English requirement bill receives criticism

JUNETTE REYES
Opinion Director

The Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013 is a Senate bill that, if passed, would be responsible for the strengthening of border security alongside the legalizations of approximately 11 million undocumented immigrants.

The bill presents Registered Provisional Immigrant Status, a preconceived step in which immigrants would begin their path towards legal status, so long as they have been physically present in the U.S. since before Dec. 31, 2011.

Once this status has been established, these immigrants will then be able to apply for permanent residency, given they have maintained their presence in the U.S., paid their taxes, acquired employment, and have taken classes to learn English, government and history.

This language requirement, met by enrolling in English classes, bothers some, including Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, one of five senior fellows in the School of International and Public Affairs.

In a press release on the senator’s website, Rubio proposed an amendment to the bill as a means of fixing this shortcoming by requiring immigrants to prove their proficiency in English. This means they would have to show their ability of understanding language to the point of reading, writing and speaking the words accordingly, as opposed to simply taking a course.

On the day we announced the principles that would shape the immigration bill, we made it clear that English proficiency would now be required for permanent residency for the first time in American history,” said Izzo. “If Zimmerman is not guilty, this amendment ensures that will be the case.”

Reactions to the amendment have varied. A poll on fiusm.com shows that 53 percent of voters believe that immigrants applying for legal status should be proficient in English, while 30 percent voted no and the remaining 17 percent voted maybe.

“Zimmerman is in an international business major Giorgio Izzo said while he understands Rubio’s concern over the negatives of immigration legislation, he considers the amendment to be the most closed-minded way of dealing with it.

“In simplest terms, I believe this requirement treads on the American values of welcoming immigrants throughout our history,” said Izzo. “I firmly believe it is an attack on global immigration and citizenship as a whole; a country that does not tolerate non-English speakers is deliberately closing its borders on international citizens.”

Izzo additionally said that there would be no need to impose such a law, as immigrants would learn on their own that being fluent in English is necessary.

International Business and Marketing major Santiago Diaz, on the other hand, believes that immigrants should be able to communicate, although proficiency should be defined more clearly.

“If you want to stay, you should adapt or at least try to, [as] effort is well compensated,” said Diaz.

Juan Carlos Gomez, clinical assistant professor of law, said that while this may affect hard working people in the community such as students’ parents, he does not see the amendment as a troubling obstacle because there are always exceptions and waivers.

“In naturalization, there are exceptions for people who don’t have the capacity. Medical waivers are granted all the time, in terms of naturalization. Everything from people who have a mental or physical disability [that keeps them] from learning English to people who are just developmentally delayed,” said Gomez.

Still, Gomez does not think it’s wise to predict the probable outcome for the amendment.

MADISON FANTOZZI
News Director

A Florida jury found George Zimmerman not guilty in Trayvon Martin’s death Saturday night after the six women deliberated for 16 and a half hours. It only took moments, however, for students to take to social media in an uproar about the verdict.

Martin’s brother and FIU student, Jahviris Fulton, tweeted “Et tu, America?” following the verdict on July 13, a reference to the Latin expression of betrayal.

University students are also expressing mixed feelings.

“I’m okay with the verdict,” said Joshua Montalvan, a junior finance major, has taken classes to learn English, but declined to convict Zimmerman of the lesser charge.

“If Zimmerman killed Trayvon for racist reasons, then I think he would deserve the death penalty,” said Montalvan. “But I feel like people use the race card too much.”

Fingerhut said the public’s reaction was fueled by a polarizing media storm.

“Law as ‘entertainment’ or ‘info-tainment’ is never a good thing,” said Fingerhut. “It’s real people’s lives that are lost and on the line.”

The Department of Justice has announced that it will look into the case further, which could lead to criminal civil rights charges. Zimmerman may also face civil lawsuits from Martin’s family.

University prepares for hurricane season

REBECA PICCARDO
Staff Writer

A month and a half has passed since the beginning of hurricane season, and FIU’s Department of Emergency Management has prepared all year to take on the hurricane season, the Department of Emergency Management, in an email.

As preparation for any emergency, the University conducts training exercises to prepare staff to respond to any emergency.

According to Aiken, at the beginning of the hurricane season, the Department of Emergency Management meets with President Rosenberg and his staff to go over different scenarios and discuss what actions they would take to prepare the University and recover from any impacts.

“Emergency Management monitors the tropics,” said Aiken. “If a storm looks like it may threaten South Florida, twice-daily conference calls begin with the National Weather Service and Miami-Dade County.”

