Arsenic-related cancer under scrutiny by Panthers

IRVIN S. CARDENAS
Contributing Writer

Arsenic, a known carcinogen, is almost unavoidable by humans. Traces of it can be found in rice, drinking water, apple juice and even in chicken meat.

However, Barry Rosen, associate dean of basic research and graduate programs, said that although finding arsenic in our poultry sounds frightening, we should not be scared.

Rosen is a molecular biologist that has been studying arsenic for over 30 years. Rosen and a team of researchers have made discoveries ranging from new genes, enzymes and pathways that are involved in the creation of arsenic-related cancer.

Rosen’s latest research focuses on the analysis of arsenic in microorganisms.

“One of the biggest risks with arsenic is that it causes cancer in humans,” said Rosen.

To tackle the issue of arsenic-related cancer, Rosen and his team are coming up with ideas about the development of drugs that could prevent “arsenic carcinogenicity,” or the creation of arsenic-related cancer.

Rosen was recently awarded a $100,000 grant by Florida’s Department of Health for his proposal titled “Development of high-throughput assays to identify drugs to prevent arsenic carcinogenicity.”

His research will investigate large-scale procedures, or screenings, to assess enzymes and chemical compounds as possible drug components.

“If you can do one thing at a time, it takes you a long time to get anything done. But if you can do them typically in the types of assays that we do in our laboratory, using 96 well plates, then that means doing 96 assays at the same time,” said Rosen.

With the one-year grant, Rosen and his team will investigate the developmental process of these highly desired drugs.

See arsenic, page 2

Departments compromise for work study students

STEPHEN USECHE
BBC Managing Editor

Recently, the Federal Work Study Program has suffered cuts and departments, including FIU Libraries and the Recreation Center, have felt the impact.

The FWS Program helps students with financial needs by awarding them money in the form of a paycheck when they work for departments within the University.

Before the 2012-2013 school year, FWS covered 100 percent of the awards; but, according to Lydia Lopez, assistant director of Human Resources and Budget, each department of the University will now have to contribute 25 percent of these awards from their own budgets.

“It’s a compromise, so the students can get the award,” said Lopez. “Twenty-five percent is very reasonable.”

According to Lopez, the libraries hire up to 80 to 90 student employees each year and the amount of FWS students have decreased along with its fiscal year. In the 2011-2012 school year, the total amount of FWS awards for the library were $623,242; this dropped to $320,065 the next year, according to Lopez.

This drop was also noticed at the Hubert Library, located at Biscayne Bay Campus, where the amount of FWS employees went from 33 in 2011 to 9 in 2012, according to Lopez.

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See arsenic, page 2
Syria agrees to UN investigation

Syria has agreed to a UN investigation after last week’s alleged chemical weapons attack outside Damascus. A senior White House official dismissed this deal, however, and said the U.S. has very little doubt that President Bashar Assad’s forces used such weapons. Although President Barack Obama has cautioned against a hasty decision, naval forces have been dispatched toward Syria’s coastal waters.

Hearings postponed in Mubarak and Islamists cases

Egyptian courts heard separate court cases on Sunday against former President Hosni Mubarak and his son Gamal outside Damascas, both over allegations of killing protesters. Mubarak has been in detention since April 2011. He was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison last year for failing to stop the killing of some 900 protesters. This sentence was overturned on appeal. His trial has been postponed to Sept. 14. Top Brotherhood leader Mohamed Badee and five other members of the Islamist Brotherhood saw their hearings postponed to Oct. 29.

Palestinians call off peace talks

Palestinian officials said they called off a planned round of peace talks with Israelis after three rounds of negotiations earlier this year failed to stop the killing of some 900 protesters. This sentence was overturned on appeal. His trial has been postponed to Oct. 29.

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

CORRECTIONS

In Volume 25, Issue 6, the column titled “Make sure you take enough time out, see your folks,” was written by Ashley Valentín, not Adrienne Richardson.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BCC at 305-919-4722.

