The Beacon, March 4, 2013

Florida International University

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Students may have at one point or another taken a course that was taught by an adjunct professor. The practice of having adjunct professors teaching college courses is almost universal among colleges and universities but can become problematic if done excessively. In 2010, FIU was in the process of being reaccredited, a process that occurs every ten years, when it was notified by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the accrediting body that the University was hiring too many part-time or adjunct professors. According to Teresa Lucas, president of the FIU chapter of the United Faculty of Florida, the union representing the University’s faculty, if the University does not address this issue, sanctions can be imposed on the University. The idea that a university or college is hiring too many part-time professors cannot be attributed to only the University. According to Lucas, the excessive hiring of adjunct professors is a nationwide problem.

As the largest employer at FIU, University Libraries is experiencing the fullest effect of cuts in the work-study program. While the libraries seek to recruit student workers and volunteers, according to a press release from the White House, the sequester will result in around 1,700 fewer Florida students eligible for work-study.

According to Thomas Breslin, interim dean of libraries, the libraries are currently understaffed by 40 students and hours have been cut in half. This reality has left library shelves unread and books unaccessible.

According to Library Circulation supervisor Genevieve Diamond, students are divided among the shelves and assigned to read them in the fall and four courses in the spring semester, unless there is a special circumstance. “The responsibility of an adjunct is teaching,” Lucas said. After five years of service, an adjunct can become an instructor, which would yield a 10 percent increase in salary.

Although adjunct professors may not have as many advantages as a tenured-professor, there is a progression ladder: adjuncts are governed by a 4-4 contract, which means they will teach four courses in the fall and four courses in the spring semester, unless there is a special circumstance. “The responsibility of an adjunct is teaching,” Lucas said. After five years of service, an adjunct can become an instructor, which would yield a 10 percent increase in salary. If, and after another five years of service, they can become a University instructor which would yield another 10 percent raise. Although there is a plan in place for advancement, until then, an adjunct may have to juggle several jobs in addition to their teaching duties to the University.

“Adjuncts have miserable salaries,” Lucas said. “They make about $2,500 to $3,000 per course.” Despite the drawbacks of being an adjunct professor in comparison to being a tenured professor, the experience is not completely negative. Sarah Mason, who teaches English Composition 1101 and English Composition 1102 has been an adjunct in the past and said she enjoys the experience. “Students are great and I appreciate that students want to be there [in my class] despite that it is a requirement,” Mason said. She also believes that the faculty is supportive of the efforts of adjuncts and do not hesitate to offer help. “I’ve never had a question go unanswered,” Mason said. While Mason highlighted teaching motivated and enthusiastic students, Michael Young, a graduate student who is earning his masters in higher education administration discusses what it is like to be taught by full-time faculty. “They can relate certain scenarios from the book to real life experiences [and] it can bring background knowledge,” Young said.

Young mentioned that most of his professors in his graduate program have doctorates or education specialist degrees along with years of experience in the field and teaching. Christos also discussed the benefits of having full-time faculty educating college students: full-time faculty bring a “lifetime of teaching experience and research experience” to the classroom.

According to the FIU admissions website, the faculty to student ratio is 18 to 1. A full breakdown of the number of instructors, adjuncts and full-time faculty hired since the SACS recommendation were not available as of press time.

Not only will the sequester lessen the amount of students in work-study, but it will also leave around 6,250 fewer students with financial aid.

Last year, financial aid and the work-study program faced a similar crisis. The University responded to cuts by doing cut of its own – cutting the hours of students in the work-study program. The protest of struggling students led the University to construct a new plan. In an interview with Student Media, director of Financial Aid Francisco Valines said the University asked the departments to match 18 percent of the work-study amount.

The solution was implemented for fall 2011 and spring 2012. The effects of the sequester on departments and the response of the University to work-study cuts for future academic years are yet to be determined.

Contributing Writer

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China executes 4 foreigners over Mekong murders

China executed four foreigners on Friday for killing 13 Chinese sailors in an attack on the Mekong River, following a live nationwide broadcast showing them being led to their deaths that hardened back to the mass public execution rallies of past years.

The attack on the sailors on the Mekong highlighted drug smuggling and extortion rackets along the vital waterway and led to a major expansion of Chinese police powers in the region.

China has since revamped its judiciary, and in December a new inspector general of police was appointed — David Kimaiyo.

A team of Croatian chefs whipped up a pungent Tobacco cuisine on display at Cuba Cigar Festival

Tobacco: It's what's for dinner.

