the same time,” said Grillo. “By the end of this semester all online courses will be on Blackboard.”

The University has also already launched its mobile application, FIU Mobile, and recently UTS has added new services. This includes the ability for students to search, add to their cart and enroll in a course all through the mobile device.

Grillo also explained that the UTS department has been adjusting to social websites such as Twitter and Facebook in order to provide and send more information on upcoming events and updates throughout the University. UTS offers other benefits to students

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CAPS helps students balance health and academics

NATALIE BAEZ
Contributing Writer

Part of being human comes with having different experiences, different emotions, and different ways of reacting. The role of counselors can be described as restoring this balance to an individual.

Dr. Lynette Austin, assistant director of counseling, and things of that nature,” said Dr. Lynette Austin, assistant director of CAPS at the Biscayne Bay Campus. The counseling services offered by CAPS include counseling, consultations and referrals, victim services, and specialized services ranging from a de-stress clinic to anonymous online self-assessments, free of charge.

“We help students in individual counseling with roommate problems, problems with their parents, fears of graduation, anxiety, homesickness, grief counseling, and things of that nature,” said Dr. Lynette Austin, assistant director of CAPS at the Biscayne Bay Campus. The counseling services offered by CAPS include individual, couple, and group counseling.

Individual and couples counseling may be used by students who have concerns that can be treated in brief sessions while group counseling is offered everyday to work through relational issues. “We operate with a brief psychotherapy model but don’t have a session limit for treatments,” Austin said.

For issues that need to be treated on a more of a long-term basis, CAPS offers its consultation and referral service in which a student is evaluated and then referred to a community clinic that could treat them.

The consultation at FIU is free but the clinical service where a student is directed may or may not be free.

Through individual counseling, screenings, or documented referrals that show psychiatric need, students have the option of meeting with two of FIU’s part-time psychiatrists for free sessions. However, the student must pay for any prescribed medications subscribed in sessions.

The Counseling and Psychological Services also offer de-stress clinics, exclusively at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, for students who need help managing stress through its “Balanced Mind” initiative, with combined computer sessions and workshops.

Junior psychology major Marlene Martinez was surprised to learn about the de-stress clinics.

“I’m really glad there’s something to fall back on when the stress of taking too many credits kicks in,” Martinez said.

CAPS also provides help to students with learning disabilities and other neurological disorders.

“Students come in for evaluations and may receive documented proof for classroom accommodations. This evaluation comes at a cost of $300 paid by the student, but may be paid in three increments.

In addition to facilitating student documentation for classroom accommodations, CAPS has the Victim Empowerment Program in which students who have encountered some sort of physical violence, such as domestic violence or rape, are provided with care and assistance, whether it be immediately after an act of violence has occurred, or anytime thereafter.

The Victim Empowerment Program assists students by accompanying victimized students in court or to the hospital to help administer rape kits.

The program provides immediate assistance for a victimized person in need and would also, in due time, provide students with the documentation for a medical withdrawal as needed.

“We are the bridge that connects mental health and well-being to academic success,” Austin said.

As aforementioned, the CAPS provides an anonymous online self-assessment in which students can test for different issues like eating disorders, depression, generalized anxiety disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and bipolar disorder.

Senior marine biology major Bijjan Shirvani took the online assessment.

“The questions are extremely vague and the results to picking a specific answer are really predictable. It’s a cool idea, but it’s definitely not engineered to be precise,” Shirvani said.

The Counseling and Psychological Services are available at both MMC and BBC and the self-assessments are available through their website, counseling-services.fiu.edu.

Walk-ins at BBC are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays in the University Health Services Clinic Room 270. Walk-ins at MMC are from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Wolfe Center Room 320.

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because of the budget uncertainty, we have agreed that there will be very limited, only very limited student growth... for the 2013-2014 academic year,” Rosenberg said to Student Media in an interview in fall 2012. Maylin Hernandez, freshman political science major, has a friend who transferred out of FIU to the University of Miami.

“His transferred to UM because of UM’s prestige compared to FIU,” Hernandez said. “And I have another friend that will do the same.”

Hernandez said she applied to UM and Nova Southeastern University and was accepted into both but chose FIU to be a part of the Model United Nations team, because the University is a top minority school, and because it is less expensive than the other two.

“You get more for your money here,” Hernandez said.

