Students start petition for dual enrollment studies

STEPHAN USECHE
Staff Writer

The Dual Enrollment program will have new limitations for the upcoming semesters, decreasing the amount of courses a student is permitted to take. On July 1, a new state law was passed, Senate Bill 1514, which now requires the school districts to pay the tuition rate of these dual enrollment students.

“This legislation stipulates that when high school students come to campus to take courses here, then the school system has to pay the per credit hour, which is the same as when our students [non-dual enrollment students] take classes here,” said Irma Becerra-Fernandez, vice president of Engagement.

The dual enrollment program is divided into two broad categories, Academy for Advanced Academics, which is when students take the courses in the University’s campus; and one bigger category which allows the students to take the courses in local high schools.

“The increase in partnerships with private businesses has received negative feedback from some faculty. In fact, the Faculty Senate passed a formal resolution demanding faculty vote on future contracts regarding the University’s partnership with AP to launch its online program, FIU Global Learning.

While FIU Global Learning will focus on expanding the online MBA partnership with AP, signed in 2009, by marketing it to Latin America and various other countries.

“I expect that those who do not see the benefits are further from the direct interaction with the partners,” said Provost and Executive Vice President Douglas Wartzok.

Wartzok said he believes that regardless of whether enrollment quotas are met or not, the university benefits from a partnership with a company that is good at marketing the program, increases enrollment and tuition revenue.

“Are we an academic institution,” said Wartzok. “We hired AP as a marketing partner because they do that well.”

FIU Foundation exceeds fundraising goal, raises $43.3 million

MADISON FANTOZZI
News Director

The University surpassed its $42 million fundraising goal by $1.3 million for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, according to the FIU Foundation, Inc.

This is a part of University President Mark Rosenberg’s goal to raise $750 million in 10 years, a plan that started in 2009.

The Next Horizon campaign is a part of FIU’s Worlds Ahead initiative.

Howard Lipman, senior vice president of University Advancement and president and chief executive officer of FIU Foundation, Inc., said that people are excited to give back to FIU.

“We want that student that is struggling financially to have that scholarship,” said Lipman. “We want that faculty member working on a research project to have the support they need.”

FIU Foundation is a non-profit corporation responsible for soliciting, receiving and administering gifts for scientific and educational purposes for the University.

Since 2009, the University has raised about $188 million toward its overall goal, according to the Foundation.

University Advancement’s Campaign Communications Director Andria Liwag said the fundraising campaign is currently in its “quiet” phase: goals have been set, leaders are in place and infrastructure is underway.

Lipman said the first phase of the campaign is to build momentum.

“We promote the University’s vision and people get really excited,” said Lipman. “They want to be a part of ensuring FIU continues, as our vision states, ‘to be a leading urban public research university focused on student learning, innovation and collaboration.’”

Liwag said the gifts in the first phase set the foundation for the campaign.

The campaign will move into its second phase at the end of the next fiscal year, during which, Lipman said, no gift is too small.

“There’s this level of public trust,” said Lipman. “With less state support, we are calling on the community.”

In the third phase, the Foundation will ask alumni to give back to their alma mater.

Liwag said the investment in FIU is a bigger investment into the community, with about 85 percent of FIU graduates staying in the South Florida area.

“At the core, the purpose of our campaign is to help the FIU degree is continuously increase in value, making a student’s investment of time and tuition even more valuable in the future than it is on the day they graduate,” wrote Liwag in an email to Student Media.

This year’s gifts also included $2 million for the Alumni Center, $1 million for the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and $900,000 in support of the Chapman School of Medicine.

Administration emphasizes benefits of partnerships

CARLOS COBA
Staff Writer

Public-private partnerships are well underway at the University, regardless of critics. Contracts with Academic Partnerships and Royal Caribbean are in the process of being finalized, while a partnership with Zoo Miami was finalized on July 16.

The increase in partnerships with private businesses has received negative feedback from some faculty. In fact, the Faculty Senate passed a formal resolution demanding faculty vote on future contracts regarding the University’s partnership with AP to launch its online program, FIU Global Learning.