An investigation into the source, results of arsenic’s relation to cancer

ARSENIC, PAGE 1

“We feel that within this year we should be able to develop the tools, the assays, that we need to be able to screen for drugs,” said Rosen.

Rosen said that their initial goal for this research is not to identify the drugs, but to create the tools needed to screen for the drugs.

An analogy, Rosen said, would be that they are not building cars, but rather making the tools that will be used to build cars.

He said that the task of this research is to develop a process where they can see arsenic methylation in real time. In our bodies, the process of arsenic causing cancer begins when the arsenic is taken into the liver and a liver residing enzyme transforms it into this carcinogen.

Current assays that model this process can take days and are not suitable for the fast identifying compounds that are possible drug candidates.

The novelty of this initial research involves finding a way to see the enzymatic process in seconds or minutes, rather than hours or days.

Rosen can’t mention what the finalized version of these assays will look like just yet. But to give us a better idea, Rosen said that it will be an adaptation of a procedure they are developing. In this way, they have enhanced the ability to emit fluorescence of an enzyme called methyltransferase.

This assay has demonstrated that arsenic binding to this enzyme causes a large change in fluorescence in milliseconds.

“We will adapt this assay to look for potential drugs that can prevent arsenic binding to the enzyme,” said Rosen.

Rosen said that after achieving such assays using a high throughput process, typically using their laboratory equipment of 96 well plates, they could collaborate with other facilities, such as Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Research, which performs this process on a very large scale.

These facilities also have more potential drug compounds that we can test,” said Rosen.

Research states that arsenic is the most ubiquitous toxin and carcinogen endangering human health.

“Long-term exposure through an increase in arsenic in our diet or direct contact with inorganic arsenic, can cause major health problems leading to skin, bladder, or lung cancer,” Rosen said.

Further evidence of its danger can be seen in the Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry’s “U.S. Priority List of Hazardous Substances,” which ranks arsenic as number one.

Rosen said that while arsenic is linked to these cancers, arsenic-related cancer is usually associated with geological formations. This is the case of locations such as West Bengal, India, where there are high levels of arsenic in the Ganges River or in Chile and other South American countries where a lot of mining is found with copper and silver mines. As far as the issue of arsenic in our diets goes, Rosen said that we should be mostly concerned with rice, especially since recent discoveries show that rice is a natural accumulator of arsenic.

During a discussion of their recent discovery of a structure involving roxarsone, an industrially made arsine bonded compound, Rosen reiterated his point.

“I think Rice is the problem, not apples or chicken,” said Rosen after a comment from Charles Packiamathan, a researcher associate from the Department of Cellular Biology and Pharmacology.

Packianathan said that roxarsone is often used as a feed additive for chickens to increase their weight, as illustrated in his research.

The team’s research has led to a process of genetically engineering rice that could naturally vatopatize arsenic. It is this sort of research that has led to various arsenic-related discoveries, and to its pursuit of finding arsenic-preventing drugs.

There are currently no assays to identify drugs that prevent arsenic carcinogenetic, so Rosen and his team of researchers would be the first to achieve this.

students face housing uncertainty

APARTMENTS, PAGE 1

the beds removed from University Apartments. Parkview, which recently opened, has 622 beds. In addition, Hendricks said “…EdR, a private developer, is building 542 beds across S.W. Eighth Street; and a different private developer plans to add an additional 900 beds a few blocks from campus.”

According to Jim Wassenaar, director of Facilities Planning and Operations, off-campus housing built by private developers will continue to increase.

“We’ve been supportive of private partnerships because we believe the Sweetwater community should embrace the University as a full partner,” said Wassenaar.

However, private partnerships can also serve as a reminder of the Master Plan’s uncertain nature. A Master Plan is inherently hypothetical because it projects future construction without considering the availability of state funding. “The reality is that state funding is below our expectations,” said Robert Griffith, director of Facilities Planning.