Erik Rojas-Dotel, junior political science major, believes financial reasons are possibly why students would leave the University. Schools such as Miami-Dade College or Broward College offer courses as one-third of the price of FIU, Rojas-Dotel said. Tatiana Amaya, junior nursing major, said if she didn’t get into her upper-division program then she also would leave the University and added the service to students can be improved.

“Services can be unreliable,” Amaya said. “Advising is awful.”

-Natalie Baez

Data shows significant decrease

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Wi-Fi to improve by student demand

Free flu shots to be given out on Wednesday

Free flu shots to be given out on Wednesday

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Through rows of speeding carts

JENNA KEFAUVER
Staff Writer

The new golf cart legislation on campus has many students and faculty sighing in relief and many others growing in anger.

Personally, I understand the need for the new rules. On a daily basis, I almost get hit by golf carts at least three to five times. And I’d love to be able to call that number that asks “How is my driving?”, but the golf carts whip by me so fast that it’s impossible to regain my balance and read the number in the time it takes for the golf cart to speed away.

So yes, I agree with the new golf cart rules because I don’t want to die. But I don’t know that’s what needed to happen. I don’t believe it’s an issue with how the golf cart goes, more how the golf cart operators drive. I shouldn’t have to be afraid to leave my room.

I do not, however, agree that those carrying heavy tools are able to drive wherever they want because, in my experience, those are the golf carts that I need to watch out for most.

So here’s my proposal: we enact a speed limit and ticket those who go over that speed limit. Because there is no reason that a golf cart should be driving on a sidewalk at 15 miles an hour.

I think this could benefit everyone involved because I understand how this new legislation inconveniences those attempting to do their work by requiring them to skirt the campus. I know that it’s pretty much impossible to carry stacks upon stacks of newspaper from building to building and I doubt anyone else wants to carry whatever they have to carry from building to building as well.

It’s our job to ensure our own safety and it seems that others don’t see this as a priority.

-MIGUEL MARTINEZ-VIDERA
Contributing Writer

Flipping through the channels, you stumble upon a scene of such indecency, that it makes you stop, and go, “Really?”

Now, how many of you have reached that same piece of flabbergasting, harshly stated, fl, and left the channel on, just to see what happens?

That initial pique of curiosity then somehow, through some form of modern day alchemy, turns into a general intrigue, then, even more miraculously, into a genuine interest.

That’s when they’ve got you.

They’ve found a way to categorize these shows, which are overwhelmingly filled with substance equal to scum, into, what you can only assume is done with a heavy dose of irony, Reality TV.

You’ve got your major ones such as the human encrusted puppets of the Jersey Shore, the unbearably trashy Honey Boo Boo, names more widely known than many of our most important thinkers. Then these shows also delve into makeovers (home or other-wise), cooking (taken to some odd extremes), and even wedding dress shopping. And the list goes on an on, almost ad infinitum.

At times you feel like this must be a joke, like the producers of these shows are just toying with you. But they are not.

They continue to crank out show after show for one reason: people are watching.

Perhaps it’s our voyeuristic tendencies, or fantasies, or maybe we just enjoy the little lie that, “perhaps these things are actually happening.” Deep down though, at least I hope, we all know it’s all utter bullshit.*

So why are we watching? Could our curiosity be somehow related to our own innate selfishness to feel better about ourselves? Think about the absolute worst human being you could. Now turn on the TV, and with enough channel surfing, you’re sure to find their perfect proxy.

How many of you watch these shows with a mocking eye, where you criticize and laugh at the appalling individuals presented? Is that it? Are we all just human and can actually be.

Every channel has their own brand of “reality” that they push on you, just as every street corner once had their own drug to sell.

*Given that FIU just spent all that money on the new traffic management -- because, obviously an all-way-stop was too difficult a concept to grasp-- shouldn’t we at least use it? Even if it is only to watch pedestrians trying to scurry across six lanes of traffic in under 30 seconds.

Britt Turquest
Graduate Student
Chemistry Department

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ineffective traffic directors

As I was leaving campus this evening, I was immediately concerned when I realized that the FIU police was directing the traffic at the intersection of 109th Ave and University Drive. Traveling east on University Drive in order to leave campus, I needed to make the left turn onto 109th. With this in mind I turned on my indicator and waited for the cop to allow me to turn.

Imagine my surprise when he motioned for me to continue going straight despite the fact that I obviously wanted to turn.

