Low-key graduation ceremony for ‘invisible’ students

SIMONE GARVEY-EWAN
Contributing Writer

FIU’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Allies Organization is going further than just changing their profile pictures.

They’re hosting a Lavender Graduation for students of the LGBTQTA community for their academic achievements, leadership and volunteer work to the general and FIU community.

“LGBTQTA students are invisible here on campus,” said Gisela Vega, associate director of LGBTQTA and organizer of the Lavender Graduation.

“We want them to know that we care.”

Vega said that it is important to have a celebration that will recognize individuals outside of the regular graduating class for their achievements.

Charkivia Lovett, a graduate student and assistant for LGBTQTA, said that students need a support system and the Lavender Graduation ceremony provides students with the perfect one.

“I think it’s very important that every LGBTQTA student participate in this ceremony,” said Lovett.

The ceremony is sponsored by organizations including the Stonewall Pride Alliance, Advocacy Coalition and Delta Lambda Phi – a predominately gay, bisexual and progressive male fraternity.

The Medical Student Gay Straight Alliance in providing better health care to students. The new services that they are going to provide,” said Ashley Aguiar, sophomore architecture major.

“I’m usually on campus until really late, and having the option to get 24/7 care would be extremely beneficial.”

According to Black, new services will include a rise in nurses’ salaries, around-the-clock clinical service, increased physician hours at the Biscayne Bay Campus, funding to provide Health Campus 20/20 Suicide Prevention along with threat assessment planning, piloting an emergency fund for students with psychiatric medication needs and an additional wellness coordinator position that will focus on strategic program planning.

“In order to meet the accreditation compliance, we will contract out an after hours service that will provide students with 24/7 health service,” said Oscar Loyoza, director of University Health Services.

Students with disabilities will benefit from the increase because the Disability Resource Center will be hiring an additional disability consultant to help track student academic progress and improve graduation time.

“They will by adhering to the national best practices standard of 300 students to each disability consultant ratio as opposed to the current 400 to 1,” Black said.

This is the first time in three years that the health fee is being increased, helping to fund many new services to further benefit student health care.

ALYSSA ELSO
Staff Writer

The health fee committee passed an 2.84 percent health fee increase on March 28 to assist Student Health Services in providing better health care to students. The new services will be offered in the summer semester with another $10.50 tacked on to the health fee students already pay.

“University Health Services asked for a 2.84 percent increase, as opposed to the 5 percent increase they could have asked for,” said Andrew Black, assistant director of student affairs for Recreational Services and member of the committee.

“The 2.84 percent increase will approximately amount to $10.50 per student, per semester.”

The Committee passed the increase in a 6-0 unanimous vote. Students present at the meeting provided positive feedback prompting the committee to approve the increase.

“Ten dollars isn’t much of an increase for all of the new services that they are going to provide,” said Ashley Aguiar, sophomore architecture major.

“I’m usually on campus until really late, and having the option to get 24/7 care would be extremely beneficial.”

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JOSEFINE GYLLENSPORRE
Contributing Writer

On Aug. 12, 2013, the Provost’s Office will welcome Kathleen Wilson as its new Faculty Fellow. According to Provost Douglas Wartzok, Wilson’s professional background makes her an excellent candidate for the position.

Wilson is a senator at the United Faculty of Florida and associate director of the FIU School of Music. She has bachelor’s, masters and doctoral degrees in music related fields.

“She brings a lot of experience to the table already because she has served administrative roles. She came here as director of the School of Music. She has also served as president of UFF,” said Wartzok.

Wartzok sees the transition in a positive light, where a new professor will get the opportunity to understand the inner workings of the administration on campus and cascade down this information to faculty colleagues.

Wartzok said Wilson’s new position will ease communication between the administration and faculty.

“The other side of it is for the faculty fellow to understand more of the operations of the Provost’s office so that they can help explain it to the faculty and obviously within that they do a lot of projects. The biggest thing is to make sure that on both sides we recognize what the other group is doing,” said Wartzok.

The University has seen three previous fellows. The Faculty Fellow program accepts only one professor per three-year term.

“I think it’s been very successful. It’s helped me immensely but I also think that it’s helped relationships with the faculty,” said Wartzok.

Wartzok said that although the fellowship is an administrative role, it will be beneficial when the candidate returns as faculty.

Wartzok said that although Wilson will serve an essential role as a linking device between University administration and faculty, he will also look to her for advice.

“There are always several tradeoffs and decisions one has to make between what we would like to do and what we can actually do with the money that’s available and so I will look to her for advice,” said Wartzok.

Wilson was unavailable for comment as of press time for this story.
2012-2013 SGC-MMC SENATOR CANDIDATE PLATFORMS

College of Arts & Sciences

-----Desmond Gustavo Petit
I want to attract more students to other majors within the college, bring more internships/career fairs for Arts and Science majors, bring more advisors to overload majors, and promote more student involvement with different organizations on campus.