Additionally, the University’s Emergency Operations Center is activated whenever the University is threatened by a tropical storm or hurricane. The EOC was first activated last August for Tropical Storm Isaac.

“Fortunately, we were spared, but it was a great opportunity to see all of the training and exercising that staff have been doing in action,” said Aiken.

According to Aiken, depending on the type of storm, the EOC would remain activated 24/7 and staff members would remain on campus during the storm.

“The Emergency Management group that staffs the EOC meets to ensure that key departments like Facilities, UTS, FIU police, and Housing are prepared to secure the University in advance of the storm,” said Aiken.

Although the Modesto Maidique Campus is not in an evacuation zone, and students that cannot go home are taken to the Modesto Maidique Campus to take shelter from the storm.

“If students from either campus can’t go home, they will be sheltered in a common area in one of the residence halls,” said Aiken.

Letha Bakhti, a junior international business major, lives in the MMC dorms.

“I would just stay in the dorms. I don’t think it is a big enough deal to evacuate from where I live,” said Bakhti.

Veronica Pizaras, a junior finance major, has lived in Florida for four years and has never experienced a storm, said Aiken.

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Gay marriage bill passes in Britain

Britain’s gay marriage bill passed through the House of Lords on Monday, where lawmakers will review government amendments before it officially becomes law. Currently, same-sex couples can form civil partnerships, which carry similar rights and responsibilities to marriage. The bill will enable gay couples to get married in both civil and religious ceremonies in England and Wales. The Church of England is barred from offering same-sex ceremonies, however.

Spain prime minister resists resignation

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy told reporters that he would not step down amidst scandals over text messages that surfaced that show him comforting a political party treasurer under investigation over a sluq fund and secret Swiss bank accounts. This spectacle of alleged corruption has hurt and enraged Spaniards who are suffering from austerity and high unemployment. Former Popular Party Luis Barcenas told investigators that he gave tens of thousands of euros in secret cash payments to Rajoy.

Cuban, US diplomats allowed to travel

Recently, Cuban and U.S. diplomats have been increasingly, and more easily, traveling within the Cold War enemy countries. Cuban diplomats are increasingly, and more easily, traveling within Cuba without the permission of the U.S. State Department or past the Beltway loop circling Washington miles beyond Columbus Circle in Manhattan at the United Nations in New York cannot go 25 the Cold War enemy countries. Cuban diplomats said recently they want to travel outside Havana.

PanthERS join the fight to save lives at University

It is 2 a.m. in Univer- sity Towers and a resi- dent has suddenly stopped breathing. The student is not responding and a 911 call is sent out. By the time emer- gency personnel arrive, the student is conscious and breathing again thanks to actions taken by a member of Panther Emergency Response Squad, who happens to live in Univer- sity Towers. For more world news, check out www.FIUSM.com.

This scenario is the PanthERS mission, a newly formed student-run organization that could one day be responsible for saving the life of a university commu- nity member. PanthERS will be the first responders to assist in emergency situ- ations where Miami-Dade Fire Rescue or University Police may take too long to arrive. The PanthERS mission is to close the “life-threatening gap” between the time a call goes out and when emergency responders arrive, said University Safety Officer Willie Alvarez, the squad’s advisor. Alvarez envisions the organization being a cross campus 24-hour service that would include a team of two students on moun- tain bikes equipped with medical supplies, having a presence at Univer- sity events such as foot- ball games and a compo- nent consisting of housing students. “Students will be suita- bly trained and equipped, already present on campus, familiar with building names, locations and layouts, and able to over- come traffic and obstruc- tions that typically delay off campus resources,” said Alvarez. Students are on board. “Everyone in the health science will benefit,” said registered nurse and nurse practitioner graduate student Evelyn Salgueiro. Junior biology major Zachary Jones supports the idea behind PanthERS. “(PanthERS) can assess the situation better and give info to people that come later,” said Jones. “I also think it’s important to have 24-hour-a-day response because you never know what’s going to happen.”

Emergency Operations Center offers storm preparations at FIU

Rubio’s proposal sparks debate

“I think that at this point, in the communities and the advocacy, the focus has to be on convincing people opposed to any kind of immigration reform, or any productive immigration reform, to support productive immigration reform and not be destructive,” said Gomez. “It’s horrible that there are people out there who are ‘in the door’ and don’t ‘in the door’ want to give somebody else a chance,” said Gomez.