When I physically alerted him to my desire to go he continued to wave me on, so I did, quietly voicing my displeasure to myself.

At this point he felt it was appropriate to start screaming at me, “I told you, you could turn.” Let me make this clear: No, you didn’t.

If you are facing south on 109th and wanting to traffic head east on University Drive with your right arm wind-milling across the front of your body, said arm is directing us to continue in that direction.

If it had just been me, I’d say that I misunderstood but both the two vehicles preceding me and the one following me all interpreted him the same way and ended up having to go around the back and through PG5 to get back to 109th.

In actuality, to indicate to a driver that they can make a turn, the person directing traffic first points at the driver and then motions them to the direction they want to go.

If you’re turning left, I point to you and then swing my arm to the left indicating the path of motion.

It also didn’t help that both he and the other officers in his company were standing in the lanes of traffic making it impossible to turn without running one of them over.

For the average person, when someone is actively blocking your path, it typically means they don’t want you to go that way.

Given that FIU just spent all that money on the new traffic management -- because, obviously an all-way-stop was too difficult a concept to grasp-- shouldn’t we at least use it? Even if it is only to watch pedestrians trying to scurry across six lanes of traffic in under 30 seconds.

Britt Turquest
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FIU Tri Club to host Color Run for the first time

Students at all fitness levels can now join one of the University’s most physically active clubs: the Tri Club, also known as the Tri Club, at Biscayne Bay Campus. On Jan. 19-20, the Tri Club members will run the “Armageddon Ambush,” a 5K obstacle race at Markham Park in Sunrise, Fla. with climbing challenges, color stations and mud pits.

For the first time, the Tri Club will host FIU’s Color Run at BBC on Feb. 3, which is free to all students. The participants will receive a white race shirt and will be covered with color throughout the race.

Participants are also encouraged to attend the vendor fair and the after-party with a DJ and free food.

It will be collaboratively not only the Tri Club, but also by several other departments, such as the BBC Recreation Center, Campus Life, Panther Power, Student Programming Council and the Wellness Center.

“I enjoy the support the students give each other and working with our coach, Diane,” said Christina Reddick, assistant director for Student Affairs and race director of the Tri Club.

Diane Calloway, owner and CEO of the TriDi Multisport Training company and coach of the Tri Club, has been able to train students who have never walked or run, have never ridden a bicycle, or have never even swam before into triathletes. Several of these students competed in September’s “Escape to Miami” triathlon last year.

“Watching these students transition into becoming a triathlete has been incredibly rewarding,” Calloway said.

For more information, go to the FIU Tri Club website and contact Christina Reddick.

-Contact Us
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Life! Editor
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LIFE!

World class quartet to establish a presence in Miami Beach

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe described chamber music, and consequently string quartet music as “four rational people conversing through music.” Evidence to that description is the Amernet String Quartet, a group of talented musicians currently working at the University’s School of Music.

With a reputation as a world-class ensemble, the quartet is composed of Marcia Littley on violin, Misha Vitenson, also on violin, Jason Calloway on cello, and finally, Michael Klotz on viola. For those unfamiliar with it, string quartet is one of the most important types of chamber ensemble in classical music. As the name says it, it’s composed of a small group of four string players.

“The Repertoire is very prominent; it has every major composer from Haydn and on, which is when the string quartet was really polished and developed,” said Vitenson. “To the general audience it is a very intimate experience that puts them as close as possible to the royal chambers of the time.”

Founded more than 20 years ago, the group has been performing all over the world, earning a multitude of awards and working in residence at schools, such as The University of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky University, before they took residence at FIU, where they have been teaching for the past nine years.

It’s been a great learning experience working at the school. “We’ve been fortunate to have the support from the administration,” said Klotz. “We also have had the chance of collaborating with many other well esteemed artists, including some of which were our mentors in the past.”

Such a collaboration is the one they have teaching for the Honors College, a program named Exploring World Cultures and Societies through the String Quartet. “We discuss the political and social atmospheres of the different times in every spectrum as we explore their contemporary musical compositions,” said Calloway.

Among all the workshops, collaborations and classes, there is also a very busy schedule of other events for the String Quartet. Just for the remainder of this month, they have six different performances left, which can be found on their website. Their prolific calendar has them scheduled to play at the Miami Beach Urban Studios on Jan. 31 at 7:30 p.m. In this presentation, the quartet will play works by Beethoven, Erich Wolfgang Korngold and Hugo Wolf.