“So funding these projects relies on private partnerships.” According to several administrators, private partnerships are the only way to finance portions of the university’s expansion, which leads to the displacement of facilities.

“If we displace student housing we are going to replace it and improve it,” said Wassenaar.

Any changes to apartments would likely occur by displacement of on-campus housing to the area in front of Lot 6 and near the football stadium, where most residential halls are.

The area east of Parking Garage Five and north of Southwest 11th Avenue, which runs through University Apartments’ Lot 14, would be the location of Academic Health facilities.

“There are a series of medical buildings and partnerships scheduled for that northeastern quadrant of MMC,” said Wassenaar. “We expect any impact in that area until the following five to 10 year period.”

Griffith hopes that students think about the lack of available land within MMC and the convenience of designing certain areas of campus for specific purposes.

The Master Plan has to guide some strategic decisions, and Griffith expanding for chickens to increase their weight, as illustrated in his research.

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Bartt Rosen
Associate Dean
Basic Research and Graduate Programs

Students face housing uncertainty

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Facing the education giants in U.S.

ASHLEY VIERA
Contributing Writer

Fall is rapidly approaching, along with the dreaded, panic-stricken process of having to select classes for the upcoming semester.

At this point, most students at FIU are trying to determine whether a teacher is a good fit, keeping several factors in mind. For assistance and assurance, students tend to turn to ratemyprofessors.com, a well known site where college students from all over can receive feedback in the style of comments regarding professors and classes but it should most of the time be used as a guide tool but not as your only resource.

Many teacher rating sites, a worry that students may have to face includes choosing classes for an upcoming semester.”

While the site can be exceedingly helpful at times, it can also be incredibly arduous and frustrating to work with at other times. Like many teacher rating sites, a worry that students may have to face is choosing classes for an upcoming semester.”

When it comes to these kinds of situations, common sense and logic play an essential role in the decision making process.

For instance, if results on the site of a professor’s teaching methods are either heavily positive or heavily negative, keep those in the back of your mind because chances are they are most likely reliable.

Similarly, if there is only one negative comment and the contributor seems to be blatantly bashing a teacher, do not pay much attention to it.

Ratemyprofessors.com can be a great resource to assist in the selection of professors and classes but it should most definitely not be completely considered a go-to, dependable resource for one's schedule selection.

Ratemyprofessors: credible or not?

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from those 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.
Poster collection once confiscated by Nazis on display at Jewish Museum

DANIEL URIA
Staff Writer

This past summer, The Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU, located on Miami Beach, debuted a collection of posters that had been confiscated by Nazis from collector Dr. Hans Sachs. Sachs’s collection included 12,500 posters, making it the largest private poster collection in the world. In 1938, during the occupation chief of Nazi propaganda, Joseph Goebbels, confiscated his collection, claiming it would be moved to another museum. The Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU hosted an exhibit called AUCTION 392, that focused on Florida families attempting to reclaim Nazi-looted art. While researching this exhibit, the museum discovered Dr. Sachs’s son, Paul, who had been fighting to win back his father’s collection.

“At the time of our exhibit, he had not been successful,” explained Executive Director Jo Ann Arnowitz. “He was still fighting German courts to get restitution.”

Approximately 4,259 of the posters were finally released to Sachs’s family by the German government in 2012. Some of the pieces have been auctioned off, while some have been given to various museums, including The Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU. In a press release by the museum, Sachs is quoted explaining why he chose to distribute the pieces: “There’s, of course, no practical way that I could frame and hang 4,300 posters, so I just didn’t see any other alternative than to do what we’re doing.” He told the Huffington Post.

“But I don’t feel guilty in any way whatsoever — even with them being auctioned, I think it’s far preferable that they will wind up in the hands of people who truly enjoy them and appreciate them, rather than sitting in a museum’s storage for another 70 years without seeing the light of day.”

