Florida taking new approach to online classes

MARIA BRITOS Contributing Writer

Taking college classes might include going completely online. The future of online college classes is in the hands of Florida’s board of governors.

Florida’s State University System wants to develop better and greater online higher education to help more students earn college degrees exclusively online.

The Board of Governors is proposing to create a new online university for the state. The board discussed two options. One is the overall collaboration with different universities or appointing one school to take the lead in developing online courses for the system. University of Florida and Florida Atlantic University were among the school choices.

State University System chancellor, Frank Brogan, said that Florida is a major contributor to online learning but needs to organize itself to get a better return for the future.

The university system hired a consulting firm, Parthenon Group, to help study the future of online programs.

Research by the consulting firm found that 40 percent of university and college students in Florida took at least one online course in 2010 to 2011 and students at all degree levels are enrolling in online degree programs.

“The world of online higher education is ever-changing, and there are many opportunities for improvement,” said John D. Rood, chair of the Strategic Planning Committee in a press release last week.

“Through this process, we are confident Florida will emerge as an even stronger national leader in online education—not only for providing high-quality offerings to our students, but for developing best practices that meet the strategic needs of Florida.”

According to Board of Governors spokesperson Kim Wilmath, the decision followed a presentation by the University of Florida on its online learning strategies. The recommendations will be presented to the full Board of Governors for consideration at its telephonic meeting Feb. 21.

The goal is to deliver an online education framework to the Legislature prior to the start of Session in early March.

Students believe that this could potentially find different ways to receive a degree.

“It sounds like this could create more options for students to get a degree,” said Alejandro Viera, a sophomore in International Relations. “I’m pretty sure almost every student has taken at least one online class.”

This story will be updated with more information from the Dean of University College Joyce Elam later on this week.

Joseph Riquelme, director of FIU Online, was unavailable for comment on this story.

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Writing Center offering more than just writing help

ALEXA ESCALONA Contributing Writer

The Center for Excellence in Writing located at the Green Library doesn’t only tutor students on writing, but also on a variety of tests and subjects.

The location is where students can find resources to help them with their academic struggles. Tutoring is offered for subjects ranging from biology to writing and students can visit this office in the heart of the library for guidance in all of these areas.

“Our tutors work with students on how to study for a subject and how to build vocabulary for that subject. Once they go through a series of workshops, they get additional credit in their courses and it helps them to do better in their activities in the class,” said Maria Kulick, Director of the Center of Academic Success.

Kulick said that tutoring plays a major role in the success of the students in the subjects that are giving them trouble. Tutoring in all levels of math, statistics, biology, chemistry, and physics are offered at the Center.

“We try to give students a more personal, individualized contact with the tutor. We promise them dedicated time with them one-on-one if they’d like it,” said Kulick.

Daniel Gil, an Asian studies major and tutor at the Center, said he prefers to use the non-directive method to teach.

Instead of pointing out obvious errors, you ask them leading question to get them to notice their mistakes themselves, and that way they’ll pick up on their cues more actively and hopefully, not make those mistakes again,” Gil said.

Gil said that this method is effective, but adds that a large portion of students that come to the Center are students that have English as a second language.

“For the most part we do use the non-directive method, but it changes depending on the student,” said Jennifer Gonzalez, a psychology and biology major and tutor at the Center. “Then if we see that that is not working or it’s not what the student needs, then we become more directive, meaning we ask them, ‘There is an error in the sentence. Can you pick it out?’” said Gonzalez.

Brandon Paz, an economics major, currently attends tutoring at the Center.

“I do think tutoring will help me with what I need help in,” Paz said.

Even though it is Paz’s first time at the Center, he is confident that he will be able to achieve his goal in class.
China takes control of strategic Pakistani port

China took over operational control of a strategic deep-water Pakistani port that could serve as a vital economic hub for Beijing and perhaps a key military output.

Control of Gwadar port on Pakistan's southwestern coast was transferred to a state-owned Chinese company, China Overseas Ports Holding Ltd., in a signing ceremony in Islamabad that was boycotted by Pakistan's prime minister.