-----Orlando Crespo
I would also produce policies that would help students with printing and other costs as well as extracurricular programs particularly appealing to the students of the College of Arts & Sciences. I believe an important issue facing students of the College of Arts & Sciences is developing what is necessary to find a secure job in the workforce.

-----James A D’Cruz
SGA’s lack of transparency as perceived by the whole student body has discouraged a healthy relationship between itself and the student body as a whole. As a senator, I will work with other senators within SGA to implement a forum through which students may have opinions on how the real world works is something that students look for.

-----Nick Aquart
If elected I would organize events that would expose all business students to the variety of business organization on campus. Moreover, the one tool that nearly every and every business uses is Microsoft Excel and I strongly believe that students, myself included, would benefit from having a week of free Excel workshops each semester.

-----Mary Corbin
The most important issue facing lower-division students is lack of knowledge and involvement. I think it is very important for students to know what is happening with their school and student government. I want the lower-division students to feel comfortable with talking to me about issues they may have or just with asking me simple questions.

These platforms are based on a questionnaire sent to senatorial candidates. Candidates who are not included did not respond to the questionnaire.

The Beacon reserves the right to edit for style, clarity, and content.

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2-The Beacon – Wednesday, April 10, 2013

THE BEACON, FL

Squeaky Clean

Freshman Manny Careaga and sophomore Lili Garcia participate in a Phi Kappa Alpha carwash fundraiser while Delta Phi Epsilon holds a collaborative bake sale (behind).
A little too trusting with our valuables

JUNETTE REYES
Staff Writer

Within any given week, I am asked to watch some- one’s belongings while they go to the bathroom. Mind you, we both are usually complete strangers to each other and are simply sharing a bench or table. I honestly do not mind watching over their belong- ings but the fact that some students ask complete strangers to do so baffles me. This makes me think that perhaps, as a student body, some of us are probably too trusting of others, despite not knowing them at all. I do not know if it is a sense of camaraderie since we are all students of FIU, or the simple fact that some of us just look trustworthy, such as myself.

I n the idea is a little troublesome to me, espec- ially since most of the time it is some expensive type of technology that students ask a stranger to watch over. It does not seem to faze students, even when there are some areas on campus, such as the Green Library that have posters on the wall clearly directing us to be more cautious with our belongings due to a promi- nent streak of laptop theft. In my case, I rarely ever ask someone to watch my stuff. Even if it means losing a great spot, such as the covered tables on the first floor of GL, I will always take my bag with me. Call me paranoid, but that is just the way I work.

Senior psychology major Barbarita Guerva says she typically looks at the vibe of the person before determining that they are trustworthy to watch her belongings.

“If they’re friendly and engaging in conversation, I would feel that I can leave my stuff with them, espe- cially if they asked me to do the same for them beforehand,” said Guerva.

Guerva indicates that if they come off as someone randomly sitting by, then she would not feel comfort- able leaving her belongings with that person.

Junior English major Selena Peraza, on the other hand, is a little bit more trusting of others and says she always asks people to watch her stuff, even if she does not know them.

“It is usually when I go to the bathroom or do some- thing very quickly, not for an hour,” said Peraza.

Peraza indicates that she never feels as though she is in an environment of untrustworthiness. The matter obviously varies from student to student, but I do not think it would hurt to be just the slightest cautious from now on.

This is an era and gener- ation of technology, which makes us all very likely to possess something that is very much desirable and thus more likely to be stolen.

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VINSON PRESSLEY
Staff Writer

FIU is my home. I love everything about it: the people, the diversity, and the opportunities. But it isn’t perfect. I know my tuition keeps getting higher and my financial aid keeps getting lower. I haven’t been able to be the “big balla” and “shot caller” I used to be. I know that the Biscayne Bay Campus, the campus I have a profound connection with, could use a couple more restaurants. I know these complaints are some- times perceived as the plight of being an FIU student, blaming the wrong people who will not get issues resolved, something I was once guilty of.

I would get my financial aid report and realize I was going to get back less money and would fight back the urge to kick down the door of the financial aid office and demand what happened? But then I’d be thankful for the blessing to even attend college.

However, I did blame financial aid for the increase and that’s not accurate: it’s not FIU’s financial aid office, SGA or even Mark B. Rosenberg who ulti- mately decides to increase our tuition, it is the Florida Board of Governors.

According to miami.chico.state.

com, they’re the ones who decided to increase FIU’s annual tuition by 15 percent in 2012.

I know if I want my voice heard about tuition hikes, it’s probably best to address the people who make the final decisions and write letters and emails to the good folks in Tallahassee and express my concern.

Although these complaints are sometimes perceived as the plight of being an FIU student, blaming the wrong people will not get issues resolved.

