New and improved WiFi network comes to campus

Bye bye, slow WiFi.

On Monday, June 24, a new WiFi network was launched that eliminates the hassle of logging into the FIU network repeatedly.

The new network will allow students to register their laptops, smartphones, e-books, game systems and wireless printers through their PantherSoft accounts.

The Division of Information Technology announced in an email to the University that it planned to launch its new WiFi network with “major enhancements” to the existing “FIUSecureWiFi” network.

“The WiFi here is usually really slow and spotty,” said Eva Marin, a junior psychology major. “I have trouble with getting kicked off the network or suddenly losing signal in my own dorm.”

Robert Grillo, vice president of information technology and chief information officer, said IT has been working on this project for over a year to improve WiFi efficiency.

The new network plans to improve connection and speed, and students will remain connected without having to log in on a daily basis. The network change is effective at all FIU locations where WiFi is deployed.

Students can also stay connected on a network called “FIU_OtherDevices” for Kindles, Nooks, gaming stations and printers.

“Hooking up gaming systems should be less of a hassle with this new network,” said Chris Nowell, sophomore computer science major. “The old network did not provide good support for my PlayStation.”

Student residents will also have the convenience to print wirelessly from their dorm rooms.

“Last year, I would have to print from my roommate’s room or the library, since I bought a wireless printer. Fortunately, this year I can put it to use,” said Adriana Avendano, junior biology major.

To connect to the network, students will select “FIU_SECUREWiFi” and log in with their MyAccounts credentials.

It said it is providing 24-hour support for students who may struggle with connecting to the two new networks.
WORLD NEWS

U.S. whistleblower seeks refuge

Edward Snowden, who faces felony charges for allegedly revealing secrets from the National Security Agency, fled Hong Kong, spent a night in Moscow and now seeks refuge in Ecuador. A State Department official said the U.S. has been in touch through diplomatic and law enforcement channels with countries that Snowden may travel through to reminding them that Snowden is wanted on criminal charges.

Nelson Mandela in critical condition

The South African government said Sunday that Nelson Mandela’s health has been deteriorating. Mandela was hospitalized on June 8 for what the government said was a recurring lung infection. The office of President Jacob Zuma said in a statement that he visited the 94-year-old at a hospital Sunday evening and was informed by the medical team that Mandela’s condition has become critical.

Bomb attacks kill 8 in capital city

Car bombs and suicide bombers killed at least eight people in Damascus on Sunday. Syria’s state-run news agency SANA reported that three suicide bombers killed five people and wounded several others after trying to break into a police station. SANA also reported that a car bomb exploded killing three people, including a 3-year-old boy. Nobody claimed responsibility for the explosions but the Syrian government suspects links to al-Qaida.

SKorea issues cyberattack alert as sites shut down

South Korea has issued a cyberattack alert after government websites shut down on the anniversary of the start of the Korean War.

Officials said Monday they were still investigating whether hacking was responsible. The alert warns government and the public sector to be wary of the possibility of cyberattacks.

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

Libraries respond to auditors and patrons with renewed policies on food and books

University Libraries will also renew its food and conversation policies.

“The library staff have done an analysis of the LibQual+ survey comments and the analysis notes that space, quiet and cleanliness issues loom large on patrons’ minds, underscoring the need for the new policies,” said Breslin in an email to Student Media.

Food and beverages will not be permitted above the first floor except water in closed containers.

In the Green Library, only quiet conversation is permitted on the third, sixth and seventh floors. Cell phone use is limited to the stairwells.

“The need for the [conversation] policy, on quiet and silence in the libraries, became ever more obvious during the time before exams when many students seeking a quiet place to study were frustrated by the noise,” said Breslin.

Similarly, only quiet conversation is permitted in study rooms and on the first floor in the Hubert Library. Whispers are permitted on the second floor and in the elevators. Silence must be observed on the third floor.

The libraries will begin enforcement of its new policies on July 1.

BRANDON WISE
Editor-in-Chief

From the smallest cell phones to brand new iMacs, university thieves are getting their hands on just about anything.

Since 2011, theft has accounted for more than 60 percent of crimes at FIU, according to the school’s police data.

One of the victims of these crimes is Latoni Paris, a junior journalism major. In spring 2013, she had her Kindle Fire HD stolen. Paris said she accidentally left her jacket and Kindle in a Biscayne Bay Campus restroom.

“Five minutes later, I realized it wasn’t with me and I rushed back to find my jacket with no Kindle underneath it,” said Paris.