Gwadar will soon become a "hub of trade and commerce in the region," Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari said at the ceremony. "It holds the key to opening up the link between the Central Asia" and will further improve Pakistan-China relations, he said.

Russian scientists recover meteor fragments

Scientists have found more than 50 tiny fragments of a meteorite that exploded over Russia's Ural Mountains, and preliminary tests are turning up information about its contents.

However, those tests seem more interesting in the black market value of the fragments. As they search for their own pieces of the meteor, sales offers already are filling the Internet, and police are warning all purchasers to prepare for possible fraud.

The meteor — which injured nearly 1,500 people and caused widespread property damage in Chelyabinsk city on Friday — was the largest recorded space rock to hit Earth in more than a century. Health officials said 46 of the injured are in critical condition.

South Africa academic to form new party

Academic and co-founder of South Africa's Black Conscious Movement, Mamphela Ramphele, announced the creation of a new political party Monday "to build the South Africa of our dreams," lambasting the 101-year-old African National Congress of Nelson Mandela for allowing corruption and inefficiency.

The 65-year-old medical doctor, who was close to activist Steve Biko before he was assassinated and bore him a son, told a news conference that the party will contest elections this year. "It was a failure," she said of the ANC, South Africa's ruling party that has held power since the 1994 elections.

In response to the announcement, ANC secretary-general Gwede Mantashe said the party was "not surprised and has been expecting this move for months."

"But we have nothing personal against Ramphele," he said. "We respect her desire to engage with the people."

US legislators in Mali on fact-finding mission

A delegation of U.S. lawmakers met with military officials in Mali's capital on Monday, and urged caution as the French-led military intervention to wrest back control of the country’s north from the al-Qaeda fighters entered its fifth week.

French President Francois Hollande unilaterally launched the intervention a month ago after the extremist groups began a push south. They already launched the intervention last month after al-Qaida fighters entered its fifth week.

The military officials said 46 of the injured are in critical condition.

"The beacon will gladly change any errors. Call advertising@fiusm.com with further information from both Farinas and Castro on the issue."

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 24, Issue 64 in the article titled, "Audit reveals protected data at risk in College of Medicine," the College of Medicine is not currently at risk.

Additionally, further instances of non-compliance with FIU’s Student Government Constitution include those involving: Article III, Section 3.06(b)(ii)(5), which states that the Campus Student Body Treasurer must present the Campus Student Activity and Service Fee; Article III, Section 3.06(b)(ii)(6), which requires the approval of the Campus Student Body and the Campus Student Body Treasurer, as also proven inconsistent by records retrieved from the Student Government Office Manager.

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For more world news, check out www.FIUSM.com.
Drones hover over communities in northwest Pakistan 24 hours a day. “There’s this notion that we can have a recession existential threat while simultaneously exercising lethal force against a U.S. citizen or foreigner,” said Fred Hovring, journalism professor at FIU. “I think there’s adequate parking on campus, just not adequate parking up close.”

The paper, which I read in its entirety, argues that “the condition that an individual poses an imminent threat will develop in the event the United States in the event that the ‘U.S. government is broadly broadening the meaning of the term (thus changing the way in which our laws are interpreted),” said Fred Hovring, journalism professor at FIU.

I asked a fellow FIU student, junior Gabriela Ramos, if she was aware of the situation and she replied “ehh no, I’ve never heard of that.” She wasn’t even familiar with what a drone was.

KAREN NOA
Contributing Writer

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of the Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from the editors and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

The never-ending problem: space around campus

JENNA KEFAUVER
Staff Writer

The University decided to suspend its plan to increase total student enrollment for the fall 2013-2014 academic year, and we believe that aspect of the plan should remain suspended.

Suspended, at least until services are expanded to meet the needs of the students already enrolled.

Since 2010, the University planned to enroll 2,000 more students a year until enrollment reaches 50,000 by 2015. That number was met in fall 2012 with a total enrollment of 45,400 students. There are 44,019 students enrolled as of Feb. 14, 2013, according to the Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness.

However, a budget cut from the State Legislature and the combination of more than 50,000 students caused the University to change its plans.

