Pythons creating a stir among Everglades community

REBECA PICCARDO
Contributing Writer

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and its partners hosted the “2013 Python Challenge,” a month-long harvest competition between amateur and professional hunters to capture the Burmese python, an invasive species of constrictor snake that has impacted the Everglades ecosystem.

The competition took place from Saturday, Jan. 12 until Sunday, Feb. 10, 2013. During this period, a total of 68 Burmese pythons were harvested. These were captured from any of the four wildlife management areas for the competition, which excluded the Everglades National Park.

According to the FWC’s website, the Burmese python arrived in South Florida as an exotic pet, but is now listed as a conditional species and cannot be sold or kept as a pet. As one of the largest snakes in the world, with an average length of six to nine feet long, the Burmese python has no natural predators and has begun to raise environmental concerns; they prey on various “mammals, birds, and even alligators.”

In order to partake in the event, competitors needed to register online, pay a $25 fee, and take an online training course. The contest consisted of two categories: the General Competition and the Python Permit Holders Competition. There were five prizes given per category: a $1,500 Grand Prize and a $750 Second Place prize for the most Burmese pythons captured, a $500 First Place prize and a $750 Second Place prize for the longest Burmese python and an additional prize that was picked through a random drawing.

According to the event’s website, the main goal of this month-long harvest competition was to raise awareness about the “threat that Burmese pythons present to the Everglades ecosystem, including native wildlife.” By raising awareness, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and its partners hoped to “encourage responsible harvesting of Burmese pythons and encourage people to report sightings of invasive species.”

The “2013 Python Challenge” included two free public events: the “2013 Python Challenge Kickoff,” which was held at Zoo Miami on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2013. Blake Russ, a junior construction management, received the first place prize for harvesting the longest Burmese python and the second place prize for harvesting the second most pythons in the Permit Holders category.

Although killing the snakes was a requirement for the competition, Russ said that the University of Florida asked the FWC to make an exception in order to use Russ’ 11-foot-1-inch python for research purposes. According

Athletes balance pros and cons of social media

DANIEL BREY
Contributing Writer

In late January, a brief exchange between two FIU football players about taking a recruit to a strip club garnered national attention. The tweet, along with Facebook, Instagram and other social media sites have student-athletes, coaches and team organizations cautious about every tweet, post, and upload delivered into the dangerous world of personal interpretation.

“It can be a good, or a bad thing,” FIU pitcher Dillon Maya said via Twitter. “Just have to be careful what you put out there.”

Twitter, along with Facebook, Instagram -

Well field could run dry in Miami-Dade County

JUNETE REYES
Staff Writer

Water throughout the Miami-Dade county area could be disappearing fast.

An Everglades restoration project may affect a well field that supplies Miami-Dade County with much of its drinking water.

The plan itself, titled the Central Everglades Planning Project, is a form of experimentation from the partnering of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District, along with a “working group” of other state and federal agencies, environmentalists, and outdoors groups.

The plan is expected to use up to 65 million gallons of water annually to revive the dehydrated Everglades and salty Florida Bay as well as relieve parts of the marshes where flooding has been historically high, which has caused the destruction and demise of tree islands and wildlife populations.

Alternatives have been combined into a new plan known as 4R, which will include a seepage barrier meant to moderate the groundwater flow from the Everglades to the suburbs.

This can turn out to be problematic, though, because it can affect, and even diminish, the water flow to Miami-Dade’s well fields.

Leonard J. Scinto, director of the Southeast Environmental Research Center at FIU, believes in being able to tweak the plan as needed moving forward and that people should not worry about not getting enough water.

“It’s always kind of this balance between too much water and too little water,” said Scinto. “The problem is how you manage those extremes for [a] constant supply of fresh water to taps and constant release from flooding during the periods of high water.”