The musicians seem to look at the Urban Studios in very good light, something that should make audiences look forward for a promising concert. The location, on the Art Deco 420 Lincoln Road building, is a studio space reserved for architecture and art students, as well as for the practice and performance of music and theatre. “We’ve been rehearsing there, and it’s a very adequate place. It exudes the arts,” said Klotz.

The event is part of a group of efforts in establishing a strong presence on the beach area, where the cultural awareness and the artistic medium is more prevalent.
Panther Unveiled

MMC SGA President Laura Fariñas unveils FIU’s new Panther Sculpture alongside President Mark B. Rosenberg that now proudly stands before the US Century Bank Arena. A new FIU tradition, this masterpiece is a beacon of victory and is said to give good luck to all who touch it.

The musical director and first-time conductor for the show, Luciano D’Amico, a sophomore business major, illustrates the importance of getting involved with musical, as a musician, and the valuable experience gained from it.

“We want to open up opportunities to everyone, especially high school students so that they realize it’s not only a wonderful experience, but also how different it is from playing in an ensemble or in a music concert,” said D’Amico.

Alumni Jorgina [Fernandez] and Jillian [Torgas Layva] both saw it on Broadway and fell in love with the show and the music,” said alumna Ana Andreu, program’s director as well as one of the directors of Tarzan. “They were dying to do it here with our kids but the rights to the show weren’t available yet.”

The ape man is swinging to the stage for the first time ever in Florida at the Roxy Performing Arts Center’s presentation of “Tarzan: The Stage Musical” based on the 1999 Disney film.

The musical, which opened in 2006 on Broadway and closed 14 months later due to poor ticket sales, follows the storyline of the Disney film with various changes: Terk (Rosie O’Donnell) is now male while Tantor, the elephant from the film, is completely left out of the musical version.

“One of these songs, “Two Worlds,” the first song of the musical and movie, will be sung by both Tarzan’s human parents as well as his gorilla family, while Tarzan himself will now sing “Strangers Like Me.”

The production will feature nine new songs, written by Phil Collins for the musical, including “Who Better than Me,” “I Need to Know,” and “Waiting for this Moment,” some of which will now be sung by different characters in the musical instead of Collins.

“I’ve played in more musicals than I’ve seen but it’s a new experience even if people have seen musicals, especially because a musical, as a whole, is a lot longer than a concert and, as a conductor you have to figure out when singers are supposed to sing and be accustomed to when the cues come in.” D’Amico said. “The key is focus; anyone who has played a concert or show before has developed the ability to focus.”

The orchestra counts with more than 60 percussion instruments, which D’Amico said has been the hardest part of the show, coordinating all the four percussion sections with the rest of the orchestra.

“The work of the conductor is to make sure the orchestra is always together, they are the bridge between the singers and the orchestra and has to maintain the orchestra together as well,” said D’Amico. “Live shows are unpredictable and it’s different when you’re conducting live as opposed to taking a conducting class. The experience has been something different but interesting.”
Malik Smith embraces the long-distance battle

KEVIN CASTANEDA
Staff Writer

Malik Smith left his junior college last year the leading three-point shooter. He is leading the Sun Belt Conference in three-point shots made per game this year. But more importantly, he is the leading voice of the FIU men's basketball team.

"Without question, he is the leader of this team, and the most vocal in the locker room," Head Coach Richard Pitino said.

The cost of his success, though, came at the expense of spending a majority of his time away from his son, Malik Smith Jr. He has been away from his biggest role model, his mother, Gladys Pearson along with his two brothers and four sisters.

However, the 23-year-old Smith has been away doing more than just playing basketball. He has been studying hard to graduate for his son and mother.

"She always wanted me to do what she didn’t do, and she always wanted me to finish school since she couldn’t," Smith said. "I want to do it for her.

Smith’s journey to FIU has been tumultuous, and constantly being long distance from his family never helped.

Junior guard Malik Smith almost didn’t come to FIU, but he took his former coach’s advice and became a Panther before long.

After an unsuccessful season at South Plains College in Texas, his freshman year, he went back to Boston to be with his family. He then received a barrage of phone calls from Jacksonville Junior College Head Coach Jody Bailey. Smith had no intention of going to another small school in Texas so far away from his family, but Bailey’s persistence finally persuaded Smith to join the team.