Another common complaint is that BBC does not have enough food options or variety but there’s a reason for this and ironically, in a way it’s our fault.

Come to BBC during the even- ing hours on a Thursday or Friday and it is a ghost town; I hate to say it but it is being in a desert on a horse with no name-empty.

What does this mean? No demand!

If more restaurants are added to BBC, even though only a handful of students will visit the cafeteria for half the week, it would not be profitable and viable to serve. According to Lorvin Ramirez, assist- ant food service director, Grille Works used to stay open until 8 p.m. but during the last two hours of the shift, he said only three to five customers would eat there.

Ramirez pointed out that currently, they wouldn’t have the volume of students necessary to open and sustain a new restaurant at BBC. But the situation isn’t hopeless.

Ramirez encouraged that students can come to dining services or directly to him and make suggestions on what they want to see on the menu and if possible, they will make it happen.

Ramirez said that recently a student suggested quinoa and it made it to the menu. So although we may not have more restaurants, at least I can pitch some ideas and maybe even get it on the menu and we can start realizing the dreams.

Just to put it into perspective, imagine someone going to a party where everyone is required to chip in for food, beverages and snacks. Now, for some reason, a kid is allowed to go to the party, without chipping in for anything, gets to benefit from the festivities and it is totally fine with the host. This is an issue.

It is already a burden for students to pay tuition – not to mention that the state is currently looking at a 6 percent increase – but now the full responsibility falls on University students to pay for high schoolers to take the same classes and attend the same student-fee supported events. Now, if students are paying for it, it is coming out of a fee that may or may not benefit dual enrollment students.

We’ve told separate pieces of information: these students do not and do attend the University’s events or participate in on-campus clubs or organizations, from a University administrator and student government pres- ident, respectively. Unfortunately, this does not change the fact that there is 7 percent less activity and service money to go around to the University’s student orga- nizations because the dual enrollment waiver is being applied differently.

And why exactly is the University applying the waiver differently? As of press time, Chief Financial Officer Kenneth Jessell still has not answered that ques- tion. If dual enrollment students are to attend the University, they should be charged student fees like other University students. If not that, then someone – either from the legislature or the University – needs to make sure only non-dual enrollment students take advantage of what the student fees provide. Just because these high school students are not paying for tuition doesn’t mean that the problem goes away.

At the end of the day, the question is whether or not these students are bringing anything to FIU. They could possibly be future students. They could recommend the University to their friends. They could be in the mindset of being “Worlds Ahead” for all we know – but we don’t. It’s maybe game. It’s a gamble. A gamble that current students should not have to pay for.
Fulbrighters represented FIU at St. Augustine

CONSUELO NARANJO  
Staff Writer

Some of the most brilliant FIU Fulbright students and alumni participated on a three-day meeting, from April 5 to April 7, in St. Augustine, Fla., for the commemoration of Juan Ponce de Leon – a Spanish explorer who arrived to one of the oldest cities in the United States 500 years ago.

The Fulbright Scholar Program, established in 1946 by Senator J. William Fulbright, a former U.S. Senator from Arkansas, is one of the most prestigious academic grants which provides funding for vivid minds from all around the world in the science, education and arts fields.

The following five FIU Fulbright graduate representatives attended to St. Augustine events: Ziyad Ben Taleb, public health major (Libya); Nicolás Terradas, international relations major (Argentina); Juan Sebastián Betancourt, business major (Colombia); Anas Salahi Eddin, electrical engineering major (Syria); and Valerie Pelletier, public health major (Haiti).

They were invited by the Fulbright Association, a private, non-profit organization with chapters in North, Central and South Florida. This society was established by Fulbright Scholars Program alumni, enabling supporters of international education to learn more about St. Augustine's history by attending conferences, touring the city and interacting with other Fulbrighters from Florida universities.

Jesus Mendez, vice president of the South Florida Chapter of the Fulbright Association, describes Fulbright not just an academic program where students can acquire knowledge, but also as a program that promotes mutual understanding between cultures through education and communication – the main objective of Fulbright.

"Knowledge without understanding creates tragedies. Fulbright reunions are amazing and necessary opportunities where students can appreciate and share new cultures, languages and different points of views," Mendez said.

Flagler College in St. Augustine was a Florida co-sponsor of the weekend's events.

William T. Abate, Jr., president of Flagler College, Thomas Graham, professor of history at Flagler College and Jesus Mendez addressed the 500th anniversary of St. Augustine history, Betty Castor, member of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board and former Florida commissioner of education, and Shar Akram, director of chapter relations of the Fulbright Association in Washington, D.C., welcomed Fulbrighters by presenting the organization's goals, recognitions and personal experiences.