STORM, PAGE 1

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The Beacon – Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Cuban athletes and artists get on living in capitalism and business

Rubio, PAGE 1

PanthERS join the fight to save lives at University

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STORM, PAGE 1

Cuban athletes and artists get on living in capitalism and business

Cuban track and field legend Javier Sotomayor has launched a sports bar named for the height of his world record high jump. An Olympic volleyball champion has opened a swanky new Italian restaurant, and salsa star Hugo Morejon has a first-rate automobile repair shop.

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At Sport-Bar 2.45, patrons sip icy-cold Cuban beer and eat pizzas while perusing memorabilia from Sotomayor’s career, such as a white athletic shoe he used in competition that meant there was damage,” said Nieto. “I think anybody can be at Sport-Bar 2.45, patrons sip icy-cold Cuban beer and eat pizzas while perusing memorabilia from Sotomayor’s career, such as a white athletic shoe he used in competition that meant there was damage,” said Nieto. “I think anybody can be

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Trouble between generations

MOISES FAUERTS
Staff Writer


Despite using these attributes to declare us as the generation to “save us all,” Stein’s backhanded compliment is still completely redundant and unfounded.

Here’s the thing: We are going through a shift in many areas of the world as we know it, with the digital age having brought forth unprecedented changes. These changes, in many ways, have completely transformed the way society functions.

It is precisely this divide between digital natives and digital immigrants that I suspect brings with it a misunderstanding amongst the generations, with previous generations taking it upon themselves to belittle Generation Y.

I believe that our story is being told to the eyes of people that don’t grasp what’s happening around them.

RE: ROYAL CARIBBEAN

Those of us who have been working with Royal Caribbean on a mutually bene- ficial partnership based on the Biscayne Bay Campus are disappointed on our previous editorial. Our thinking and motivation all along has been completely student centered.

In fact, the benefits this would bring to you, the student, are the only reasons for us to enter into this public/private partnership.

First the facts: FIU is working with Royal Caribbean LTD to create a facility, rehearsal and performance facility at BBC. The relationship is still being negoti- ated; no contract has been signed at this time.

It will share with you the broad outlines of the conversation and how this will benefit our students.

• Starting in 2015 Royal Caribbean employees will take over the existing student housing at BBC. These buildings were slated to be demolished by then to make way for new student housing. We are now in the process of designing new student housing at a different location in BBC to be ready in 2015.

Royal Caribbean will build a $25 million building near the housing complex where they will train their performers. This will be a state-of-the-art facility unlike any that exists currently in South Florida.

This facility will have “rigging” capabili- ties - think flying performers a la Cirque de Soleil. Our theater students will have access to this building for master classes, mock auditions and other custom workshops and training to be conducted by Royal Caribbean entertainment professionals working on the front lines of the entertainment industry.

• Royal Caribbean will become our partner in offering experiential learning opportunities to our students that will be invaluable as students enter the job market.

For example: they will conduct exclu- sive behind the scenes shipboard tours and provide access to their management teams in entertainment and operations.

• Starting in fall 2014, Royal Carib- bean will provide 20 paid internships for FIU students. These opportunities - ship- board and on land - will be invaluable to our students in the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management as well as those in the College of Architecture + the Arts.

• Royal Caribbean employees must at a minimum adhere to our campus code of conduct, but are also subject to their compa- ny’s code of conduct, which is more strin- gent than the FIU student code of conduct.

These new residents are likely to be great neighbors and having them on campus will also allow us to expand the dining offerings and hours of operation at BBC, which is something BBC students have wanted.

As in already the case, through SGA Campus Life at BBC has an array of opportunities to keep students involved and active. These include various events in Panther Square, in the auditorium and ball- rooms, and on the bay. The lecture series is one of the highlights on campus during the year. All of these activities will continue a will be expanded as conditions and funding allow.

Your editorial also casts a negative light on plans for a MAST academy at BBC. These plans are moving forward and, just like the partnership with Royal Carib- bean, this partnership with Miami-Dade Public School System is designed to benefit our university community. In addition, it creates a pipeline of high-performing STEM students, it benefits the local community and it helps us create a more vibrant BBC community that is more focused on science, technology, engineering and math.

• Laura Lautenberg, Vice President for Student Affairs

Send us your letters
Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinions@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter from any individual.

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from the editors and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

Send us your letters

Please understand what we’re saying

Sen. Marco Rubio’s English require- ment amendment to The Border Secu- rity, Economic Opportunity & Immigra- tion Modernization Act of 2013 has been referred to as one of many means to appease opponents to holding up the progress of the Senate bill that could be responsible for legalizing approximately 11 million undocumented immi- grants.

