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Florida International University

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FIU partnership raises faculty concern

MADISON FANTOZZI  
Asst. News Director

Faculty are raising concern and criticism over the University’s proposed contract with Academic Partnerships (AP) to create a marketing and recruiting service.

Provost Douglas Wartozk wrote in an email to Student Media that marketing is not the University’s “core competency” and Dean of University College Joyce Elam said the company will perform non-academic activities that are important to the success of the program.

AP is not a new acquaintance of the University, with its first contract signed in 2009 that not only created the online Corporate MBA program, but also faculty concern.

Mathematics Professor Enrique Villamor, who was a part of the Faculty Senate’s online committee when the initial contract was signed, was not informed of the contract.

“If someone is going to teach, they should be involved or at least informed,” said Villamor.

The Faculty Senate proposed a recommendation.

“Be it further resolved that the University shall neither renew its contract...nor enter into any other contract to offer any FIU degree in partnership with any other private company without first consulting with the Faculty Senate,” the recommendation says.

Villamor said the Faculty Senate was told “vaguely” that administration looked into recruiting on its own and that the company had recommended AP was the best choice.

“Be it further resolved that the University provides the most services at the lowest price,” wrote Wartozk.

According to Wartozk, faculty has “complete control” in determining the curriculum and development process of academic programs.

AP’s activities also will include setting up a call center and student services, staffing these services and translating courses into the languages of prospective students.

“We don’t have the capital or translation materials to do this on our own,” said Elam.

Another concern of faculty is the lack of a competitive process.

“Not at any point our General Council determines that a competitive process is required, we will move to such a process," wrote Wartozk.

While a formal process is not required, Elam said alternative companies were considered but AP provides the most services at the lowest price.

“We appreciate the governor’s recognition of the importance of higher education and his support in funding higher education," said Steve Sauls, vice president of Governmental Relations.

“We think the legislature to do is keep the promise to restore funding because we would have some serious challenges maintaining what we’re doing now if that money is not restored," said Elam.”

Erika Guyon, nutrition and dietetics major (right), serves Hoisin-Glazed Short Rib Steamed Buns during the SOBE Wine & Food Festival. The steamed buns were the creation of Todd English, a renowned chef, restaurateur, author, entrepreneur, and television star based in Boston, Massachusetts and New York City.

FIU Health adds branch in Broward County

ELYSA ESO  
Contributing Writer

For more than a year, FIU Health physicians have provided state-of-the-art, comprehensive care to patients at the Modesto Maidique Faculty Group Practice. Now, the practice is moving on up – to Broward County.

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine’s Faculty Group Practice has expanded into Broward County with its second practice at the Broward Health Medical Center.

In partnering with Broward Health, the University is expanding access to health care and increasing the learning opportunities for its medical students.

On Jan. 31, Scott announced his $74.2 million budget proposal, focusing primarily on K-12 and higher education.

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“We think the legislature to do is keep the promise to restore our funding because we would have some serious challenges maintaining what we’re doing now if that money is not restored," said Elam.

Following last year’s alleged “one-time” $300 million cut to the State University System budget, Scott’s proposal vows to keep that promise and restore the money in general revenue.

This increase includes $118 million for operating expenses, $167 million for performance funding and $15 million for the University of Florida to achieve a national ranking in the top 10.

“I think the governor will get some of the things he wants, but ultimately the legislature will work out all the details," Sauls said.

“The Board of Governors is asking for $118 million for performance funding." The BOG has submitted its $185 operating request to the state legislature.

The executive summary contains projects for the University including $1 million in renovations for the Wolfe University Center at the Boca Raton Campus, $22 million for an expansion of the Graham Center at the Modesto A.
World News

Cuba’s Raúl Castro mentions possible retirement

Cuban President Raúl Castro has unexpectedly raised the possibility of leaving his post, saying Friday that he is old and has a right to retire. But he did not say when he might do so or if such a move was imminent.

The Cuban leader is scheduled to be sworn in to a new five-year term on Sunday. Castro urged reporters to listen to his speech that day. “I am going to be 82 years old,” Castro said at a joint appearance with visiting Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev. “I have the right to retire, don’t you think?”

Indian police search for evidence in bomb attack

Indian police are investigating whether a shadowy Islamic militant group was responsible for a dual bomb attack that killed 16 people outside a movie theater and a bus station in the southern city of Hyderabad, a police official said Friday.

The group, the Indian Mujahideen, is thought to have links with militants in neighboring Pakistan. India’s recent execution of an Islamic militant is being examined as a possible motive for the bombings, said the official, an investigator who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to reveal details of the probe.

