The Beacon, January 30, 2013

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Plan for additional students suspended

PHILIPPE BUTEAU  
Editor-In-Chief

The University’s 2010-2015 strategic plan is two years away from what can only be described as its conclusion. As a component of the plan is already ahead of schedule:

Enrollment at the University has increased by 2,000 students per-year since the plan went into effect in 2010, climaxing with 50,400 students in fall 2012. The final day of the add/drop period was Jan. 14, but the University’s Media Relations said final enrollment numbers are not available and would not be for some time.

“Prior to the add/drop and all the final numbers coming in, the numbers did look pretty high and then they picked back up,” said Dianne Newman, assistant dean for student services in the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

“I don’t think it’s as bad as it was. I think it looked really bad for a while; we couldn’t figure it out and then I think a lot of people must have just registered last minute,” Newman said to Student Media.

Valerie J. Johnsen, director of Enrollment, Assessment and Retention Management in the College of Arts and Sciences, compared student credit hours that were taken in spring 2012 and spring 2013 to show a slightly fewer number being taken: 232,902 credit hours were taken in spring 2013 compared to 233,857 credit hours in spring 2012.

“As you can see, we are currently down from this point last year by 0.4 percent. While it is a small dip, it is not unusual to see some fluctuation in the enrollment.”

Johnsen also did a point-in-time compar-ison between January 28, 2012 and January 24, 2013 and showed the University’s enrollment was down by only 426 students.

“It doesn’t seem like there’s a drastic drop in the spring numbers” said Johnsen. “If you are looking at spring to spring numbers, I don’t see anything I would call drastic; 0.4 percent is not much of a drop and ... enrollment is still taking place.”

While the 2,000 more students per-year were part of the University’s plan, the various budget cuts throughout the last three years were not. The combination of the more than 50,000 students in fall 2012 and a $243.5 million budget cut in summer 2012 meant the University had to temporarily adjust its plan for the 2013-2014 academic year.

The specific adjustments were decreasing student enrollment and hiring less faculty advisers, according to University President Mark Rosenberg in an interview with Student Media in fall 2012.

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

Rosenberg was not available as of press time to comment on if there would be changes to the strategic plan as a whole, however interviews with Johnsen and Valines revealed enrollment for the next academic year would be flat, or would be level.

“There was [a message] from the President this past year not a complete suspension of that plan... but its suspension specifically the academic year 2013,” Johnsen said.

Johnsen said she wasn’t sure how the long term goal of the strategic plan has changed but is sure the plan was suspended. She added the additional students were not added this year.

“This year they didn’t bring in the additional students. If they had planned on bringing in the additional students, and we saw that drop, then that would be a real reason for concern. This was back in May when they made the decision for this coming year not to bring in that many additional students. Basically, we’re going to be flat for this year.”

According to Johnsen, there was also a hiring plan a part of the strategic plan.

“You need to have the additional faculty, advisors, all of the infrastructure that goes into the advising and instructing those students,” Johnsen said.

In 2009, the student-to-advisor ratio was 850-1 and is currently under 450-1, and the goal is to have the ratio at 300-1 or lower.

In the last three years, the University has hired 460 new faculty, 220 replacements, 50 advisers and created nearly 1,000 additional classes in order to meet the demand of an increasing student population.

SEE PLAN, PAGE 2

Students find new ways to get around the city

PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION

JONATHAN JACOBSKIND  
Staff Writer

As gas prices remain high and Miami drivers continue to pack the roads causing bumper to bumper traffic, University students are in the midst of a notice-able transportation trend. In a university tabbed as a primary choice for his daily commute to campus and work.

“Riding [a] bike is a very economical way of getting to school. It beats parking, once you get on campus with your bike you don’t have to worry about waiting for a spot since you can just lock your bike up anywhere,” Custodio said. “You save a lot of money on gas, car insurance and car payments. It definitely freed up some of your financial means.”

The Department of Parking and Transportation has begun to reward those who leave their car keys at home. Parking and Transportation promotes alter-native modes as they spon-sored a Week for Alterna-tive Modes for transporta-tion every semester.

As FIU nears the possi-bility of breaking ground on yet another parking garage, formally known as PG6, discussions have surfaced that PG6 will serve as a bus stop for an added bus route.