“My heart sank into my stomach. I had a month’s worth of class notes, files and textbooks.”

Rick Torres, investigations commander and public information officer for the FIU Police Department, said it is common for him to see unwanted items around Modesto Maidique Campus.

“Students leave things out everywhere, but those crimes are solvable,” said Police Chief Alex Casas.

There are 1,500 security cameras in total on FIU’s six campuses, according to Casas. The cameras are monitored at MMC Police Station.

Alex Redman, sophomore engineering major, said that when he has to use the restroom, he does not ask people to watch his belongings.

“I wouldn’t ask a stranger to watch my laptop,” said Redman. “I don’t trust everybody.”

Torres said that the officers patrol areas where a lot of people gather to try to dissuade people from committing these crimes.

“People see us walking around and get nervous, but we’re just trying to gauge how everyone is doing and make sure everything is okay,” said Torres.

While 661 crimes occurred at MMC, UPD is also responsible for five other campuses.

The other satellite campuses are the Broward Pines Center, Wolfsonian Museum, FIU Downtown on Brickell and Miami Beach Urban Studies.

Zero crimes were reported at these satellite campuses from 2009 to 2011, according to Clery Act statistics on the FIU Police Department website.

FIU police receives help from the police departments in those areas because of the size of those campuses, Casas said. Pembroke Pines, Miami and Miami Beach Police Department’s patrol the locations within their jurisdictions.

Casas also said that FIU police officers assist the Miami Beach Police Department during their Memorial Day weekend festivities known as Urban Beach Week.

“We have Mutual Aid Agreements with those departments where we agree to assist...
Immigrant students to pay in-state tuition at FIU

IN-STATE, PAGE 1

Danny Rodriguez Contributing Writer

The College of Business and Engineering at Florida International University (FIU) has approved a policy that will allow certain out-of-state and international students to pay in-state tuition.

The policy, which will go into effect for the 2013 Fall Semester, will help increase FIU’s enrollment numbers for these student populations, according to provost and vice president for academic affairs Douglas Wulff.

“We have always lived in the expectation that we would be a leader in higher education and we have been a leader in higher education,” Wulff said. “But the reality is that we are not getting our share of the student body that we deserve on a national level.”

In-state tuition will now be available to undocumented students who have received DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and meet certain enrollment requirements.

“This new policy means that potentially hundreds of DREAMers that did not have a way to continue their education will now have an affordable path to university,” said Wulff.

DACA students will remain classified as “out-of-state” students, but the non-resident portion of their tuition will be waived.

Students must submit a non-resident tuition waiver application along with an unexpired USCIS form I-797, Notice of Deferred Action.

Students must be enrolled in a degree-seeking program on or after spring 2013, and must have graduated from a Florida high school or attended a state college or university for 12 consecutive months prior to the first day of classes.

Law professor Edilberto Roman advocated for the waiver and the university has set a precedent for other schools to follow.

“Miami is the epicenter for issues on immigration,” said Roman. “And we want our institution to be at the forefront to set the record straight.”

Roman argued that the Board of Governors’ guidelines allows students with legal standing to qualify for in-state tuition. The guidelines originally required that parents have legal status if students are dependents, but that rule was deemed unconstitutional on Sept. 4, 2012 in federal court.

Less than a year later, Roman has helped secure another victory for immigrant students.

“We want to be the spokesperson for the DREAMers and the young people,” said Roman. “After meeting with legal and immigration experts, the university determined the action was allowed under state law.

“It was a unanimous feeling among the general counsel, enrollment services, President Rosenberg and myself that this was the direction we wanted to go in,” said Provost Douglas Wurtzok.

Students and professors develop reading technologies for the blind community

DANNY RODRIGUEZ Contributing Writer

The team earned a semi-finalist spot along with combining business and technical equations in the software to help increase its recognition capabilities.

A project for graduate students.

Zhenchong Wang, an electrical engineering doctoral student, is hoping to work on the mathematical equations in the software to help increase its recognition capabilities.

Adjouadi said he is hopeful that this transformative technology will catch on.

With these tools, the blind no longer have to ask a neighbor or someone else to read to them, especially their personal mail,” Adjouadi said.

Both local and international reaction to these projects has been positive.

Pissaris said that since the EyeTalk team’s debut, it has garnered interest from private investors and groups such as Miami Lighthouse for the Blind.

Both Adjouadi and Pissaris have demoded their products to blind individuals.

Adjouadi said the automated book prototype is ready to be delivered to schools and the University’s Disability Resource Center for further testing.