The amendment itself would require regis- tered provisional immigrants to prove their proficiency in English in order to acquire permanent residence in the US, instead of the bill’s current language skills stipulation that could be satisfied simply by enrolling in English courses.

While the amendment is an intentional roadblock in the path of acquiring legal status or not, The Beacon can’t help but agree with Rubio’s emphasis on learning the English language in order to become legalized.

Our reasoning behind this is that although learning a new language may be an obstacle for some, the ability to communicate and be able to communicate accordingly is not an impossible feat.

To begin with, the approximate 11 million undocumented immigrants the Senate bill is addressing are immigrants who have to prove they have been physically present in the US since before Dec. 31, 2011, meaning these are people who have been here long enough to have picked up some understanding of the English language.

We would go so far as saying that not having learned some English within that time is due to laziness or stubbornness. We do, however, acknowledge that it would require time, that is, quite frankly, nothing compared to the risk of entering and residing in the US illegally.

Other exceptions to the rule are people incapacitated by physical or develop- mental disabilities as well as mental impair- ments, for which a waiver is mandatory. There is also an extension for registered provisional immigrants that are 70 years of age or older when applying for permanent residence, but this is discretionary.

Whether Rubio’s amendment gets passed or not, the underlying importance is that these people need to take the step forward in ensuring their future in this country is solid- ified by learning English. Rubio’s amend- ment simply makes it a requirement, but it is necessary regardless of such a law’s presence.

Yes, the amendment would present one more obstacle in the way of many hard workers in the community trying to survive on a daily basis, but it’s an obstacle that, if conquered, will ultimately lead to peace of mind and a sense of security because the risk of being deported would be diminished.

A chance for that peace of mind as result of trying to fix a broken immigration system is being presented to these people through the Senate bill as well as Rubio’s amend- ment. We think it’s only right they do their part and meet it halfway.
Students spread their wings at Flugtag competition

HOLLY MCCOACH  
Staff Writer

Have you ever seen a flying panther? Well, now is your chance.

On September 21, the National Redbull Flugtag Competition is one competition to see who can build the most creative successful flying machine, will fly its way into South Beach.

Over thirty teams are attending, including five of the University’s mechanical engineering majors, Patrick Alvarez, Juan Barrera, Andres Cardenas, Kevin Gutierrez, and Jose Oliva. Together, they are “The Flying Panthers,” and for them, the sky is literally the limit.

With one pilot and four team members pushing the make it aircraft to fly a over 30-foot platform, The Flying Panthers knew they would find great interest in their participation.

“We were a pretty nice group; we were all pretty motivated,” said junior Kevin Gutierrez, who is also the pilot, “Right now, basically what we need to do is make sure we have enough money for the project.”

The team knew each other through high school and college, but their passion for this competition brought them together.

“We all have a common interest in the aerodynamics and aerospace part of engineering. We are interested in the aerodynamics of mechanical engineering. We are friends, so most of the time we are together,” said Andres Cardenas, a junior mechanical engineering major. Cardenas’ job as a Flying Panther is to determine how to improve lift on the aircraft, what airfoil to use, and how to reduce the weight.

The judges of the competition are not only looking at the distance the aircraft flies, but the creativity put into building it, as well as a short skit and mission statement that is required of any team applying. This skit includes approximately half a minute of music and dancing to capture the judges’ attention. Safety and knowledge of the competition is also important.

“There [are] a lot of regulations. We can’t do any kind of stuff like enclose the pilot or use glass or other materials,” said Cardenas. “There’s a whole book called the Pilot Handbook that we have to read.”

Assignments and tasks are also given by Red Bull, and medals are awarded to the teams on their website. Assignments include maintaining a growing amount of followers, and for the teams to be as active as possible in social media.

On the day of the event, airplane shows accompanied with music will be included in the entertainment, as well as the competition of the teams itself. Three prizes will be awarded: A skydive with the expert free flyers of the Red Bull Air Force for 1st place, a VIP seating at a Red Bull-titled sporting event for 2nd place, and the opportunity to attend a Red Bull-titled dance, music, or art event. Winners are determined through the judges’ scores.

As for their aircraft, The Flying Panthers are in the design process, receiving assistance from Professor George S. Dulikravich and Professor Richard Zicarelli. Tag Heuer Watches is one of the sponsors of the team, but other interested sponsors are free to contact Cardenas at acard080@fiu.edu.