According to Lissette Hernandez, the director of

SEE TRANSPORT, PAGE 2

Palestine allowed by U.N. to join meetings and debates

MARIELLA ROQUE  
Staff Writer

Last November, the United Nations upgraded Palestine’s “permanent observer” status to “non-member observer state”, allowing Palestine to take part in U.N. meet-ings and debates, and more importantly, indi-citively suggesting that the world body now recognizes Palestine’s statehood.

“It’s not the first time the U.N. has done this,” said Murat Altuglu, professor of politi-cals and international relations. “The Israelis are perhaps a bit more angry and it won’t change anything. It’s a show.”

Palestine is now also eligible to join the International Criminal Court, an option the Palestinian Authority is not hesitating to use against Israeli settlers.

“The claims made are that settlements are obstacles to peace, but I don’t see that as a reality,” said Rebeca Sterling, a senior in political science, member of Chabad at FIU and former president of Shalom FIU. “I have seen Israeli build land and time again to make peace with its neighbors.”

Sterling referred to Israel’s long-lasting peace agreement with Egypt and Jordan, an agreement that has proven elusive in the context of negotiations with Palestinian representatives.

“It’s hard to negotiate with someone who doesn’t acknowledge your right to exist,” Sterling said. “There has been no show of goodwill.”

Supporters of the Palestinian cause consider the Israeli position unacceptable as long as Israel maintains the limitations imposed on the Palestinian population that inhibit their ability to travel outside the territory under the control of the Palestinian Authority.

“Our goal as an organization is to make people aware that the Palestinians are deprived of all major human rights and that goal is not affected by this U.N. recognition,” said Royel Sakib, a member of Students for Justice in Palestine. “This recognition is just another step forward toward our goal.”

Sakib said that human rights violations alleged by the Palestinian side tend to happen within the context of an improper situation of mili-tary incursions, and also include the building of walls of separation that have been building since 2003 in the West Bank to segregate Arab towns from Israeli settlements.

SEE U.N., PAGE 2
US stocks closed lower on uneven economic signals

Stay in shape by walking
TRANSPORT, PAGE 1

The Department of Parking and Transportation, there are talks with Miami Transit authorities and Miami Federal Department of Transportation to integrate a new bus route in conjunction with PG6. They are trying to have an express bus that goes from 147th Avenue through the Miami Intermodal Center," Hernandez said. "The bus will go down Eighth Street and 147th Street and to the expressway. It is supposed to be a fast route that will come by every 15 minutes. There will be a stop on Eighth Street, 107th Avenue, and one at PG6. Hernandez also laid out how FIU plans on 107th Street, 147th Avenue and to the expressway.

"The bus will go down 107th Street," Hernandez said. "It's a big change in that the Chinese company had misrepresented its finances. Caterpillar Inc. said it expects growth in China to improved by $1.87, or 0.2 percent, to $97.45.

Despite the alternative modes for transportation, students like Custodio found the downside of not driving to campus.

"When it comes to biking or walking to school there are some cons; for example, there is the possibility of getting caught in bad weather or showing up sweaty to some place may be a problem," Custodio said. "It also depends on your schedule and lifestyle. For me, I work at a gym and I am a sports and fitness major so showing up to school or work a little sweaty is not a problem," Custodio said. "If you are a law student it may not work since you usually have to be suited up."

- Jonathan.Jacobsson@fiusm.com

Increase in enrollment brings extra tuition
PLAN, PAGE 1

The same reasoning which led to the suspension of the plan was also behind the initial plan for increasing student enrollment. Since the 2009-2010 fiscal year, the University has experienced a total of $4.6 billion in budget cuts. And with no indication from the State Legislature that cuts would be fewer in terms of dollar amount, or not on an annual basis the University had to seek alternative revenue sources.

Johnsen acknowledged the additional students would bring in more tuition revenue.

"The state support for public universities has been pulled back. As these subsidies are being pulled back, universities are thinking about other ways to bring in the funds we need in order to support the students we have."

One way is to have a larger group of students because then there are more tuition funds. If you pair that with things like larger sections, different models for teaching like online, hybrid, or inverted classrooms where students are learning some of the stuff online but working in the classroom with a faculty member, then you can keep up the quality of instruction while increasing the number of students that come.

During the course of the strategic plan, the University has surpassed the State Legislature in money contributed to the University. In the 2010 fiscal year, students paid a total of $129 million in tuition compared to $179 million in state money, according to a budget report. In 2011, the student amount rose to $174 million compared to $166 from the state. In 2013, students paid $192 million compared to $140.