Scinto said that one of the main points of the plan is that there is going to be an additional 200 thousand

SEE SOCIAL, PAGE 6

SEE WATER, PAGE 2

SEE PYTHON, PAGE 2
Python hunters enjoy season in Everglades to help community

Everglades project may drain well field in Miami-Dade county

The Dean of Libraries position has three candidates selected to take over for the Interim Director Thomas Brasel. FIU Libraries have been looking for a new dean since late July, when former Dean of Libraries Laura Probst stepped down and Brasel stepped in.

When Probst stepped down, University Provost and Executve Vice President Douglas Wartzok sent out a memo-

randum on July 26 stating, “I want to thank Dean Probst for her service. These five years have . . . been a time of signifi-
cant change in how information is stored and accessed. We have benefited from someone who kept FIU abreast of the changes.”

Now, Wartzok has named three candidates to fill the posi-
tion: Bradladee, Aime Prestano and Roy Ziegler. Bradladee has worked as the dean of libraries at Mercy College from 2009 to present. Prestano has worked at Oklahoma State University since 2005 in “library related work.” Ziegler has worked at Florida State University since 2001 as associate dean for collection services, associate dean for collection development and associate director for collection development.

In an email sent to the FIU students, Wartzok said, “I hope you will take this opportunity to meet these finalists at the forums in which they will briefly present their vision for the FIU Libraries and you will be able to ask questions and demonstrate our collective interest in selecting the most qual-
cified candidate.”

-branchwise@fiusm.com

DEAN OF LIBRARIES FORUMS

Braddlee, Anne Prestano, Roy Ziegler

forums took place on Feb. 26 for Bradladee, will take place on Feb. 27 for Prestano, and Feb. 28 for Ziegler.

All meetings will take place in GS 220 at 3 p.m.

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A paradox of the pro-life approach

LAUREN BANA
Contributing Writer

Black History Month: a celebration or a separation?

LEX SORONDO
Staff Writer

Keeping it in the family is all right

BY ALEX SORONDO
Staff Writer

Contact Us
Michae Baisden
Opinion Editor
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The Beacon – 3 Wednesday, February 27, 2013

A nation thrives off of unity, and if we, as a nation, are unified only amongst our own separate races, then we are only further dividing ourselves.

With the passing of Black History Month, we have come reflect on the time we took to celebrate our African American brothers and sisters. This month has been dedicated to their contributions to America as a whole, and we should certainly honor them, not only during the month of February, but year-round.

And we should honor every race every day, and can do so by respecting one another and the contributions to America as a whole, and we have come to reflect on the time we took to celebrate our African American brothers and sisters. This month has been dedicated to their contributions to America as a whole, and we should certainly honor them, not only during the month of February, but year-round.

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The partnership is to strengthen capacity with higher education institutions in [Colombia] in order to strengthen conservation in the Andean Amazon.

Ana Lemos-Jara predicts that the experience gained from this partnership will benefit FIU as well as Pontificia Universidad Javeriana and the Universidad de la Amazonia in Colombia.

"FIU stands to gain by helping other universities revise their curricula. Considering that FIU is a public research university we have a lot of learned experiences to offer these universities that may not have had the infrastructure or the know-how," Lemos-Jara said. "FIU will also gain invaluable contacts in the area. We’re going with this ‘Worlds Ahead’ theme, I think this is great because now not only do we have the connection with Latin America because of where we are in Miami, but also because we’re there in the field we’re helping these people out and we’re helping them develop.

But, ultimately the biggest payoff Lemos envisions is a brighter future for the Amazon. “It’s a really good opportunity for everyone to work together and work for the common goal which is to conserve the Amazon.”

JACQUELINE ROSADO  
Staff Writer

New insight into the Jewish community of New York’s World Era has been unveiled by University Professor Howard Rock, who took on the task of writing about them in his latest book, Haven of the Liberty: New York Jews in the New World, 1654-1865.