Admission to the Red Bull Flugtag Competition is free to the public and students interested in seeing The Flying Panthers take off.

-hollymcc@fiu.edu

JOIN OUR STAFF!

The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don’t be shy. Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124 or apply at fiusm.com.

Panther is offered internship with ‘cake boss’

JESSICA VALERIA  
Staff Writer

Senior Del Toro is preparing for the big move and plans to learn from the best for the future.

Del Toro’s clients.

Del Toro has some experience to help her in her new internship with the “Cake Boss.”

“There are beautiful,” said Valastro when she met him. “At least I got him to sign my Rebel Sweets t-shirt,” said Del Toro.

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“She admits to being nervous with pictures of her work. She also worked with The Great American Bake Sale to end poverty for children in America and got four other bakeries to donate pastries to raise money for the cause.

Having interned for the Food and Beverage Department at Norwegian Cruise Line previously, Del Toro has some experience to help her in her new internship with the “Cake Boss.”

“[At the Food and Beverage Department at Norwegian Cruise Line],” Del Toro will bring cupcakes all the time and show them my work,” said Del Toro.

“The employees at Norwegian loved the cupcakes! I would hand them their business card and the cupcake.”

She even made them a cake on her last day of work, as a thank you for teaching her about the company and about the cruise line business. “The cake had little cut outs of the seven people I worked most closely with, and they appreciated it,” she said.

After sitting with him and discussing her plans to go to Chicago for pastry school, Valastro offered an alternative. He offered her an internship at his shop. “I felt really excited,” she said.

Del Toro is preparing for the big move and plans to learn from the best for the future.

“She [Valastro] remembered me. “Oh my God, your cakes are beautiful,” said Valastro when he recognized Del Toro.

Del Toro and her divine bakery because they have different and for her. Del Toro describes Rebel Sweets as her thing of mine, and I think my creativity makes me my work,” said Del Toro.

Naming her business Rebel Sweets was also her way of showing customers that no cake idea is too wild and creative. “[They’re] cakes you wouldn’t find at your local bakery because they have something rebellious about them,” said Del Toro. “I love when someone comes to me and they have this crazy idea that I’ve never seen before and I make it happen.”

Del Toro has used her baking powers for good and has donated cupcakes to the Sigma Kappa sorority for their annual fundraiser benefiting Alzheimer’s. Del Toro also worked with The Great American Bake Sale to end poverty for children in America and got four other bakeries to donate pastries to raise money for the cause.

Del Toro’s clients.

Del Toro describes her cakes. “I hope to follow in Cake Boss and land a job with him. Years down the line, she wants to open her own environment-friendly bakery that specializes on cakes. “I hope to follow in Buddy Valastro’s footsteps; I don’t feel ready for a bakery right now. Working for him is my dream, but in the future I can see myself owning a bakery.”

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Wolfsonian expands thanks to gift

DANIEL URIA
Staff Writer

FIU’s Wolfsonian museum has established itself as one of South Florida’s hidden gems, and with the addition of a recent gift from founder Mitchell Wolfson Jr., its presence should continue to grow. The gift includes approximately 25,000 objects for the collection and an estimated 20,000 square feet of office space in Downtown Miami.

Since joining the University, the museum’s Miami Beach location has not only housed thousands of pieces from Wolfson’s personal collection, but also provided classes and tours to FIU students. With the addition of this gift, the Wolfsonian can now offer a new location as well as a new type of experience for visitors and students.

“The Downtown location includes the stories of office space. According to an internal document written by the museum’s staff, one of the goals for the new space is to provide more free access to the exhibitions.”

“...The pieces include various written works including rare books that Wolfson has collected. “The materials in this recent gift follow The Wolfsonian’s core collection interests, strengthening currently represented in the collection and bringing new areas to bear on the kaleidoscopic period from which the materials derive,” said Assistant Curator Matthew Abes. He elaborated further, “The contents of the gift are the product of [Wolfson’s] efforts to enrich the repertoire of narratives already embedded in The Wolfsonian’s collection through an especially focused collecting strategy, addressing overall gaps in the collection while supporting the immediate exhibition plan.”
KEDRICK RHODES ARRESTED

Running back Kedrick Rhodes was ready to begin his senior year for the FIU football team until he was arrested on Saturday July 13 at 7:30 p.m.