“Because of the budget uncertainty we have agreed that there will be no student growth for the 2013-2014 academic year,” said University President Mark Rosenberg in an interview with Student Media in fall 2012. Rosenberg has been advocating to the state to extend the suspension of the enrollment plan, but Valerie J. Johnson said it was only for one year.

“Not a complete suspension of that plan, but its suspension for one year, specifically academic year 2013-2014,” said Johnson, director of Enrollment in the College of Arts and Sciences.

We believe it should be suspended indefinitely, even though it helps the University.

As Johnson said in her interview with Student Media, a part of the enrollment plan was to offset the budget cuts the University has faced over the last few years – more than $60 million since 2009-2010. The most recent cut of $24.3 million came this academic year.

“The state support for public universities has been pulled back,” Johnson said. “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.”

And the funds have been coming in, because of the combination of the enrollment and tuition rate increases.

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 presentation made in May 2012. In 2011, the student amount rose to $174 million compared to $166 from the state.

In 2013, students paid $192 million compared to $140. Having more students does give the University an assured revenue source that increases from year to year, but the University should not be expanding enrollment total while it currently has students still undergoing their college career.

A cap on enrollment is an option, although administrators may laugh at the idea. By no means are we trying to suggest the University has enough funds to offset the cuts, or that the amount students are paying can completely cover expanding services. What we’re saying is instead of restricting the enrollment, the University should focus on graduating those students who need to graduate instead of adding more students before those services are in place.

This creates problems on top of problems. The students currently enrolled and those who will enroll need various student services to help them graduate on time. Those services are not always adequate at times. Thus the strain on the supply becomes more of a problem. We’ve seen this over the last three years.

We’ve also seen the University do its part to add to the services students need.

Over the last three years the University had added 460 new faculty, 220 replacements, 50 new advisers, and nearly 1,000 new classes. The student-to-advisor ratio has increased from 85:1 to 90:1 in 2013.

The graduation rate has increased from 41.6 percent to 47.4 from summer 2011 to summer 2012. We’re sure the kind of numbers we like to see, and we believe focusing solely on these kinds of services will help the University more than resume the enrollment plan.

The Beacon - 3
www.fiusm.com
Wednesday, February 20, 2013

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either G10 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter per month from any individual.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of the Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from the editors and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the opinion of the editorial board, which is composed of members of the student editorial board. The names of students are blurred on the pages of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes all letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to opinion@fiusm.com.
Psychology students experience sex museum

SELMA HUSSAIN  Staff Writer

Sex, art and psychology intertwine for students taking the Psychology of Sexual Behavior course, taught by Professor Paige Telan.

As part of the curriculum for the class, Telan requires her students to make a trip to the World Erotic Art Museum, located in Miami Beach.

“Part of the reason I require students to go to the museum is because we’re not exposed to a lot of sexual imagery in [Western] culture,” said Telan. “I wanted students to have an experience with sexual imagery as an art form.”

The erotic museum contains over 4,000 works of art, ranging from sexual sculptures, furniture pieces, paintings, and etchings, to more modern displays like video presentations and slideshows.

It carries ancient and contemporary pieces from all over the world, and is the only museum in the nation that is entirely dedicated to erotic art.

“There is a certain level of comfort to this assignment, but I think each student walks away with something different. Not only do I require students to go there, but I also ask them to reflect on what they experienced,” said Telan.

Sarah Mayhew, a senior majoring in psychology, was also surprised. “I didn’t really know what to expect,” said Mayhew. “But it turned out to be really nice, clean, sophisticated...I liked it.”

Other students, like Sasha Bensol, had somewhat higher expectations of the museum. “It was cool to see the artifacts and how far sex dates back, but I thought it would be more interactive,” said Bensol, a junior majoring in psychology.

Although reactions to the museum vary, certain works capture student’s attention more than others. “There was a piece with a naked woman who was holding the earth,” Mayhew said. “I thought that was really cool because it made me think about women’s empowerment.”

Bensol found an antique chair modeled after sexual organs to be a particularly interesting piece. “After reading the card with the description of what the piece was about, I couldn’t believe all the things that had happened on that chair,” Bensol said.