His book is part of a three-volume set, City of Promises: A History of the Jews of New York, With a Visual Essay by Diana L. Linden. According to Rock, his book is about the first Jews that arrived to the colonies and traces their history in New York City — what makes this book unique is that Rock said it was composed of three parts. The first part covers the Colonial Period and the American Revolution. The second part covers the Jews in the Early Republic, which covers the years 1790 to 1830. Finally, the last part covers the Antebellum Period, which is the period before the Civil War when there was a huge population boom, especially within the Jewish community.

Rock began his research when he retired in 2008 and the book was published in 2012. Rock worked on it for three and a half years.

Rock got involved in this research after his friend asked him to work on project chronicling the history of New York’s Jewish community. He was scared because he knew nothing about Jews around this time and realized there weren’t many resources he could rely on, until he came upon some old newspapers that saved him.

Rock mentioned that it was easier for him to do this research because he was no longer a full-time professor when he started it. It would’ve taken him about seven years if he were still teaching full-time.

Rock shared some surprising conclusions about the Jewish community in his research, one of them being the challenge of integrating and staying in America. “They became a part of everyday society,” said Rock. Rock explains how the book reveals how the Jewish community faced the obstacle of staying strong enough to stay integrated within their community and not assimilate to Americanism. According to Rock, the Jewish community in New York struggled with keeping their Jewish identity.

"This book will help teach the importance of the early period of American Jewish history," said Rock.

Rock taught full-time for the Universities for 35 years until he officially retired in 2008. He is currently teaching a graduate program for high school teachers who want to get a master’s degree in history.

LUIS BOLANOS  
Contributing Writer

Community service is a staple of our society, and helps uplift the community through volunteer work.

Here at FIU, students from all backgrounds help and assist the community and the Honors College in particular offers a special event for those students interested called the Day of Service. It is taking place on Saturday, March 2.

As stated on the event registration page, the Day of Service is “a day dedicated to community service involving tree planting, park restoration and beautification and possibly painting and building in the City of Sweetwater.”

Communication and Media Specialist Monique Purnell, a graduate student in the Higher Education Administration program, detailed the history behind the event.

“In 2009, the Honors College created a partnership with the City of Sweetwater and has since then performed acts of service through mentoring and tutoring within the schools, and offering Days of Service to beautify the local community. This year our goal is to have our 3rd Annual Day of Service,” said Purnell.

Purnell added details behind the attendance of the event in the past, and an estimated 80 participants in last year’s Day of Service, described how the Day of Service helps out the community.

“We had an average of 80 students participate in last year’s Day of Service and we are anticipating 100 volunteers this year,” said Purnell.

The Day of Service is part of several community service projects done by the Honors College.

Additional community service our students provide are tutoring and mentoring at the local schools, assisting with after school care and programs, and participating in An Evening with the Arts at Sweetwater Elementary,” said Purnell.

Melissa Rodriguez, a senior in Psychology and a participant in last year’s Day of Service, described how the Day of Service helps out the community.

“The Day of Service definitely benefits not only the community in general, but it helps an area that is only a mile away from our campus. FIU is a ‘world’s ahead’ university, so what better way to exemplify than to serve our next-door neighbors?” said Rodriguez.

One moment that stood out for Rodriguez during last year’s Day of Service was hearing the Mayor of Sweetwater speak to the volunteers during their lunch break.

"It’s one thing doing community service just to get volunteer hours, and it’s another thing to do it while knowing you’re making a difference. He was very inspirational."

Rodriguez added input to the overall benefits of the Day of Service to the community.

“The Day of Service definitely benefits not only the community in general, but helps an area that is only one mile away from our campus. FIU is a ‘world’s ahead’ university, so what better way to exemplify than to serve our next-door neighbors?” said Rodriguez.

Purnell expressed interest in students to participate in the event.

“We encourage all students within and outside of the Honors College to participate in Day of Service. For additional service opportunities, FIU students can refer to the Center for Leadership and Service.”

Rock published a book about every ten years since he’s started working. Some of his other works include his first book published in 1979, Artisans of the Andean Amazon, which covers all of New York City’s history, published in 2001.

