Students start petition for dual enrollment studies

STEFANIE 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, Academcy for Advanced Academics, which is when the students take the courses in the University’s campus; and one bigger category which allows the students to take the courses in the University’s campus; and one bigger category which allows the students to take the courses in various other universities.

University 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 support they need," 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 Andra 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 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 Chaplin School of

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 Zuu Miami was finalized on July 16.

The increase in partnerships with public 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.

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.

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

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 with 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.
FIU anticipating new 2013 Dance Marathon theme

MACKENZIE BARTELS  Contributing Writer

While 25 consecutive hours of dancing may sound like an exhausting and daunting task to many people, to students at FIU it sounds like another opportunity to give back to their community.

Dance Marathon, a daylong philanthropic event, is an effort to raise money where students pledge to remain on their feet for the event’s entire duration, participating in activities such as line dancing and games. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals program at Miami Children’s Hospital Foundation. Last year, the dancers surpassed their $70,000 goal, this year’s goal: $85,000. “Although the multiplying money is a huge motivation for the dancers, it’s not the only thing that keeps these students dancing,” said Fernandez. Next year, return to FIU’s Dance Marathon to enjoy the new theme that its Steering Committee votes on each year.

“The theme provides the population with something to look forward to, energizing the event with a sense of fun and excitement,” said Christian Chavarro, director of communications for the event. In fact, committee members say that the theme is the most important aspect of the planning process. “It is not an easy decision because everyone has their own idea on what they want Dance Marathon to be,” said Campus Promotions Chair Marlena Bruno. “However, the committee always comes together and decides what the student body and our miracle children would want at the event.”

Chavarro said the theme sets the tone for the event’s decorations and songs, as well as all promotional material such as Dance Marathon t-shirts and videos. Within the past five years, dancers enjoyed themes such as Disney, Dr. Seuss, Story, Lion King and Looney Tunes. The committee chooses themes that remind Dance Marathon participants of their childhood. Chavarro said the theme helps to serve as a tie to the children students are dancing for.

“The idea behind Dance Marathon is to dance for the kids, as they are the source of inspiration to stay on one’s feet throughout the 25 hours,” said Chavarro. “The children serve as a reminder that every single minute spent planning and every dollar raised is for the kids.”

Even with an overload of excitement, the committee is keeping its lips sealed tight about the 17th annual Dance Marathon theme. The eager FIU population will have to wait to hear the decision until the Theme Revelation, which will be held on Aug. 28, 2013 in the GC Pit between the hours of 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Until then, participants can anticipate a theme that will keep students on their feet and a smile on every child’s face.

-Lisa успел в ФИУ

FIU exceeds fundraising expectations

HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT. These are but a few of the many examples of the outstanding generosity of our FIU family,” wrote Liwang in an email to Student Media. The Foundation has $562 million to raise over the next seven years to fulfill Rosenberg’s plan. “Our university leadership is confident that we will reach this goal,” said Lipman. “Over the life of the campaign, we will get that money.”

Lipman said the Foundation received a generous donation shortly after the fiscal year’s end. “It’s not just about meeting a deadline to meet our fiscal year goal,” said Lipman. “We don’t want to rush our supporters, we want them to be excited to invest in FIU.”

Lipman said he wants people to care about building the future of the university and ultimately of the community. “It’s all about relationship building,” said Liwang.
It worries me to hear members of Congress say that 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 be used as a defense when one is the aggressor." 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-your­ground laws. Former Sen. Durell Pea­den, 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, because he or she now had the right to use deadly force, regardless of whether retreating was an option.

States like Florida, with stand­your-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 weapon 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, stand­your­ground 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 stand­your­ground laws, and it should be, because most states are moving towards fewer gun­regulating 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.

Carlos Coba

Undaunted by bleak job prospects

Ashley Valentine

Contributing Writer

The Associated Press conducted a study in 2011 on post­grad employment rates, finding that more than half 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 Millennia­nal Generation, I quickly learned that graduating with a degree from a good university didn’t equal to a job. I have witnessed students of all majors graduate and stay unemployed for years. Most of the ones who were employed stayed working at low­paying jobs in restaurants and depart­ment stores.

The reality is that the job market is very bleak for gradu­ates in 2013. There aren’t enough college­level jobs being created to meet the demands of an ever­growing 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 recent graduates who buy franchises in their passion­es 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 graduation 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 become so isolated when life doesn’t work out as 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.

And I’m okay with that because 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 continue as an opportu­nity for growth.

Carlos Coba

Editorial

Granting disabled students exception speaks highly of FIU

FIU is giving its applicants fair review, and even second chances, with the Board of Governors’ alter­native admission that allows the University to view its applicants as more than just numbers.

Undergraduate admissions for fall 2012 was characterized by a 1630­1820 range of SAT scores, 23­26 ACT scores and an FIU weighted GPA between 3.5 and 4.1.