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While FIU Global Learning focuses on online academic programs, the university’s partnership with Royal Caribbean plans to build new facilities at Biscayne Bay Campus.

Vice President of Student Affairs Larry Lunsford has a positive attitude on the partnership with Royal Caribbean and the advantages the University will gain because of it.

“The potential is for the entire university to benefit [from] expanded curriculum, internships, increased population at BBC and increased usage of current BBC facilities,” said Lunsford.

Lunsford also said that the number of career opportunities for BBC students will increase because of Royal Caribbean’s presence at job fairs.

Once the contract has been signed, the cruise line will begin the construction of a 45,000 square-foot training facility, which will be open to access certain schools within the university. Royal Caribbean staff will also reside in BBC’s Bay Vista housing, which will be renovated.

Lunsford insists that relocation of Bay Vista students to MMC will not happen.

“(Bay Vista) is in poor condition and was planned to be closed even if [Royal Caribbean] had not come into the picture,” said Lunsford.

Lunsford said students that had planned to return to Bay Vista have the following choices: relocate to Modesto Maidique Campus, live at home or find an apartment in the area surrounding BBC.
Administration approving of new partnerships

PARTNERS, PAGE 1

New BBC student housing is projected to be ready by 2015.

“In my opinion, this [partnership] is an excellent route to pursue,” said Lunsford. “We could get the BBC housing built quicker going this route.”

Whereas AP and Royal Caribbean partnerships are in negotiation, the Zoo FIU lecture series, in partnership with Zoo Miami, started in May.

Executive Director of the School of Environment, Arts and Society Michael Heithaus gave one of Zoo FIU’s lectures on July 26.

“Zoo Miami and FIU share a common mission to conserve biodiversity and educate people about animals and the environment,” said Heithaus.

“By working together, we can generate more resources to outstanding educational internship opportunities for students.”

In addition, the partnership will involve students both in research and other activities at the zoo, including hospitality and tourism management.

Administrators agree that the partnerships provide the university with the opportunity to expand its resources, whether it is through internationally marketing an online curriculum, improving campus facilities or providing a better environment for research and internships.

“In the funding climate of today, partnerships are key to making an impact,” said Heithaus.

Whether the benefits are as clear to facility, staff and the environment, the community remains to be seen.

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Carlos Cobá
Staff Writer

It worries me to hear members of Congress say that if the effects of a law they passed are not the outcomes they intended, the law in this case being the controversial Stand Your Ground law that has been associated with the shooting of Trayvon Martin.

In a letter written to The Miami Herald during the aftermath of Martin’s shooting, Rep. Frederica S. Wilson, a Democrat, stated that Stand Your Ground cannot be used as a defense when one is the aggressor.

“None of us ever dreamed that a bill we voted for would cause a child to be profiled, stalked and murdered,” wrote Wilson. “And that the murderer would not be arrested by claiming self-defense because he was standing his ground.”

After Zimmerman’s verdict, Sen. John McCain joined the public call for states to review their infamous stand-your-ground laws. Former Sen. Durell Peaen, a Republican, also joined, saying, “the law was never intended for people who put themselves in harm’s way before they started firing.”

Legislators from all over the political spectrum are calling for reviews in their respective states, and that speaks volumes. If both Democrats and Republicans agree on the severity of the issue, then everyone should scrutinize these laws.

Before former Gov. Jeb Bush signed Stand Your Ground into effect in 2005, the law required a citizen to retreat, if possible, before using deadly force. After the signing of the law, one no longer had the responsibility to reasonably retreat; he or she now had the right to use deadly force, regardless of whether retreating was an option.

States like Florida, with stand-your-ground laws, have to reconsider the effects of expanding self-defense. It has heightened gun use in a state where concealed gun ownership has increased threefold.

There are about 1.1 million concealed weapons owners in Florida.

With that many people carrying guns out in public alongside a very emboldening Stand Your Ground law, how can gun-related violence be decreased?

The government should pass laws that lessen violence and increase public safety, not the opposite. Anyone can claim self-defense, and once they kill someone else, with contrary evidence missing, stand-your-ground protection prevails. Even an aggressor who does not reasonably retreat because they are legally justified to continue following the victim can claim “self-defense,” just like Zimmerman did.