Jeff Bush, 37, was feared dead after the floor gave way Thursday night. As he screamed for help, his brother Jeremy Bush jumped into the hole to try to help, but couldn’t see him and had to be rescued himself.

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Jeremy Bush said it took him only seconds to get to his brother’s room about 11 p.m. Thursday. He had just knocked on his brother’s bedroom door, telling them they weren’t working for the home when it collapsed, taking all the furniture too.

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With the earth still crumbling, a sheriff’s deputy reached out his hand and pulled Jeremy Bush, 36, to safety.

The floor was still giving in and the dirt was still going down, but I didn’t care. I wanted to save my brother,” Jeremy Bush said through tears Friday as he stood in a neighbor’s yard. “But I just couldn’t do nothing.”

The only thing sticking out of the hole was a small corner of a bed box spring. Cables from a television led down into the hole, but the TV set, along with a dresser, was nowhere to be seen.

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Officials lowered equipment into the sinkhole but didn’t see any sign of life.

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The brothers were employed by the Transportation Department and picked up trash along interstates and roads.

“I went in my bedroom, heard a loud crash, ran in that direction,” he said. “I was getting ready to run into the room and I almost fell into the hole. I jumped into the hole and started digging for me. I started screaming for him.”

Engineers worked to determine the size of the sinkhole. At the surface, officials estimated it was about 30 feet across. Below the surface, officials believed it was 100 feet wide.

The state is especially prone to sinkholes because the ground is limestone, a porous rock that easily dissolves in water, sometimes forming a hole in the earth.

From the outside of the small, sky blue house, nothing appeared wrong. There were no cracks and the only sign something was amiss was the yellow caution tape circling the house.

There were six people at the home when it collapsed, including Jeremy Bush’s wife and his 2-year-old daughter.

“It was something you would see in a movie. You wouldn’t, in your wildest dreams, you wouldn’t think anything like that could happen, especially here,” he said.

Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Deputy Douglas Duvall rescued Jeremy Bush.

“I reached down and was able to actually able to get him by his hand and pull him out of the hole. The hole was collapsing. At that time, I left the house,” Duvall said.

Hillsborough County Fire Rescue spokeswoman Jessica Damico said. “The entire house is on the sinkhole.”

Neighbors on both sides of the home have been evacuated.
Finding our voice: FIU’s new film festivals

MICHAELA BAISDEN
Opinion Editor

As Miami Film Month gets underway, I’m excited to see that our university is finally getting in on the action.

Not only has a group of students created the Film Initiative: Underground, but later this month FIU will premiere their first Media Arts Festival.

I heard about Underground last December from a friend who’s a theatre major and I went on their Facebook page right away to see what I could get involved in. Unfortunately my swarm of classes drowned me in so much work, so I have yet to go to one of their events. But as I read through a recent Beacon article, I was excited to see that this group of motivated young people is so dedicated that they’ve put together FIU’s first film festival for University students.

On April 2 through April 4 people will be able to watch the submitted films. The Underground group is showing initiative and also offering a platform for other students to show their creative genius. Which, I believe, is the driving force in the film, and any creative, industry.

Another milestone for FIU is the premiere of their Media Arts Festival. The theme for the festival is “Only in Miami...,” where over 20 applicants submitted visual snapshots of something culturally vibrant and lively, and uniquely Miami.

Submissions closed Feb. 28, but was open to students, faculty, FIU alumni and community members. The winners of the FIU Media Arts Festival will be presented at the Miami Beach Urban Studio, 420 Lincoln Road, on March 26.

I am proud to see that FIU has taken this step into visual arts. It’s clear that even news media is becoming more visual. There’s definitely a fast-paced integration happening.

Perhaps the popularity of film festivals grabs enough interest among students and the public, FIU would consider starting a film program.

What we do have at the University is a Film Studies Certificate Program, taught by its director, Professor Barbara Weitz. This program has been available for over 10 years now.

I was kind of disappointed to know that this course was offered, yet no one really talked about it, and very few students know about it. Understand there’s no official track for film, but I think it could be more widely publicized for students who may just be a little curious.

After a search on FIU’s course catalog website, I found six more film courses. When I spoke with the Theatre, Journalism and English departments, very few were aware that there was more than one or two courses in film.