While the erotic museum is famous for carrying sexual, unusual, and somewhat outlandish pieces, the difference between art and pornography is a question for discussion. “I see something that’s pornographic as having a single purpose -- for arousal,” Telan said. “But art sparks different emotions in people, and as a psychologist, I’m interested in the range of emotions it provokes.”

Telan requires her students to make a trip to the World Erotic Art Museum, located in Miami Beach.

Students scuba dive in Curacao for research

IVAN ARIDLA  Contributing Writer

A coral reef is a wonderful sight to see, but it is much more than what meets the eye. These underwater structures are made of calcium carbonate, and are built by colonies of marine animals that we call corals.

“When you look at a coral, you’re not looking at a single organism. You’re looking at a complex interaction of the host, the coral animal itself, and a really diverse microbial community that associates with it,” said Anthony Bellanuoto, a graduate student completing his doctorate in marine biology.

Bellanuoto said the interactions with the bacterial community are not well understood.

“Understanding them is important to the context of the survival of the coral reef,” he said.

Assistant Professor Mauricio Rodríguez-Lanetty leads a group of graduate students in a lab as they study the interactions between the coral and microbial organisms found on the reefs, among other things.

They carry themselves to the Laboratory of Integrative Marine Genomics and Symbiosis, or IMaGeS.

It is currently composed of Rodríguez-Lanetty, Research Assistant Ariane Martin, and two doctoral students, Tanya Brown and Bellanuoto.

The group is currently on a 10-day trip to the Island of Curacao where they will be collecting samples of the microorganisms existing on the reef.

“In Curacao, we’re going to be collecting these samples underwater via scuba diving and then bringing them to the surface, preserving them and taking them back to the labs at FIU,” Bellanuoto said.

The trip is part of a whole research project based on the findings of the location.

“We had been planning this trip for a couple of months now. My Ph.D. advisor has been investigating in Curacao for a number of years already,” Bellanuoto said.

Even though coral reefs are located in South Florida throughout the coasts of the peninsula, IMaGeS is investigating this ecosystem in Curacao because of accessibility and the diversity of the reefs.

“The access to the actual sites there will be directly from shore; we can dive in directly to the reef and back easily,” Bellanuoto said. “Among the diverse range of this island, there are areas with anthropogenic disturbance or human disturbance, as well as more pristine or untouched areas, so it works for us for that reason.”

All this research might appear to be only important to those who are part of the scientific community; however, the understanding of these interactions is still of importance to everyone else because of the implications it has not only for biology and ecology spectrums, but also for the economy.

According to coral-reef.gov, these ecosystems are fundamental to the fishing industry, coastal protection, tourism and pharmaceutical production. All around the world, coral reef ecosystems are struggling to survive due to human intervention, global warming and other climate changes.

Any effort put towards the investigation is crucial, considering the estimated $375 billion a year that these ecosystems provide in the form of products and services, aside from the ecological consequences of its deterioration.

If you want to find out more about what IMaGeS is doing you can visit their website at imageslab.fiu.edu.

-LIFE@FIU.com
**Mysticism in fashion with Professor Phyllis Baker**

ASHLEY GARNER  
**Contributing Writer**

Many students may not know anthropology Professor Phyllis Baker by name, but they probably have seen her once or twice on campus in her worldly ensembles, such as a traditional canary yellow Indian tunic and pants paired with a heavy gold choker and chandelier earrings.

“I’ve learned how to embrace [clothing] on as many levels as possible, and the older you get, you understand there are many possibilities to putting colors together, pieces together, ideas together. It’s just a bunch of ideas; it’s expression and some of us need it. We need that freedom. I am who I am, and I embrace who I am,” said Baker.

What is style and where does it come from? What does it say about us as a collective people and individually? These are all questions that loomed in my mind after my first encounter with Baker. When you look around the world, each culture has their own specific style and at the same time we as individuals within that culture can create a style that is all our own.

“Even the poorest women in towns would have on beautiful hats, particularly when they went to church. Their clothes were their art. It was their policy, a way of making them feel good about themselves and a way of sharing culture,” said Baker about her world travels. Although Baker does it effortlessly, I often worry myself about not wanting to offend people of the culture I am adorning that day. I don’t want them to think that I am wearing their traditional garments out of ignorance, but instead out of respect.