Russian lawmaker quits parliament in property row

A senior lawmaker from the pro-Kremlin party resigned his seat in parliament on Wednesday after an anti-corruption campaign alleged that he owns properties in Florida valued at more than $2 million. Vladimir Pekhtin, chairman of the State Duma’s ethics committee, told the parliament that he is stepping down to protect his party from the scandal.

The lawmaker became the center of the scandal last week when the anti-corruption crusader, Alexei Navalny, published copies of deeds and other legal documents indicating that Pekhtin and his son own two condos in Miami Beach and a villa in Ormond Beach, Florida.

For more world news, check out www.FIUSM.com.

Twitter used in hiring process more

Scott, Page 1

Masideque Campus and 4 million for the Student Academic Support Center at Modesto Maidique.

“There’s a certain amount of gamemanship in the legislature, they may hold some things hostage,” Sauls said. “It will be up to the legislature to decide how much to provide and how to allocate it and sometimes the devil is in the details.”

In Scott’s budget, $10.7 billion in state contributions is allocated to Florida public schools, a figure that puts the university among the highest in the nation, the most significant increase being $480 million to increase teachers’ salaries by $2,500 apiece.

“A lot of governors do this, they want to be the education governor,” said Kathryn DePalo, senior lecturer in politics and international relations.

“Governors can budget for anything they want,” DePalo explained that her worry lies in the funding of the budget, her guess being that it might come from the public universities. “It’s not a zero-sum game, it’s not as if K-12 teachers win, then universities lose, but it does seem that universities’ budgets are easier to cut than elementary schools,” DePalo said.

Sauls, however, emphasized that K-12 and higher education are not mutually exclusive if it comes to funding Florida’s K-12 education is important right through Ph.D.,” Sauls said. “A strong public education system is in our interest, not only an either-or, but public higher education needs to be preserved, too.”

Another major higher education initiative Scott is pushing for is the Finish in Four program, offering students flat tuition rates for the first four years of their university education, an incentive he hopes will motivate students to graduate quickly.

“Students have a stake in the outcomes because the legislature provides money that funds access, quality improvements and tuition policy,” Sauls said.

“We want to be very positive about what we can do ourselves and we don’t want to complicate but we do want to make the case about how better education is important for economic development of our community.”

Sauls encourages students to contact their representatives and ask them to ‘Keep the University in mind when voting on legislation, too.”

“Scott’s budget will likely not stay the way it is,” DePalo said. “The legislature has to play bad cop and say ‘we don’t have that kind of money available or where are we essentially cutting?’ That is the big question.”

In an effort to promote university student interest, on April 2 and April 4, 2013, the University’s Student Government Association is holding Rally in Tally, when SGA, in collaboration with the Florida Student Association, takes students to Tallahassee for free to meet with state senators and representatives and lobby their houses.

“It’s a great experience, this is a way of promoting the importance of what you do,” said Alex Castro, vice president of the Student Government Council at MDC. “In the presence of these publics is very important in order to share emotional and logical ideas with our legislators so that they vote for more university funding.”

—mariaelis.roque@fiu.edu

At SOBEWFF, students learn the ropes

Festival, Page 1

“The students here working on site love it, they are so energetic,” said College of Medicine Dean John Rock, as he prepared to enjoy one of the dishes.

Working with chefs in a culinary event such as the SOBEWFF is a great experience for students, according to FIU alumna, Allen Suss, who characterized herself as a former culinary chef working with tropicent ingredients.

“It’s fun because with the students, especially in an event like this, they get to see how people enjoy the food and that’s really amazing,” said Suss. “When you have the professionals, sometimes they lose sight of it and they just work, work, work, but I think the kids really get the value of connecting the food with the smiles of the guests.”

Students like Suzy Delgado, senior hospitality major who has volunteered at the festival twice, enjoyed the fast and busy pace of the festival as well as working with the chefs.

“They are very awesome. They’re very down to earth people and they are very friendly,” said Delgado.

The events that had the most prominent FIU student presence were the Tastemaker Q, which launched the festival, followed by the Aspen Light Burger Bash, Grand Tasting Village, Fun and Fit as a Family, Trucks on Midtown and Guy Fieri’s Roadshow and Reggae.

—bbc@fiu.edu
Making stranger conversations more meaningful

MIGUEL MARTINEZ-VIERA
Contributing Writer

A simple act of kindness is not what I’m talking about. Nor a kind word; nor helping out a friend. What I’m talking about is having a meaningful, unexpected interaction with a complete stranger.