"That tuition base then helps to support the University," Johnsen said. "That's one of the reasons the goal is to bring in more students. In the long run, the resident also has larger goals involving access and allowing more students to come in and to make sure they don't have to do. I'm just looking at it from my small enrollment standpoint.

During the growth over the last three years the University's departments have had to adjust for the influx of students in various ways.

Financial Aid, one of the most used departments, adjusted technologically and how it assigned tasks to its employees.

Financial Aid "used resources in its technical area" by working with University Technological Services, according to Francisco Valines, director of Financial Aid.

In 2010 the department started using PanguBeth to process the aid awarded to students.

Another adjustment was a nongrantsion involved making two teams: a customer service team and a processing team.

"During the beginning of each semester everyone's customer service." Valines said.

Financial Aid has added new positions and made one permanent. The default prevention coordinator was paid using department funds, but has now been made permanent to help students – both current and alumni – in dealing with student loans.

"Additional reporting by Junette Reyes and Stephanie Mason.

-philip.junea@fiusm.com

Palestine joins U.N.
U.N., PAGE 1

"The people of Palestine are deprived of their rights and we will not stop creating awareness unless the Pales-

The most recent peace negotiations two years ago with no counter offer. Most peace negotiations between the Palestinian Authority’s Presi-

The situation stems from the fact that both Israel and Palestine came to an unresolved, violent conflict going as far back as 1948.

"It’s very complicated, for a two-state solution," Sterling said. "We want Israel to have secure borders, but unfortunately we haven’t seen efforts when Abbas walked away from negotiations two years ago with no counter offer. Most peace negotiations between the Palestinian Authority’s President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took place in 2010, but ended when Netanyahu refused to extend a freeze on settlement construction in the West Bank until Abbas recognized Israel as a Jewish State. The Palestinian Authority rejected the Israeli proposal, and thus negotiations broke off.

("The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a very complex issue, and thus negotiations broke off.

- mariella.roque@fiusm.com
Assault weapons: what are the qualifications?

AARON PABON
Contributing Writer

President Obama made a push to reduce gun violence this past week spotlighted on by the recent shootings that continue to occur across the country, such as the shooting on Tuesday, Jan. 25 at a university in Houston.

Many of his proposed congressional actions have prompted me to ask questions about his initiatives, but my main issue is about his actions have prompted me to ask questions about the ban on assault weapons that was in place from 1994 to 2004.

I will state that I have never looked at a gun as a weapon. To me, a gun is a tool that has the capability to be used as a weapon. The same can be said for a crowbar, hammer and a chef's knife. The term “assault weapon” really needs to be re-defined, as the definition and qualifications have become vague. Technically speaking, aren’t all weapons “assault weapons?”

This also goes along with the redundancy “assault and battery with a deadly weapon,” when all weapons are deadly. While the term is supposed to describe any weapon that is “military grade” or has the ability to fire automatically, the definition has often been tossed around loosely. It is because of this that many people who are familiar with firearms, or these so-called “assault weapons,” prefer the term “assault rifle.”

While many of the weapons that have been used in these past massacres were mock-ups or civilian models of infamous assault rifles (AR-15’s), they would hardly fall under the term of “assault rifle.”

The original Federal Assault Weapons Ban from 1994 stated a list of limitations that a weapon could have (i.e. pistol grips, limited range of telescopic sights, semi-automatic fire) but some weapons were still available depending on state laws. The 1994 ban was also an offshoot of the original National Firearms Act of 1934. The act was made in response to, and to regulate, the firearms that gangs and crime factions were using at the time (i.e. The Chicago Mafia’s use of the Tommy Gun).

The response, however, was similar to what it is now - civilians and pro-gun lobbyists arguing what is constitutional and what’s not. Do these weapon “assault weapons” ban really decrease the amount of gun violence?

I suppose it depends on the person at the end of the day. The President’s proposal won’t make getting a gun impossible, it will however, put more emphasis on banning these assault weapons.

But I believe that there also needs to be a stronger emphasis on the qualifications and clarification of what is and isn’t an “assault weapon.”

I understand that most of the weapons used in these mass murders are civilian model assault-rifles, but banning a set of tools is not the answer.

And what’s not.

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Students dance their way into raising money

JESSICA VALERIE RODRIGUEZ
Contributing Writer

Bringing dance and charity together, the FIU Dance Marathon is a non-profit organization that strives to help the lives of thousands of children at Miami Children’s Hospital.