Nicolás Terradas, FIU Fulbright international relations graduate, shared the importance of the Fulbright program and how this opportunity has impacted his personal life and professional career.

"Fulbright has changed my life completely. This program just not gave me the opportunity to study in a country where the highest academic standards resided, but also allowed me to obtain cultural understanding. I have meet people from all around the world; without this study abroad grant, I won't ever will able to." The students, alumni and participants visited historical venues such as the Hotel Ponce de Leon building of Flagler College, the Castillo de San Marcos, St. George Street, Flagler House and the Colonial Quarter while enjoying the town's cuisine and receptions.

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program awards over one thousand grants every year, available in over 155 countries all over the world. FIU students have been the proud recipients of these prestigious awards.

According to the Fulbright association in 2012-2013, Florida welcomed 60 foreign Fulbright students from 25 different countries. Also, during 2012-2013, a total of 61 students attending Florida universities received Fulbright Scholarship grants to study and organize academic research abroad.

Florida International University has approximately 50,000 students, most with an international back ground, and has been a successful academic entity for the Fulbright Scholarship Program.

"FIU is growing extremely fast. It has well-known and globally recognized academic programs that attract students from the five continents," Mendez said.

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80’s flashback with The Mary Onettes

HECTOR MOJENA  
Columnist

Over the course of three albums and a handful of EP’s, The Mary Onettes have maintained a steady and often satisfying output indebted to the somber-bal- bunel tones and heavily affected jangle of priors like The Smiths, Felt, insert-any-Dand-Here.

From their self-titled debut through “Islands,” the band’s angst has gradually tempered, their latest, “Hit the Waves,” perhaps best represents this shift, showcasing a collection of songs that hearken back to a different era of 80’s pop music, embodying the jangle and assured “Hit the Waves” sounds in comparison, effortlessly mixing the band’s new-found aesthetic groundwork, showing their own affection for the chintzy marimba rhythms and chorus effected gutter leads that represent 80’s pop music cliches (think “Africa” by Toto) better than most bands claiming to emulate them.

The rest of “Hit the Waves” similarly mines their old pop music trends without the ironic shoe- boxing that currently marks much of the inde- pendent music landscape. Their refreshing- ly sincere (and somewhat bizarre) lyric approach allows unabashed Hall and Oates-level pop gems like “Tears,” a sense of wistful- ness that would normally be lost in today’s meta-pop landscape.

“Black Sunset” meanwhile borrows from the skittering poly-rhythms of Michael Jackson’s “Wanna Be Starting Somethin’” for an elastic piece of piano-led pop bolstered by one of the most uncharacteristically bouncy bass riff heard yet on a Mary Onettes record.

The stylistic reinven- tion on display here is not totally unexpected: some of the most intriguing tracks on their last album “Islands” similarly stag- gered expectation by employing stylistic cues derived from artists as varied as Tim Buckley and Duran Duran.

The major difference resides in how con- dent and assured “Hit the Waves” sounds in compar- ison, effortlessly mixing reference points across an album of often atmospheric and exuberant pop.

The welcome levy in the band’s music alas does not extend throughout the album’s less accomplished second half.

Ballad “Don’t Forget (To Forget about Me)” fulfills all the over-cooked solemn- ity that its title conveys, trudging in upbeat pop maneuvers for a tiring retread of the overcast, C6 pop that typified much of “Islands.”

“Unblessed” meanwhile fares better, with the repeated refrain of “more than just a bad dream” lending a hook to another wise restrained, mid-tempo piece of atmospheric guitar arpeggios and echoing vocals.

It’s tracks like these that hearken back to The Mary Onettes’ first two records and, incidentally, it’s these tracks that slow the album’s momentum.

Though certainly not without their charms, these songs seem to indicate a reluctance on the band’s part to fully embrace the stylistic shifts found in standouts like “Black Sunset.”

The fact that that the record does not fail flat, despite this is a testa- ment to how enjoyable the skilful pop craft of “Hit the Waves” can be.

An uneven-but still noteworthy, the band has turned out one of the contenders for album of the year.

With their latest record, The Mary Onettes have skillfully condensed the disparate sounds of 80’s post-punk and mainstream synth pop into an album’s worth of rich melancholia.

With their latest record, The Mary Onettes have skillfully condensed the disparate sounds of 80’s post-punk and mainstream synth pop into an album’s worth of rich melancholia.

-life@fiu.com
Robotics and hardware at The LAB Miami

Once a month, a group of tech professionals, entrepreneurs and students meet to discuss different topics related to technology or entrepreneurship. This group is called RefreshMiami, a not for profit group dedicated to providing “educational content focused on the technological and entrepreneurial communities.”

A RefreshMiami event recently passed, focusing on “Hardware Hacking and Robotics.”

Despite not having any experience with such technology, it was a safe bet to go to the event, since the presentations would be geared towards those who’ve never dealt in that field before.