"He arrived to the campus in January of 2011, and in the middle of his first practice he left to call his mom to get him out of there," Bailey said. "You could tell he was struggling to find his place in the world."

It was that moment, in the locker room, that Bailey asked Smith to trust him.

Bailey began to mentor Smith by providing him with a family experience. Bailey would bring Smith into his home to meet his wife and interact with his son, cook him some meals and even do some of his laundry.

"We finally got him to open up. He started showing my wife pictures of his baby all the time," Bailey said.

The trust that Bailey was able to build with Smith elevated his game to a whole new level. Bailey told Smith he could not take less than ten three-pointers per game. While Smith disliked spending months far away from his family, his game on hardwood now thrived on long distances. It was through this trust that Smith became the best shooter in Junior College that season.

"Coach Bailey instilled work ethic in me. He told me that if I don’t put in the work, someone else will out work me," said Smith.

So when Pitino contacted Bailey, a former assistant coach in Louisville, to find out what type of player Smith was, Bailey told him Smith could be the best shooter in the Sun Belt. But more than anything else, he’s getting a kid with a great heart.

It was only natural Smith would trust Bailey and head for FIU to play in Pitino’s offense, an offense that requires a fear- less shooter like Smith.

"You want him to take the last shot. He wants to take the last shot. You can rely on him every day,” Pitino said.

The junior guard demonstrated his reliance against Stetson, Dec. 19, 2012. After tweaked his back in the warm-ups, Smith played through it and scored 29 points for the Panthers, a season high and team high.

Even with performances like the one at Stetson, Smith’s 2-year-old son is more interested in what Roary the mascot is up to, after the younger Smith made a shoot.

Only four months old, Archery club club shoots off to fast start

RHYS WILLIAMS
Contributing Writer

Few activities can be both considered a hobby, a sport, and a way to survive. Archery is one of them.

Now, there is a team at FIU that has some high aspirations for the near future.

Gemma Laudicina is the president and founder of the FIU Archery Club. She and fellow board member sophomore Jose Dos Santos watched it become official in the final week of September during fall 2012.

The archery club at FIU is the first collegiate club of its kind in the South Florida area. The executive board at the University will be helping both Miami-Dade College and the University of Miami get chapters of their own within the next few years.

"Archery is a sport that everyone can do and we as a group give them the possibility to give it a try," Laudicina said.

The two have a goal to eventually compete in other states, but currently have a majority of their competitions planned in Florida.

"Hopefully by the time Jose and I graduate we will be competing nationally but right now we are just in Florida and Alabama," said Gemma Laudicina.

For a fee of $100, an aspiring archer can join the FIU Archery Club, receive national certification from the National Field Archery Association, and become a member at the Everglades Archery Club for one year.

Currently these members all either supply or rent their own equipment. Buying a bow can range from $200 to more than $2,500 depending on what an archer wants to use: the most basic of bows or an assortment of accessories.

Arrows range from $15 for a pack of three to packs of a dozen for almost $150.

"I tend to buy my equipment through savings any extra money I have," said sophomore Michael Delamo.

Another way the archers obtain their equipment is through fundraisers with which they buy arrows. It is a necessity to have a selection of arrows because it is not unusual to lose some of them during a shoot.

"In one shoot, a single archer can start with 50 arrows and finish with less than 40. Some break, some get stuck in the ground and are hard to find and others, if the person’s aim is off enough, can possibly get lost in the woods near the target," Delamo said.

The growth rate of the club has surprised Dos Santos, who had no idea the club would have a member count of 40 people in its first season.

"It seems harder to promote the group and people are more reluctant to join since we haven’t been around that long compared to one that is longer standing," Dos Santos said. "As a team, the archery club has shown that we are serious and that has helped us to get a group put together in such a short period of time."

Laudicina and her team are happy that their effort has resulted better than prior attempts.

"Other groups of students attempted to start a club and failed. We were able to make it happen, in my opinion, because we focused on making it welcoming to a larger group of students," said Delamo.
Cindy Russo, head coach of the FIU women’s basketball team, can sense her team is on the verge of turning the hypothetical corner and heading in the right direction.