But maybe it’s a little too optimistic to think FIU would consider a new school. The University is undergoing a lot of construction and reconstruction, building on already established programs. Perhaps the best film program this University can hope for is, as we’re seeing, one established by students for students. The Underground group exemplifies the fact that changes start with a simple idea, and then come into fruition through collaboration with other passionate people to get something done and make a mark.

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A concert lover’s quiet observations

JUNETTE REYES
Staff Writer

Within any given year, I try to attend as many concerts as I can. Sometimes this is hard to do because of financial issues or the phenomenon that almost every band worth seeing has a habit of avoiding Miami. But for the most part, I manage to attend at least one to three a year, sometimes even concerts offered here at FIU by the Student Programming Council.

The upcoming Uproar concert featuring 3OH3 and Trey Songz on April 5, organized by the Student Programming Council, has got me reminiscing on some of the amazing experiences I have had at past concerts and some experiences I’d much rather forget.

Besides the obvious enjoyment of the bands and live music, which often brings me a feeling of euphoria, the idea of experiencing a sense of unity with my fellow fans transcends the moment to another level.

My neighbors in the crowd are usually fantastic, which only makes the experience all the better, however, there are times when things turn sour to the point of almost ruining the moment.

Sometimes, people need to develop a sense of concert etiquette so as not to lessen the enjoyment of others. I avoid this most of the time or at the very least, I can still enjoy my time at concerts in spite of such issues.

One of my biggest petes is with the giants who have a habit of standing in front of me. I wouldn’t say that I am unusually short but I always seem to get stuck with that person who’s just tall enough to block my view of the stage.

I do not find it a problem, of course, when the person was already there to begin with, I understand and appreciate the idea of “first come, first served.” In fact, were it up to me, no concert would ever have assigned seating and simply a General Admission area; it sucked in school and sucks even more in concerts, so I appreciate concerts like the Black Keys, Grace Potter and the Nocturnals, and the SPG-organized Flo Rida and Far East Movement concert, which were all GA.

Actually, I haven’t had much of a problem at the SPG concerts, with the small exception of the showers. My real issue is with the sly ones, the people who push their way into spots that are clearly already taken, and then act like all is alright.

Public relations student Brooke Englet said she’s been to more than three FIU concerts and always enjoys her time. At some concerts there was some issue with space, but in FIU’s case, but added that it never ruined her time.

For me, it was most notable at the Grace Potter and the Nocturnals concert I recently attended, where group after group pushed their way forward without any concern for others. Luckily, I managed to somewhat hold my ground, although I did get slightly relocated.

I understand, it is a part of the GA experience but it does not hurt to be polite, even if just a little.

Another issue that really concerns me is the consumption of alcohol at concerts.

I realize that some people associate this with a good time but not everyone has the friendliest of reactions after drinking. Besides that, I have never really understood the point of distorting the music but that may be because I’m still only 20.

This won’t be a problem at SPG-organized concerts, however, since alcohol is not served.

One guy beside me at a recent concert I attended got a bit out of hand with those around him, including me. He eventually backed away, but at least I got a “licking the bass” moment with a complete stranger out of it like Paul Rudd and Jason Segel had in I Love You Man, even if it was a bit awkwardly hilarious.

Generally, I do not let these things ruin my time at concerts. It is not difficult for me to be easy going with whatever happens most of the time. I just wish people would be the slightest bit aware of those around them. It is a unified experience, after all. Take this into consideration the next time you find yourself at a concert.

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Dean strengthens relationship with Chinese universities

NADJA MONTANER
Staff Writer

In January, new Dean of the College of Business David R. Klock accepted an invitation to travel to China in order to meet with FIU’s dual degree partners at Shandong University of Finance and Economics. During his trip, he also met with other partners: Tianjin University of Commerce, Tianjin Foreign Studies University and Qingdao University.

“I had never been to China before so it was a new experience for me,” said Klock. A part of this new experience included lengthy lunches during which he said, “I discovered there were vegetables I didn’t even know existed. But I tried them and they were good.”

This kind of new experience is what Klock hopes that students both from the University and the Chinese universities can gain from their partnership.

The University’s partnership with Chinese universities involves students from China coming to finish or complete the entirety of their graduate programs at FIU. Throughout this period, Klock states these students gain far more than just a formal education.

“The real attraction is that they’re having an opportunity to come to an institution where their students are having the ability to interact with our students that have been brought up in a culture that they’re trying to learn more about.”

This experience is a two-way street for business students who will have to deal with people from all over the globe. “The most important thing about growing this relationship with students from China is for our students to gain better insights that these are just good people,” said Klock.