Below this profile on FIU’s admissions site, however, is a memo encouraging all students to apply for consideration. Students are admitted with scores below this range, and students with higher scores are not guaranteed admission either.

While high grade point averages and standardized test scores play an important role in Univer­sity admissions, FIU may consider other factors that indicate success, like graduating an Interna­tional Baccalaureate program, or even an improve­ment in one’s high school record over time.

Why should a student eager to attend the Univer­sity be punished for their poor performance in, let’s say, their freshman and sophomore years in high school?

If the University can see the student’s improve­ment and achievements in their latter half of high school, then that effort is a clear factor to consider.

The University can also take outside factors into consideration. Applicants that come from a low­per­forming high school or a house with poor socioeco­nomic status can be given the benefit of the doubt.

The University is essentially offering the oppor­tunity of a better education to those students that may have been disadvantaged in high school.

And The Beacon does not consider alternative admission as a form of “caring slack.” Instead, this is a better way to gauge the potential of applicants and admit students that will be successfulPanthers.

It makes sense to do this because everyone is not a 4.0 student and an A+ test­taker.

Some students struggle to meet the minimum, but they should not be denied a place in higher education without some sort of consideration.

We commend FIU for viewing its applicants as more than just these numbers. It gives a sense of identity back to each and every applicant.

It wouldn’t be practical to deny anyone admis­sion because they could not score a 1630 on their SAT or their GPA fell .01 too short. A university should not have to put blinders on during the admis­sions process.

Students offer more than their GPAs and test scores to their University’s profile. They offer talent and diversity.

It’s reassuring to know that the University will essentially hear its applicants out. It’s all about second chances.
**Frost Museum launches its first online exhibition**

**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 picked out the artist who was working towards the project. “We’re trying to kind of flip-flop it, have someone who makes more object based works and then port it to people who are a little more conceptual approach to 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 truly conceptual, this idea of implied lines,” Mathis said. “A couple of the artists were invited and a couple applied.”

One such project is “Again” by Crystal Pearl Molinary, in which she recreates various photographs of her mother who was a Vedette, model, singer, actress and dancer in Cuba.

“With the online exhibit, anyone from around the world can see it,” said Zambrano. “Even the artists that are participating from different countries can showcase it to their audience.”

“You gain access,” Mathis said. “The fact that someone, namely project space artist, could come to the museum with these online exhibitions.”

The museum’s first venture into online exhibits has been fairly successful and the format provides certain advantages. “With the online exhibit, everyone can see it,” she said. “And I’m hoping other graduate students come to the museum with these ideas so we can continue with online exhibitions.”

**Pedro Almodóvar’s latest film is not so exciting**

JUAN BARQUIN

**COLUMNIST**

Few directors of Spanish cinema hold the hearts of American audiences quite like Pedro Almodóvar does. His films, always overflowing with color, culture, and sexuality, are nearly always a pleasure to watch, delivering melodrama, romance, comedy and even horror on occasion.

When it comes to his latest, however, there’s little to be excited about.

“Los Amantes Pasajeros,” better known by its English language title “I’m So Excited,” is arguably one of Almodóvar’s weakest films to date.

No one can blame the writer/director for wanting to have some fun after delivering the bleak but fascinating horror film, “The Skin I Live In,” but Melvin leaves a lot to be desired.

To sum it up, “Los Amantes Pasajeros” is what happens when one takes an ounce of “Airplane!” and drops it in a Spanish director who loves sex almost too much for his own good.

Trapped aboard an airplane that can’t land, the film features a collection of kooky characters, including but not limited to a virgin psychic, a dominatrix and a trio of gay flight attendants.

The 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 humdrum mood for viewers. One can’t help but deal with each dramatic insert.

Pedro Almodóvar directed “Los Amantes Pasajeros” which was recently released.

Gagan Singh, in New Delhi, India can be looking at the same thing that I’m looking at, at the same time.”

Zambrano hopes that The Drawing Project can inspire similar exhibitions in the future.

“It’s something we’ve never done before,” she said. “And I’m hoping other graduate students come to the museum with these ideas so we can continue with online exhibitions.”

-Matthew J. Wolfe

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

“We have one pre-event that is 90 days before Homecoming. Homecoming is getting 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.

“To 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.

Other than the much-anticipated Panthermonium Concert, set to be October 6, which J. Cole and Zedd will be headlining, there is a Homecoming event every day 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 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 bigger part of the FIU community.

“This year the Homecoming Council has really made a great effort 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.

Back to the basics: dress to impress for school

ASHLEY GARNER
Assistant of communications

Liane King paired her bright orange bag with low-top Converse shoes.