The museum is just as excited about the opportunity for people to share in the beauty of Sachs’s collection. “It’s very exciting for us to have this collection on display,” said Arnowitz. “We’re very proud that this exhibit has opened, the reception has been overwhelmingly positive. Arnowitz claims that since the exhibit has opened, the reception has been overwhelmingly positive.

“People are amazed to see the different scope of the posters, and it’s a really good representation of the work that he collected.”

The collection seems most impressive when one considers what it has been through.

“My fascination for this place had grown through the years. I was hoping that this land of faiths would allow me to discovery my inner self and, finally, I would stumble onto the absolute truth. I was fantasizing with the idea of praying with the Muslims, reading with the Christians, meditating with the Jews and sharing a meal with the Hindus, Jains and sharing a meal with the Hindus-vegetarians. Traveling and daydreaming may look manageable while you are sitting in front of fast speed Internet, enjoying an air-conditioned room and drinking from uncontaminated water sources. India’s promise of colors, food and culture traps you; indeed, it managed to get into the back of a tuck tuck on their way to school. Tuck tuck or taxi is the a common way of transportation in South Asia. Smiley faces and pure innocence are reflected by Indian children while sitting in the back of a tuck tuck or taxi. Although I am originally from South America and I have traveled around the world while embracing the way of transportation in South Asia.”

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**Curtains unveiled: Bursting the Bollywood bubble**

COLUMNIST

S u n b r o c k , l i g h t
clothes,
a n a m e n o t
of anti-ma-
l a r i e s
and Imodium pills fell into a big, black luggage and became part of my hasty packing.

Deep breathing and western expensive meditation techniques helped my heart calm down minutes before the flight to the unknown began. Could the land of a million faces and a thousand religions allow me to escape the ladder of spirituality? Purportedly, the most adventurous live the “eat, pray and love” story inside the magical land of India; nevertheless, I discovered that this myth always diverses.

The Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU focuses on the history of the Jewish experience in Florida. The museum has recently added to its collection Dr. Hans Sachs posters.
Super Bowl may be ‘Storm Bowl’

DAVID SHARP
Associated Press

The Farmers’ Almanac is using words like “piercing cold,” “bitingly cold” and “biting cold” to describe the upcoming winter. And if its predictions are right, the first outdoor Super Bowl in years will be a messy “Storm Bowl.”

The 197-year-old publication that hits newsstands Monday predicts a winter storm for the eastern and central U.S. about 80 percent of the time.

Last December, the forecast called for colder weather for the eastern and central U.S. with milder temperatures west of the Great Lakes. It turned out just the opposite but ended up that way.

Caleb Weathersbee, the publication’s elusive prognosticator, said he was off because a couple of days in the season’s biggest storms: a February blizzard that paralyzed the Northeast with 3 feet of snow in some places and a slope storm the day before spring’s arrival that buried parts of New England.

Readers who put stock in the almanac’s predictions and now are already selling Super Bowl tickets have been up that way.

Super Bowl is played at MetLife Stadium will hit the Northeast around the time the winter storm is expected, the almanac warns. “That’s sort of been my legacy, this is the quest for this observatory,” he stated. “It’s something that I think any good astronomy teacher would want to devote the school year to.”

While walking around the colorful busy markets surrounded by the deep and distinct smell of exotic spices, I saw naked children laying on the ground asking for money. I could see the poverty, the despair, the struggle.

Those tired of the rather boring collection of American action films will rejoice in the beauty of these Kung Fu sequences, as they truly deliver the best moments of “The Grandmaster.” The special effects in these sequences in brothels, among the always-stylish Wong Kar-wai’s, is another story.

The film remains interesting, especially in the latter half. Kar-wai doesn’t have nearly enough substance to provide real drive to a film that’s over two hours long. Anyone can fill an action flick full of action-set piece after action-set piece, but Kar-wai chooses instead to focus on the drama, as he is known to do.

As much as one might want it to be more of a wuxia film, “The Grandmaster” is ultimately more of a drama and romance film. It’s a lack of substance is just the issue here, though.