The event consists of a 25-hour, non-stop dance marathon where the dancers cannot take breaks without earning or paying for them. The money raised during the event from bathroom, rest and food breaks all goes towards charity, along with the $150 each dancer collects through fundraising prior to participating.

The marathon idea started in the late 1920s and is used today nationwide by college and high school students in more than 150 schools across the country.

Dance Marathon collects money for the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals, which is a non-profit organization that raises funds for more than 170 children’s hospitals and treats 17 million patients a year. They promise to be “the only national children’s charity committed to having 100% of the funds raised stay local to support local kids.”

The University is doing their part to help these children by forming teams and encouraging the rest of the community to participate or show some support.

Senior public administration major Vania Pedraja encourages her Phi Sigma Sigma sisters to join every opportunity she gets.

“The greatest gift to receive is that of giving,” said Pedraja.

In years before, the fear of not completing the 25 hours kept her away, but this year she is determined that with the support from her sisters, she will get to finish and accomplish the task she feels will complete her college career.

Junior hospitality and management major Claudia Muller shares in her determination and admits her mindset going into the marathon will be for the kids. She realized that a weekend of being tired and sleep deprived does not compare to the struggles some of those children go through.

“When I get tired, I will think of them, and I won’t give up, just how they don’t give up battling their sickness,” said Muller.

There are over 300 University students participating, and there’s still a couple of days left to join. After this experience, the dancers always come back.

Julie Vanegas, senior biology major, has been involved with this organization for three years and continues to return.

“I feel an affinity not only to the program but to the generosity and pure kindness of the people in the team. It’s truly heartwarming to see so many people come together for such a great cause.”

Julie Vanegas
Senior Majoring in Biology

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“It’s truly heartwarming to see so many people come together for such a great cause.”

Junior Laura Pacchioni, double majoring in English and pre-law, is part of the Dance Marathon committee and explains that while it’s not easy, it is possible to raise a substantial amount of money at this event.

“It’s really challenging to raise money because we are asking peers who are on a college budget. It’s not impossible, but it does require creativity and innovation.”

Pacchioni is looking forward to the opening ceremony on Feb. 9. The event will take place until Feb. 10 at the FIU Recreation Center.

NAILIN’ IT

The Santi Beauty salon located in GC is a popular location on campus for students and staff. Offering nail care, hair cuts and hair removal/waxing monday thru saturday. The salon has been running since 2002 and even if it was an unusual concept, business keeps coming strong every year since.

Julie Vanegas
Senior Majoring in Biology

The winning burger will be served at Red Robin. Students compete to create the best burger, and the winner competes at the Amstel Light Burger Bash presented by Pat LaFrieda Meats hosted by Rachael Ray at SOBEWFF.

The winning burger will be served at Red Robin and placed on their menu as part of the student’s award.

For students weary of their lack of culinary skills, it is still encouraged to participate.

“We have over 45 unique positions from Ambassador to Logistics and Operations,” said Lopez. “I think personally, it does not matter what major you are. I have a lot of students that have done the festival and they change majors and make career moves after being exposed to hospitality management and the events industry. I have had students that are food bloggers, food photographers and beer and wine enthusiasts that have found their new home.”

As for the money that is raised at the festival, all proceeds go to the University and its students.

“FIU has been a strong foundation for SOBEWFF. Without FIU, this event simply would not happen,” said Lopez.

Alumnus Eddie Selgas, with a master’s in management information, sheds light on his experience at the festival.

“It gave me the chance to go out and try food that I’ve never tried before,” said Selgas. “I think it is fun for students. I think students in international relations, [the culinary arts] and hospitality management would benefit from it.”

www.fiusm.com

The Beacon – 4 Wednesday, January 30, 2013
**Student reaches 11 countries with makeup blog**

**DUFFY DUFRESNE**

Contributing Writer

Sahily Anais is not your average college student. In addition to her studies in public relations and art, she works as a freelance makeup artist, periodically teaches makeup classes in her community and has a blog that averages at about 10,000 views and reaches 11 different countries. Senior Anais was always interested in makeup and began experimenting with it when she was young and continued learning and practicing on her own into adulthood.

“I've always liked it,” said Anais. “I used to put on makeup on my grandma when I was little, and when I got into high school, I was one of the first of my friends to wear makeup.”

However, she didn’t discover her love for fashion and makeup until she was 16.

“New York is a very inspiring city and everybody is very free and creative,” said Anais. “It's all about trends and fashion; it's like a whole experience.”