The nation is confused by stand-your-ground laws, and it should be, because most states are moving towards fewer gun-regulating policies. Those legislators that are concerned over the unexpected outcome of this law should try to imagine how the citizens, who elected them, feel. If someone has the chance to retreat and peacefully avoid a fight, our laws shouldn’t empower that person to disregard the chance of fleeing to instead kill at gunpoint.

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Undaunted by bleak job prospects

Ashley Valentin
Contributing Writer

The Associated Press conducted a study in 2011 on post-grad employment rates, finding that 78 percent of those with bachelor’s degrees who were under 25 were either underemployed or jobless. That statistic is terrifying. My mom told me my whole life that if I stay in school and get a good education, I’d have a nice job and never have to worry about money. However, like many other students in the Millennial Generation, I quickly learned that graduating with a degree from a good university didn’t equate to a job.

I have witnessed students of all majors graduate and stay unemployed for years. Most of the ones who were employed stay working at low-paying jobs in restaurants and department stores.

The reality is that the job market is very bleak for graduates in 2013. There aren’t enough college graduates being hired to meet the demands of an ever-growing graduate population. And many employers steer clear of recent graduates no matter how well their interviews go, opting for more experienced employees to fill the job.

With job prospects so low for students, many graduates are looking for more creative methods to start a career.

The New York Times reported about one creative method on May 8, highlighting 30 students who buy franchises with their parents. Often times, the people who buy into these franchises are older adults who have been laid off from their jobs and their young graduate children who are unable to find work related to their majors.

Paige Palmer, one student featured in the article, said that after she graduated, she found that neither she nor any of her friends were finding work. She called her stepfather, who had recently been dismissed from his job, and they decided to open up a franchise.

Why is this significant? Because so many of us spend our lives with a very strict plan for our futures. We believe that staying in school will secure us a future, but the reality is that it doesn’t always. And when we spend our lives set with the idea that everything is going to go exactly as planned, we can become so used to our lives that we aren’t able to work on the expected.

I’m majoring in communications and as much as I believe that hard work will get me far, I’m also realistic. Majors that show higher percentages of employment include those involved with engineering, mathematics, sciences and business management. I’m statistically less likely to get a job because of my major. I’m also aware of the fact that there’s always a solution and most importantly, always other opportunities to be successful.

My success is not determined by whether or not I land a job in my field after I earn my diploma. Instead, it is determined by my dedication to always better my life and the lives around me.

We shouldn’t get dismayed at the turn of the job market, but instead use it as an opportuniy for growth.

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Editors are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to opinion@fiusm.com.
Pedro Almodóvar’s latest film is not so exciting

Daniel Uria  
Staff Writer

The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum opened its first ever online exhibit entitled, “The Drawing Project”. The exhibit explores the concept of drawing through a series of online residencies as well as a project space that is open to submissions. The site also displays a number of works included in the museum’s collection.

“The Drawing Project” began as the brainchild of curator and FIU graduate, Emmy Mathis. Emmy had an idea. The museum had never done an online exhibition and she had never done one either,” said Sherry Zambrano, the Frost’s Assistant Curator, who worked as a coordinator for “The Drawing Project.” “She researched our database and approached me with the idea of drawing.” Mathis said.

The exhibit’s project space is home to a collection of works that follow the concept of lines. “I like for the project space to be really conceptual, this idea of when you’re travelling you’re making lines; there’s family lines and family ties and a timeline and a history.” Mathis said. The exhibit’s approach to the idea of drawing, “You gain access,” Mathis said. “For me it’s this idea of what happens when one takes an ounce of the three flight attendants and pilots, along with the absurd first-classers, are the only ones awake on the plane, due to the planned drugging of the entire coach class to control panic. Unfortunately, they’re not very interesting people. Each one comes with their own baggage, and while certain wacky situations are enjoyable enough to watch, others veer too far into drama and out of the humorous mood for viewers to want to deal with. Each dramatic insert is more frustrating than the next, but none is as unnecessary as “Los Amantes Pasajeros” could have made for a thoroughly entertaining short film, but instead it feels bloated even with its hour and a half length.