“It’s like you’re embracing who they are and for many of them they want to be affirmed in their culture. I like other people and I want to bring those kinds of things into my work,” said Baker.

After discussing how other cultures have influenced her style, Baker described her style as “synergist.” “I like to mix and match, merge things together. I’m an ‘alchemist,’” said Baker.

Baker, who teaches the class Myths, Rituals, and Mysticism describes how her class has influenced her style, “A part of embracing mysticism and anthropology is tapping into creativity from around the world. When I travel, I like to observe the way people live their lives and how they get meaning from life, and while I’m doing that, I’m also absorbing their artistic forms.

Baker refers to her style as an art that runs deeper than the threads that are used to make it. It is a philosophy, a perspective and something that can be completely unique and individual while simultaneously embracing the world around us.

-life@fiusm.com

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**AIESEC encourages leadership in students**

KARLA REYES  
**Contributing Writer**

The International Association of Students in Economic and Commercial Sciences (AIESEC) is a fast-growing organization around the globe with about 30,000 members, 1,000 alumni, and over 100 organizations around the world. AIESEC, the organization that promotes individual growth by working with very prominent global industries such as Unilever, Microsoft and Alcatel-Lucent. Members of the organization are then driven by skills and values from their experiences to contribute to positive changes in society.

While AIESEC has a lot to say about their international connections and opportunities, they are also proud to acknowledge the fact that their organization is purely “run by young people for young people,” according to aiesec.org. The organization is run by students and recent graduates, which allows for the youth to truly develop and teach the skills and values that they will need to face the real world and their careers.

By having a youth-run organization that is active around the world, AIESEC develops future world leaders with common values and behaviors, which then allows for more positive and peaceful international interactions in the future.

In fact, alumni of the organization are now working as leaders within their communities, using the skills and values from their experiences to promote and create positive changes.

Since the beginning of AIESEC, the organization has reached 1 million alumni with a current membership of 86,000. FIU’s chapter started two years ago and has continued to grow since.

There are currently about 30 to 35 active members on campus, but they are still open to new members.

The internship recruitment meeting will be starting soon; the organization will be tabling and having info sessions in the week of Feb. 18. For more information on AIESEC, contact Daniel Osorio at vpcommerce@fiusm.com.

-lf@fiusm.com

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
**SPRING 2013**

**LIBQUAL SURVEY (A SURVEY OF STUDENT/ FACULTY/STAFF OPINIONS OF LIBRARY SERVICES)**  
WHEN: Feb. 18-Mar. 11  

**MMC MINDFULNESS MEDITATION SESSION**  
WHEN: 12-1 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: MMC Graham Center Rm 114

**THE LEMBA JEWISH OF ZIMBABWE**  
WHEN: 6:45-9:15 p.m.  
WHERE: Jewish Museum of Florida

**FIU’S ORGANIC FARMER’S MARKET**  
WHEN: 12:3 p.m.  
WHERE: MMC CBC 121

**LIBQUAL SURVEY (A SURVEY OF STUDENT/ FACULTY/STAFF OPINIONS OF LIBRARY SERVICES)**  
WHEN: Feb. 18-Mar. 11  

**JAZZ AT THE WERTHEIM SERIES**  
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.  
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center

**HOUSE OF MANDELA WINES**  
WHEN: 3-5 p.m.  
WHERE: MMC CBC 140

**JASON TORCHINSKY DEBATE MURRAY GREENBERG ON CITIZENS UNITED**  
WHEN: 12-2 p.m.  
WHERE: RDB 1000

**LEAVE A LEGACY’S PHILANTHROPY MIAMI 2013**  
WHEN: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
WHERE: Jangle Island

**Networking Workshop for Business Students**  
WHEN: 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
WHERE: MMC CBC 121

**Networking Strategy Workshop for Business Students**  
WHEN: 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
WHERE: MMC CBC 121

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

-life@fiusm.com
Medlock still feels at home in new offensive system

JOHN JACOBSKIND  Staff Writer

With a new era of FIU Football with Ron Turner at the helm, Turner and his recently hired staff have begun the process of building their offense. Learning a new set of plays and offensive schemes is a challenge for all quarterbacks, but Jake Medlock has found to his liking of avoiding that learning curve.