New York is where she realized her interest in both makeup and fashion and that it's okay to dress differently and wear makeup differently; she didn’t have to look like everyone else.

“It's a city where you can be who you’d like to be and experiment with whatever you'd like to experiment with so that's where I started to pursue [makeup and fashion] more,” said Anais.

As the years progressed, Anais began doing makeup for her peers and eventually charged them for their services. This led to her becoming a freelance makeup artist. “I started by doing makeup just for fun on my friends and then I started charging people to do their makeup. It was nothing crazy, just easy things,” she said.

“Through that I built connections with photographers and [with other contacts].”

Currently, Anais does mostly bridal makeup. In addition to working as a freelance makeup artist for MAC cosmetics, Anais also does a variety of other different types of makeup, including editorial makeup, a bolder, edgier type of makeup applied for magazine shoots and runways, and special effects makeup.

In addition, Anais does periodic classes in her community teaching how to do makeup, special effects work and how to apply new trends and styles to your wardrobe.

“Around Halloween time, I do a makeup effects class and I teach how to do basic things like cut scars and wounds,” Anais said.

Apart from her hands on makeup tutorials, Anais began a makeup blog in 2010, called “Pretty in Pigment.”

“I've always liked writing, and I wanted to have a hobby, so I thought a blog would be something for me,” she said. “It's fun because it's a way of document my journey as I develop as an artist and meet other people that are into makeup and art and things of that nature.”

Anais also uses her blog as a way to prepare for her career in public relations.

“More and more, in the last year I started to actually use my blog as a portfolio piece for when I go to job interviews for PR,” said Anais. “A lot of times they’re looking for you to be able to [use] wordpress and blogger and use Photoshop, so I can actually use it as an example in the area that I’m interested in.”

With over 500 followers on her blog and averaging over 10,000 viewers per video, Anais credits her success to the marketing skills she’s learned in the University. “I try to change it up and I try to find different ways to get more readers, to get more involvement by doing giveaways, by getting guest bloggers and cross-marketing my blogs with theirs,” said Anais.

Additionally, Anais explains how being a blogger has helped her academically.

“I’m taking an RTV class and we’re learning how to use audacity, Photoshop and how to create a website with wordpress, so these are things that I use, so I actually have a little bit of an advantage,” said Anais. “And even with my classes from last semester, when I look writing strategies, my teacher allowed me to use some of my writing samples from my blog and assignments, so it was actually thing I was interested in writing.”

Despite her success with makeup and blogging, she would like to focus more on combining her interests in public relations and art and seeking a career that involves the two.

“As an artist I don’t think I’ll pursue [makeup] very far,” said Anais. “In the future, I would like to have my own makeup company or do PR for a makeup company.”

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**Taking your outfit from day to date night**

You may have noticed recently when you walked into your local Publix or Walgreens that the floor from the ceiling everything is already decked out in red hearts for Valentine’s Day.

Whether your feelings for holiday are positive because you have a girlfriend, boyfriend or friends to spend it with or negative and you foresee your night being spent geo ping on a tub of Ben & Jerry’s ice cream, you simply can’t ignore this one day of the year that is dedicated to love and expensive chocolates.

That’s why this week I’m going to make your Feb. 14 a little easier with a few tips to that turn your outfit from day to date night.

April Cipolla, who was spotted wearing a well fitted shirt and pants in shades of blue with tennis shoes. If he switched his shoes for loafers or chukka boots, he’d be ready to take out any lady.

Here are a few tips that can easily go from daywear to date night.

It’s all about choosing pieces that can easily transition from day to date night too.

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 30**

**STUDY ABROAD FAIR**

**WHEN:** 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**WHERE:** MMC GC Pit

**HOW MUCH:** Free

**FIU THEATRE PRESENTS THE LAST DAYS OF JULIAS IScARoTI**

**WHEN:** 9:30-12 p.m.

**WHERE:** MMC CB 124

**HOW MUCH:** Free

**SPANISH CONVERSATION HOUR**

**WHEN:** 10-11 a.m.

**WHERE:** MMC CB 125

**HOW MUCH:** Free

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**WHERE:** MMC CB 125

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**THURSDAY, JAN. 31**

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT - MENTAL HEALTH & DEPRES- SION/GRIEF WORK- SHOP**

**WHEN:** 8:30-10:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** MMC GC 150

**HOW MUCH:** Free

**CONVERSATION WITH FORMER GOVERN- OR EBON JEBUS**

**WHEN:** 1-2 p.m.

**WHERE:** MMC Marri Pavilion

**HOW MUCH:** Free

**SUNRISE PRESERVE VOL- UNTEER DAY**

**WHEN:** 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

**WHERE:** MMC FUC Nature Preserve

**HOW MUCH:** Free

**FIU BBC'S STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOC- IATION HOSTS LECTURE SERIES FEATURING NEW YORK TIMES MEDIA REPORTER BRATTER STELTER**