Does this sound like an odd thing to you? Well, that’s because it probably is. Our society has been gradually isolating itself more and more over the course of this past generation. We’ve been using Facebook to stay in touch with friends far away, and tweeting to “Twidlets” we don’t even know. We share intimate details and pictures of our day-to-day lives with who-knows-who, and we’ve come to accept these things as normal and acceptable.

We praise how interconnected the world is while we tap away at our cell phones and fail to notice the human being sitting just a few feet away from us.

We’ve traded meaningless distractions for meaningful interactions.

When’s the last time you had a spontaneous conversation with a person you’d never met before? A conversation for meaningful interactions.

What stuns me most is how willing we are to share intimate details and pictures of our lives with the phrase, “Okay, if you really want to know how I’m doing...”

The truth is that nothing can replace having someone you never met before to speak for our underrepresented communities.

We have been planning and building our collective power to build a movement to speak for our underrepresented communities to protect them and bring in an era of change.

The Dream Defenders is a young organization, but have been hard at work presenting the issues affecting our communities.

One such issue is the school to prison pipeline, a method in which kids are being channeled from schools into the criminal justice system.

This pipeline is criminalizing our nation’s children instead of educating them. There are even juvenile facilities that are being shut down across the state, leaving children as young as eight-year-olds to be forced into adult prisons, for disruptive behavior such as arriving late to class or throwing objects in the classroom.

Instead of the school staff handling the children’s misconduct, schools are relying on police officers to take kids out of an educational environment and put them in a system that will cause more harm to them.

When these children grow into adults living through the never ending incarceration process, they lose the chance to be educated, to have careers, and to really reach their full potential.

This greatly contributes to the fact that America has the largest incarceration percentage in the whole world. One in four of the world’s inmates are Americans and since the 1970s the incarceration rate has tripled in the United States.

On March 5th, Gov. Rick Scott will deliver his State of the State Address, a speech that shows Florida’s status as a state.

On this day, on the steps of the Old Capital of Florida, Dream Defenders will also be delivering a special “Welcome to the Dream Era” speech and Convocation State of the State Address with speakers addressing a number of issues affecting our communities. Such issues include voter suppression, immigration, Stand Your Ground laws and the School to Prison Pipeline.

We welcome you to the Dream Era. Join us. We are the future. We are the answer; we are the change and we have been waiting for.

We will demand everything that was promised to us, while laying the foundation for a new nation created in our image.

America is changing, it is shifting. It is an era propelled by black and brown youth who spent their formative years criminalized, marginalized, twisted to the side and forgotten. We found beauty in the dark; we found strength in our struggle and determination through despair.

Paula Zamudio Dream Defenders FIU President Paula@dreamdefenders.org

-opinion@fiusm.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Dream Era

February 26, 2012 is a night that haunts many. On this night in Sanford, Fla., Trayvon Martin was walking home when he was confronted and fatally shot by George Zimmerman. Florida’s Stand Your Ground law allowed Zimmerman to be released on bail and has yet to be charged.

This tragedy marked the beginning of a new ideas and a stand for equality by an unlikely group - our youth. Students across the state began to rally in the wake of Trayvon Martin’s death and created an organization called Dream Defenders.

We have been planning and building our collective power to build a movement to speak for our underrepresented communities to protect them and bring in an era of change.

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One such issue is the school to prison pipeline, a method in which kids are being channeled from schools into the criminal justice system.

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Paula Zamudio Dream Defenders FIU President Paula@dreamdefenders.org

-opinion@fiusm.com

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 GE 210 or WIDE 145.

With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter from a month from any individual.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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Relay for Life to raise money for cancer research

JESSICA VALERIE RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Cancer, the heartbreaking reality that makes people feel powerless, the illness that traumatizes not only the people who suffer from it, but their loved ones as well. Students are contributing to the fight against cancer by putting together the annual Relay for Life event on March 1 at 6 p.m.

Relay for Life has been in existence for nine years at the University and has raised thousands of dollars for the American Cancer Association.

People who have been affected by cancer and those who are just paying their respects, join forces to relay and reach a cancer-free world. This year the committee’s goal is to raise $91,000 for cancer-related services.

Relay for Life is an organization well known throughout the country and the world. There are 5,100 relay committees and more than 4 million people in over 20 countries participating in this inspirational fight against the life changing effects of cancer, according to cancer.org.

Twenty-six students make up the committee in charge of planning and coordinating the relay. Sofia Sanchez, a junior double majoring in public relations and marketing, is one of these students. Sanchez decided to join Relay for Life because she wanted to get involved while being a part of a philanthropy. She states the committee has been working extremely hard since fall and mentioned the theme, Disney, is the key to success.