University President Mark B. Rosenberg, who travels yearly to China to lead the graduation ceremony for students in Tianjin, also stresses the benefits of this cultural sharing.

“The real attraction is that we have in China because I think it ensures that our students are going to be better prepared for the challenges ahead.”

Apart from simply getting to know the University’s Chinese partners during the trip, Klock also agreed to expand the business program’s partnership with these universities.

“One thing that is going to be happening as a result of these visits is that we’ve agreed to accept more of their students. Over the next couple of years it could be hundreds of students instead of 40 or 50,” said Klock.

Klock also reached common ground on his interest to have more undergraduate students involved in the program. “While the students are here we need to find more ways to get them involved with our undergraduate students.”

Klock feels that greater integration of undergraduate students can not only increase their education, but also allow for more cultural immersion.

“One of the things that I learned is that the leadership of those universities would like the students, not just to get the academic knowledge, not just to have classroom activities, but they would like their students to have more interactive kinds of things that are unrelated to the classrooms,” said Klock.

But ultimately, the biggest thing that Klock took away from the trip was the new relationships with FIU’s Chinese partners.

“The word ‘international’ is our middle name, and we take it very seriously here. It’s one of the things that attracted me to this institution,” said Klock.

“Since I hadn’t been there and I’m the new dean, I think it’s very important that you go there and see it and meet the people, interact with the people and establish a relationship. Next time I go I’m visiting a friend, not a stranger.”

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Cuba’s tourist history comes to life

CUBAN MEMORABILIA brings nostalgia to FIU

Elena Kurstin, donor of the Cuban Memorabilia Collection located on the second floor of the Green Library (center), overlooks the exhibit and shares the wealth of Cuban culture with others.

of how Elena Kurstin was able to acquire her collection through eBay and at the Miami International Book fair is a bit hazy.

It seems very likely that Cubans sold these items privately to dealers in other countries first, which in turn made them accessible to the U.S. population and available for purchase. Vintage pieces of maps, postcards, magazines, and even travel brochures from Cuba comprise this mini exhibit in the Green Library and bring students an opportunity to view bits of the island’s history. This collection is also one way of remembering the thriving tourist haven that Cuba once was and the many ways it advertised in order to appeal to foreigners.

No doubt a nostalgic little collection for many Miamians, the collection is something that can be greatly appreciated by many of the students and faculty members that make their way through the library every day. The varied pieces of memorabilia are being stored in glass casings, making it both easy to view and ensuring its preservation in the populous campus spot. Hanging against the walls are also some framed travel posters.

The Elena Kurstin Cuban Memorabilia Collection is on display through mid-March on the second floor of the Steve and Dorothea Green Library at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

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Cuba’s tourist history comes to life

NATALIE MONTANER
Staff Writer

Cuba is often a melancholic subject in the hearts of many Miami residents, including some faculty and even students at the University.

By donating her private collection to the University, Elena Kurstin, who is responsible for collecting the pieces in the Elena Kurstin Cuban Memorabilia Collection, is helping to bring life and honor to what was once a tropical paradise for tourists and home to many of our fellow Miamians as well.

With the decaying economy of this communist nation and the struggle for cash growing steadily, Cubans began to sell off this memorabilia during the 90s.

The U.S. trade embargo on Cuba heavily limits and restricts the exchange of goods; therefore, the exact process

-Daniel Urria
-Staff Writer
Street style fashions making a comeback

ASHLEY GARNER

Weinermobile gives alumni chance to work, travel, and play

JESSICA VALERIE RODRIGUEZ
Contributing Writer

Students and alumni can relish opportunities from Oscar Mayer's Weinermobile.

Oscar Mayer, the famous meat and cold cut production company, is well-known for a car that always catches attention. And that’s probably because it’s a 27-foot long by 11-feet high, hot dog on wheels: the Weinermobile.

Through the Weinermobile, Oscar Mayer promises a development in public relations, consumer promotions and grassroots marketing for anyone who participates in the Hotdogger program.

The Hotdogger program, designed in 1998, doesn’t only give college alumni and students about to graduate the chance to operate the Weinermobile. It also allows students to live abroad as the wein mobile travels to different countries and students about to graduate the chance to work, travel, and interact with different customers by explaining to them the different Oscar Mayer products.

Angela explained the Weinermobile is like a mobile marketing or public relations firm on wheels. It is a chance to interact with different customers by explaining to them the different Oscar Mayer products.