**WHEN:** 2-4 p.m.

**WHERE:** MMC Children's Center Ballrooms

**HOW MUCH:** Free

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**SPRING 2013**

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 30**

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**HOW MUCH:** Free

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

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SPORTS

No renovations in near future for battered field

JONATHAN JACOBSKIND Staff Writer

Call it the black sheep, the ugly duckling or the neglected middle child. Compared to the rest of the FIU athletic facilities, the FIU soccer stadium can be as labeled any of these.

Over the last few years, the FIU athletics program has continued to spend millions of dollars in renovations for the football, basketball and baseball stadiums. All this has been done while the soccer stadium remains as just 15 rows of bleachers and two white tents for locker rooms.

During last summer, there were talks swirling that the FIU soccer stadium might finally see some major upgrades. This transformation would include the soccer stadium being flipped from a north to south direction to an east to west bearing as well as an NCAA regulated track built around the field for the track and field program that currently does not have an on-campus track.

Several months later with the 2012 men’s and women’s soccer seasons now in the books, not much progress has been made.

According to Wes Hardin, assistant athletic director of facilities and operations, nothing is quite yet set in stone to renovate the FIU soccer stadium and Panther fans are not likely to see any changes until after the 2013 season at the earliest. Despite premature plans for possible renovations for the soccer stadium, Hardin believes it will indeed bring positive vibes to both soccer programs as well as the fans. “We are in elementary stages of making possible renovations to the soccer facilities; we are talking with different architects and construction companies to see what we can do,” Hardin said. “Renovating the stadium would be great for the soccer programs and it would create fan awareness and be great for the people who support FIU soccer.”

Pia Vicioso-Vila, a supervisor for FIU Recreation Services and an avid FIU soccer fan, believes that renovating the soccer stadium would show drastic improvements to the overall image of the program as well as the fan experience. “I think it would be great because our soccer stadium looks kind of embarrassing and little compared to the football and basketball stadiums.” Vicioso-Vila said. “For the fans and the program operations, nothing is set in stone to see what we can do,” Hardin said. “Renovating the stadium would be great for the soccer programs C-USA has to offer. “Renovating the stadium will elevate the level of our program. It’s only going to add to the momentum our program already has.” Thomas Chesnutt Head Coach FIU Women Soccer

The women’s program has enjoyed success in the past couple seasons with a Sun Belt Championship in 2011 and a Sun Belt runner up in last year’s campaign. The women’s team is getting ready to make the jump to Conference USA this summer.

Chesnutt confided in the notion that having a renovated stadium would recruit better athletes and bring the program to new heights in order to match up with the top tier programs C-USA has to offer. “Renovating the stadium would show drastic improvements to the overall image of the program as well as the fan experience. “I think it would be great because our soccer stadium looks kind of embarrassing and little compared to the football and basketball stadiums.” Vicioso-Vila said. “For the fans and the program operations, nothing is set in stone to see what we can do,” Hardin said. “Renovating the stadium would be great for the soccer programs C-USA has to offer. “Renovating the stadium will elevate the level of our program. It’s only going to add to the momentum our program already has.” Thomas Chesnutt Head Coach FIU Women Soccer

The soccer field will not be undergoing renovations until after the 2013 men’s and women’s soccer seasons at the earliest, both of which end in November. FIU eventually plans to rotate the field 90 degrees and construct a track around it.

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FIU baseball prepares for ‘toughest schedule ever’

FRANCISCO RIVERO Staff Writer

FIU baseball Head Coach Henry Thomas has seen plenty of tough opponents in his seven years at FIU; but when the baseball schedule was released on Jan. 1, a new bar of difficulty was set. “It’s the most challenging schedule in FIU history,” Thomas said. “We’ve got the best teams we have ever had on our field, like an Ole Miss that has never come here, and you start to realize the value of the weather. It’s nice to be playing in 80 degree weather in February and March.”