“He said it would take less than two hours to train a person to use the technology.

The EyeTalk team is in the process of improving the prototype and looking for funding to complete it. Avenues such as the crowd-funding site Kickstarter are being looked into with a potential plan of having one ready in the next 40 days.

Pissaris is also hopeful that the team will be able to include a translation feature in future demos.

“It’s not about the competition, or a million dollars,” said Pissaris. “It’s about helping people live a better life.”

Adjouadi shares the same sentiment.

“For me, it’s like opening a new door that wasn’t there,” Adjouadi said.

IN-STATE, PAGE 2

CRIME, PAGE 2

Police increase personnel

AP STAFF

George Zimmerman was led up with “punks” getting away with crime and shot 17-year-old Trayvon Martin “because he wanted to,” not because he had to, to prosecutors argued Monday, while the neighborhood watch volunteer’s attorney said the killing was self-defense against a young man who was slamming Zimmerman’s head against the pavement.

The prosecution began opening statements in the long-awaited murder trial with shocking language, reporting obscenities Zimmerman uttered while talking to a police dispatcher moments before the deadly confrontation.

The defense opened with a knock-knock joke about the difficulty of picking a jury for a case that stirred nationwide debate over racial profiling, vigilantism and Florida’s expansive laws on the use of deadly force.


Trial begins in Sanford

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Texting ban won’t see desired results

LAUREN BANA
Staff Writer

Almost everyone has felt they had to send out that one text which determines whether or not you really “laughed out loud.”

Most of the time, it does not even need to be sent, especially if you were already on your way to see the person you were texting.

More often than not, the texts that I feel I must immediately send can wait until I reach a stop or until the car is parked. Unfortunately, a dangerous amount of people my age and I continuously decide to send unimportant text messages that could cost us our lives.

The Florida State Senate passed a bill on April 16 that bans texting while driving. Normally, it is a great idea to ban something that puts people’s lives at risk, but placing a ban on something does not mean people are going to stop doing it.

According to Distraction.gov, even knowing of the dangers of driving while texting does not necessarily prevent it. In fact, people believe that “the statistics don’t apply to them, that they can defy the odds.”

There are some scary statistics on accidents caused by texting while driving, with quite a number of them having fatal ends.

Florida Senator Nancy Detert, for example, said that as many as 11 teenagers are killed a day in the United States because they were texting while driving. Distraction.gov further reports that one is 23 times more likely to crash if texting while driving.

Despite such statistics, people who text while driving will always find a reason to send a text that does not need to be immediately sent.

The dangers of texting while driving do not seem to faze us as a whole, which can easily make it a habit. I do not believe that it can end, despite the presence of a ban, at least not until we come to truly understand how dangerous it really is.

I think that the only foolproof way to eliminate this problem is starting by the root. By this, I mean showing the dangers of texting and driving to teens before they start driving. Doing so could implant the necessity to be cautious behind the wheel so that it can stay with them beyond their first time driving.

I know that really would have stuck with me when I was getting my license.

English major Christopher Moffett believes the only possible way to end texting while driving in someone’s life is by being directly affected by it.

“If you had a family member die from driving and texting, then maybe that will stop you from texting, but people are still going to do it,” said Moffett.

What seems like an easily solved problem has actually been, and probably will always be, very difficult to eliminate. The recently passed ban on texting while driving might convince a handful of people to stop, but for the most part, people are going to drive with their thumbs on the keys, ready to send that text.

- lauren.bana@fiusm.com

International students unacknowledged in library’s new requirement

SHANNON COLELAND
Contributing Writer

I recently went to Green Library to check out a laptop, but upon approaching the circulation desk, I was greeted by a notice sign.

It read: “As of May 13, 2013, the library will require two forms of identification for the checkout of laptops, iPads and e-readers. A valid Panther ID Card and State Issued ID Card. No exceptions.”

As I am a curious patron of the Green Library, I asked why such a change was implemented.

“There were a rash of thefts of electronic equipment, where students would use a lost ID to check out a laptop or iPad,” said Jude Cobham, circulation manager at the Green Library.

I began to understand why this change was necessary, but I had two main thoughts after I saw the notice: 1.) I’m an international student and 2.) I only have a passport and Panther ID as my forms of identification.

I asked Cobham whose idea it was to implement such a rule and he informed me that Public Safety suggested the change.

“We check the picture on the IDs, however, if you are certain people look like certain people and mistakes can happen,” said Cobham.