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‘The Liar’ to reveal a web of lies on stage

ALFREDO APARICIO
Staff Writer

What a tangled web of lies “The Liar,” directed by Michael Yawney, an assistant professor of the Department of Theatre, will weave as it premieres on March 1. The play, adapted by David Ives from Pierre Corneille’s original, promises to make audiences laugh and be a little bit confused as they watch Dorante’s antics unravel on stage when he tries to cover up one lie with an even bigger one.

“The Liar” is one of those plays that’s really challenging because it has so many things clashing with each other,” explained Yawney. “There are other translations of the play but none are as funny as this because it has been revised, in part, thanks to Ives’ great wit and combinations of many other comedic elements such as farce, slapstick, high comedy and the fact that while the setting is 1643, the characters still talk about things like multiplexes and Twitter.”

The play, which Yawney described as the child of “The Three Musketeers” and “Family Guy,” has been a close knit experience between Yawney and the cast of eight as they tried to explore the character’s motivations and keep control of the lies that build up during its duration.

“We had to come together to figure out how to express the characters physically and how their movements express their relationships to one another. There was a point where we had to sit down and really dig into which character knows what lie and which one is lying about lying and what they really want,” said Yawney. “The play has one main liar but really every character is lying or pretending to be something they’re not and by the end those lies are going to be revealed.”

For Daniel Leonard, a junior BFA performance major who plays “The Liar,” Dorante, who he describes as a “lover, not a fighter and an incredible storyteller,” the biggest challenge to playing the role has been the outright lies his character says.

“I do like to be honest so it’s a little thing I’ve had to work through but he’s such a grandiose storyteller and master artist at painting elaborate pictures with his words.”

Dorante’s constant inconsistency has also been a big plot point that Leonard has used to formulate his character. “Yawney and I agreed that the less constant, the better, because it will surprise the audience the most, the way Dorante is able to fabricate lies like a magician pulling rabbits out of a hat.”

Leonard, however, feels that Dorante’s lies are what will make him an interesting character to connect with. “He likes to put on a façade but he’s still human and when you strip away everything else, what he wants is to make connections and form relationships with other people.”

Lucille Cocoo, a senior BFA performance major, who usually plays the ingénue, the role of Clarice has offered her a chance to explore the multifaceted personality of her character. “All the roles are amazing but I was really happy when I got casted because it’s easy to see her as one level but when I read her I feel there’s so much more to her than you initially see and that’s helped me discover who she is, by the way she behaves with the different people in her life like her fiancée, her best friend, even her servants.”

Cocoo hopes the audience will be able to connect with the character and see that behind the carefree personality, she is someone who suffers and is able to fall madly in love like a little girl. “It has felt easy and organic to play her because I’ve been able to find similarities between us like my own pride and Clarice’s. I try to take from my own feelings to make each action feel real.”

The inspiration for the play’s colorful costumes, designed by Costume Shop Supervisor Marina Pareja, began with a wallpaper sample from a child’s room which made Pareja think of the characters whose skirts give the illusion of petals for the men and flowers for the women, have become more stylized and resemble this effortless, funny, beautiful machine and when it is done, the final effect will be this effortless, funny, beautiful machine that seems to go on its own. If we didn’t take the time to work on it, it would never become effortless.”

“The Liar” will run from Mar. 1-3 and again on Mar. 6-10 at the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center’s Mainstage Theatre. For more information call 305-348-0496.

For Yawney, the extensive work that has gone into producing the preparation will be rewarded when the play premieres. “It’s a play about laughing and being awed and when it is done, the final effect will be this effortless, funny, beautiful machine that seems to go on its own. If we didn’t take the time to work on it, it would never become effortless.”

The final designs for the costumes have become more stylized and resemble insects such as grasshoppers and beetles for the men and flowers for the women, whose skirts give the illusion of petals made out of a variety of colors.