The Panthers look to improve on last year’s record where they went 31-26. However, FIU will have to improve with the help of 19 new faces on this year’s club. “Our guys believe in themselves and they believe in our team,” Thomas said. “We just really want to get the season going and get some of these new guys used to Division I baseball.”

For this young FIU team, the one blessing they have is the staggering amount of at-home games they will play this year. With 37 home games, Thomas understands the importance of playing with your fans cheering you on. “In every sport, I don’t care what it is, playing at home will always give you a better chance to win,” Thomas said. “You want to protect your home turf. You hit in the bottom of the ninth and it just gives you a better opportunity to win.”

In 2013, the Panthers will open with a three-game home stand against...
Panthers will try for second straight upset

RUBEN PALACIOS  
Staff Writer

Conference games are hard enough, but according to women’s basketball Head Coach Cindy Russo, playing a conference opponent for the second time in a season is even tougher.

The Panthers traveled to Mobile, Ala., to take on the University of South Alabama for the second matchup of the season.

“The conference schools know each other really well,” Russo said. “They know all their moves so it’s a little bit harder than a non-conference game.”

In their first matchup in early December; the Panthers dominated the game throughout and came away with a 63-49 victory in the friendly confines of the U.S. Century Bank Arena. Junior Jerica Coley reminded everyone why she was a 2012 All-American with a 28-point performance on 13 of 21 shooting from the field.

The second time around proved to be significantly tougher on the Panthers 13-7 (7-4 SBC), especially in the second half. Early on, it looked like déjà vu for USA. The Jaguars found themselves down 28-12 at halftime, but in the second half, the Jaguars steadily chipped away at the FIU lead. With seven unanswered points in the final two minutes of the game cut the lead to within two at 48-46 with 12 seconds remaining, Coley iced the game with a pair of clutch free throws, giving the Panthers a 50-46 victory.

“HOLEY” COLEY TOPS IN NATION IN SCORING

Through Jan. 27, Coley leads the nation in scoring at an astounding 24.7 points per game.

Coley leads FIU in seven statistical categories: field goals made (163); three-point field goals made (20); free throws made (117); assists (74, 3.9 apg); blocks (36, 1.9 bpg); steals (39, 2.1 vpg); and points (463, 24.4 ppg).

The reigning Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year leads the SBC in minutes played (39, 2.1 spg); and points (463, 24.4 ppg).

The St. Petersburg native has been decisive this season, learning to choose between being aggressive or pass the ball off to her teammates.

“I know I have to be aggressive for me to get to the free throw line and for our offense to move a little better,” Coley said. “And if I’m aggressive, it gets other people open.”

AVOIDING DEATH ROWE

On Jan. 31, the Panthers will take on conference foe Middle Tennessee for the second time this year. On the first occasion, FIU went to Murfreesboro, Tenn., and snapped a 14-game home winning streak on the Blue Raiders court with a 58-51 upset.

This matchup will have a similar winning streak on the line as the Blue Raiders come to Miami on a nine-game winning streak. Overall, Middle Tennessee is 15-5 (10-1 SBC), their lone conference loss coming at the hands of FIU.

Playing a huge role in the winning streak is junior Ebony Rowe, who, like Coley, can fill up a stat sheet. She comes into the game ninth in the nation in scoring at a rate of 21.3 points per game.

The 6-foot-1 forward is second in the Sun Belt Conference in rebounding at a pace of 11.2 rebounds per game. She is also very efficient from the floor; she ranks second in the conference in field goal percentage at 54 percent. Rowe, similar to Coley, never sees much time on the bench; she is second to Coley in minutes played in the conference at 39 minutes per game.

As the latter stages of the season begin to play out and conference foes match-up for a second go-round, all the games become vastly crucial to the seeding a team gains in the conference tournament.

“They are all critical games right now,” Russo said. “If you already beat a team once it’s going to be even more difficult to beat them again and then you get to the third time and it’s even more difficult.”

Team plays almost two-thirds of games at home

college World Series competitors Stony Brook University. With an overall record of 52-15 in 2012, the Seawolves were also road warriors—collecting a record of 21-9. For Thomas, the chance for his club to play against such a great team is one that he is excited about.

“For them to beat Louisiana State University in Louisiana in the super-regional is a phenomenal, and I mean phenomenal, accomplishment,” Thomas said. “It’s a great series to open up with; they’re a quality opponent and they got great coaching.”