“We believe the theme will make it easier for the teams to come up with creative ways to fundraise and hopefully it will make the event more enjoyable since it is overnight,” said Sanchez.

Everyone’s reason to relay is unique. For freshman biology major Patricia Padron, it was her parents’ fight against cancer that drove her to become a Relay for Life delegate for the Phi Sigma Sigma sorority. “I thought that being directly affected gives me a different view and appreciation. I wanted to help the organization while showing the victims that there is hope,” said Padron.

The memory of her father and the celebration of her mother’s survival has made her determined to “reach out, embrace reality and participate” for Relay for Life. Padron has set up a team for Life. Padron has set up a team that will compete to raise the most money through activities and other fundraisers.

Rebecca Reyes, a junior majoring in clinical psychology, has a different story. Reyes participated in last year’s event not because of a family member, but because of her manager’s father, who passed away due to cancer.

For Reyes it didn’t hit home as much, so her inspiration was drawn from the good times with her co-workers. “I realized it was about raising awareness and funds for those suffering from the incurable,” said Reyes. Her experience opened her eyes to a world where the small everyday problems didn’t matter.

Aside from the upcoming relay, students were able to donate their hair at the “Look Good, Feel Better” event on Monday, Feb. 18. Freshman biology major Heidi de Marchena was among the many that donated. She decided to donate because her sisters inspired her to. She describes the involvement as “an incredible experience.” “It made me feel great giving my hair to someone who really needs it,” said de Marchena.

UNICEF@FIU to raise awareness about global poverty

VICTORIA RIVERA
Staff Writer

There are 1.4 billion people in the world right now living in extreme poverty. Every 3.6 seconds, starvation kills someone, usually children younger than 5, according to the United Nations Children’s Fund. UNICEF, which was established on Dec. 11, 1946 by the United Nations General Assembly, is an organization that provides humanitarian relief to developing countries in order to eradicate these startling statistics.

UNICEF at the University shares this mission through the Global Poverty Project, a movement that raises awareness of extreme poverty in the world and prevents its cycle. “UNICEF gives you a venue for making a difference in the world. The organization advocates for issues that affect children, whether it be malnutrition, immunization, AIDS prevention, hunger and education,” said Shirley St. Pierre, master’s student in public administration and president of UNICEF@FIU.

In September 2008, with the teamwork of several world leaders, the Global Poverty Project began in New York at the United Nations High Level Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, according to the Global Poverty Project’s website.

Today, the Global Poverty Project has reached several nations such as Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, as well as the United States. One of the major issues that concerns St. Pierre is vaccinations.

“We take that for granted here. We get our vaccinations prior to going to school, but some countries don’t have that. Some of the reasons for this are lack of medication supply, lack of funding and lack of awareness,” she said.

On Thursday, Feb. 28, UNICEF will host an event in the Graham Center Pit at the Modesto Maidique Campus to raise awareness about global poverty, human trafficking, education and the Tap Water Campaign.

Almost 800 million people do not have clean, safe water to drink, and 2.5 billion people live without a sanitary toilet, according to UNICEF’s website. Through the Tap Water Campaign, UNICEF@FIU hopes to beat this statistic.

By raising awareness of global poverty and all of the issues that it brings, UNICEF@FIU also hopes to expand students’ global connections.

“Inspiring even just one person to help will make a difference. Awareness will turn into engagement [with other nations],” said Sanchez.

For more information, students can go to unicef.org or look up UNICEF@FIU on orgsync.com.
LIFE!

The Beacon – Monday, February 25, 2013

KARLA REYES
Contributing Writer

Marine botanist and professor, Ligia Collado-Vides, has devoted her research to the ecology of tropical macroalgae – otherwise known as seaweeds.

An upcoming exhibition at the Murray E. Nelson Government and Cultural Center in Key Largo, titled “Macroalgae: Hidden Colors of the Sea,” features a collaboration by Collado-Vides and the Tropical Botanic Artists, a Miami-based art group dedicated to creating environmental art.

The exhibition is an effort to raise awareness about macroalgae communities and their importance to marine ecosystems. But students may wonder, “Why macroalgae?”

“We want to show people and help them understand [macroalgae’s] usefulness,” said Collado-Vides. “We use it every day.”

Although most students – and most people, for that matter – are unaware of the presence of macroalgae, it can actually be found in food, medicine and fertilizer. In addition to having practical usage, researchers are also beginning to look to macroalgae as an alternate source for biofuels.

“Most of the biofuels we use now come from corn, which causes a lot of harm to the environment and takes away from our food sources,” said Collado-Vides. “If macroalgae would be used, we won’t be taking away any food sources.”