“Insects jump from flower to flower so that, as I continue to read the play, I noticed that movement connected them all,” said Pareja. “Lucee’s dress, for example, can be interpreted very organically either like the petals of a flower or the cap of a mushroom.”

For Cocoo, the costumes of the play have helped keep the play’s movements simple and organic. “I’ve worked with corsets before and it forces you to breathe in the right place and do it properly but because the dresses have kept us at a distance, the fact that we are so far apart because of the dress has only added to our need to be closer.”

For Yawney, the extensive work that has gone into preparing the production will be rewarded when the play premieres. “It’s a play about laughing and being awed and when it is done, the final effect will be this effortless, funny, beautiful machine that seems to go on its own. If we didn’t take the time to work on it, it would never become effortless.”

The inspiration for the play’s color scheme came from the idea that the men’s costumes will be a mixture of fabrics that have become more stylized and resemble this effortless, funny, beautiful machine and when it is done, the final effect will be this effortless, funny, beautiful machine that seems to go on its own. If we didn’t take the time to work on it, it would never become effortless.”
Friday, February 22, Head Coach Katarina Petrovic knew her team was ready for the match against conference foe Arkansas State.

"I always preach to the players that they can comeback win a match no matter what the score is," Petrovic said.

"When I was down 5-2, I just told myself, 'OK, you have nothing to lose now' and I just started playing my tennis and started to relax a little," Maisak said.

Freshman Carlotta Orlando lost in her first set before battling back to win the next two sets to continue her hot start to the season, improving her singles record to 8-1. Despite the 1-6 start to the season, the Italian native has been one of the consistent bright spots for the Panthers.

"She is mentally strong and believes in her game," Petrovic said.

While resilience was key in the victory, Petrovic felt the hot weather and the fact that three of the singles matches going the distance played the biggest role in their victory.

"I feel it was a big advantage. The reason we won our matches was because we were at home and the weather was a bit warm and I think the opponent was struggling with the heat," Petrovic said. "I told the girls if we played longer matches it would be to our advantage. We had three matches go to three full sets and we won all three."

The barometer read 85 degrees with heavy humidity on Sunday at noon, a stark contrast from Arkansas’ 50 degrees at the same time.

"I don’t think we practiced or played in weather like today this semester, so it was kind of a shock to all of us," Holt said.

"We are used to practicing in the heat, so when players come here we know what to expect and they don’t."

Now that the Panthers have their first win, Maisak and Holt feel it can be a springboard to a strong finish to their season.

"It’s always that one win that can be hard to get, but once you get that first win, it really helps you get the others," Holt said. "At the beginning when you have so many new players, it was so hard to feel like a team, but with more months together, I’m pretty sure we are going to do good from now on.

"I feel like we are getting better now, and we are working harder as a team, everyone is trying harder," Maisak added.

“We didn’t have a good start to the season, and I really hope we are going to do better now. It’s not how we start, it’s how we finish.”
FIU stumbles in final home game

RUBEN PALACIOS
Staff Writer

The women’s basketball team’s hot streak is no more.

FIU’s four-game winning streak, which was their second longest of the year, ended on Feb. 21 by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The Trojans fought fire with fire; they traveled to Miami on a seven-game winning streak. The Trojans proved to be too much to handle for FIU, beating them 51-47.

UALR played stifling defense on junior Jerica Coley for 35 minutes. Coley, not easily phased by a 20-point lead, valiantly brought her team from behind. She cut the huge lead down to three points with 17 seconds left in the game, but that was as close as she brought her squad.

UALR had another big winning streak that should have caught the attention of the FIU coaching staff. Entering the contest, the Trojans had won 79 consecutive games when holding their opponents under 50 points. Under Head Coach Joe Foley, the Trojans are 106-5 when allowing opponents to 50 points or less.

“It was a very physical game,” said Head Coach Cindy Russo. “We needed people to step up but they just beat us down.”