Presentations that the hotdoggers will have to make gives them practice in public speaking, and getting in behind the scenes gives a view into the marketing world.

Spokespeople will be able to speak on Angela’s behalf in front of cameras, truth, and work, and obtain the fan memories from traveling.

Angela and her team are looking for outgoing, independent, trustworthy, adventurous, travel lovers for the job.

“You can only imagine all the fun that happens in a hotdog shaped car, that just says it all” she said.

-Ashley.garner@fiu.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
SPRING 2013

GREEN GRADUATION PLEDGE TABLING
WHERE: MMC
WHEN: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

RAY KURZWEIL LECTURE
WHERE: 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

GREEN GRADUATION PLEDGE TABLING
WHERE: MMC
WHEN: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

MONDAY, MAR. 4

TUESDAY, MAR. 5

FEDERALIST SOCIETY EVENT UPDATE
WHERE: MMC
HOW MUCH: FREE

TINKERING WITH HUMAN DNA: ARE WE GOING TOO FAR?
WHERE: MMC
WHEN: 6-9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

WELLNESS EXPO 2013
WHERE: MMC
WHEN: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

RPPTL & ACLU PRESENT “LGBT ISSUES IN PROBATE LAW”
WHERE: MMC
WHEN: 12-1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

CALIBER MUSIC SERIES
WHERE: MMC
WHEN: 12-1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

RPPTL & ACLU PRESENT “LGBT ISSUES IN PROBATE LAW”
WHERE: MMC
WHEN: 12-1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

chia MINDFULNESS MEDITATION SESSION
WHERE: MMC
HOW MUCH: FREE

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WHEN: 12-1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

FEDERALIST SOCIETY EVENT UPDATE
WHERE: MMC
HOW MUCH: FREE

GREEN GRADUATION PLEDGE TABLING
WHERE: MMC
WHEN: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
Intra-squad tournament reveals optimistic future

**Daniel Brey Contributing Writer**

Those on hand on a chilly March 1 morning witnessed the beginning of a new era. The inaugural intra-squad tournament marked the first official event in FIU sand volleyball history and its first step into the sand for the FIU sand volleyball season. “It’s a tradition in the making. It is going to be one day at a time, one week a time,” said FIU sand volleyball Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett. “We are all working hard to be that team that goes to nationals and wins.” Each serve and kill elicited a spike of excitement within the crowd, up and eager to see what the future holds for this new program. This excitement, however, did not entirely spring from Kate Stepanova’s deadly kills, or even Emily Podschweit’s gravity defying sets; this excitement stemmed from the fact that every individual wearing a FIU blue jersey was part of history in the making. “It is pretty exciting,” Turner said. “I am all for students coming to play football during the tryout, as per NCAA rules. Turner did not know at the time of publishing if some of them may have been put off by the walk-on tryouts. I am not going to say more than that to them until I know what is going to happen for sure.”

“I have this drive though, and I won’t stop until I know I have exhausted all of my strength into putting 110 percent into what I am choosing to do, and that is football.”

**Michael Azu Walk-on hopeful**

One current Panther trying to play next season is Michael Azu, who stands 6’3” tall, and weighs in at 233 pounds. Azu is a freshman and majoring in electrical engineering after coming here from Palmetto Ridge High School in Naples, Fla. “Walking around campus and working out at the rec center I usually get asked if I am on the team, or if I just play football in general at least once a day,” Azu said. “I just simply tell them that I am trying to be or I hope I can be after the walk-on tryouts. I am not going to say more than that to them until I know what is going to happen for sure.”

“Playing duals with her makes everything so much easier; it is something I dreamt of regarding the future of his performance as ‘by no means the best that we can be.’”

“Are we still growing. We do not want to peak right now,” Buck-Crockett said. “I feel we are where we are supposed to be.” Podschweit, the first sand volleyball player in NCAA history to be recruited out of Colorado, was one of many who showed signs of being in midseason form. She is expected to be one of the team leaders this season as she has been the center of media attention this past offseason because of her high school success. Personal jitters will not present an issue according to Podschweit, who said that playing alongside “the best of the best” has been beneficial in furthering her career.