After a dismal 2-4 start to the season, the squad has gone on a tear. They are 7-2 since Dec. 1 and have found a way out of their early season slump during an in-state rivalry game against FAMU. The game was close throughout. With 21 seconds left in the game, the Rattlers were up 69-68. Senior Carmen Milagros drove the length of the court and found Mansare, who hit the game-winning basket to beat FAMU 70-69.

Mansare took the momentum from her game-winner into the team’s next contest against ULM and ended the night with 15 points and 7 rebounds.

“There are days like that and then there are days where it’s not happening. Thank God today was a good day,” Mansare said.

The squad is now at the midway mark of the year and Russo believes it’s one of the most crucial points of the season. “Basketball seasons are so long,” said Russo. “You always need to sit back and hit the reset button, and we need to do that right now to refresh ourselves. We are at that point right now.”

SMITH, PAGE 6

A rare visit to watch his dad play.

“After coming down and meeting him, he loves Roary. Now, every day when I call him and all he says is ‘Dada, where is Roary?’” Smith said.

STREAKING INTO CONFERENCE PLAY

This squad will enter conference play on a complete tear of late. Since Dec. 1, the Panthers improved their record to 9-6 (3-3 SBC). Winning in lengthy spurts can almost always be attributed to one main factor: playing solid defense.

Over the past nine games, the squad held opponents to under 40 percent in their field goal shooting six times. They also held opponents to under 45 percent shooting on two occasions, and they only allowed one team to shoot over 50 percent from the field. On the season, the team ranks third in the Sun Belt in field goal percentage defense. The squad, on average, only allows opponents to shoot 38 percent from the field.

“They are not playing more like a team,” said senior captain Finda Mansare. “We practice harder and we just really feel like we are playing with urgency now. We take pride in defense and in rebounding. We are really getting better.”

The team’s remaining schedule consists of all conference games. By the time the regular season wraps up, the squad will have played 16 consecutive conference games.

“Every team will dedicate some of their best players to conference,” Russo believes it’s one of the most crucial points of the season. “Basketball seasons are so long,” said Russo. “You always need to sit back and hit the reset button, and we need to do that right now to refresh ourselves. We are at that point right now.”

MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, SMITH WANTS TO SEE THE TEAM IMPROVEMENT

More than anything else, Smith wants to see the team improve. “We let him play soccer, basketball, football and even swimming. ‘I want to instill in him that he can do whatever he wants, and that education is the most important,” Smith said.

If Smith had any doubt about his parenting abilities, even if they are from afar, Bailey knows otherwise.

“I know he is going to be a great role model for his son,” Bailey said.
Hospitality is serving up “new” course options for Spring

STEPHANIE MASON
Staff Writer

In an attempt to provide students with a better variety of subjects and flexibility, the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management is offering several “new” courses this semester.

These courses are primarily electives and are not brand new to the University. In fact, all of these courses have been offered by the University in the past, however it has been several years since they have seen the light of day.

In addition to these courses being offered, many of the older and more familiar courses from CSHTM are now being offered at different times or in different forms in order to allow more convenience for students.

This is the first semester that CSHTM will be offering Saturday classes; nine of them to be exact. CSHTM will also be offering the basic cooking classes, Introductory Commercial Food Production and Advanced Food Production Management online. These are core courses needed for all students to graduate. Both of these online cooking courses will be taught by Mark D’Alessandro.

“We’re trying to offer maximum flexibility for our students,” said Delia Morato, Bridge and CSHTM Senior academic advisor.

Normally, these courses can only fit about 35 students maximum and are six to seven hours long.

Nathan Dodge, program administrator for CSHTM, said, “If you’re working, it’s tough to be able to make that schedule.”

Junior hospitality major Anjali Nath said the cooking classes are “impossible to get into” and despite them being offered online, she would rather wait to take the course in person to have the in-class experience.

Another one of the “new” courses being offered this semester in CSHTM is an elective called Coastal and Marine Tourism taught by Carol Lusby. Lusby is planning to do several “hands-on” activities with this course such as going as well as taking a couple of field trips to Key West throughout the semester.

Senior hospitality management major enrolled in Lusby’s course, Myra Pelayo said, “Where I’m from, everything is about marine tourism.”

Pelayo is interested in taking this course so that she can go back to her home country, Belize, to work at some of the resorts there.

Senior hospitality management major Leonardo Villar noticed a specific course needed for his minor, restaurant management, was no longer being offered.