With an increase in the amount of nutrients being dumped into the waters and an increase in fishing, the ecosystems and the macroalgae seem to be changing – and not in a good way.

“A bloom in the macroalgae can affect the seagrass, which then affects the whole ecosystem,” said Collado-Vides. “It will become a problem.”

Collado-Vides started the collaboration with the Tropical Botanic Artists to raise awareness to the issue by drawing the public in with the hidden beauty of macroalgae, which is the reason why she was drawn to the seaweed. For the exhibition, she will do her part by presenting a lecture aimed to give people a different awareness about macroalgae and hopes that their awareness will drive them to participate in making changes.

“Many things are happening to the environment and it is our responsibility to preserve it,” she said. “I wanted to work with something that would be good for the community and I find that algae is the most beautiful to work with.”

The “Macroalgae: Hidden Colors of the Sea” is currently open at the Murray E. Nelson Government and Cultural Center in Key Largo.

life@fiusm.com

Q.

Dear Nick,

What goes on in our bodies or mind when we find someone we are attracted to and how do we know if it’s love or lust?

E.P.

Junior Marketing Major

Dear O.P.,

The first stages of attraction to a romantic partner are special and sometimes overwhelming. There may be feelings of excitement, joy, and hopefulness. According to Dr. Helen Fisher, an anthropologist at Rutgers University, the chemical in our brains called phenylethylamine is often the reason behind the phrase, “Love is a drug.” Dr. Fisher elaborates that when you are in the beginning excitement stages of romance, your brain produces phenylethylamine, which stimulates dopamine production, a natural stimulant, and sends it out to many brain regions when one is in love. This is the same region affected when you feel the rush of other stimulants. So it’s no surprise that we sometimes feel “crazy in love” which can be interpreted as “lust.” Dr. Fisher adds that this feeling can last from 18 months to 4 years until eventually your body becomes accustomed to the “love drugs.” This information can be helpful to understand what is driving our new budding romance. So, before you book the ticket to Vegas, with the plan to get hitched, get to know your love interest. Take the romance one date at a time, let the friendship grow and build trust and respect into your relationship. With time, this will serve you well as the “love pull” will eventually wear off. Become best friends with your new love, enjoy his/her company, allow the excitement to become the fuel to get to know the person and overtime the romance will grow. Good luck with your new love!

Be Well,

Nick Scheidt, M.S. is a Doctoral Psychology Intern at FIU Counseling and Psychological Services. He is a Clinical Psychology Doctoral Candidate from Carlos Albizu University. Once he completes his internship at FIU, Nick plans to work as a Psychologist, Writer, and Professor. Do you have questions you would like to Ask Nick? Send an email to: Nscheidt@fiu.edu

AFFAIR OF THE ARTS 2013 SCHEDULE

MONDAY, FEB. 25TH (GRAND KICK-OFF)

FLEXIBLE COMEDY WITH JONATHAN BURNES & CUPCAKE DESIGNING – 12 PM to 2 PM in Panther Square (born with the gifts of flexibility, curiosity, and goodhess, Jonathan now uses these talents to entertain audiences around the world)

SGA PRESENTS: CARL HASEN – 6:30 PM in WUC Theatre (Semi-novelist and Journalist Carl Hassen will show you his America: absurd, seedy, and oddly beautiful)

TUESDAY, FEB. 26TH (TRIP TO MOCA)

FREE TRIP TO NORTH MIAMI’S MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART (MOCA) (Shuttle buses will be provided back and forth. You must have Campus Life (WUC) 141)

INTERNATIONAL PHOTO CONTEST RECEPTION – 4 PM to 5 PM in WUC 157 (Sponsored by ISSS)

DANCING WITH THE WOLFE SERIES: SALSA – 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM in Panther Square (Learn salsa with FIU’s favorite instructor: Memo Yull)

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27TH (SQUARE DANCE)

CALEIGH BAKER & CERAMIC PAINTING – 11 AM to 2 PM in Panther Square (Painting from a small valley in Western New York, Raleigh Baker has been in Central Florida prominence as a jazz, blues-rock powerhouse. Raleigh Baker examines audiences whenever she goes)

DANCING WITH THE WOLFE SERIES: BELLY DANCING – 7 PM to 8 PM in Rec. Center (Learn belly dancing with expert dancer Vira)

LES MISERABLES – 8 PM in Adrienne Arsht Center (Tickets available at the Campus Life Office (WUC) 141) for only $10.00 (first come, first served)

THURSDAY, FEB. 28TH (DRIVE-IN MOVIE: BREAKING DAWN)