A good case could be made for a drinking game along with it though, as there’s a good chance that it might be funnier after ingesting as much alcohol as its characters.

While there’s plenty to dislike, Almodóvar still does a fine job at showing off his way with words. Some of the delightful Spanish wordplay and essay as the entire scene that takes place off the plane.

Had Almodóvar cut a few characters and everything off-plane, “Los Amantes Pasajeros” could have made for a thoroughly entertaining short film, but instead it feels bloated even with its hour and a half length.

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Council preparing, excited for Homecoming events

JESSICA VALERIA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

With less than 100 days until Homecoming, the Homecoming Committee and students are already pumped and preparing for all its events.

Assistant communications of the HC Committee, Sofia Sanchez, said they have been preparing since before April for everything.

“We have one pre-event that is 50 days before Homecoming. Getting Homecoming to get students excited and aware that HC week is coming up,” said Sanchez.

This event is hosted along with FIU Splash, which takes place last weekend of summer while students move into their dorms.

Last year, FIU Splash was a pool party and movie night.

This year’s event is still a mystery.

“Find out what it will be this year you have to come find out. More details will be disclosed through our social media,” Sanchez said.

Another thing the much-anticipated Panthermonium Concert, set to be October 6, which J. Cole and Zedd will be headlining, is a Homecoming event that will go on for two days after until the Homecoming game.

These events will be what most students have seen in the past: a comedy show, “Panther Prowl”, a step show hosted partly by the Black Student Union, “Panthers Got Talent” and other events like a Homecoming dance, parade and more.

There is a way for anyone to participate: students can also be a part of the Homecoming court.

Senior and Homecoming Queen Fernanda Gonzalez is extremely excited for Homecoming because this year she will be seeing all the events from a different point of view.

“This year as Queen, I feel like I can play an important role in all of the events,” Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez showed her eagerness for working with the entire court to help promote all the events and show FIU school spirit. She will be attending the concert as it is her last year and her favorite DJ is performing.

Gonzalez also said that being Homecoming Queen was an amazing experience where she got to meet President Rosenberg and be a big part of the FIU community.

“This year the Homecoming Council has really made a great effort to engage the students into Homecoming. They really are pumping us all up. The events give students an opportunity to enjoy something together to create that Panther pride,” Gonzalez said.

Celebrating calls for champagne and sparkling wine

WINE, PAGE 8

The first wine of the night was a Brut Premier, consisting of 56 percent Pinot Noir, 33 percent Chardonnay and 10 percent Meunier, from the prestigious producer Louis Roederer, most famous for creating the Champagne called Cristal for Alexander II of Russia in 1876. The champagne had a pale gold color; off-white being almost creamy. Its nose (aroma) had hints of pear and green apple with a tangy scent. Its taste presented a very buttery texture making it very smooth on the palate. Its finish was medium-long flavor with more than five seconds on the mouth. The average price is $49.

The second wine of the night was a Brut Rosé 2008, from the same producer and region as mentioned previously: Louis Roederer in Champagne, France. It was definitely my favorite wine from the night. It had a very intriguing color: a mixture of tones of gold dancing in the middle of a peachy sea. If compared to a regular champagne, the year is relatively young since most of the maison (houses) started releasing its 2003 vintage this year; however, I could already pick a maturity in its nose giving me a very ripe fruit fragrance of roses and herbs. The taste was an evolution experience, starting with raspberry and finishing with white chocolate. Overall it had an outstanding balance with a striking velvety coat. The finish was medium-long. Its average price is $89 and, in my opinion, the best value of the night.

The third wine of the night was a L’ermitage Brut 2003 from the same “Champagne House” producer as the two above: Roederer. However, the State of this wine is in Anderson Valley, California. The color of this sparkling wine was a fair yellow, almost translucent. Its nose had early tones of asparagus and mushroom. On the palate, I was able to pick spices and green apple with a high acidity level and a long finish. Overall, it was a pleasant wine but there was no element of surprise. The average price of this wine is $48.

– Daniela Walter is a Teaching Assistant to professors Chip Cassidy and Bill Hebrank of the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management.