This means that with all the beauty and martial arts comes the occasional boring spot, especially in the latter half. It is mostly thanks to Tony Leung, the always talented and handsome Chinese actor, and his co-star Zi Yi Zhang, that the film remains interesting to watch. Both have clear experience in martial arts, drama and romance films, and Kar-wai makes excellent use of the two regard less of how lacking the story might be at times.

Wong Kar-wai’s tries to blend action and history with the lush romantic dramas of his past, but only manages to be somewhat successful. Regardless, “The Grandmaster” will be sure to please many with its looks and performances.

There’s so much more about Ip Man, a well-known Chinese martial artist who taught Bruce Lee, that has become incredibly popular in the film world over the last years. Everyone involved in Chinese cinema seems to be trying their hand at telling his life. The latest installment comes from none other than the always-stylish Wong Kar-wai.

Those who have experienced the director’s past films, “In the Mood for Love” and “Chungking Express” two being of the best known, know that his works are as lush as can be. “The Grandmaster,” his film about the life of Ip Man, is no exception to this.

This film is on full-force here, with fight sequences in brothels, pouring rain, and more. There’s so much more about Ip Man, a well-known Chinese martial artist who taught Bruce Lee, that has become incredibly popular in the film world over the last years. Everyone involved in Chinese cinema seems to be trying their hand at telling his life. The latest installment comes from none other than the always-stylish Wong Kar-wai.

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This film is on full-force here, with fight sequences in brothels, pouring rain, and more. This means that India enchantment is dissimilar for everyone. I did not find what I was looking for, although, for sure, I found what I needed.
Projected starting running back kicked off team following arrest

FRANCISCO RIVERO
Sports Director

As the FIU football team prepares for its first game of the season against Maryland this Friday, the Panthers once again find themselves dealing with another player’s trouble with the law. Jakhari Gore, who transferred from Louisiana State University, was arrested late Sunday night, Aug. 25 on charges of robbery by sudden snatching and false imprisonment, according to an FIU police report. The incident started late Friday night, Aug. 23 at approximately 11:23 p.m. when the victim came to the University to visit Gore. It started out as a disagreement outside of University Park Towers. The report said that Gore snatched the keys from the victim, preventing her from leaving. Gore then convinced the victim to follow him up to his dorm. Once inside, the victim stated that Gore grabbed her forcibly behind her head in an attempt to have her perform oral sex. The report goes on to say that the victim then pushed Gore away but was still held in Gore’s dorm room against her will. The victim then followed Gore back downstairs thinking that she would retrieve her keys; however, Gore took control of the victim’s vehicle and drove away with the victim inside. Gore was then transported to the FIU police station for questioning on Sunday, Aug. 25, according to the FIU Police Department. No facts were stated for Saturday, Aug. 26 in the police report.

Gore is the second running back to be arrested this season. The first being Kedrick Rhodes who was kicked off the team after being arrested in July. Head Coach Ron Turner now has to deal with losing both his starting running backs in less than two months. The Panthers are now left with five running backs on their roster which includes two juniors, Talir Satterfield-Rowe and Anthon Samuel, two freshman, Alfonso Randolph and Silas Spearman III, and one redshirt sophomore, Shane Coleman.

In a statement, Turner said Gore was released by the team but would not comment further. Gore’s only response to the whole situation was short and simple. “I will give my side of the story to the judge and my attorney,” said Gore according to the police report.

-Additional reporting was done by Diego Saldana-Rojas.
Two linemen named to Senior Bowl watch list

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

The Senior Bowl, to be played Jan. 25, 2014, has two players on the list of possible participants from FIU in Mobile, Ala. Defensive linemen Paul Crawford and Greg Hickman will look to show their ability in the All-Star game in front of scouts from all 32 NFL teams.