I am not pleased with this new rule because I would not like to walk around with my passport everyday, although I happen to be working on getting my license.

Ami Nakagawa, senior international business major and international student, agrees that carrying one’s passport around campus is not a good idea.

“I think it’s not safe to walk around with your passport, as it [is] not safe to carry your social security,” said Nakagawa.

Sheni Kathymoon, senior Panther, on the other hand, believes the only possible way to end texting while driving in someone’s life is by being directly affected by it.

If you had a family member die from driving and texting, then maybe that will stop you from texting, but people are still going to do it,” said Moffett.

What seems like an easily solved problem has actually been, and probably will always be, very difficult to eliminate. The recently passed ban on texting while driving might convince a handful of people to stop, but for the most part, people are going to drive with their thumbs on the keys, ready to send that text.

- lauren.bana@fiusm.com

Same-sex parents accepted on FAFSA

LAUREN BANA
Staff Writer

For the first time in history, same-sex parents are accepted on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The changes were made by the U.S. Department of Education in February after a lawsuit was filed in December of 2012.

“This change is one of the most important changes we’ve made in the history of FAFSA,” said A.J. Duarte, director of Federal Student Aid.

As of May 2013, parents who are not married are no longer required to file separately.

This change does not apply to the FAFSA for Dependent Students, where both parents must file separately.

For example, if I were to file FAFSA as a dependent undergraduate student, my parents could both file separately, but if I were to file as an independent undergraduate student, then only one parent can file.

There are a few cases where parents might not be eligible to file separately.

“We don’t need parents who are living together to file separately,” said Duarte.

In order to file separately, parents must not only be living together, but must also not be married.

“I think that the only foolproof way to eliminate this problem is starting by the root. By this, I mean showing the dangers of texting and driving to teens before they start driving. Doing so could implant the necessity to be cautious behind the wheel so that it can stay with them beyond their first time driving.”
MOISES FUERTES Contributing Writer

Walking around campus, it is easy to notice that the vast majority of FIU students use Macintosh computers. It is this increase in the usage of the Mac operating system (OS X) which I see as a slight inconveniences internationals

The amount of debt students face is now in the trillions, according to Stephanie Mayes, a staff writer for the Tampa Bay Times.

Students sign the promissory notes of their loans without adequate financial advice.

MOISES FUERTES Contributing Writer

Edward Snowden, the young analyst for the National Security Agency (NSA) and leaked project PRISM, has given us tools that the government did not expect the public to use more efficiently than ever before.

According to Kyle Becker in “NSA leaker steps forward,” project PRISM has given us government access to the details of phone calls on a silver platter, such as time, duration, and location. This is known as “meta-data.”

Since Sept. 11, 2001, we have been under a drain of national security. Everyone should have a right to privacy.

The freedom we give up for national security

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Panther Square reopens Spring Semester 2014
For more information, please call (305) 919-5800 or email wuc@fiu.edu
Study shows dangers of drinking diet soda

HOLLY MCCOACH  Staff Writer

For those who want to improve their health, substituting a can of diet soda for the calorie-pumped version may not be the best idea. Diet drinks lack regular soda's calories and high-fructose corn syrup, but they're full of acidic ingredients that can wear down the protective layer on your teeth. As a result, teeth may become more susceptible to cavities and discoloration.

According to CBS News, diet soda has been known to have the same effects on teeth as methamphetamine. Heavy diet soda addicts may not even notice the damage to their teeth. For those who want to improve their health, substituting a can of diet soda for the calorie-pumped version may not be the best idea. Diet drinks lack regular soda's calories and high-fructose corn syrup, but they're full of acidic ingredients that can wear down the protective layer on your teeth. As a result, teeth may become more susceptible to cavities and discoloration.

Diet soda is full of phosphorus, a mineral that is essential for healthy teeth. Phosphorus is found in many foods, including dairy products, dairy substitutes, and tofu. Rich sources of phosphorus include salmon, cod, sardines, shrimp, clams, oysters, fish, shellfish, milk, cheese, nuts, broccoli, turkey, and chicken.

University student to release her first poetry book

HOLLY MCCOACH  Staff Writer

Anyone can follow their dreams, but who better to tell you than Wieland Letang? This University student has a poetry book hitting the shelves at the beginning of the school year.

Wieland Letang, a senior broadcasting journalism major, will be releasing her first book titled, "Bare," written under the pen name Wes L. Lotus. Letang's book is brimming with encouragement and positivity. "It allows me to rest myself. I'm in my own little world. I tell it how it is. I think it is very therapeutic," said Letang.