According to Medlock, he is no stranger to Turner’s new offense. Medlock, a Fletcher High School alumnus from Jacksonville, Fla., ran a similar system in his high school years.

“It’s going to be a very fast paced offense and it’s going to be what Coach Turner ran with the Bears when they made it to the Super Bowl,” Medlock said. “It’s also going to be very fun to learn this offense and understand if the way he ran it in the pros.”

The familiarity factor will need to pay dividends for Medlock as the offense struggled to move the ball in last year’s forgettable 5-9 campaign. FIU registered an average of 383.8 yards per contest compared to their opponents’ average of 402.9 a game.

While many speculated former Head Coach Mario Cristobal’s offense was a bit predictable through his final year at the helm for the Panthers, Medlock was still able to throw for 2,127 passing yards, racking up 13 touchdowns with just two interceptions in his first year as the Panther’s full-time starter in 2012.

Along with the offense receiving loads of criticism, Medlock also dealt with a nagging foot injury in a 28-21 loss to then-No. 18 Louisville in just the fourth game of the season. In his second year as FIU’s starting quarterback, Medlock is poised to have a breakout year for the Panthers because the offense is geared towards his own strengths.

“The offense is more on my own mind-set and my game. I’m going to be making the calls and checks,” Medlock said. “It’s going to be pretty fun. Whatever way we get the win is all that matters.”

After a hectic couple of months of recruiting and searching for assistant coaches, Turner has finally rounded out the remaining pieces to his coach staff. Turner has elected to not hire an offensive coordinator and take over the play-calling duties.

As for the other supplemental assistants, Turner kept part of his hires within the family tree as he hired both his sons, Cameron Turner will coach the quarterback backs and wide receivers while Morgan Turner’s responsibilities lie with the offensive line and tight ends.

Josh Cooklin, who most recently served as safeties coach at the University of Tennessee during the 2012 season, will take the reigns as defensive coordinator and Kevin Wolthausen comes from Purdue University to coach special teams.

“They’re a great bunch of guys, intelligent, they know the game,” Medlock said. “I’ve talked to all the coaches and I just can’t wait to learn a lot from them.”

BIG SHOES TO FILL

The number four is returning to the field this season, but not on the player’s back fans are used to seeing it on.

Last month, Medlock asked former Panther great and now Indianapolis Colts rising star T.Y. Hilton, if he could don the coveted number four.

Medlock was granted his wish and will finally wear a number that he’s yearned for since his days playing for Fletcher High School. According to Medlock, the number four is more than just a number as he is trading in his former number 12 to pay homage to a future Hall of Famer who also wore number four.

“I have been wanting to wear number four since high school. It was retired in my high school because we had a great running back that went on to play at the University of Florida and broke all state records in rushing so I won’t have to wear it,” Medlock said. “I’ve always wanted to wear number four because of Brett Favre. Brett Favre is my idol. I have always wanted to play like him. In every way, I’ve always wanted to be Brett Favre.”

-Jonathan.jacobkind@fiu.com
Young arms help underdogs sweep underdogs

FRANCISCO RIVERO
Staff Writer

Having to play Stony Brook University, who won the most games in college baseball last year with 52, was bad enough.

The Seawolves were the underdogs of the 2012 College World Series, stunning the world game after game.

Top that off with a rainout on FIU baseball’s opening night and having to play a double-header as your first two games is just a recipe for disaster.

However, FIU and its 22 new faces didn’t seem to care about the Seawolves’ past success as they completed not only the double-header sweep on Feb. 16, but also the series sweep on Feb. 17.

FIU’s impressive pitching led the team to success, which at one point held the Seawolves to 23 straight scoreless innings. FIU pitching combined to allow only four earned runs while recording 34 strikeouts.

“Twenty-three innings in a row that they didn’t score, that’s pretty good,” said Head Coach Henry Thomas. “Now you know a lot of that is, yes, our pitching staff, but also it’s about them coming from up north and it snowed three feet a week ago up there.”