The event was held at The LAB Miami, an indoor coworking space geared to those in that field before.

At the event I saw many familiar faces from previous tech scene outings, such as SuperConf and UHack. I caught up with those who I had met before, and met some new people at the event.

After everyone enjoyed some free food and drinks, the presentations finally began.

Since the presentations were geared towards working with hardware and robotics, all the presentations had something physical to show the audience, whether it was LED lights hooked up to a device, a Raspberry Pi (a “credit card sized computer”) or a robot prototype.

To introduce the idea of “hardware hacking,” two members from MakeSpace-Miami demonstrated examples how hardware hacking works. They introduced to the audience a device with LED lights that changed colors based on music, which only required a few lines of code to implement.

Following the introductory presentation from MakeSpace, Willie Avendeno went further into using hardware, with his work combining hardware, art and music.

Using a Raspberry Pi, Willie was able to create a full album of music as well as create art using the small device.

Students and faculty from the FIU Discovery Lab finished off the hardware presentations as they discussed the work being done at the Discovery Lab, along with demonstrating one of their prototypes. The prototype shown at the event was a robot that was controlled using the users movements and vision. The future of that project is to create a mobile robotic unit controlled remotely through motion capture and VR.

The Discovery Lab team demonstrated how the robot can currently move its arms using input from Microsoft’s Kinect sensor, as well as moving its head using a VR headset.

At the end of the presentations, Peter Martinez, a co-director of RefreshMiami, added to the presentations by demonstrating the ease of operating a device such as a Raspberry Pi, even for those with little to no programming experience.

The presentations then came to a close, opening up a networking opportunity for those at the event.

The next RefreshMiami event will be held on April 25 at the Miami Science Museum, focusing on Lean Startups.

Those interested in future RefreshMiami events, as well as getting involved with the local tech and entrepreneurial scene, are urged to check out refreshmiami.com or request to join the RefreshMiami Facebook page.

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University focusing in on Cuban migration

Ivan Arilda
Contributing Writer

Miami is quite a diverse city, and although people have migrated from a lot of different countries, there’s no denying that a majority of Cuban origin.

It’s no wonder then that at the University we have a Cuban Research Institute, a department dedicated to advancing Cuban and Cuban-American studies. Presently the CRI is heavily immersed in the exploration of the Cuban migration.

The University recently participated in a symposium dedicated to the discussion of how the Cuban communities in different countries compare to each other.

“I think it was the first of its kind because most of the research and teaching has focused on Cuban migrants in the United States. We wanted to broaden the scope of the discussion to include other destinations for contemporary Cuban migrants,” said Jorge Duany, director of the CRI.

He explained that it’s estimated that at least 300,000 Cubans live outside of Cuba and the United States. Places in Latin America, the Caribbean and Western Europe are some of the new destinations where the migration is happening.

The CRI, however, isn’t nearly done arranging events of this nature for the remaining of the semester. From May 23 to 25, the CRI will be holding their ninth conference on Cuban and Cuban-American studies.

The largest in the Institute’s history, the conference will take place in the Graham Center Ballroom and will consist of 45 panels and over 250 experts from United States and other countries.

In this event, which will span from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m., a broad array of socio-cultural, political and economic topics of the Cuban diaspora will be explored.

Duany considers these events as a tradition that he has been part of even before joining the FIU family where he has met scholars of different backgrounds and different ages that share the same interest on Cuba and the diaspora.

“This time around we’ll continue with that tradition because we have people who are very well established in the field as well as people finishing their graduate students and even undergraduate students presenting in the conference, so at least three generations of scholars will be part of this,” explained Duany.

“The migration is something that’s still going on, people are still migrating from Cuba, and so people should attend these kinds of event,” said Rubi Bravo, sophomore business major, who considers herself Cuban-American.

“I’m little of both... My rhythm is Cuban, but my habits are American,” said Bravo. “I don’t go out to Cuban club for example, but I act very much like a Cuban.”

Even though the conference has a focus in the Cuban diaspora, many of the panels and experts are going to be showcasing different aspects of the characteristics of the island. Duany also pointed out that literature, art and economy are only a few of the more varied studies to be presented through the event, making it also appealing to more casual attendees and people of no Cuban descent.

“It’s important to acknowledge the obviously large presence of the Cuban community and know more about them. Even if you’re not a part of it,” said Steiner Lukose, a sophomore accounting major of Indian background.

In conjunction to the three day conference is a film screening at 7:30 p.m. on May 24. After a second day of discussion, the audience will be treated to El Super (1979), a humorous look at the life of a Cuban family living and striving to succeed in the United States.

“It is a classic film about Cubans in the United States,” said the director of the CRI. “I remember seeing it long time ago, it is a very funny, very moving film.” The screening will provide a nice break from the discussion, but will also add a more clear perspective of what life in exile from Cuba is like and how it develops over time through generations.