Letang has always loved writing, which feels she inherited from her father's side. She began writing poems in the eighth grade when her cousin got into a relationship – the poem stemmed from their love and the writing came naturally. From then on, Letang knew her passion and was compelled to write a book. She entered college where she met a Miami-Dade English professor who really pushed her to continue writing and to write the book she dreamed of.

"The idea of writing the book was there since high school, it was just that professor that gave me that extra boost," said Letang.

Letang's book speaks about love, wisdom and the life of her friends and family, but also Maya Angelou, LeBron James and Paul Brunson. "I feel like everybody can relate to the book. That's what the whole book is about. keep going and eventually you will make it," said Letang.

Brunson, a modern day matchmaker and life coach, was particularly helpful on her journey to write. After messaging him -

**See Poetry, Page 9**
Lift your summer spirits with color

It is finally summer and sadly, for many students like myself, that doesn’t mean sleep all day and party all night. Instead, we are catching up on classes or taking on a full course load because we partied too much during the normal school year.

To say the least, taking classes during summer sucks because it’s the first time the artists don’t share a history of color harmony when I met Kathleen Crum, a Bob Lein's assistant. I couldn’t agree more. “I feel happy and good. I like bright colors because they make me feel good,” said Crum. According to color theory, a harmony of colors such as Crum’s outfit can be anything but a wallflower. By keeping a bright red maxi skirt toned down with a casual black t-shirt, The student was Chelsea Morrison, a public relations major, who remarked that her outfit made her feel giddy. “I like dressing up because it makes me feel good. When people give me stares I now I’m doing something right,” said Morrison. “I couldn’t agree more.”

Finally, a look for the boys. Robert Lein, an international business major, was found in a hidden corner on campus, his teal blue skinny jeans made him stand out in the crowd. By keeping everything else casual, Moreira was able to turn a warm and happy color into something rebellious.

The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum opened its doors to the public November 2008. Since, there have been more than 20 different exhibitions each year. Now two new exhibitions have been catching the attention of the Panther community since June 8.

The two exhibits, “Six Degrees of Separate Nations: Ebony G. Patterson and Peter Kaswati” and “Borders of Paradise: In the Eyes of Explorers,” feature art as a tool to establish identity. For the artists Patterson and Kaswati, their work shows how they view themselves and how we perceive others.

“Six Degrees of Separa- nation” features the art of two distinctly different artists, one from Jamaica and one from Kenya. Independent curator, Claire Boswell, mixed both artists in this one exhibition because both countries share a history of colonial influence and are in the journey of evolving and establishing their own identities in the early 21st century.

Like many artists, they convey this message using different techniques. Patterson focuses on young Jamaicans and European depictions of the Kingdom’s new dancehall, with their flamboyant clothing through the 19th century, satisfying the appetites of curious Europeans hungry for tales of mysterious lost paradises and evocative primitive worlds.

“Borders of Paradise: In the Eyes of Explorers” focuses on historical identity. It features a lot of maps from the 1600s to illustrate European views on indigenous people in Florida. Imagined and exaggerated depictions of the scene, with their flamboyant script and he didn’t turn me down,” said Letang.

Letang will not stop there. She plans to write both fiction and poetry until old age, and hopefully work in the film industry. “In the epilogue, I introduce a fiction story that I hope will turn into a movie one day,” said Letang.

According to Letang, “Bare” will be available sometime between July and August, under the name Wes L. Lotus, in the Barnes and Noble website and Amazon.com.

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POETRY, PAGE 9

LIFE! The Beacon – Wednesday, June 26, 2013
HONORS COLLEGE DONATES JOSE MARTI STATUE

DANIEL URIA
Staff Writer

It’s no secret to any Panther that FIU maintains a tight relationship with Miami’s Latin American community. This relationship was on display at the University recently donated a statue of national hero José Martí in honor of Cuban Independence Day.

The late Tony López sculpted the life-size statue of José Martí, an influential writer and champion of Cuban independence. López, also Cuban, was a renowned artist responsible for a handful of other South Florida landmarks such as the Holocaust Memorial, the Torch of Friendship and St. Mary’s Cathedral.

On May 20, 2013, members of the FIU community, residents of Sweetwater and even López’s former students gathered for the unveiling of the statue in celebration of Cuba’s 111th year of independence. Following López’s death, his Honor College board member and friend of López, Leónor Anthony, requested that the two be donated to the Honor College on behalf of his estate. López’s son obliged and the statue became the hero of the Honor College until it was donated to the city of Sweetwater.