Villar called CSHTM and the course, Food and Beverage Control, was reinstated and is now being taught by Professor Joel Feigenheimer.

Another student from the course, Alex Abella, is in the CSHTM’s 36-hour Restaur-

ant Food Service Management Certificate program.

Abella says that he has taken the course, Purchasing and Menu Planning, with Feigenheimer before and is looking forward to learning even more in depth about food and beverage with this course.

Morato said, “A lot of the faculty and staff, they’re really interested in making sure the students are getting that experience.”

Morato feels that they try to accommodate the students’ needs.

“Students are our number one priority. We want to get them the best education,” Dodge said.

-Joel P Feigenheimer

NEW AND RETURNING CSHTM COURSES

Course #:
HFT 3735
FSS 3285
HFT 3457
HFT 6225
FSS 3242C
HFT 4708
HFT 6278

Description:
Dust & Cultures
Art in Culinary Arts
F & B Control
Restaurant Mgmt Hosp
International Cuisine
Coast & Marine Tourism
Timeshare Mgt

Professor:
Alan Garcia
Mark D’Alessandro
Joel P Feigenheimer
Mary L Tanke
Judith C Williams
Carolyn Lusby
James V Mamarone

In addition, Cooking 1 and 2 are now offered online.

9 Courses will be available on Saturdays for the first time.

CHAPLIN SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT

HFT 4718
FSS 3285

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International Cuisine

SAnA U llAh /t he B eAcon

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NOW THAT’S GOODMINTON

Christopher Mainsset, a sophomore studying Biology, invited students outside of the Wolfe University Center to join him in a game of badminton. Badminton is a racquet sport with a feathered ball called a shuttlecock. Every Tuesday and Wednesday, he and the Badminton Club play indoors on the 2nd floor of WUC in the ballrooms. The club meets at both Modesto Waridique Campus and BBC.

Christopher Mainsset, a sophomore studying Biology, invited students outside of the Wolfe University Center to join him in a game of badminton. Badminton is a racquet sport with a feathered ball called a shuttlecock. Every Tuesday and Wednesday, he and the Badminton Club play indoors on the 2nd floor of WUC in the ballrooms. The club meets at both Modesto Waridique Campus and BBC.

Students will be jammin’, jammin’ all night long

VINSON PRESSLEY
Contributing Writer

When one thinks of reggae music one long, freckled haylock of Bob Marley instantly come to mind along with the vibrant colors that make up the Jamaican flag, which are yellow, black and green.

The Student Programming Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus will let students enjoy the pulsating rhythms of reggae music on Jan. 17.

SPC will host the first ever “Reggae Night” from 9 p.m. until midnight in the Wolfe University Center ballrooms.

There will be food and students will also be able to dance and show their moves to the rhythm of the beat. DJ Warbear will be providing the music for the event.

The idea for “Reggae Night” was inspired by a similar event from a previous semester which was “Havana Night,” where students got the chance to eat, dance and listen to reggaeton and salsa.

The success of the Spanish-themed “Havana Night” inspired Jayson Esdaille, the movie director for SPC-BBC and a native of the Caribbean, to try one for reggae.

Esdaille has a personal connection with reggae since he grew up in the Caribbean and “loves it” and believes reggae is “great medita-
tion music.”

Reggae music has a long history and is a genre that attempts to connect with its listeners rhythmically as well as spiritually.

Although reggae had been evolving decades before, the first Jamaican studio did not open until 1951 and the term “reggae” was not coined until about 1960 in Jamaica to describe a “ragged style of dance music,” according to scarufi.com.

There have been several notable and successful reggae artists throughout the decades but none as well-known as Bob Marley, who is considered the “world ambas-
sador for reggae music,” according to biography.com.

Bob Marley and his group “The Wailers” delivered music that connected with the listener musi-
cally and spiritually by infusing Rastafarianism into their lyrics.

Rastafarianism is a religious movement among Jamaicans that teaches the eventual liberation of blacks, fords cutting hair (hence Bob Marley’s long locks) and that Africa is a spiritual homeland according to scarufi.com.

Nina Montoya, a sophomore majoring in public relations, listens to reggae music because she can “jam to it” and it gives her “a good vibe.” SPC is hoping that the students will share their sentiments when they leave the event.

Esdaille’s personal connection to reggae is profound, "say you can do anything [to reggae],” and also believes the event will be a success “as long as students come out and have fun.”