Students can follow her on Twitter: @ellavwalter

Back to the basics: dress to impress for school

CURT ANDERSON
AP Writer

The mother of slain Florida teenager Trayvon Martin joined a prominent group of lawyers organization in vowing Monday to keep pressure on legislators to repeal or overhaul "stand your ground" self-defense laws.

Sybrina Fulton repeated her assertion that neighborhood watch volunteers "don't have the will to murder" in the 2012 killing of her son largely because of Florida's self-defense law, which generally requires a person's duty to restrict if possible in the face of danger. It was the first of its kind in the nation when passed in 2005. Now, about two dozen states have similar laws, but the focus of repeal efforts is squarely on Florida.

"We have to change the law so that this doesn't happen to someone else's child," Fulton told reporters at the National Bar Association's annual meeting. "My son wasn't doing anything wrong. He was simply walking home. He wasn't a suspect."

Florida Gov. Rick Scott, a Republican, has拒绝ed calls for a special legislative session on "stand your ground" from groups who have been spearheading part of the Capitol in Tallahassee since Zimmerman was acquitted earlier this month by a jury in Sanford. Zimmerman claimed self-defense in shooting the 17-year-old Martin during a fight; Martin's supporters say Zimmerman profiled and followed him because Martin was black.

Senate President Don Gaetz, also a Republican, said Monday he agrees with Scott that there is no need for a special session. Gaetz said there is little agreement on whether change is needed to the "stand your ground" law and that voters have a chance in the 2014 elections to make their views known.

"If people want to change the policymakers, if they want to change the policies, that's why we have elections," he said.

Speculation of the message of Monday's event was just that: urging people to register to vote and contribute to sympathetic politicians if they want such laws repealed. The organization's president, John Page, also said the legal system needs to do more to ensure that racially balanced juries are chosen.

"We need to raise our voices together and say, 'Enough,'" Page said. "This should be the first state where 'stand your ground' falls. And it will fall." Although he was not part of the event, the Rev. Jesse Jackson appeared as a spectator and later told reporters that the "stand your ground" law reminded him of past laws that prevented blacks from sitting at the front of buses. Such an ordinance sparked the bus boycott in Montgomery, Ala., in 1955 that was key to the civil rights movement -- which didn't focus just on the bus drivers, but on ending the law itself, he said.

Because Zimmerman's trial was not focused on race, Jackson added, "It did not have a foundation based on reality. We're not looking for a fight. We're looking for a solution."

The Justice Department is investigating whether Zimmerman, who identifies as Hispanic, may have committed a hate crime in killing Martin. Legal experts say it would be a difficult charge to bring because no evidence has surfaced indicating Zimmerman singled out Martin because he was black or that he harbored racial bias.
TURNER DISCUSSES CHALLENGES FOR NEW YEAR

RHY'S WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

On the morning of July 24, Head Coach Ron Turner and Quarterback Jake Medlock were in Dallas, Texas for the program’s first media day as a member of Conference USA.

In their interview with Ron Thulin of the Fox Sports Network, the pair spoke on spring practice, the upcoming fall and some of the controversy that has occurred this offseason.

“I had nine years as a college head coach and about 15 as an assistant,” Turner said on his experience.

“College is where I really started what I enjoy doing. I am excited to be back in the college game working with these young guys and helping them develop.”

Turner and his staff have implemented the Pro-style offense in their time at FIU. Medlock is looking to take advantage of that move since he ran that offense dating back to his high school days.

“The transition to the new offense has been unbelievable. Working with coach (Turner) and his staff in bringing in the new offense has been an awesome experience. Learning all the new things including the drop backs and reads has been just amazing,” Medlock said.

“We have Isame Faciane and Greg Hickman who are great players, and you have Giovanni Francois who has played quite a bit of football. Then you have some young, upcoming guys who can step in like Darnat Dunyon who is a very exciting talent, so hopefully he can put it together.”

Later on during the media craze, Medlock addressed the inexperience of his offense, which only includes three members of the offense line who saw playing time last year and an overall three letterman who started last year, not to mention the recent loss of starting running back Kedrick Rhoades due to his arrest.