DANCING WITH THE WOLFE SERIES: TANGO – 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM in Panther Square (Learn Argentine Tango with Rasa & Urai)

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN (PART 2) – 8 PM in Overflow Parking Lot (FIU) (Free Admission. Parking begins at 7 PM. Parking lot located between ARC and Knevel Center)

FRIDAY, MARCH 1ST (NIGHT OUT AT THE NOLDFIUSONIAN FIU)

FIU WOLFSOHN MUSEUM TRIP – 5 PM in South Beach (Free admission & transportation! Sign-up in Campus Life (WUC) 141)
FIU baseball sounds off on lack of pride

PATRICK CHALVIRE
Contributing Writer

Every four years, the U.S. team in the World Baseball Classic falls into the same predicament. The World Baseball Classic was first introduced in 2006 when the International Olympic Committee removed baseball from the Olympics. Played every four years, it features 16 baseball teams, each representing a country that plays in a bracket style to determine the best baseball country that year.

More importantly, the WBC is a way to show pride and support for one’s country rather than just another game to earn a paycheck. This display of pride has been dominant in countries who play in a bracket style to determine the best baseball country that year. The U.S. has never had a problem showcasing their homegrown talents. The U.S., on the other hand, hasn’t had such success in that department.

This year, some of the game’s biggest stars are absent from the U.S. roster, choosing to decline invitations. Starting pitcher Justin Verlander, the 2012 Cy Young winner, opted not to play, claiming he was tired from last season. Pitcher Clayton Kershaw, the 2011 Cy Young winner, dodged the event, too.

The No. 1 concern for big name stars in the majors playing for Team USA has always been the risk of injury. Players, especially team owners are worried about a star player getting hurt prior to the season starting.

Tommy Thomas, head coach of the FIU baseball team, says the concern for injury should never be in a player’s mind.

“You can’t play this game of baseball worried about getting hurt,” Thomas said. “If you worry about getting hurt, that’s probably the time you will get hurt.”

Thomas doesn’t seem to think that playing in the WBC increases the risk of injury. The coach remembered an instance where a young man tore his anterior cruciate ligament by doing something everyone does day in and day out.

“There was a kid, literally getting in bed one night, and twist his knee and tore his ACL,” Thomas says. “You can even walk across the street and get hit by a car.”

According to Jayson Stark of ESPN, 73 players were on the disabled list in 2009 once the season started. Only two of them on the list played in the WBC. Rick VandenHark was a pitcher, and Ichiro Suzuki, who was on the disabled list.

If that was not enough, players who did not participate in the WBC in 2009 were twice as likely to be on the disabled list. By the end of the season, 11 of the 115 players who made the WBC roster that year were later on the disabled list.

The choice is ultimately up to such player. Whether or not a decision is made due to injury or pride or whichever the case, the final choice falls on the glove of the player himself.

“That’s an individual preference what they want to do,” Thomas said. “Everybody has a reason why they would or wouldn’t, and you have to respect their decision. They’re not just saying they don’t want to play. They’re out in spring training everyday anyways so they don’t have to spend extra time. They’re playing.”

Tyler Hibbert, outfielder for FIU, believes being asked to play in the WBC should never bring any concern or doubt.

“If you get an invite, you have to take it,” Hibbert said. “You never know if you get the chance again. What if you don’t get injured and you do something great? You’re going to be remembered for that.”
Pistorius granted bail pending murder trial

CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
JON GAMBRELL
AP Staff

A South African magistrate allowed Oscar Pistorius to go free on bail Friday, capping hearings that forestalled a dramatic turn in the Valentine’s Day killing of the star athlete’s girlfriend.

Pistorius’ family members and supporters shouted “Yes!” when Chief Magistrate Desmond Nair made his decision after a more than 1 hour and 45 minute explanation of his ruling to a packed courtroom.

Radio stations and a TV news network in South Africa broadcast the audio of the decision live, and even international channels like the BBC and CNN went live with it, underscoring the huge global interest in the case.

Nair set the bail at 1 million rand ($133,000), with $11,300 in cash up front and proof that the rest is available. The magistrate said Pistorius must hand over his passports and also turn in any firearms that he owns. Pistorius also cannot leave the district of Pretoria, South Africa’s capital, without the permission of his uncle, Arnold Pistorius.

The double-amputee Olympic’s next court appearance was set for June 4. He left the court in a silver Land Rover, sitting in the rear, just over an hour after the magistrate imposed the bail conditions. The vehicle, tailed by a motorcycle and a TV cameraman, later pulled into the home of Pistorius’ uncle.

The magistrate ruled that Pistorius could not return to his upscale home in a gated community in the eastern suburbs of Pretoria, where the killing of Reeva Steenkamp took place.