Hickman is in the record books, where he leads the program in the “Quarterback Hurdles” category at 10. Hickman, who has 23 consecutive starts over the past three seasons, will be lining up with the first team defense this season. He will also look to add to his four forced fumbles, which is fourth in the record books and 23 tackles for loss which puts him ninth in the record books.

This adds to the preseason nominations for Hickman. This year he has been predicted to be on the Conference USA First Team by Phil Steele, Lindy’s Sports Annual, and College Sports Madness. Hickman, who is listed at 6 feet 2 inches and 280 pounds, is noted as one of three defensive line prospects to go in to the NFL following this coming season along with Emain Faciane and Crawford.

Crawford stands a towering 6 feet 8 inches tall and weighs 270 pounds. The Los Angeles native lined up with the first team defense in the spring and will most likely continue to in the Fall. Crawford had 18 tackles seven solo tackles, 1.5 sacks and 2.5 tackles for loss in the 2012 campaign.

Their position coach Andre Patterson, who has had an illustrious tenure in coaching including time with the Dallas Cowboys, has been letting them pick his brain as much as possible.

“The guys know that I have lived all this and that they can come to me at anytime with questions,” Patterson said. “I am giving them the best information I can to help them become the best players and people that I can. All 32 teams know who these guys are. Paul, Greg and I am hoping to be great professional players along with some of the other guys here.”

Faciane is also happy for his fellow teammates on being named to the watch list.

“Greg is an outstanding player who can read the offense. He is in his first season playing the interior of my line but he has adjusted faster than I have ever seen and is definitely a leader on the defensive side of the ball,” Faciane added. “Paul’s strength and length make it so that he can be a big time player. He definitely has potential, as Greg and some of the other guys on the defensive line do, to make it to the next level of this game.”

Panthers lose in season opener to Arizona Wildcats

VERONICA QUISPE
Contributing Writer

On Friday night, the Panthers took on the University of Arizona’s Wildcats and lost 4-2 on their kickoff game of the 2013 season as members of Conference USA.

In the first half, Arkansas’ Kaitlyn Lopez scored the first goal of the night at five minutes into the game with an assist by Alexandra Doller. At the 38th minute, the Panthers began to pick up momentum as sophomore Madlen Staublin covered the midfield to build the team some point opportunities. However, this was the only goal of the half and closed the half by 1-0. Arizona also led the first half in shots, 7-6.

In the second half the Panthers returned to the field for full action. At minute 49 junior Ashleigh Shim defended a nearly sure side goal by the Wildcats. Shortly after the wildcats responded and began holding possession of the ball and by minute 53 Arizona’s Jaden Degracce kicked in the ball from out of bounds and got quickly swept by Shim, she then loses possession and gave wildcats the opportunity to pick up a second goal of the night in the second half.

The second half continued in favor of the Wildcats until around the 73rd minute, when senior Crystal McNamara scored a header goal with the assist of sophomore Madiin Weinhardt. This alerted the Panthers to keep the momentum going and at the 78th minute, Arizona attempted yet another goal and was viciously blocked by freshman goalkeeper Vanessa Plessencia.

The Wildcats responded again with another goal at the 81st minute. Yet the Panthers did not stay quiet and within the same minute, the ball was brought back onto the field and Weinhardt scored the Panther’s second goal of the night.

The game ended 4-2 Arizona, which has served as an improvement compared to last season’s match that ended 3-0.

“We lost physical balance. Arizona was good,” Head Coach Thomas Chestnut said. “They did the things needed to be done but we didn’t. We need to make sure to win our physical battle and play a bit smarter next time.”

The Panthers next home game will be against the University of Florida Gators on September 1 at 7 p.m.

New pitching coach working ‘tirelessly’ at FIU

PITCHING, PAGE 6

Peraza on being a new member of the FIU family.

“I am very excited to join the FIU family and ready to get to work,” Peraza said. “The opportunity to work for a legendary coach like Turtle Thomas is one that I very much looking forward to. I’m going to work tirelessly with the pitching staff in order to help our program get back to a Regional and continue the baseball tradition and success in the FIU community!”