“We had to come together quickly, having only three offensive lineman with playing experience I needed to work with the younger guys saying, ‘This is how we have to do it and going from there. They have bought into it and they are following us older guys,’” Medlock said. “Then with the receivers like Glenn Coleman and Willis Wright showing the younger guys how to run their routes and teaching how to do the things they need to do to be successful.”

The team was picked last in Conference USA in part because of the lack of experience.

“Turner wrapped up the media day by announcing what the foundation of the football program will be built on. “The three things that we’ll be building this program on are accountability, real and mental toughness, and discipline.”

Charges dropped in murder case of Kendall Berry, expected to refile

FRANCISCO RIVERO
Sports Director

On Wednesday July 24, prosecutors unexpectedly dropped a murder charge against ex-FIU student Quentin Wyche. Wyche was charged with second-degree murder after he fatally stabbed former running back Kendall Berry during an on-campus brawl in March 2010.

Prosecutors were forced to drop the charges on Wyche Wednesday when key witnesses whom the defense had already said would not be available to testify for the prosecution were not available and a Miami-Dade judge refused to delay the trial. However, the prosecution is going to look into refile the second-degree murder charge against Wyche.

During the case, Wyche had claimed self-defense and asked a judge to throw out the case under Florida’s “Stand Your Ground” law. However, the request was denied and the case was set to go to a jury trial.

In an official statement released Wednesday from the State’s Attorney’s Office the prosecution explains its disappointment and intense goal to refile the charges against Wyche.

“The Quentin Wyche case (accused of killing FIU Football star Kendall Berry.) was set for trial July 29th but we are unable to proceed due to the unavailability of certain Witnesses. The court denied our request for a continuance today. We announced a nole prosse but we have not abandoned the prosecution of this case. The case has been refiled and a new arrest warrant has already been signed and filed and the defendant has agreed to attend his surrender. So the case is being refiled.”

The Beacon tried contacting the college of law and was redirected to the Law Faculty however, no one was available for comment.

TURNER HIRES NEW DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS

RHY'S WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Going into the 2013 football season at FIU, the program had a number of men in the position of Director of Football Operations. The first two only held the office for about a month apiece before resigning.

In comes Sean Todd, who previously worked at Florida Atlantic University in their football operations office. Working his way up the ladder there from Coordinator of Football Operations starting June 2001, then Assistant Director in early 2005 and finally Assistant Athletics Director for Football Operations in the offseason prior to the 2010 season, he has shown that he has learned from experience.

Todd also worked in the Dolphins organization under the likes of Don Shula and Jimmy Johnson. During his tenure in Miami, he was in charge of training camp facilities and travel. He was also one of the architects of the Travel Coordinator’s Group which meets annually.

“The previous men leaving did not weigh in on my decision to come and work here. To my understanding, both of the first two incumbents of this position left due to lack of understanding of the position and lack of experience for the job,” Todd said.

Earlier on in the offseason, the Miami Herald incorrectly reported the Todd was hired to handle the incidents that had occurred.

“All of the incidents that happened can be addressed by Coach (Turner) and I was not here for the earliest of those incidents,” Todd said.

He was referring there to the incident in late January in which several players misused money given to them by the university to entertain incoming recruits on official visits by taking them to a strip club.

“It will definitely be addressed,” Todd said. “The athletes must sign a contract stating what they can or cannot do with the money provided and that was definitely a misuse of the funds.”

“Part of the lessons that we hope to teach them is that poor decisions are unacceptable,” Todd said. “Others are prepa-
Kicking it into Conference USA with women’s soccer

FOOTBALL, PAGE 6

Ricky Williams eager to mold young minds

KRISTIE RIEKEN

With so much attention being on the football team, though it may not be the type of back talk fans would like to see this summer, it’s easy to oversee another Panther team crawling under the radar.

Not only is the women’s soccer team spending their off-time serving the community and winning the 2013 Dr. Paul Gallagher Community Service Award, the ladies have to be one of the most successful yet unnoticed teams on campus and if you begin to look ahead to the 2013 season, this is a team you may not want to sleep on.