**Kristine Manforte, number 25, watches Bridget Keller dig the ball out and send it back for a point in the sand volleyball team’s first intra-squad match. It’s the first event the team holds as it kicks off its inaugural season.**

**Ksenia Sukhareva. The European duo also seemed extremely fortunate to be playing alongside each other for the upcoming inaugural season.**

**‘You can’t even imagine how excited I am to play with Kate,’ Samoday said. ‘Playing duals with her makes everything so much easier; it is something I dreamt of regarding the future of his performance as ‘by no means the best that we can be.’”**

“Are we still growing. We do not want to peak right now,” Buck-Crockett said. “I feel we are where we are supposed to be.” Podschweit, the first sand volleyball player in NCAA history to be recruited out of Colorado, was one of many who showed signs of being in midseason form. She is expected to be one of the team leaders this season as she has been the center of media attention this past offseason because of her high school success. Personal jitters will not present an issue according to Podschweit, who said that playing alongside “the best of the best” has been beneficial in furthering her career.

Athletes who do not receive any scholarship offers to play their sport can experience some heartbreak. But that does not stop them from trying. Tomorrow, March 5, a group of these hopefuls will showcase themselves in front of the football coaching staff on Alfonso Field at FIU Stadium to see if any of them have what it takes to play collegiate Division I-A football in walk-on tryouts. “I am all for students coming out and trying to walk-on,” Head Coach Ron Turner said. “I have had a few players in the past walk-on, play, and even earn scholarships. I am glad when they have the ability to be successful at this level.”

Being Turner’s first year here at FIU, this is one of the first big events that he has been in charge of regarding the future of his program here. “I will be running the tryouts similar to how I did before when I was at San Jose State and Illinois. We will be doing some tests on conditioning and agility for the athletes as well as looking at their height and weight,” Turner said. “Everyone participating tomorrow has a fair chance at making the team and I am glad students are attempting to come into the program.”

The athletes though, whether they are skilled position players or they play with their hand in the dirt on the offensive or defensive line, will not be able to touch a football during the tryout, as per the NCAA rules. Turner did not know at the time of publishing when those who make the team will be notified.

**“I am so excited,” said Marna Samoday, FIU sand volleyball player and Ukraine native. “Because this new program it is so much different than Europe.” Stepanova and Samoday were the highlight of the intra-squad tournament effectively using their experience and height to match up FIU dual teams that featured freshman standout Podschweit and junior Ksenia Sukhareva. The European duo also seemed extremely fortunate to be playing alongside each other for the upcoming inaugural season.**

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Table tennis more than just a leisurely activity

Joelson Diaz
Contributing Writer

It’s not too well-known, but hidden in the Graham Center game room is a ping pong table used frequently by a team in students that can lay claim to being the best in the sport at FIU.

Not only is it used for enjoyment among friends and classmates, table tennis at FIU is also known for competing nationwide in the Association of College Unions International Region 6 Tournament.

Sanyo Mathews, manager of the game room and coach of the ACUI FIU table tennis team gave the players the chance to compete in the ACUI tournament. Mathews was originally the associate director of the Information Technology department at FIU, but after the original manager of the game room resigned, Mathews’s boss thought he would be a perfect fit.

“Really enjoy it at the game room. It takes me away from my usual day to day routine,” Mathews said. “I usually go behind the scenes doing IT work but my boss saw more in me and she wanted me to utilize myself outside the scope of just IT.”

Mathews, who managed the game room for just under a year, was able to implement a fundraiser. Using the TVs screens around GC to advertise the ACUI table tennis team tournaments, about 100 people showed up.

Mathews held tryouts all throughout September, October and November 2012, attempting to build a well-rounded team. Mathews has also put the upper hand in preparing for the tournament; in 2001, he played in the ACUI table tennis team for Southern Illinois University.

In order to compete in the ACUI tournament, a group of four students are required; three males and one female. Marcos Garcia, Zhenfeng Liu, Gino Bernasconi and his sister Daniela Bernasconi were all chosen as they were able to do just that. Using the TVs in the Wolfe Center to broadcast table tennis, Mathews gathered up the team and headed to Atlanta to compete in the regional tournaments.

Seven schools including the University of Miami and Florida State University showed up.

From FIU, Daniela Bernasconi and Gino Bernasconi as well as Garcia acquired top seed and made it to nationals, allowing them to bring home gold medals.

“Knowing that FIU Student Affairs and the Graham Center had put their trust in me to portray the values and sportsmanship that the school stands for was nothing short of amazing,” Gino Bernasconi said. “Representing FIU at the ACUI Regional Tournament was unbelievable and I won’t forget how great it felt to know I’m playing for something greater than myself.”

FIU bringing home gold did not hide the fact that money is needed to continue fundraising for the team.