The statue presently resides in front of the Jorge Mas Canosa Youth Center in Sweetwater. This location was chosen “because the Center has large Cuban American constituency and they liked how it would look there,” said Luli Szemblam, assistant director of student programs and art education at the Honors College.

Sweetwater Mayor Manny Marro, who told The Beacon that “it is an honor to have it here.” The partnership between FIU’s Honor College and Sweetwater is longstanding.

“We have student interns placed at the Mayor’s office and volunteers at the elementary school, and the L’IT’Abber Community Center. We have an annual day of service during which our student volunteers clean sections of the City. Additionally, we provide student volunteers for special events in the City such as the Annual Thanksgiving Bash and last year’s fundraising 5K Halloween Run. We do workshops on topics such as math and science, in the elementary school show-cases their talents in the visual and performing arts,” said Szemblam.

The statue of José Martí is an exhibition of FIU’s active relationship with Miami’s Latin American community. Among them are the Canosa Youth Center in Sweetwater, according to Honors Dean Lesley Northup.

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FROST ART MUSEUM PRESENTS NEW EXHIBITS ON IDENTITY

ASHLEY GARNER
Staff Writer

The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum presents new exhibits on identity.

“The Eyes of Explorers,” features art as a tool to establish identity. For the artists Patterson and Kaswati, their work shows how they view themselves and how we perceive others.

“Six Degrees of Separation” features the art of two distinctly different artists, one from Jamaica and one from Kenya. Independent curator, Claire Boswell, mixed both artists in this one exhibition because both countries share a history of colonial influence and are in the journey of evolving and establishing their own identities in the early 21st century.

Like many artists, they convey this message using different techniques. Patterson focuses on young Jamaicans and Europeans hungry for tales of mysterious lost paradises and evocative primitive worlds.

“Borders of Paradise: In the Eyes of Explorers” focuses on historical identity. It features a lot of maps from the 1600s to illustrate European views on indigenous people in Florida. Imagined and exaggerated depictions of the scene, with their flamboyant clothing through the 19th century, satisfying the appetites of curious Europeans hungry for tales of mysterious lost paradises and evocative primitive worlds.

Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications Emmett W. Young says it’s the first time the artists meet. Young also explained that 150 people showed up for the artist reception, and that if any indication of the turn-out these exhibitions will bring, then there is a good knowledge and curiosity coming from the public.

“Because the focus of the two exhibitions are on such different time periods and such different social environments, I think that both will have the same audience, depending on the focus of the viewers. Both have a lot to say about the world and the identity of people over the past 500 years,” said Young.

Visitor Services employee Brit City, among them are the Canosa Youth Center in Sweetwater, according to Honors Dean Lesley Northup. “Six Degrees of Separate Nations” is what the buzz is all about. She told us the crowd was more of an older crowd and that the turn-out really was good considering it was summer time and students are on vaca-

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Jerica Coley continues to strengthen legacy

STEVEN ROWELL
Contributing Writer

Senior point guard Jerica Coley has earned numerous awards and honors in her FIU tenure, and now she will have to make room for yet another award.

Recently the native from St. Petersburg, Fla. was named the Sun Belt Conference Female Student-Athlete of the Year becoming the second FIU athlete ever to earn the honor.

“I feel honored to get that huge award, and there were a lot of people who obviously had a hand in me getting that award, so thanks to all those people I couldn’t name them all though,” Coley said.

Clearly, with all the statistics Coley has amassed and the awards she has received, anyone can tell she is excelling on the court and that she takes the athlete part very serious. However, no one should underestimate how much Coley excels in the classroom, as Coley takes the student part equally serious if not more than the athlete part. With the impressive numbers Coley has on the court, she has kept above a 3.0 in her school and basketball.

Coley is coming off a remarkable season where she averaged 26.3 points per game and was the nation’s leading scorer and helped lead the Panthers to the WNIT tournament for a second consecutive year. Along with the consecutive WNIT appearances, Coley racked up back-to-back Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year honors becoming the first FIU athlete to do so.

With the breakout season came HolyColey.com, a website created by the FIU athletics department dedicated to the star point guard. Though the site was a bit much to handle at first, Coley credits her teammates for helping her cope with all the hype and attention.

“It was a fun year of course, and I didn’t really expect any of it,” Coley said. “I love teammates as they made it easy for me on the floor, and they were cool about me receiving all these extra things and recognition.”