Pistorius’ uncle, Arnold Pistorius said: “We are relieved at the fact that Oscar got bail today but at the same time we are still confident in our case,” outside court.

Pistorius faced the sternest bail requirement in South Africa because of the serious nature of the charge, and his defense lawyers had to prove that he would not flee the country, would not interfere with witnesses or the case, and his release would not cause public unrest.

Nair questioned whether Pistorius would be a flight risk and be prepared to leave South Africa.

Prosecutors say he intended to kill Steenkamp and charged him with premeditated murder, saying the shooting followed a loud argument between the two.

“The only big factor we had in disadvantage with Thata Tau is that we only have two girls in our team and they had to play the whole game,” Noboa said.

It may have not been the results Thata Tau players were expecting after so much preparation and prepartation. But Thata Tau member Andrew Castilho said they’re ready to come back stronger again.

“It was a great team game. We didn’t go our way but we pushed through them. We just got to come back and win the next one, work harder, practice harder,” Noboa said.

SUPINATORS FALL TO NO LIMIT

In the FIU Rec Center, No Limit dominated the basketball court and won an intense match against the Supinators 51-46.

No Limit fell victim to fouls, leading to easy free throws for the Supinators. According to team member Stiven Miro and Gabriel Noboa.

Unfortunately Supinators the rest of its team to the victory.

“In a game that went down to the wire on Feb. 22, business fraternity Alpha Kappa Psi defeated Theta Tau 66-62 in a rec

...
Triumph or tragedy? Students weigh in on Carnival’s future

STEPHANIE MASON  Staff Writer

Lawsuits have already begun to pile up after the misadventure of the Carnival Triumph cruise ship. Dayton Callender has never been on a cruise but she would still open to going on a Carnival cruise.

“I still think they have a future, I mean, accidents happen, everything is not perfect,” said Callender, junior in hospitality management.

With several horror stories of sewage leaks, food supplies having run short, and all communication cut off, the cruise’s passengers were forced to go from vacation mode to survival mode when the Carnival Triumph lost all power on Sunday, Feb. 10 after a fire ignited in the ship’s engine room.

All 3,000 plus passengers did make it safely to shore, however, this was after eight days of being stacked on the ship. With much at stake for Carnival, the question now is how will this affect the long-standing cruise company?

Another student in hospitality management, sophomore Marlene Hidalgo, also feels that Carnival will recover from this incident.

“I think they’ll be fine. They’ll be down for a little while but they’ll just go back up because that only happens once in how many years,” said Hidalgo.

Hidalgo said her sister worked for Carnival and said although she hasn’t been on a cruise, she has toured several Carnival ships which she described as perfect.

“I just think Carnival’s awesome, like really they are from what I’ve seen, personal experience,” said Hidalgo.

Business senior, Yash Ramchandani said, “It’s one out of a thousand so it’s not really going to affect their business that much.”

On the opposite side of the topic about the Carnival incident, hospitality management senior, Stephanie Moss, said she doesn’t think Carnival will recover.

“I think it’s kind of will hinder the cruise line industry, but especially Carnival,” said Moss.

Moss said she goes on a cruise every year, “Me personally, I never liked Carnival,” said Moss. “I just never liked the food, the environment.”

Moss said she believes that the mishap with the Carnival Triumph will serve as a setback for Carnival for about 10 years due to not only this incident but also to another one they had about a year ago with the Costa Concordia.

Hidalgo said the College of Hospitality and Tourism Management has its own Carnival student center located on the Biscayne Bay campus, regardless of the effects Carnival receives, this will not affect the center at Biscayne Bay Campus.

According to an email from Dean of CSHTM, Mike Hampton, “There is no relationship at all between the mishap and the Carnival Student center.”

Dean Hampton was unavailable for further comment before time of publication.

Alejandra Laitano, senior in Hospitality Management, said, “I think Carnival will recover, just because they’re such a big corporation. I do believe that it’s going to give them a bad reputation for at least the next couple months, but at the end of the day there’s only several companies right now who do cruises.”

Laitano said, “I’ve spoken to a lot of people just of Carnival itself and they actually all really don’t think like Carnival, they prefer other lines.”

Laitano said she has been on a Carnival cruise before and personally didn’t like it.

Junior in hospitality management, Geoffrey Leroux, said he doesn’t think this will probably be the end of people traveling on cruises in general.

“For sure Carnival will go down but, in general…obviously the whole cruise industry.”

Although he thinks Carnival will initially get a bad reputation for the Triumph incident, Leroux said he thinks Carnival will definitely recover.