A panel to discuss the film will be held after the credits roll down where the CRI expects to have the presence of some of the cast, the director and the writer whose the movie is based on.

Both of these events are co-sponsored with the FIU African and African Diaspora Studies Program, Center for the Humanities and Culture in an Urban environment, ex lite Studies Program, and WPBT2.

This is an opportunity for anyone interested in Cuban and Western Europe Latin America, the Caribbean and Cuban-American studies for the general public a fee of $125 will be charged.

Ivan Arilda
Contributing Writer

I think it’s important to acknowledge the obviously large presence of the Cuban community and know more about them. Even if you’re not a part of it.

Steiner Lukose
sophomore
accounting major

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Post image:
RUBEN PALACIOS  
Staff Writer

Holy Coley and the immaculate season

It might not be a bestseller, but junior Jerica Coley’s record book is definitely a lengthy read. After another season of topping women’s basketball records, it just got a little longer.

The St. Petersburg, Fla. native’s ascent in basketball is well documented. A breakout in her sophomore campaign where she led her team in every statistic landed her in the national spotlight with a Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year and Associated Press All-American award to boot. After yet another stellar year, Coley repeated as the conference player of the year and again received All-America honors.

“Just as a point of hard work during the summer, he kind of paid off a bit,” Coley said. “It just keeps me focused on working hard and knowing that the work actually pays off.”

After the stellar sophomore season, Coley, with all the notoriety and hype, wasn’t sure if she could repeat her success. She still wasn’t as good as she wanted to be.

“I didn’t know if I could end up last year, but I was hoping to improve and have a better season,” Coley said. “I needed to get more mature mentally. A better IQ of the game and my shot selection needed to improve. I needed to be a more of a leader.”

In the season opener against the University of North Florida, Coley showed she could dominate every facet of the game by coming up just a rebound and a block shy of a triple-double.

Coley finished the game with 21 points, nine rebounds and a school record nine blocks. The nine blocks become even more remarkable when Coley’s stature and position come to mind; the point guard is just 5-foot-7.

“People just don’t expect you to block their shot, they get a little comfortable and that just gets me a few blocks,” Coley said.

While blocking is certainly a strength, it’s her scoring that’s made her a household name in Division I basketball. The All-American led the nation in scoring with a school record 26.3 points per game this past season. Coley and scoring were basically synonymous this season and have been during her tenure as a Panther.

Coley broke the single-season scoring record this year, a record that stood for 31 years. With 840 points, Coley surpassed Karen Turnquest, who netted 820 points back in 1981. “It’s something to think about, it makes a little cooler,” Coley said about breaking a record that stood for so long.

With 2,135 career points, Coley is in sole possession of second place all-time at FIU. She is just 380 points shy of first place and is on pace to shatter the record and claim first place on the all-time scoring list.

“It will be a big accomplishment and an honor,” Coley said. “I’ll be happy because it’s a milestone to be the career leader in points at any school.”

Interestingly enough, Coley would become the second Coley to lead a Florida school in career points scored. Her aunt, Tamika Coley, the University of North Florida, Coley showed she could possibly lead the team will be followed by Western Tennessee with 26, to the Conference USA.

The Panthers will need every bit of Coley’s talent if they plan to overthrow Middle Tennessee, who won the Sun Belt Championship this season.

“If we don’t say we’re keeping an out for them, Middle Tennessee is always a great competition,” Idom said.

Men’s basketball is in a strange state of mind as they head to C-USA. The team exceeded every expectation as they made it all the way to the Sun Belt Championship, losing to WKU by just two points. They were expected to finish second to last in the SBC, but instead posted their first .500 season in the last 13 years.

However, all of these things were accomplished under first year head coach Richard Pitino. Pitino left the team to transfer to Minnesota. Now, the team will not only have to contend with the switch to C-USA, but learning the system of whatever new coach takes the reins. Prior to Pitino’s departure, senior transfer Raymond Taylor was confident about his expectations for next season.

“My expectations are to win the Conference USA outright,” Taylor said. “To be the league champions the first year in it.”

Basketball isn’t the only team with a new coach. After an abysmal 3-9 overall record last season, Head Coach Ron Turner was hired for football. The team will be using this season to not only turn around that terrible record, but learn Turner’s new system.

The transfer might not be beneficial to all sports. The baseball team is halfway through the season and owns an overall record of 18-14. They are behind fellow conference transfers, WKU and FAU, and would be behind three other teams in the C-USA.

David Jervis, a hard-throwing left-handed pitcher, is sidelined this season because of Tommy John surgery. He will be spending his entire offseason rehabilitating his throwing arm to come back stronger in hopes of bolstering the young rotation of FIU pitching.