According to the arrest affidavit, Rhodes was charged with possession/discharging of a firearm on school grounds, improper exhibition of a firearm, discharging a firearm in public and discharging a firearm under the influence of alcohol.

According to the affidavit, a witness observed Rhodes exit Everglades Hall and run towards his vehicle, parked in lot six, in anger over an unknown cause.

The same witness observed Rhodes pull out a firearm, step out of the vehicle and yell, “Get the f—k back!”

Rhodes then proceeded to fire proximity three to four rounds towards the air from his .380 caliber semi automatic pistol leading the witness to flee for his safety.

Rhodes was then arrested and taken to Miami Dade County jail where he provided a written confession that he was under the influence of alcohol while discharging his firearm.

The situation escalated when Rhodes lost a play fight with a teammate, according to multiple witnesses. This was later verified by University Police Chief Alexander Casas.

“It doesn’t happen if I recall a real fight but Rhodes got upset because he did lose a play fight,” Casas said.

This is not the first time that FIU has had a problem with a football player and firearms; in 2004 three FIU players were arrested, including one who was charged with attempted murder for firing a gun into an occupied car.

Rhodes is now the fourth player to be arrested for the use of a firearm. Cornerback Everett Baker was charged with attempted murder for firing into an occupied car.

He also was charged with two counts of armed robbery, possession of a weapon on school grounds and two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, all felonies.

On the field, Rhodes is coming off a season that saw the young back rush for 714 yards while racking up four touchdowns.

The Panthers looked for Rhodes to continue his growth and success in his senior year and help lift FIU from their appalling

Panthers defense looking to regain its intensity

When new Head Coach Ron Turner began his era at FIU, he brought in an entirely new coaching staff. His defensive staff is very diverse, with the experience column ranging from former NFL coaches to recent college graduates as defensive assistants.

The defense is in the hands of Josh Conklin. Conklin comes to FIU after being the safeties coach at the University of Tennessee last season. The Volunteers ranked 107 in the nation in points against after the 2012 season.

Before coaching for the Vols, Conklin was the defensive coordinator for the Citadel for two seasons in 2010 and 2011 after being the defensive backs coach for Wofford from 2007 to 2009. He began his coaching career at his alma mater, SDSU, as a defensive graduate assistant before being both a special teams and defensive coach for two seasons.

Conklin has the burden of rebuilding a defense that was ranked 97th in points allowed last season.

Bringing in the most NFL experience is defensive line coach Andre Patterson. He has had coaching stints all around the country at every level of football from high school to professional over a 30-year career.

His career, which started at the University of Montana in 1982, has spanned 14 seasons in college football, 10 years working in the NFL and five seasons at the start of career as a high school head coach.

Defensive backs coach Jason
New coach leading to optimistic outlook for volleyball

OSCAR BALDIZON Contributing Writer

Starting last year, there were high expecta-
tions surrounding the women’s volleyball team at FIU. They had a solid group of newcomers and veterans that were poised to make a deep run. However, that all came crashing down when the team was decimated by injuries.

“With all the controversy that happened last year, I think it really brought us to a point where we all know how to approach different problems and overcome adversity now,” said junior libero Carolyn Fouts.

When coach Buck-Crockett spoke about their upcoming season their eyes say everything, and you can tell they are hungry to show everyone this team is revamped and geared up for this upcoming season.

The burden of positioning the team to suc-
cceed is now squarely on the shoulders of a
season.

Buck-Crockett was also unavailable for
buck-Crockett.

“She came on practice last year and al-
most changed my whole arm swing in an hour,
by the end of the practice we were all really
shocked at how much we had learned in just one
practice with her and were very impressed,” se-
nior middle blocker Kimberly Smith said.

A member of the Volleyball Hall of Fame
Class of 2011 and a two-time Olympian, Buck-
Crockett brings a wealth of playing experience
at the highest levels of volleyball competition
to FIU, along with over 20 years of coaching
experience.

This head coaching change came as a bit of
a surprise considering the athletic department
brought in Buck-Crockett last year as the head
Volleyball coach. However, with such experi-
ence and knowledge it was a welcomed adjust-
ment by the players.

“Joining Coach Buck-Crockett on the side-
line will be associate Head Coach Felix Hou.
His resume boasts serious volleyball experience
at both the collegiate and international playing
fields, including 16 years of NCAA Division I
coaching experience and extensive international
expertise, both as a coach and a player.