When it comes to Peraza’s team goals as a pitching staff, he’s looking to continue his past success by having his team hold an era under 4.00, as well as having success in one of his biggest strengths: coaching philosophy, something he calls “2-out finishes”. It consists on the ability of a pitcher to effectively close out an inning after recording the first two outs.

Peraza will also focus on basic simple techniques in order for his pitchers to have success.

Techniques such as fielding the pitcher’s position, throwing strikes, covering the 1-1 count and not being tempted up in order to compete.

Peraza’s point of view about a pitching staff on a baseball game can be described as a relay race, doing everything in your power to match the other pitcher’s performance and be ready to pass the baton on to your next pitcher.

One of Peraza’s main focus is the ability to pick each up as a team and say which player will be the starter. They will have to work hard and be patient and confident as the game unfolds.

If the defense makes an error, pitchers should see that error as an opportunity to be great, great on the field and great as an individual.

One of the things Peraza asked his pitchers once they were being introduced was “What do you want to be known as at this time next year?”

Young talent hopes to thrive in Kenny Arena’s second year

SOCcER, PAGE 6

Champion at Cypress Bay, was a member of the 2008-2009 U14 and U15 U.S. National Team. Joining him on the national stage is David Mitchell, a goalkeeper out of Kingston, Jamaica, who played on the U20 and U23 Jamaican National team.

This year’s freshmen will have a lot to live up to after last year’s recruiting class that exhibited their talent well throughout the 2012 season.

Sophomore Daniel Gonzalez, a midfielder out of Miami Killian High School, was selected to the 2012 C-USA All-Freshman Team after starting fourteen out of the sixteen games he played. Gonzalez, who led his team and conference with eight assists, was also named to the C-USA Third-Team All-Conference.

When asked what player he thought would make an immediate impact their freshmen season the same way he did, Gonzalez said, “All the freshmen are great and are playing at an amazing level coming in. It’s a bit too early to say which player will be the star but they will play a big role in our new team.”

Athena and the Panthers take the field on Aug. 30 for their first game in Los Angeles, California, where they will face Loyola Marymount at 10:00 p.m., a team they did not face last season. The team’s first home game will be on Sept. 20 when they host North Florida at 7:00 p.m.
BBC Week of Welcome expects large turnout

STEPHAN USECHE
BBC Managing Editor

A giant, inflatable panther by the entrance of Academic One in the Biscayne Bay Campus welcomed students as they made their way to the Week of Welcome BBQ event. On Monday, students gathered over barbecued chicken, beans and salad. The BBQ was followed by the Blue and Gold Breakfast and the Mission IMPROVible Comedy Show, which according to its website is the "combination of MTV's 'Wild 'N Out' and 'Who's Line is it Anyway?" Chicagoan actors, who comprise the team, perform various acts.

President Rosenberg is normally in attendance during this event, but according to Andres Bermeo, Campus Life marketing coordinator, Rosenberg was out of town, so he wasn’t able to attend. Local businesses and restaurants around BBC awaited students. More than 45 vendors, like Duffy’s, Ale House and Misha’s Cupcakes, gave out samples and coupons to passerby’s.

Noel Browne, University alumnus and current testing coordinator for the Center of Academic Success, is the lead vocalist for Caribbean Music Farm—the band that exclusively played the event. "As a former student, I understand that when you’re coming to school for the first time, there could be some pressure," said Browne. "So this is like a relaxation kind of thing." The band mainly performs reggae and calypso, but extended their genres to R&B, pop and hip-hop. Ivy Siegel-Mack is the assistant director for BBC Campus Life. She coordinated Monday’s BBQ and selected Browne’s band.

"I’ve known him since he was a student here and working in undergraduate studies. We’ve used him over the years,” said Siegel-Mack. "The vibe today felt more like a Caribbean-type of band." Browne got the group together in 2003 by personally choosing each of the seven other members. "The dream was to have my own band," he said. "The members originate from various parts of the Caribbean. Browne is from Antigua, while other members come from Jamaica, Barbados, St. Lucia, Turks and Caicos, Virgin Islands and Trinidad.