Ty Sullivan made his FIU debut in game one of the double-header on Feb. 16 and pitched four scoreless innings of relief. His outing helped contribute to FIU’s sterling 1.33 ERA over the weekend.

This dominant performance now gives the Panthers a total team earned run average of 1.33, which is number one in the Sun Belt Conference, almost half that of University of South Alabama’s 2.67.

In the series’ third game, starting pitcher Mike Franco, who made his first start after coming off Tommy John surgery only 10 months ago, went only 2.2 innings but recorded four strikeouts while not allowing a run in his first division-one win.

“It felt great, first start for the FIU Panthers. I just felt excited to be back on the mound,” Franco said.

“They had me on a pitch count, but everything was just coming together little by little. I can honestly say that I’ve felt a lot better in this first game then I’ve felt in intra-squad games so that’s a good sign.”

Franco also realized the importance in sweeping such a high caliber opponent in Stony Brook.

“Truthfully, this team, there’s some potential, everyone wants to win and we’re all pushing each other because our main goal is to make it to Omaha,” Franco said.

“I feel we have a really good chance to win with this team because everyone is pushing each other and no one is downsing each other. Like I should be playing this or that, everyone wants to win so everyone is in it together.”

On the other side of the ball, the Panthers’ bats were led by shortstop Julius Gaines who ended up with seven hits, leading his team. Not too far behind Gaines was right fielder Nathan Burns who ended the series with six hits and five RBIs.

FIU’s first strong game against the Seawolves, where they ended up winning by a score of 10-4, placed them as the fifth best team in the SBC when it comes to batting average.

The Panthers (3-0) now play Bethune-Cookman (1-2) in a one-game stand today Feb. 20 at 4 p.m. The Wildcats are coming off a series loss against No.16 ranked Arizona State University in which they were heavily outscored 26-18.

FIU last season went 2-1 against the Wildcats with their last stop in Daytona Beach, Fla., being a 15-3 rout of Bethune-Cookman.

One player to keep an eye on for the Wildcats is outfielder David Lee, who ended last season with a .306 batting average while collecting three home runs and 47 RBIs.

FRANCISCO RIVERO
Staff Writer

The Department of Religious Studies in conjunction with Jain Vishwa Bharati University (JVBU, Ladnun, Rajasthan, India) offers a Fellowship for summer 2013. The Fellowship provides airfare between Miami and India, travel/ project allowance, and tuition, room and board for a three-week Jain Studies immersion program at JVBU during July-August, 2012. The study program carries three credits from JVBU, entirely transferable to FIU.

Undergraduate students in all fields are eligible to apply. A letter describing the student’s background for and interest in Jain Studies. Preference will be given to those who have taken courses in Jainism or Indian religions.

Additionally, the Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship offers Bhagwan Mahavir Scholarships to cover tuition for summer immersion programs at JVBU, or the International Summer School for Jain Studies (ISSJS) in New Delhi, or perhaps other similar programs. Credit for the ISSJS or JVBU programs are transferable directly to FIU.

Applications are due April 1, 2013, and should be sent to:
Prof. Whitney Bauman
Undergraduate Program Director
Department of Religious Studies
Florida International University
whitney.bauman@fiu.edu
Students journey to the jungle for spring break

STEPHANIE MASON
Staff Writer

From venturing deep into the crevasse-filled jungle to diving into the skeloton infested caves in this small, Central-American country, students in the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management will truly embark on an adventure by traveling to Belize.

Carolin Lusby, CSHTM professor, will conduct this trip during spring break this year from March 8 to March 17.

The trip is designed for both undergraduate and graduate students in the CSHTM, however, it was the only student interest in going.

Nine students will go on the trip this year. The course offered for this trip is HFT 3993 Adventure Tourism at an undergraduate level or HFT 5957 Abroad Research Program at graduate level depending on the student.

“Every trip is a little different depending on what we’re teaching, what we’re talking about, but the standard itinerary stays approximately the same,” said Lusby.

During the trip this year, Lusby said students will participate in numerous activities including very heavy community service, working in the schools with the kids, Myan cooking and farming, exploring Myan archaeology and temples, canoeing, rain forest medicine, coral reef ecology, snorkeling, kayaking and exploring caves.