It has become a trend in male college basketball with star players usually attend a university for one year at least and then forgo the rest of their eligibility to become professional athletes. Though Coley has the talent of these athletes, her attitude and goals are much different. For Coley, the decision on whether to forgo her senior season and enter the WNBA Draft or to play her final season in college seemed like a no brainer for her.

“My definitely would come back, and stay here in school to finish. That’s what I came here for, which is for school,” Coley said.

Despite all the awards, recognitions and the accolades the senior has earned, she is still hungry and even though she is on pace to break almost every all-time offensive record next year during her senior campaign, Coley’s goals remain team oriented.

“The only thing we really look forward to doing next year is winning in the Conference USA Tournament and going to the NCAA Tournament,” Coley said. “And definitely need to have others step up so when the seniors leave the younger players can take over so that we can continue to have better seasons even after we leave.”

Scores cause post-season ban, limit practice time

APR, PAGE 1

Since the infractions in 2008, FIU has added resources to the Student-Athlete Academic Center. Such as increasing the center’s operating budget to $195,000, doubling the number of tutors to 14, as well as purchasing 20 personal computers and 25 laptops for students’ use. A request to athletics for the latest budget was not provided by the time of press.

No program was banned from any post-season play at the time of the violations. However, if the football, men’s basketball and/or baseball teams did not meet an average APR score the next year, a ban would have been imposed.

APR scores come back into the limelight during the tenure of former head basketball coach Isiah Thomas, who Garcia praised by saying he would “take the basketball program to the highest level.”

Garcia also stood by Thomas when he attempted to take on a consulting job with the New York Knicks while still working at FIU. The Panthers’ scores during the first two years under Thomas’ eyes were 910 and 909, just above the NCAA’s minimum average of 900.

Big concerns came after the 2011-2012 season, when the APR score hit a low 858, a score Thomas noted only happened when a number of student-athletes turned pro unexpectedly or transferred without a release due to him being fined.

In a blog in the Huffington Post, Thomas expressed his thoughts on the situation.

“This had the biggest effect on FIU’s APR, not grades but retention,” Thomas said. “In fact, many of the students who wanted to transfer were told that they would not be given their releases because it would affect FIU’s APR. Seven-scholarship students left in anger without getting released, thus plummeting the APR score.”

Garcia was unable to persuade Thomas’ players to stay with the program even before hiring a new coach.

Though only winning 26 games in three seasons did go into the firing of Thomas, a low number of graduating student-athletes was not the case. During Thomas’ time with the Panthers, 19 out of the 21 players under Thomas graduated.

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Cyprien making a splash early in Jacksonville

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Before the 2012 college football season, not too many people outside of the Sun Belt Conference knew the name Johnathan Cyprien. The FIU standout increased his stock despite having played his senior season during one of the worst ever for the young football program. The squad finished the abysmal season with a 3-9 overall record, including a 2-6 record in their final season in the conference. Cyprien continued to shine during the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala., in late Jan., and at the NFL Combine in late March.

At 6-feet six-inches tall, 220-pound safety from North Miami Beach High School to just barely miss out on being a first-round draft pick. Cyprien was selected by the Jacksonville Jaguars with the first pick in the second round, becoming the highest draft pick ever out of FIU. Cyprien is one of the most decorated Panthers of all-time, his name shows up countless times in the FIU record book. Some of the records he holds include: total tackles (365), solo tackles (213) and forced fumbles (6). Cyprien also logged in 45 starts at safety, the most at that position. The 45 starts are third all-time regardless of position.

While at optional team activities, Cyprien expressed his excitement about representing FIU at the professional level. “As of right now I’m working with the first team defense,” Cyprien said. “I am excited to show what I can do at this level and prove that I am worth wherever I was taken [in the draft]. It is great that I will get to represent FIU at the next level.”

Cyprien, who wore the number seven during his tenure at FIU, recently had to change his number to 37. His former number is one that cannot be worn at the safety position in the NFL. According to league rules, defensive backs are only permitted to wear jersey numbers 20-49. Cyprien is not the first player to go into the AFC South division out of the Panther football program. T.Y. Hilton, who in his rookie season had 861 yard receiving with seven touchdowns, was selected by the Indianapolis Colts in the third round just last year. Cyprien will now have to face his former teammate twice a year. Their first meeting as opponents will be on Sept. 29, in Jacksonville.

“He (T.Y.) was one of the first people I talked to leading into the draft and after I got selected by the Jaguars in April,” Cyprien stated. “I am looking forward to playing him and challenging him to do better just as I know he is going to do to me. That is a matchup that I know will be an important one to me, but I won’t let my past with him get in the way of playing my best and helping my team to win.”