Migolav and Mansare have been a part of the program for the past four years. Migolav has been a regular in the starting rotation since her freshman year and Mansare is an All-Second Team Sun Belt Conference Preseason selection.

Ashmore transferred to FIU from junior college before last season and has been a defensive anchor to the second unit. Recently, Ashmore has played seven games within the starting rotation and has enjoyed much success. Her late-season surge has her leading the team in field goal percentage at a clip of 52 percent.

“You can’t say enough about them. They work so hard and they have been great contributors,” Russo said about her trio of seniors. “We shall miss them.”

STANDING TALL

Junior Marita Davydova continues to lead the Panthers in rebounding at an astounding rate of 8.5 rebounds per game. Davydova has led the team in rebounding in five consecutive games and in 18 of 27 games this season.

In her first year at FIU and playing basketball in the states, the Russian transfer is defying the odds by currently ranking third in the SBC in rebounding. Davydova also registered a team-leading nine double-double performances this season. Davydova is the rebounding anchor on a team that leads the conference in outrebounding opponents.

On top of being the primary post presence, Davydova is also the second scoring option behind Coley. Other than Coley, she is the only other Panther scoring at a double-digit clip at 10.3 points per game.

FAILING LAST STAND

The matchup with UALR was a big game. Both teams were on winning streaks, it was a conference game and potential seeding in the upcoming conference tournament was also up in the air. But there was something larger at risk for the Panthers. The game was the last home game of the season, and that represented the final home game for three impact players.

Seniors Carmen Migolav, Finda Mansare and Diamond Ashmore played their final home game against UALR. The loss was the first on a senior night since 2010.

UALR had won 79 consecutive games when holding their opponents under 50 points. Under Head Coach Joe Foley, the Trojans are 106-5 when allowing opponents to 50 points or less.

“I was a very physical game,” said Head Coach Cindy Russo. “We needed people to step up but they just beat us down.”

With the loss, the Panthers dropped to 17-10 (11-7 Sun Belt Conference).

Late-inning home run snaps nine-game win streak

BRYAN PALACIOS
Contributing Writer

A game-winning homerun in the last inning of the game by Mercer University landed FIU in second place, one win short of a two-tournament sweep and a 10-game winning streak.

“I thought we played pretty well,” said softball Head Coach Jake Schumann. “We pitched well, swung the bat well, [but] we lost focus on a couple of pitches there in the end. We had some bad walks, and those walks will come back to bite you and they did.”

FIU (9-6) took home silver in the FIU Classic this past weekend, where they faced the University of Hartford, Mercer University, and Savannah State University in the Softball Field. The Panthers finished the weekend 4-1, losing 4-3 in the championship game to Mercer. The loss handed Junior Shelby Waggon (3-1) her first loss of the year. But even with the loss, the Panthers continued their winning ways and had a successful weekend.

“I think we’ve gotten better every day. We haven’t taken any steps backwards,” Schumann said. “But still not where we need to be in two weeks when we start conference play. That’s something we talked about post game and the girls know that. A nine-game winning streak will cover up some stuff that you’re doing wrong.”

Freshman Corrine Jenkins (4-1) and sophomore Shelby Graves (2-1) both picked up two wins each during the tournament. The pitching dominated, giving up more than six hits only once. The Panthers also limited their opponents to 10 runs in the three games. They managed to keep the opponent under .300 in all but the final game.

“arad as they pitched, FIU also hit better than they had all season. They managed to put up more than six runs, in four out of the five games. Their previous game high this year was only six.

Sophomore Krystal Garcia had an efficient weekend, extending her hitting streak to five games before she went hitless in the last game. Garcia tallied an average of .467, four runs and five RBIs.

After the weekend, FIU still finds itself in third place in the conference, now five games in back of first place South Alabama. But Schumann said the team doesn’t stress the standings too much now while they’re playing non-conference games.