“More people are traveling now through cruises so this is going to be a little setback if anything,” said Leroux.

Students prepare for an ‘Affair’ by the bay

ALFREDO APARICIO  Staff Writer

A week of art appreciation awaits students who attend Affair of the Arts sponsored by the Student Programming Council at Biscayne Bay Campus, Student Government Council-BBC and Campus Life-BBC.

For Tashuan Williams, president of SPC-BBC, Affair of the Arts is a way to pay attention to the newfound respect for the arts because it’s something that isn’t incorporated into everyday life as much anymore.

Affairs of the Arts originally began as a three-day event that has been extended to a week, for the first time this year, with new surprises and activities geared to offering students a fresh, interactive experience in a variety of arts forms such as visual art, spoken word and music.

“They’ve formed a week of art where each day is going to focus on a different type of art and students give more than one thing to experience daily,” said Kaytien Franco, public relations assistant at Campus Life-BBC.

The week will kick off with the Flexible Comedy Show with Jonathan Burns, a comedian contortionist who will entertain the crowd with ideas of goodness and incredible feats of flexibility.

A new feature during the event will be a cupcake-designing table where students who attend will be able to design and eat their own cupcakes.

“They added it so that students could get a hands-on experience,” said Franco. “This way they are able to get a first hand appreciation for the arts.”

“It’s one thing to have students go and be in the audience, but then it’s another thing to have them interact,” said Williams. “We’re trying to bring more art appreciation and you appreciate yours more because you did it when you were young. When students get involved they are able to say that they contributed to the maintenance of art and will enjoy that they were able to express themselves.”

On Wednesday, Feb. 28, students will get a second chance to get creative as Raleigh Baker serenades students with his jazzy, blue-rock while they paint ceramics.

Aside from student interaction, two museum trips have been added to the list of events, a new stable this year, where students who sign up in Campus Life will be able to visit North Miami’s Museum of Contem- porary Art on Tuesday, Feb. 26 as well as the Wolfsonian-FIU Museum on Friday, March 1. Both trips are free of charge and shuttle buses will be provided for the trip to and from the museums.

Students who have always wanted to learn an exotic dance will also get a chance to, as Mambo Yoel will teach salsa on Feb. 26, Kira will teach belly dancing on Feb. 27 and Radu and Erika will teach the Argentine Tango on Feb. 28.

“I think art is everywhere in music dancing in everyday life and most people disregard it…we want to bring awareness to students,” said Emmanuel Jerome, treasurer for SPC-BBC who has attended Affair of the Arts for the last two years.

The final surprise in Affair of the Arts will be anything but miserable, as students will be able to see Les Miserables at the Adri- enne Arbut Center on Wednesday, Feb. 27 for a discounted price of $10. Tickets can be obtained in Campus Life and will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

“It’s one of my favorite Broadway musicals, so I’m most excited for this one personally,” Franco said.

Other events will include an International Photo Contest Reception on Feb. 26 and an old-fashioned drive-in movie on Feb. 28 as Affair of the Arts screens Breaking Dawn Part 2.

Franco hopes students come, see and appreciate the opportunity that is given to them and are able to enjoy the art and the programming of events that have been set up for them.

Williams suggests students come with an open mind, come to have fun and really gain something from the experience.

“They should come ready to build their own appreciation for the arts.”

The South Beach Wine and Food Festival starring students

STEPHAN USECHE  Asst. News Director

A garden of chocolate covered strawberries was one of the innovative food creations FIU students took part in last weekend at the South Beach Wine and Food Festival. Chefs from New York, California, Kentucky, Texas, Georgia and Miami worked with FIU students to prepare dishes that repre- sented the flavors of each state.

“We, hell to a big bang with the festival,” said Dean of the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management Mike Hampton. “We have more events taking place this year than ever before, and we have over 1250 student volunteers that are working in all types of roles throughout Carnival.”

According to Hampton, there were more than 4,600 shifts that students were covering while working at the festival.

“So, the exciting part is getting around and seeing the different foods we’ve prepared so far, and having a good time and learning a great deal while here,” said Hampton.

Each student was assigned to a chef according to his/her knowledge and background.

“We evaluate what their credentials are, what backgrounds they may have, so if they are going to be assigned to a chef, they have to have some culinary experience, or they have had to [go through] our food production process,” said Hampton.

The festival accommodated students of different interests and majors, and it provided them with the opportunity to help in different areas of the festival.

“I helped set up and just basically accommodating any of the chefs, if they need anything, any refreshment, backup,” said Daniela Mena, junior in management and human resources, who volunteered at the festival during the four days.

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