“It’s a great opportunity; it’s a fun way to get a couple credits,” said Teddy McCarthy, graduate student in the CSHTM and one of the students going to Belize, said about the trip.

McCarthy said he is excited “just to get to see the sights and take in the Belize culture,” as well as to get, “a greater idea of what adventure tourism is all about.”

The cost for each student is $2,969 which is all-inclusive for food, transportation, lodging and activities.

Although it’s her second year conducting the trip at the University, this will be Lusby’s fifth year taking students to Belize.

Sink started trips to Belize in 2008 and has since become one of the founders of a shared non-profit organization, Climbing Horizons.

“We now raise money for scholarships for local kids, ongoing projects, libraries, and education after he lost his first bid for governor in 1994. She also knows that bent with millions of dollars is difficult of raising money: challenging an incumbent with about another gubernatorial run before he died suddenly of a heart attack, as well as to get, “a greater idea of what adventure tourism is all about.”

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“We now raise money for scholarships for local kids, ongoing projects, libraries, and education.”

Lusby said the University has been working on raising funds and to keep giving back came from the students because they wanted to stay involved,” said Lusby.

Christine Joseph, sophomore in hospitality management, said not only will this be her first study abroad trip, but it will also be her first time leaving the country at all.

“I really wanted to just leave Florida, leave the country and the fact that it was a hospitality course just added on to it, but I just wanted to go somewhere,” said Joseph.

“I really don’t even know what to expect because this is unlike anything I’ve ever done so I don’t know what to expect but I know I’m going to come back a brand new person,” Joseph said.

“New experiences, new knowledge that you otherwise can’t learn in the classroom,” is what graduate student in hospitality management, Brett Burgs, said he hopes to gain from the trip to Belize.

Lusby feels that traveling outside of one’s regular environment changes students for the better.

“It impacts students in ways that they can’t really predict beforehand; it really changes them. They’ve seen students overcome fears, overcome self-doubt, self-confidence, building confidence in yourself, changing careers, really having a passion for other people and giving back,” Lusby said.

Although entry to this trip is now closed, Lusby said that she will conduct another trip to Belize this summer which students can currently apply to attend.

University President Mark Rosenberg, above, held a town hall meeting with students, faculty and staff at the Biscayne Bay Campus. During the town hall, students raised concerns about food services, the Golden Panther Express shuttle, and Rosenberg listed new projects the University has been working on at BBC. For full coverage of the town hall, including video, visit fiusm.com.

Political weary, Sink focuses on business growth

BRENDAN FARRINGTON
AP Writer

Watch Alex Sink talk with people forming startup technology companies and she’s smiling, energetic and confident. She exudes ideas for making Florida a place where young adults with a vision can grow them into multi-million dollar companies providing high paying jobs.

Watch Sink talk about politics, and the tone is much different. There’s frustration over policy she thinks led the state since he defeated her in 2010.

There are other factors, too, that make running again not so enticing. She’s tired of raising money: challenging an incumbent with millions of dollars is difficult no matter what popularity polls say about voters’ current antipathy toward Scott.

And unlike 2010 when she had no primary opposition, she won’t have as easy a path to the nomination with the possibility of former Republican Gov. Charlie Crist, who recently switched parties, and others also seeking the Democratic nomination.

“Alex Sink is viable in any scenario even against Charlie, because she could run as ‘I’m the real Democrat here, he’s not,’” said Screven Watson, a Democratic consultant. “Take Charlie out of the mix, she’s your front-runner.”

But either way, it would be a more difficult path for Sink. She could not longer walk to the nomination, and some might have doubts she could beat Scott because she’s lost to him before, Watson said. That makes it more difficult to raise the money needed, and Watson said she’d have to run the campaign more efficiently and be more aggressive.

Instead she is pushing her energy into FloridaNext, a non-profit she started after the 2010 election, which Scottown by one percentage point.

“After such a close loss, I said, ‘OK, I still have these ideas, I still think they’re great ideas. I don’t want to give up on these ideas and these concepts,’” Sink said.