His last season at FIU left a sour taste in Cyprien’s mouth and he does not want to continue to lose at such a high level. Cyprien also had some advice for his former teammates who remain at FIU.

“I was disappointed in the way my senior campaign went there and I am going to make sure that I don’t let myself be involved with that kind of season because I will be doing whatever I have to, to help my team win,” Cyprien added. “All I can say to the guys who are still there [at FIU] as they go into a new conference with a new coach is to buy into what the coaches are teaching. That is what we did with Coach Cristobal when I was there and we were winning and with Coach Turner and his staff coming in with the experience that they have it just adds to the facts that they have to buy in to the system that they have brought to the University.”

Sports: Johnathan Cyprien intercepcting a pass during Jaguars practice.

Safety: Johnathan Cyprien.

TIM REYNOLDS
ACP Basketball Writer

MIAMI (AP) — LeBron James and Maverick Carter have been inseparable since they were little kids. Extremely close friends, James trusts Carter with virtually every aspect of his life.

For the last few days, they were not on speaking terms.

“I sold him’s he’s got to be great,” Carter said, speaking in terms.

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Royal Caribbean expected to lease Bay Vista

MARISOL MEDINA
FIUSM Staff

WUC renovations set for spring 2014 completion

Anyone who has ever tried to study at the Wolfe University Center has become acquainted with the less-than-friendly center, especially the pounding noise produced by custodial carts being pushed over the brick floor. This summer, students at Biscayne Bay Campus will endure another loud clatter. This time, however, it is construction aimed at remodeling WUC and finding a solution for the rattling bricks.

Renovations will include an all glass front entrance, new tiles on the ground floor, carpeted hallways and a new lounging area replacing the computer lab with see-through panels and new furniture.

“I am very excited not only for how it is going to look, but because we are also going to have a replica of (Modesto Maidique) A. Maidique Campus’ panther statue,” said Rafael Zapata, student government council advisor.

Zapata said the renovation will change the way people view the campus, helping students who are unfamiliar with BBC.

“If you were walking around campus and you didn’t know where the Wolfe Center was, it was pretty easy to get lost,” said Zapata. “Because [of] how it is currently set up, it doesn’t stand out.”

The renovation is SGA’s largest funded project, according to Zapata.

“Last year, a plan for an expansion of the Wolfe Center was submitted, but President Rosenberg actually wanted a bigger scope, which is what you will see now was proposed,” said Zapata.

The total cost of the renovations is about $3 million. Two and a half million dollars is from student activities and service fees that were not spent throughout the year.

The funds are intended for emergency situations, but both MMC and BBC SGA councils voted to approve the allocation of the money to the renovation project specifically.

Scott Jones, the recently appointed director of the Wolfe Center, is eight weeks into the job but has extensive experience dealing with a variety of renovations. Jones had previously worked as MMC’s residence life coordinator at University Park Apartments.

According to Jones, the primary objective of the renovations is to activate the space differently, tearing down large concrete structures that were added over time to a building that was originally designed to be an exterior exposed facility.

“This is going to be the spot to see or be seen,” said Jones. “It will be a comfortable place for students to hang out between class or during different events and activities.”

The demolition phase of the project ends June 20, followed by the construction phase that will involve installation of ceiling surfaces, glass railing, wall surface, paint and furniture. Jones expects to carpet the floors to reduce the noise produced by the bricks. This first phase of construction, called Project I, is planned for June 21 through October 24.

Project II will begin immediately after phase one and will involve installing flooring, ceilings and work on outside WUC areas, which will involve installing the new panther statue, relocating the Bag-poles and new landscaping. This phase will tentatively end in December.

“This is an opportunity to redefine Wolfe and Panther Square,” said Jones.

Estefania Jaramillo, a senior communications major, said she is trying to cope with the noise and disorder of construction.

“When I came on first day of summer class, it was horrible because there were areas I could not get to, some areas were closed and it was hard to find my way around,” said Jaramillo.

Jaramillo said she would be happier understanding the noise if she knew about the project and had been informed of the limitations in transiting through WUC.

Donaldy Salvant, a junior international relations major, works at WUC’s administration office.

“The noise is sometimes a bother but besides that it’s no big trouble, and I am excited about the construction. I saw the new design and it looks pretty cool,” said Salvant.

For now, students will experience the construction site until spring 2014, when ribbon cutting is scheduled to introduce the renovated Wolfe University Center.

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