GC is sponsoring table tennis fundraising events and bring more awareness. One fundraising technique they use is putting a table tennis machine in the GC pit that lets you practice your racket handling skills for just one dollar. Mathews plans to bold car washes as well as raffles to continue fundraising for the team.

Reaching out to the Biscayne Bay Campus is another goal that Mathews plans to accomplish. By using the TVs in the Wolfe Center to broadcast table tennis, he hopes to form a unity between the two campuses.

“My passion is to represent FIU as well as I possibly can,” Mathews said. “I felt that when we went to compete at first I didn’t reach out to BBC as well as I should have, so I want to try and bring both campuses together.”

The FIU table tennis team hopes to come back strong for the upcoming 2013 ACUI tournament and the players are more than excited to show off their panther pride and represent the University.

“I am looking forward to continuing with such great people and winning many other gold medals for our university,” Daniela Bernasconi said. “There is no greater feeling than knowing you are able to give back to the university that has given you more than you could have ever hoped for.”

Panther pride in two matches this weekend

Paula Oriel 

improving her game.

Podschweit also noted that players such as Samasody and Stepanova, were “potential NCAA National Champions,” and that their experiences and wisdom have made her transition from high school to college that much better.

Apart from tournament competition, the weather was a hassle throughout the tournament as spectators rushed to their vehicles in search for warmer attire to shield themselves from the teeth-chattering morning temperatures.

The FIU sand volleyball played through less than warming attire, seemed to be relatively unshaken by the weather.

“We are used to playing in different conditions,” Stepanova said. “This weather is nice compared to what we have played through.”

This issue is relevant not simply in regards to last week’s competition, but what is expected during their first action on March 8 against Grand Canyon University. The team then plays Pepperdine on March 9.

The conditions expected for the first serve of the inaugural season, which kicks off in Los Angeles is predicted to be in the low to mid-sixties with winds up to seven miles per hour.

These conditions will no doubt test the Panthers uniform to adapt to their environment.

“I have spent a lot of time in LA,” Podschweit said. “All we need to remember is how to play in the wind because it will no doubt be awful. We just have to focus on keeping the ball low and fast in order to be successful.”

Leaving NKorea, Rodman calls Kims ‘great leaders’

AP STAFF

Ending his unexpected round of basketball diplomacy in North Korea on Friday, ex-NBA star Dennis Rodman called leader Kim Jong Un an “awesome guy,” and said his father and grandfather were “great leaders.”

Rodman, the highest-profile American to meet Kim since he inherited power from father Kim Jong Il in 2011, watched a basketball game with the authoritarian leader Thursday and later drank and dined with him.

At Pyongyang’s Sunan airport on his way to Beijing, Rodman said it was “amazing” that the North Koreans were “so honest.” He added that Kim Jong Il and Kim Il Sung, North Korea’s founder, “were great leaders.”

“He’s proud, his country likes him — not like him, love him, love him,” Rodman said of Kim Jong Un. “Guess what, I love him. The guy’s really awesome.”

At Beijing’s airport, Rodman pushed past waiting journalists without saying anything.

Rodman’s visit to North Korea began Monday and took place amid tension between Washington and Pyongyang. North Korea conducted an underground nuclear test just two weeks ago, making clear the provocative act was a warning to the United States to drop what it considers a hostile policy toward the North.

Duffy said he invited Kim to visit the United States, a proposal met with hearty laughter from the North Korean leader.

Kim said he hoped sports exchanges would promote “mutual understanding between the people of the two countries,” the official Korean Central News Agency said.

North Korea and the U.S. fought on opposite sides of the three-year Korean War, which ended in a truce in 1953. The foes never signed a peace treaty, and do not have diplomatic relations.

Rodman’s trip is the second attention-grabbing American visit to this year to North Korea. Google’s executive chairman, Eric Schmidt, made a four-day trip in January to Pyongyang, but did not meet the North Korean leader.

The Obama administration had frowned on the trip by Schmidt, who was accompanied by former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, but has avoided criticizing Rodman’s outing, saying it’s about sports.
New advisers join the SJMC and CSHTM

STEPHANIE MASON Staff Writer

In an attempt to better meet the needs of students, the addition of advisers is a sought out remedy in both the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management as well as the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. Starting fall 2011, the SJMC hired Paige Johnson, originally as a bridge adviser for undergraduate students. Johnson has now moved more towards the position of an academic adviser for all students in the SJMC.