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 “Valley, California. The color of this sparkling wine was a fair yellow, almost translucent. Its nose had earthy tones of asparagus and mushroom. On the palate, it 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: @elawalter

Trayvon Martin’s mother: Repeal stand-ground law

CURT ANDERSON
AP Writer

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

Sybrina Fulton repeated her assertion that neighborhood watch volunteers need more training in the 2012 killing of her son largely because of Florida’s self-defense law, which generally removes a person’s duty to retreat if possible in the face of danger. It was the first of its kind in the nation when passed in 2005, but its 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 rejected calls for a special legislative session on “stand your ground” from groups who have been a key 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 profited and followed him because Martin was black.

Sen. Mark Nelson (D-Miami), a Republican, said he agrees with Scott that there is no need for a special session. Scott has said he agrees with Scott that there is no need for a special session. Scott has said he agrees with Scott that there is no need for a special session. Scott has said he agrees with Scott that there is no need for a special session. Scott has said he agrees with Scott that there is no need for a special session.

“People need to change the policies, if they want to change the policies, that’s why we’ve elections,” he said.

In the case of Zimmerman’s acquittal Tuesday was just that: a moment for judges to register to vote and contribute to sympathetic politicians if they want to vote on these 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,’” Pusey 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 a key in the civil rights movement — which did not 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

RHYYS 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 it’s been amazing,” Medlock said. “In my high school we ran the pro-style offense and were under center, and it is basically the same style as I ran it before.”

“The pro-style offense is what I know, what I am used to and what I know best,” Turner said.

“I think you can have a lot of success doing it. There was a time where the Spread was just coming out and not a lot of people knew how to defend it. It has now gone the other way. Everyone runs the spread and everyone knows how to defend it. Now you bring another style in with mixing in a good solid running game with the play action passing game giving us a vertical attack and a high percentage drop back game.”

Turner is extremely confident in what the Pro-style approach can do for his offense.

On the defensive side, though, Turner is looking at the defensive line to anchor his defense.

“We have depth there. We have some young players, we have got some athletic players and that adds to the depth. We are a very inexperienced team all along the board, yet we have a pretty good mix all across the line,” Turner 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 Darran Dyson 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 runningback Kedrick Rhobes 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.”

All quotes for this story were taken from the live stream on conferenceusa.com.

RHYYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

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

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 and evidence failed to provide enough support for the charges on Wyche.

During the case, Wyche had claimed self-defense and asked a judge to throw out the case for about a month since before resigning.

In comes Sean Todd, who previously worked at Florida Atlantic University in their football operations office. Working his way up the ladder 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 was hired to handle the incidents that had occurred.

“Part of the lessons that we hope to learn from this will be building this program on accountability, real and mental toughness, and discipline.”

All quotes for this story were taken from the live stream on conferenceusa.com.
Kicking it into Conference USA with women’s soccer

The women’s soccer team will try to continue its dominance into C-USA this year after winning three of the last four seasons.

FOOTBALL, PAGE 6

Ricky Williams eager to mold young minds

KRISTIE RIEKEN

All Winter

With so much attention being on the football team, though, it may not be the type of focus Kicking it into Conference USA with women’s soccer

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FOOTBALL, PAGE 6

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All Winter

With so much attention being on the football team, though, it may not be the type of focus...
**MAST Academy at BBC begins in fall semester**

**MARIOS 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, 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 here to eliminate the cost to go to Virginia Key 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 three students meeting 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’s current students, faculty and staff.

“This is a win, win, win, situation: a super win,” said Moll.

Initially, the University will host only 9th 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 classroom spaces in the Academic I building.

The following year, the students will be housed in portable classroom spaces located between AC II 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 their high school degree on FIU’s grounds. Additionally, Moll said that taking dual enrollment courses while attending the MAST will not affect the 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.

Gloria Arazoza, 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 Math) focus.

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

Arazoza explained that as opposed to the MAST at Homestead 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 locality on the bay,” said Arazoza.

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.

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**Celebrating calls for champagne and sparkling wine**

**CHRISTINE ARMARIO**

AP Writer

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, and always fascinating crowds in his tastings that are held on a regular basis at The Forge as well as The Four Seasons.

That night was completed, leaving carbon dioxide and the name Dom Pérignon as a Champagne producer. In French, “Pérignon” means “hard, wild, inaccessible” and referred to the monk who worked on perfecting the method of creating a sparkling wine.

As legend goes for the creation of Champagne, Dom Pérignon, a monk at a small, secluded abbey in France, was not happy with the results he was getting.

“I don’t know if he was just being a bit of a perfectionist, but he was never satisfied until he had the perfect blend,” said Alberts.

When asked why he was so dedicated to his work, Alberts said, “He loved the process of creating a product that was so unique and 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**

**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’d just say this was the only thing that would keep him normal,” 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 Inacio Pischiotti and his wife went running toward the smoke. Vargas opened his door and shot and killed both of them, Lt. Carl Zagby, 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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**ON ENTRY**

**Christine Armario/ The Beacon**

**SEE WINE, PAGE 5**

**As the end of summer classes nears, panther Square remains closed off and under construction for renovations.**

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**NO ENTRY**