“College is about the experience not just the game. So, we’ll do some Savannah ghost tours and stuff like that. We’re going to face some good teams, so it’ll be a good warm up for some conference play,”

The Panthers will play their first road games of the year as they participate in the Georgia Southern Tournament starting this Friday, March 1. They will take on Georgia Southern, Kennesaw St., Alabama St., and South Carolina in Statesboro, Ga.

WANT TO WRITE?

If you want to become a part of the sports team at The Beacon, email: sports@fiusm.com
`Vetting’ for 143 Street as option for secondary access road

ALEXANDER SUAREZ
Staff Writer

With about 9,000 students and one access road, the University is now earnestly working towards the possible creation of a secondary access road for the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The current plan has been set on “vetting” for the 143rd street. According to the president of the Student Government Council at BBC, Pablo Haspel, 143 street would be a “straight shot” from the school entrance. However, there are some complications. “Because it is a protected area, because of the mangroves, and the regulations the state has on mangroves, it would have to be some sort of overpass,” Haspel said. “But it’s a large investment and it’s an investment that you expect it to outlive most of us. So as a student I want to see an investment of that nature that is actually beneficial.”

According to the study produced by the MPO, this new road could cost up to $38 million depending on how many lanes are wanted. There is no current deadline for the final decision to be made.

So far only research and collaboration with different community leaders are being carried forward. The source of funding is also not something set yet and will be addressed as plans progress. “The biggest challenge is, once our property ends, our property ends. So if you want to build a road that goes from your property to somewhere else, you no longer have control over that end,” Haspel said. “You need to make sure everyone is on board and everyone is a willing participant. If it were just building a road on our own property, you get it done within a few months and it’s taken care of.”

Haspel encourages students to contact the Student Government Association with any opinions or ideas they have regarding this matter.

Pantherization continues with new panther statue

ACKENA MILLER
Contributing Writer

Although the project has not been completed yet, there are already expectations of what the Panther Statue will bring to Biscayne Bay Campus’ spirit.

Pablo Haspel, president of Student Government Council at BBC, believes the creation of a statue here at BBC would leave a legacy and create memories for this generation and generations to come. “Since the opening of the school there has not been anything that is symbolic and represents the entire history of FIU,” said Haspel.

The statue that was unveiled in front of the U.S Century Bank Arena at Modesto Músique Campus this past January was built to create a new tradition and create more school spirit.

Haspel expects the same result at BBC. He believes that the statue would serve as an inspiration for past, current and future FIU students.

“The statue would be the latest embodiment of the continuing evolution of our University,” Haspel said.

The above graphic displays the proposed new streets that will lead out of the Biscayne Bay Campus. One of the proposed streets will potentially take students on 143 street, highlighted by the blue line, in addition to the 151 street entrance already at the campus. Another potential roadway is being discussed on 135 street.

The route through the state park was not granted and the route through 135 street, received opposition from the residents. “We are not actively looking at 135 street, although 135 street would be the least expensive and the least environmentally disruptive. But there is an existing road bent through there,” Sauls said. “What had happened a few years back is that neighbors were working with the city of North Miami, removed the vehicle bridges and replaced them with pedestrian bridges. It’s a beautiful area, a beautiful area for people to live in and ride their bicycles.”

The three new routes evaluated were from 135 street, 143 street, and one alternative through Oleta River State Park to 163 street. The route through the state park was not granted and the route through 135 street, received opposition from the residents.

“Because it is a protected area, because of the mangroves, it would have some complications the state has on mangroves,” said Haspel. “But it’s a large investment and it’s an investment that you expect it to outlive most of us. So as a student I want to see an investment of that nature that is actually beneficial.”

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Haspel encourages students to contact the Student Government Association with any opinions or ideas they have regarding this matter.

On Feb. 25, students gathered inside Panther Square for the Affair of the Arts kick-off event. Affair of the Arts Week is from Feb. 25 - March 1. Jonathan Burns, a flexible young man, entertained the students while they designed their complimentary cupcakes with frosting.