When it came to conference play in 2012, the Panthers posted a 15-14 record. Looking to add onto their win total, Thomas understands that the past is the past and the future is now.

“There’s a lot of things that happened last year where everything that could go wrong, did go wrong, but it’s just one of those things that happens in sports,” Thomas said. “You can practice and practice all you want, but only the season can tell you certain things about your team. Can this guy get a hit with two outs and a man on second? Can a guy get a hit to win a game in the ninth inning? Only the season can tell you certain things like that.”

As for competition in the Sun Belt Conference, Thomas simply stated that each team has their own strength and unlike the other sports in the conference, baseball is king.

“South Alabama, Florida Atlantic University, Troy, Western Kentucky, and Louisiana-Lafayette, these are all great teams and there is no easy team in our league,” Thomas said. “All of them are good clubs, well coached and have good players. There’s really not a weak part to our conference. Baseball in our conference is the best sport out there.”

In every sport, I don’t care what it is, playing at home will always give you a better chance to win.

Henry ‘Turtle’ Thomas  
Head Coach  
FIU Baseball
Students bite into scholarship burgurternity

STEFANIE MASON  
Staff Writer

An internship, a $10,000 scholarship and the honor of cooking with top chefs: these are the opportunities offered by the Red Robin Savory Scholar Contest to students of the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

The contest began on Jan. 10 and ended on Jan. 21. This is the first year the scholarship has been offered.

Each submission had to include an original burger recipe and an essay on what the student “hopes to gain from an internship with Red Robin.” Students were also permitted to submit recipes in teams of two.

Just as the students had specific criteria to participate in the contest, so did the judges in determining the winner of the contest. The students were judged on a points system with a grand total of 190 possible points.

The points system for the burger recipe was as follows: up to 25 points for creativity of recipe, 40 for perceived quality of writing.

For round one, faculty of CSHTM judged the students’ recipes while Red Robin determined the winner based on its own criteria.

“I went on the (Red Robin) website a couple days before and I looked at stuff that they had,” Daniel Arshadnia, senior and hospitality management major, said. “I tried to pick something that would be trending right now and at the same time something they don’t have.”

Arshadnia competed with his roommates in the competition.

“The weekend before, I had a little tasting contest at my house,” Arshadnia said.

Another student competing in the contest, junior hospitality management major Mary Ondari, shared her strategy in the competition.

“I was just trying to do something that nobody else would think of,” Ondari said. “I focused on adding a little flavor into the beef patty itself and getting something that would accent the patty.”

The winner of the contest is to be determined and will receive a $10,000 scholarship and internship with Red Robin’s YummY U. The winner will also have their burger featured at the 2013 South Beach Wine and Food Festival Burger Bash on Feb. 22.

“This is one of our most iconic events at SOBEWFF. It’s one of the things that the chefs get excited [about] and look forward to competing in,” Devonis Nicholas, marketing and public relations director of SOBEWFF, said. “It’s a great opportunity to showcase FIU’s talents.”

Qureshi said that other contests have been offered for the CSHTM students in the past but none quite like this one.

FOOD NETWORK SOUTH BEACH WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL

Wine & Food Festival: “not just kitchens, restaurants and hotels.”

HOLLY MCCOACH  
Staff Writer

A celebration full of food, wine and scholarship opportunities could possibly make anyone forget their troubles.

Held in Miami Beach, Coral Gables and Aventura, the Food Network South Beach Wine & Food Festival presented by Food & Wine will take place from Feb. 21-24.

Wine and food tastings hit just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to this four-day event. Small events, dinners and parties will be thrown by celebrities and food and wine connoisseurs with the help of students, celebrity chefs, wine makers, spirits producers, partners and sponsors.

Beginning in 1999, SOBEWFF is now one of the largest wine and hospitality events in the country. Each year, over 100,000 visitors flock to the festival.

“This is one of our most iconic events at SOBEWFF,” said Lopez.

Lopez, University program manager for the SOBEWFF. As for student participation, students can participate for scholarships, as well as register and apply for paid volunteer opportunities on their website (www.sobefest.com/ FIU).

“Everyone gets $100 a day for participation,” said Lopez.

In addition to that, various opportunities for scholarships are available for hard working students.

“It’s a system of continuous improvement getting the students better informed about (SOBEWFF) every year,” said Lopez. “Students need to realize it’s not just kitchens, restaurants and hotels. It’s a huge opportunity that is a year-round effort to recruit and train that involves over 1,100 students each year.”

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