“They have a big heart for the game and
that’s very inspiring for us players and learning
to combine these into two Olympians,” Fouts said. “Specially coaches like them can specifically help certain positions, it makes a big difference and we re-
ally respect everything that they have to say.”

Hou also realized that the upcoming year for
the Panthers would have many challenges and
obstacles to overcome.

“With the new conference change this year
we are going to be facing tough teams right off
the bat. I believe with the returners we have and
the new players coming in we will be able to
make a splash right from the start and really get
into this season,” Hou said.

New Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett.

The FIU volleyball team prepares for their first season under new head coach Rita Buck-
Crockett.

Former assistant coach moves on, leaves behind legacy

STEVEN ROWELL Contributing Writer

Friendly faces continue to fade away
for the women’s basketball team as they
enter the 2013 season. The squad gradu-
ated four seniors and will now be without
assistant coach Desma Bateast.

After seven years of serving as an
assistant coach with the Panthers, Bateast
recently accepted the head coaching posi-
tion at nearby St. Thomas University. For the
Panthers, Thomas Bateast’s departure brings
mixed emotions.

“It’s a catch-22 thing, as I am happy for
her but at the same time, I am kind of sad,” senior forward Arielle Durant said.

“I am kind of bittersweet, I will be really
happy for her because she is really a great
coop and we all knew she would be a
Head Coach eventually,” senior point
guard Jerica Coley said. “When she got the
job, we were just excited for her because we
know she will do great things there, but of
course I am sad because she is leaving.”

Thomas Bateast was a standout at the
University of Miami as a two-time Big East
team selection, and is 11th in
scoring all-time in the school’s women’s basketball
program.

She was also key in the development of
Coley. Helping mold her into a two-time
all-American, two-time Sun Belt Confer-
ence Player of the Year and national
leading scorer.

During Thomas Bateast’s tenure at FIU
and while under the guidance of Head
Coach Cindy Russo, the Panthers amassed
over 100 wins including 62 conference
wins and 10-plus wins in the conference for the last three seasons.

Thomas Bateast was considered an inte-
grate piece within all that success, she was
regarded as the motivator on those winning
teams.

“She is very passionate and very knowl-
edgeable of the game and always knew
when to push us to be our best,” Coley said.

“She was my best friend and the leader on
the team; especially in practice she
would push us to the limit to a level that
we ourselves didn’t think we could make,”
Durant said. “She would push us up to be
faster, to be quicker, to be better defenders
do get to just be a
better overall team.”

Thomas Bateast’s impact was not
limited to the lines within the basketball
court. She helped players learn
how to conduct themselves while off the court as
well.

“Personally, she was like my second
mom. She was one of the major reasons
I came here because we built a relation
ship with her that was constant, she
continually spoke to me, ‘You will be a better person individu-
ally, you will come in as a young lady but
you will come out as a young woman.’”

With Thomas Bateast now at St.
Thomas, it will be a tall task to find
someone to replace Bateast on the side-
lines, Durant said.

“The things I will miss the most about her
is her intensity, she was always upbeat,
always loud she wasn’t the quiet coach
and was on top of you 24/7 and I don’t know
who is coming in next but they will have
huge shoes to fill,” Durant said.

The fact that Thomas Bateast will
be nearby will make it easier for the relation-
ships that Durant and Coley built with
the former assistant to be maintained. They
both plan to take full advantage that their
former assistant will be close by to
stay in touch for future advice.

“Of course, I will still talk to her on a
regular basis and try to get some games
with her in the gym, we are still close,”
Durant said.

With her departure from FIU now set
in stone, Thomas Bateast was appreciative for the opportunity the Panthers provided for
her.

“I want to thank Cindy Russo and the
entire women’s basketball staff for the
great opportunity to grow in this profes-
ional atmosphere at FIU for the last seven seasons,” said Thomas Bateast in a release provided
by the athletics department.

“I want to thank the team of wonderful
young ladies that I’ve been privileged to
coach and mentor – I know that they will
continue to move forward towards a brighter future of FIU women’s basketball in Conference
USA. That being said, I am extremely
excited for the opportunity to lead the St.
Thomas University women’s basketball
program, and to take the next step in my
coaching career.”

Chalvire and Rhys Williams contributed to this story.

Former Volleyball Head Coach Trevor Herron, who was released as the head coach, was
unavailable for comment.

“Buck-Crockett was also unavailable for
comment as of press time of this story.

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Running back arrested, kicked off football team

RHODES, PAGE 6

record of 3-9.

The news that Rhodes will no longer be in uniform
shook the team.