We all know Miami gets a bad reputation for the lack of fans, or fans who show up late to games and leave just before a three-pointer helps lead a team to a Game seven in the NIT Finals. But last season, the soccer team only lost one game at home. Losing one game out of eight at home personally makes me want to go check this squad out for myself and I’m not even one to watch a soccer match.

The Panthers finished the 2012 season with 13-6, and I’m sure only a handful of people knew that. Led by star goalkeeper Kaitilyn Savage, only allowing 19 goals all season, the Panthers made it to the Sun Belt Conference Championship match before falling to the top team, North Texas. But I’m sure you all knew this…oh wait.

To those who may feel that success was just a strike of luck, the Panthers have won the Sun Belt Conference titles three out of the last four years. Savage also became the first goalkeeper in program history to win 10 matches in one season for three-consecutive seasons.

Another young lady to look out for is Chelsea Leiva. She was selected to the second team of the 2012 NCAA Division I Women All-South Region Team. Savage made it to the third team and Leiva is a three-time All-Conference selection, so she clearly knows what she’s doing.

“Now it’s all rosen for this team. The Panthers will enter the 2013 year without their top goalkeeper. Savage moved to the land of opportunity in the Portland Thorns and the team is going to have to rebuild with a game plan,” Todd said. “It’s going to be a different season, a different challenge for the players and the coaching staff.”

The Panthers will now take a new journey as they enter Conference USA. With the loss of Savage and being the rookies in a new conference and new programs, it will be a good year to put together a group of women who will be ready to take on a new challenge.
MAST Academy at BBC begins in fall semester

Marisol Medina
Contributing Writer

This August, students at the Maritime and Science Technology Academy High School in Virginia Key, Fla., will have a good reason to celebrate going back to school: MAST Academy opens at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The MAST Academy is an award-winning magnet school, with an emphasis on science and marine biology. Nationally recognized, MAST has been rated 11th in all of Florida by U.S. News and featured as one of “America’s 10 Most Amazing Schools” in Ladies’ Home Journal.

Students at MAST Academy come from all corners of Miami-Dade County, some even enduring long commutes of three hours or more every day. In order to better accommodate the students living in the southern part of the county, MAST has opened a Homestead campus, focusing on the medical sciences.

Up until now, the students living in the northern part of the campus had to commute to Virginia Key.

MAST at BBC will solve that problem by allowing students in north Miami-Dade the possibility of taking classes there.

“I think it will be good for FIU and our community. Having MAST here allows FIU’s faculty and students who have children at MAST the ability to go to school and avoid going through a lottery to get into MAST,” said Steven Moll, the Vice Provost of BBC.

According to Moll, currently, only one out of three students seeking the requirements for admission are admitted into the school.

Moll explained that by FIU allowing MAST to occupy its facilities to host their program, the University was able to negotiate guaranteed admissions for children of FIU students, faculty and staff.

“This is a win, win, win, situation: a super win,” said Moll. Initially, the University will host only 5th graders, but will add a grade per year for the next three years. 88 of MAST’s incoming students, based in the north part of the county, will spend the three hours of commuting it took to travel to the school’s main campus.

Moll explained that as far as the facilities these students will occupy, for the first year, FIU has designated four rarely-used class rooms in the Academic I building.

The following year, the students will be housed in portable classrooms located between AC B and the Kovens Conference Center.

A dedicated facility, paid for by Miami-Dade County Public Schools, will then be built for permanent use.

Students will also be given the option of enrolling in college courses in their high school degree on FIU’s grounds. Additionally, Moll said that taking dual enrollment courses while attending the MAST at Homestead campus, will remove 38 percent of the total cost of college.

“Students will be given the opportunity to do dual enrollment without having to commute at all from where they already are. If students do this, by the time they graduate high school, they are already in the middle of their sophomore year in college. That is 45 credits of college work that Miami-Dade County Public Schools paid for,” said Moll.

Glória Araozza, District Director in School Choice and Parental Options at Miami-Dade County Public Schools, explains that the students will be engaging in a challenging curriculum and advanced dual enrollment at FIU, with a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) focus.