Jervis had a contract opportunity with the Atlanta Braves, but decided that going to FIU would be a smarter choice. The transition to C-USA means he and his fellow teammates will be on a bigger stage.

“I think next season is going to be even better for the team and individual players to get more attention,” Jervis said. “Scouts go where the better teams are, so I am definitely excited about that.”

KEVIN CASTANEDA  
Staff Writer

FIU prepares for Conference USA

Women’s basketball does not have it any easier. If you include the Hilltoppers and the Blue Raiders, C-USA will have six teams next year that tallied 20 wins or more in their previous season.

“We are looking at better individual players to get more attention,” Jervis said. “Scouts go where the better teams are, and my shot selection needed to improve. I needed to be more of a leader.”

The milestone would put her name next to the likes of Brittany Griner of Baylor, Elena Delle Donne of the University of Delaware, Maya Moore of the University of Connecticut.

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I can’t find a real reason to be mad at Richard Pitino. The former FIU men’s basketball coach bolted the door less than three weeks after the end of a historic season, quickly got the boot after a 3-9 season in 2012, got the boot after a 3-9 season in 2012, got the boot after a 3-9 season in 2012, got the boot after a 3-9 season in 2012, got the boot after a 3-9 season in 2012, got the boot after a 3-9 season in 2012, got the boot after a 3-9 season in 2012, got the boot after a 3-9 season in 2012. Riley last coached on April 16, 2012, and the Heat have not had a losing season since his departure. Riley’s response was, “I knew after 2008, that 15-win season, that was it,” Riley said. “But I never realized that I would have an opportunity to watch and thoroughly enjoy just the players on the court, watch them warming up, watch them playing the game, watch them celebrate, watch them have fun. It’s just been an absolute Godsend for me at this stage of my career.”

Pat Riley says Heat will be ready for playoffs

TIM REYNOLDS AP Staff

Pat Riley said he wakes up around 11 a.m. these days then heads into the office to chat with Miami Heat executives Nick Arison and Andy Elisburg about nothing. He’s lying, of course. “There might not be anyone in the Miami organization who savors playoff time more than Riley, the Heat president with eight championship rings in his collection. And with Miami on the cusp of setting a franchise record for wins in a season — the team mark is 61, which this Heat club could match with a win against Milwaukee on Tuesday night — Riley sounds very much like he’s ready for another postseason run.

“It’s the ultimate dream for me,” Riley said. “It really is.” Riley last coached on April 16, 2008, the end of Miami’s miserable 15-win season. All that happened since is the promotion of Erik Spoelstra to head coach, the acquisition of LeBron James, Chris Bosh, Ray Allen, Miller, Shane Battier, Mario Chalmers and others to play alongside Dwyane Wade. Two trips to the NBA Finals, one championship and 288 regular-season and playoff victories — third-most in the league over that span. And barring all-out collapse, Miami will head into the playoffs later this month as the No. 1 overall seed in the league, guaranteed home-court advantage through the NBA Finals.

“They’re ready,” said Riley, who sits opposite the Heat bench during home games, rarely showing any outward signs of emotion. “They know that they have something to play for. They know they have the weapons to go out and play for it.”

They’re so smart as a team. They’re getting themselves ready on their own clock and Spo is getting them ready the same way. They’ll be ready to play.

Riley rarely gives interviews about the state of the Heat anymore, preferring to defer the overwhelming majority of the focus and spotlight remain on Spoelstra and the players. He issued a statement through a team spokesman late last month directed at Boston Celtics president of basketball operations Danny Ainge, who chided James and his friends for their celebration.

“T’m not sure what the future holds,” Riley said. “For the Heat to get a dynasty, watch them have fun. It’s just been an absolute Godsend for me at this stage of my career.”

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Candidates see a need for more food choices on campus

VINSON PRESSLEY
Staff Writer

Two candidates are running for Student Government Council on a mission to bring more food options to the Biscayne Bay Campus. Fu Zhou Wu and Richard Azimov are running for president and vice president of SGF BBC for the 2013-2014 school year and they have big plans for BBC.

“We share the same interests to benefit the student body [and have] a strong professional partnership,” said Azimov, vice president candidate, who teamed up with Zhou Wu.

Azimov also said Zhou Wu’s goals align with his own.

One of the reasons Azimov is running for office is that he wants students to feel like FIU is their home and to feel the passion that has for the University.

Azimov mentioned that they will directly ask the students what food options they want by creating surveys and working with students to resolve this issue.

Azimov recognized that “nothing is open on the weekends [at BBC]” and hopes that they will be able to bring food trucks to the campus and work with panther dining services to create more alternatives for the student body.

“We want to form a nice partnership with Panther Dining Services,” said Azimov.