“We took a loss, I’m not going to lie,” offensive tackle
Dieugot Joseph said. “However, we have the same mind-
set as before. We just have to keep overcoming everybody
and proving we can win in C-USA.”

Not having Kedrick on the field after having prac-
ticed with him this past spring is going to be different,”
senior Chris Ayers said. “But we will find a way to get
past his loss just as we have with the other losses this
season.”

This loss also is also disappointing news for former
head coach Ron Turner, who was hired earlier this year
to turn around the program after the firing of for-
mer head coach Mario Cristobal.

As of press time, Turner was not available for comment.

-Chris Rivero, Diego Saldana-Rojas, Patrick
Chalvire and Rhys Williams contributed to this story.

-sports@fiusm.com

Turner’s new staff looks to ignite fire under defense

DEFENSE, PAGE 6

Brooks recently obtained
the dream of every football
player or coach: being a part
of the Super Bowl. Brooks
has worked for the past four
seasons in Baltimore on the
defensive staff for the
Super Bowl XLVII cham-
pion Ravens. He and his
father, Clarence Brooks, the
defensive line coach for the
Ravens, were both on the
same coaching staff.

Brooks will be coaching defense for the first time since 2007 when he was an assis-
tant secondary coach at the
University of Massachusetts.

Tom Williams also comes to FIU from UTEP as the
linebackers coach. With over 20 years of experience, in-
cluding three seasons un-
der Jack Del Rio with the
Jacksonville Jaguars.

The linebackers coach
also has dealt with some of
the most intelligent athletes in
the game of football with his
work at Yale University and
the University of Stanford.

Williams was a four-time
letterman for famous head
clock Bill Walsh while play-
ning at Stanford, which is also
where he got his coaching
start.

The two graduate as
assistant for the second
year assistant
Matt Garrits, a former line-
backer who played for FIU
from 2006-2008 and Mike
Hiestand. Hiestand was a let-
terman for the Illinois State
Redbirds before having a ca-
rer ending injury in 2011,
his first coaching job was as
an assistant for the
University of Miami at Ohio.

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Public-private partnerships becoming a growing trend within University

BRANDON WISE
Editor-in-Chief

Welcome to the new Biscayne Bay Campus—at least what is planned to change in the next few years. During the University’s Master Plan update session held on July 15 at 5 p.m., faculty and students were shown the proposed changes coming to the campus.

The biggest change: public/private partnerships.

In late June, Gov. Rick Scott signed a law to ramp up public-private partnerships in Florida. The new part of the law that required businesses to send unsolicited proposals to local governments and agencies, according to the Sun Sentinel.

Projects that qualify under the new law are any that serve a public purpose, including airport or seaport structures, pipelines, mass transit infrastructure, nursing homes, education, cultural centers or sports stadiums.

The Royal Caribbean Cruise Line partnership, which has been in ongoing discussions, is one of three proposed private partnerships that were discussed during the meeting.

Others included the new housing complex for students, which would be on the east side of the Hubert Library. If the proposed plan continues on this path, the new housing would be set to open in 2017, according to Chie Financial Officer Kenneth Jessell.

The current housing for students, which would be built on the west side of the Hubert Library, was scheduled to be demolished after the 2015 school year, Jessell said.

The cost of that demolition would cost around $2 million and Royal Caribbean would be paying around $2.2 million to lease the property where Bay Vista is, Jessell said.

A concern raised during the meeting was the lack of students wishing to live at Bay Vista. The audience of around 40 people, mostly faculty and administrators, were pleased with the presentation, including Vice President of the Student Government Council at BBC Richard Azimov. “It was a great opportunity, even though a lot of students didn’t show up besides Student Government, that a lot of those questions were raised,” Azimov said. “It was good for administrators to keep those questions in mind. It wasn’t really advertised well to the student body.”

Approximately six currently enrolled students attended the meeting. Azimov would not comment further on the lack of students in attendance at the meeting.

Krisan Osterby, member of the steering committee and of Perkins and Will, an architecture firm hired to help the planning process, said that the committee has also taken into account the effects of sea level rise for the new housing and that he proposed placement of the new housing is the safest and driest place on campus.

The committee is also proposing two other partnerships including a hotel component which would be next to the Kevens Center. This would be useful to help conferences for faculty and staff on campus.

Bob Griffith, director of Facilities Planning, said that the committee isn’t looking at the funding aspect for much of these proposals yet, just overall plans.

-Daniela V. Walter