“We are very excited about this program. We will be opening up this fall with 9th grade as our initial target,” said Araozza.

Araozza explained that as opposed to the MAST at Home- stead and the MAST at Hialeah, MAST at BBC will be focusing on earth environmental and marine sciences, the same strand as the MAST at Virginia Key.

“MAST at BBC will be a duplication of the Maritime and Sciences program at Key Biscayne, taking advantage of the University’s location on the bay,” said Araozza.

Estefania Jaramillo, a senior journalism student, says she is glad to hear that FIU will be serving the community by allowing further access to a prestigious program to students.

“I am very happy to know that FIU is contributing to impact these young kids’ lives.

Not only will their commute time be less, but they will have the opportunity to get a head start on college, something many of us wish we could have done,” said Jaramillo.

Celebrating calls for champagne and sparkling wine

On July 19, the venue of the tasting was the prestigious Four Seasons Miami, and the host of the night was Barry Alberts. He is considered one of Miami’s “wine gurus,” always fascinating crowds in his tastings that are held on a regular basis at The Forge as well as The Four Seasons. The night started with six white wines and finished with six red wines to a group of 34 people.

In order to continue our summer theme from last week’s tasting about white wines, and in the mood of celebration since another graduation is almost around the corner, I have decided to review two Champagnes and a sparkling wine.

You must be asking yourself, “Aren’t they all the same with bubbles and sparkle?” For most people, the answer would be “yes.” But you, as a dedicated and clever reader, will now be able to distinguish between both in your next purchase. Champagne can only be called “Champagne” if it comes from the Champagne region, around 90 miles north of Paris, France.

For all the other carbonated wines that do not come from this specific area, the correct name would be simply sparkling wine.

True to be told, Champagne and sparkling wine are not my favorite choices of beverage; nonetheless it is the most fascinating one to me. Its production is so complex that it is an art itself to produce one of quality. The high price not only reflects excellence, but also a very demanding and arduous process.

“The Méthode Champenoise” involves several methods, but to start, you need to know that this type of wine is a blend of three grape varieties – Chardonnay (a white variety), Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier (both red varieties) – as well the blend of vintages, villages and vineyards. It requires talent more than technique to create this unique beverage.

As legend goes for the creation of Champagne, it is said that Dom Pérignon bottled and sealed his wines before fermentation was completed, leaving carbon dioxide imprisoned inside of it. Due to the area’s cold climate, fermentation stopped until the warmer spring, making several bottles explode.

With a few bottles remaining, he tasted them and said he was “tasting stars,” a touch of heaven on earth. On a history note, you might have been familiar with the name Dom Pérignon as a Champagne House brand, but in fact Dom Pérignon was the monk responsible for the wine production at the Abbey of Hautvillers near the city of Reims, France. Nowadays the information that we have is that he did not create “Champagne” but he was merely responsible for enhancing and improving the wine.

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Fla. apartment gunman described as lonely, angry

Christine Armario
AP Writer

The gunman who went on a shooting rampage at his South Florida apartment building, killing six people, was a lonely man who spoke about having pent up anger, those who knew him said Sunday.

Pedro Vargas, 42, lived on the fourth floor of a barren, concrete apartment complex in the Miami suburb of Hialeah with his elderly mother. He rarely spoke with others there, and confided to a man who worked out at the same gym that he liked to work out his anger by lifting weights and trying to get big.

“He just said this was the only thing that would keep him normal, pull all the anger in the gym,” Jorge Bagos told The Associated Press.

Bagos said the gunman expressed frustration over bad experiences with women and losing all his hair from using steroids.

On Friday night, Vargas set a combustible liquid on fire in his apartment, sending the unit into flames, police said. Building manager Italo Pisciotti and his wife went running toward the smoke. Vargas opened his door and shot and killed both of them, Lt. Carl Zogby, a spokesman with the Hialeah Police Department said. Vargas then went back into his apartment and began firing from his balcony. One of the shots struck and killed Carlos Javier Gavilanes, 33, who neighbors said was returning home from his son’s boxing practice.

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Celebrating calls for champagne and sparkling wine

COLUMNIST

Daniela Walter

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