Zhou Wu echoed her running mate’s sentiment. Zhou Wu pointed out that on weekends the only source of food available on campus are the vending machines, which she said really only serves candy – counterproductive for someone who works out or eats healthy.

Zhou Wu also mentioned that she wants more food available near the library.

“It’s all about communication,” said Zhou Wu.

Zhou Wu is concerned about the communication between Modesto Maidique Campus and BBC when it comes to coordinating events and programs.

She hopes to improve communication and encourage collaboration between both campuses.

Zhou Wu also discussed the transportation between BBC and MMC and gave some suggestions on how she would improve it.

“If we cannot get more buses, [then maybe] we can have more continuous buses running during peak hours of the day,” said Zhou Wu.

She mentioned that students are concerned about trying to catch the shuttle and having to worry about seat availability; if seats are full then this may translate into students having to miss class or events since space is limited on the shuttle.

Zhou Wu and Azimov have work and responsibilities ahead of them if elected, but according to Azimov, one of the goals is to help students remember that FIU has helped become the people they are today.

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Breakthrough research method for sea turtles

ALYS TOLEDO
Contributing Writer

Katherine Mansfield, a visiting research associate to the School of Environment, Arts and Society, will be discussing the life and history of the ocean’s most precious creature: the sea turtle.

SEAS will feature Mansfield as part of the Eat, Think and Be Merry Series on Tuesday, April 16 in its lecture “FOUND: The Sea Turtle’s Lost Years.”

By 1985, only 1 to 2 percent of baby sea turtles survived to adulthood. Since that time a baby sea turtle hatches until it makes its way to the sea, the migration stage of a young turtle is an extremely tumultuous period.

A hatchling’s struggle to make it to the sea is a difficult and poignant journey—one filled with the constant threat of predators from every source. From fish to raccoons, to footprints and debris along the shoreline, almost anything can deter the way of the baby sea turtle. Not much is known of the whereabouts of the hatchlings once they safely reach the sea, only the difficulties these animals have in getting there.

Mansfield’s lecture will highlight the current involvement and research methods used in the study of sea turtles and their quests to make it home.

Mansfield began her work with sea turtles in 1994. Originally, Mansfield intended to work with coral reefs and seagrass beds. While participating in her first internship with the Conservancy of South Florida in Naples, the young researcher took up seasonal jobs on nesting beaches. Since then, she has targeted her research to sea turtles, specifically creating a solar-powered satellite to help scientists track the hatchlings after reaching the sea.

“My goal in this event is to provide fun, interesting, new information on sea turtle ecology and to broaden folks’ understanding of sea turtle conservation in the Atlantic,” said Mansfield.

“What made Kate more appealing to us was all her previous work for NOAA. She’s been a visiting research associate for about two years, half of her research is run out of FIU and the other half is run out of NOAA. The purpose of these events is really to open up a community forum, rather than preach to the choir,” said Elaine Pritzker, SEAS event coordinator.

Pritzker said South Florida locals need to get involved by getting informed.

The event will be held at 7 p.m. in the Luna Star Café located at 775 NE 125th St. in North Miami, Florida 33161.

www.fiusm.com

Elizabeth Gonzales, freshman studying hospitality management, holds a baby goat by the Wolfe University Center flag pole. The Student Programming Council hosted its SPC Rockin’, Now Let’s Roll FIU live kick-off event which included a petting zoo and food samples from Tijuana Flats.

From April 8 to April 12, SPC will be hosting several events ending on a concert featuring Travis Porter.

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“Iron Lady” Margaret Thatcher passes away

AARON PABON
Staff Writer

Baroness Margaret Hilda Thatcher, the “Iron Lady” who led the United Kingdom as the first female prime minister, has passed away.

Her policies and leadership compelled and radically shifted political consensus towards the right.

Her leadership would be tested during the Falklands War, and the Cold War would help her win a third term as Prime Minister in 1983.

Thatcher’s funeral will take place next week. At the time of printing, the exact date and time is unknown.

Thatcher will not have a state funeral but will be given military honors starting at Chapel of St. Mary Undercroft at the Palace of Westminster, and ending at St Paul’s Cathedral.

Richard Beardsworth, politics and international relations professor, in an email to Student Media said, “At both national and international levels, Margaret Thatcher defended a set of pro-market economic and social policies that radically shifted political consensus towards the liberal right. She was a leading statesperson of her time since these policies both anticipated the collapse of the Soviet empire and drove through a global era of neoliberal economics.”

Beardsworth also stated that “She remains a key politician of our age.”

Richard Azimov mentioned that students are concerned about trying to catch the shuttle and having to worry about seat availability; if seats are full then this may translate into students having to miss class or events since space is limited on the shuttle.

Zhou Wu and Azimov have work and responsibilities ahead of them if elected, but according to Azimov, one of the goals is to help students remember that FIU has helped become the people they are today.

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Baah to the Bay

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