"I went to one of his performances and I started recommending him to everybody I knew because he’s really good, and he’s been entertaining here now for about nine or 10 years,” said Moll. Caribbean Music Farm has performed at various clubs in Miami, Broward, Ft. Lauderdale and West Palm Beach. Their main focus now is to play at festivals and carnivals locally and around the world. The band just got back from performing in Brazil. "We’d be happy to come back anytime to perform for students," said Browne. "FIU is a fun place—it’s a place that has a whole set of cultures here from the Caribbean, and from the U.S., so we think we fit perfectly into entertaining FIU students.”

Summit kicks off amid distrust over Fla. schools

GARY FINEOUT
Associated Press

Teachers, school officials, politicians and other education leaders on Monday kicked off a three-day summit in hopes of reaching a consensus on the next round of changes for Florida’s public schools.

It was clear even from the beginning that there remains a wide gulf — and even some distrust — about what changes should be made to the state’s education standards and its well-known A-to-F school grading system.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott called for the hastily-arranged summit following a summer that included the abrupt resignation of Education Commissioner Tony Bennett and a backlash over the state’s current grading system. It comes nearly a year after the Republican governor embarked on a “listening” tour where he personally visited schools. The summit also comes when the state is in the middle of a huge transition to a new set of standards — and potentially a new high-stakes test to replace the current Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test.

"I think we are focused on moving the bar forward," Stewart said. "There are some things that we want to take a closer look at and make sure that we are on the right track.”

But Miami-Dade Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvalho said that state officials need to fix problems with the state’s current system of ranking and evaluating schools before they move to new standards.

JESSICA MESZAROS
Staff Writer

Live Caribbean music flowed through Campus Life’s Welcome BBQ on Monday.

Noel Browne, University alumnus and current testing coordinator for the Center of Academic Success, is the lead vocalist for Caribbean Music Farm—the band that exclusively played the event. "As a former student, I understand that when you’re coming to school for the first time, there could be some pressure,” said Browne. "So this is like a relaxation kind of thing.” The band mainly performs reggae and calypso, but extended their genres to R&B, pop and hip-hop. Ivy Siegel-Mack is the assistant director for BBC Campus Life. She coordinated Monday’s BBQ and selected Browne’s band.

"I’ve known him since he was a student here and working in undergraduate studies. We’ve used him over the years,” said Siegel-Mack. "The vibe today felt more like a Caribbean-type of band.” Browne got the group together in 2003 by personally choosing each of the seven other members. "The dream was to have my own band,” he said. "The members originate from various parts of the Caribbean. Browne is from Antigua, while other members come from Jamaica, Barbados, St. Lucia, Turks and Caicos, Virgin Islands and Trinidad.

Steven Moll, vice provost for BBC, was in the audience and had new Browne on a more personal level. Moll was an academic advisor to Browne about 10 years ago while he was studying in the Hospitality and Tourism Management School. According to Moll, Browne is “a brilliant singer with a fabulous band.”

"I went to one of his performances and I started recommending him to everybody I knew because he’s really good, and he’s been entertaining here now for about nine or 10 years,” said Moll. Caribbean Music Farm has performed at various clubs in Miami, Broward, Ft. Lauderdale and West Palm Beach. Their main focus now is to play at festivals and carnivals locally and around the world. The band just got back from performing in Brazil. "We’d be happy to come back anytime to perform for students,” said Browne. "FIU is a fun place—it’s a place that has a whole set of cultures here from the Caribbean, and from the U.S., so we think we fit perfectly into entertaining FIU students.”

Students, such as Mengha Yu, left, and Joan Du, right, happily load their plates with food during BBC’s Week of Welcome. Campus Life organized the event to welcome students to the new semester. A week of events proceeds the BBQ.