The CSHTM will also be opening two more positions for advisers. One of the positions is still in high school with Miami-Dade public schools covering the cost of the still in high school with Miami-Dade public schools to attend FIU and earn college credits while waiting to be filled and the other opening two new positions for MAST Academy expansion plan may reach BBC advising university-wide, students. “It was for me and I got to build a relationship with the counselor and she knew what I was going through, she knew me, and she had my best interest in mind,” said Vanessa Rodriguez, senior in journalism.

Rojiguez, said she has had a positive experience with advising the SJMC, but towards the end however it could still use some improvements. “I hope advising really improves because it’s a huge part of your college career and sometimes, because of lack of advise or just bad advisement, a lot of people fall behind and they have a huge responsibility on their shoulders.”

Jose Gomez, junior in digital media studies, said he would like for advising to be more personal. “It’s a little frustrating at times when you seek that role model and you can’t find it within an adviser,” he said.

Gomez also said he has seen some advisers in the SJMC so far and they have been great help. “Strategically we want to make sure that students have greater access to information that can help them in making right decisions about the courses that they’re taking and their progression through their degree program so they can graduate on time,” said Mike Hampton, CSHTM dean on the addition of two new advisers.

Hampton said they prefer candidates who are hospitality or tourism oriented so that they can better assist students. Fahad Khan, junior in hospitality management, said his experience with advising in the CSHTM has been “pretty good” overall. Khan does feel that an addition of advisers is necessary due to the large amount of traffic with students seeking advisement when a new semester begins.

Khan said he disagrees with the decision to assign each student to a specific adviser. “[It] should be the students who pick the advisers,” Khan said. Khan also feels that qualifications for the new advisers in the CSHTM should include having previous experience in the hospitality industry or from the University.

Another student in the CSHTM, graduate student Brent Howard, said his experience with advising has been really great at times and not helpful at others depending on the adviser.

On the assignment of e-advisers, Howard said, “I think it’s a lot better; it’s a lot more personalized experience.”

“Just think everyone really needs to be on the same page. Along with any business it’s the same, but especially because students you know you’re really looking up to these people to help you with questions that you don’t know how to answer,” said Howard.

Donaldson said her role as an adviser can be very rewarding however, “It’s a 50/50 relationship,” Donaldson said. “The student has to be just as proactive as we are… We have to meet them halfway, they have to meet us halfway, if not it’s not going to work.”

“[I wouldn’t mind signing a petition for the expansion] plans go through, MAST will educate students from eighth through twelfth grade. This will enable FIU and Miami-Dade public schools to work more synergistically to create a better educational partnership for the citizens of Miami-Dade County.”

some students see the positive outcome from the relationship between the University and the magnet school.

I’m for it for educational purposes. Kids [will] be exposed to the college life and it will bring more business to the bookstore and cafe,” said Malvadya Point du Jour, junior nursing major who has attended classes at BBC for the past two years.

While some students see the potential benefits of expanding MAST Academy to BBC, others have concerns and question if it’s a good idea.

Henry Zelaya, senior biology major believes that bringing MAST academy students to BBC would be too much considering that students from Alonso & Tracy Mourning Senior High School already come to BBC for swimming practice.

“We already have kids running around in their speeds,” Zelaya said. “It would be too many kids.”

Although Zelaya is comfortable with students taking dual enrollment courses, he is not okay with intermixing high school and college students in the same environment. “I wouldn’t mind signing a petition against [the expansion plans],” Zelaya said.

Kayven Franco, public relations assis tant for Campus Life BBC, does not think this is a good idea and is concerned that blending high school and college students on the same campus may be a safety issue. Although Franco, like Zelaya, is in favor of “bright, smart and hard-working” students taking college level courses, she expressed discomfort at having high school and college students together on the same campus.

Despite the mixed opinions, one thing must be noted: the expansion plans have not been determined and decided on yet. “The MAST Academy at BBC expansion is still in the process of negotiation, so nothing is final,” said Moll.

However, Moll is in favor of this expansion. “This partnership should assist FIU in recruiting top local student[s] to finish their degrees at FIU,” Moll said.

“Testing the waters”

On March 1, Captain Robert Weisman, a professor for a motorboat operations certification course, gives his students a test in four different exercises: written exam, slow maneuvering, high speed maneuvering and dock and trail. The students are split into groups and tested on specific techniques with several of the captains. Captain Andre Daniel, a United States Geological Survey-Biological Resources Division fishery biologist, takes students out to practice their ability to smoothly dock the boat.