Affordable Care Act brings changes to FIU

IGNITING TRADITION

REBECA PICCARDO
Asst. News Director

The student tuition health fee allows students certain health services at little or no cost, but both insured and uninsured students encounter problems seeking medical help on-campus. "I tried to go when I was sick and didn’t have insurance, but they just referred me to a doctor," said Natasha Longdon, a senior advertising major. However, now that the Affordable Care Act will offer more options for young adults, more students will have access to health insurance.

The problem for students with health insurance is that the University may not accept their plan, so they would need to go somewhere off-campus to use their insurance. Aside from what the student health fee covers, Student Health Services currently only accept the school-sponsored insurance plans.

"We are trying to expand the number of insurance plans that we accept," said Oscar Leynor, director of Student Health Services. According to Loynaz, Student Health Services is partnering with the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine to add new health plans available on-campus.

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Police teach women techniques for self-defense

DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS
Staff Writer

Wrist breaks, finger locks, punches and kicks are some of the techniques taught by the Florida International University Police Department officers to female students, faculty and staff. The free course runs nine to twelve hours over the span of three days with class sizes ranging from six to 16 students.

Classes are held wherever there is space available on-campus. "It’s a combination of awareness and some very basic tactics that people can employ to minimize the likelihood of them being victimized," said FIUPD Police Chief Alexander Casas.

According to Saftey Officer Roberto Leal, Rape Aggression Defense Program instructor, the tactics used are varied and simple. "This is a very basic self-defense course," Leal said. "This is for everyday women to be able to defend themselves from a man or woman that’s attacking them." Tactics taught include how to escape choke holds, bear hugs and prone positions when an attacker is on top. Hammer fists and straight punches are among these techniques. Areli Teran, a junior public relations major, is wary about her safety.

"I have been in situations where I’m scared or alone and I have thought how would I defend myself," said Teran. "I really don’t know what I would actually do in the situation."

Law Enforcement Officer Sonia Meneses, a certified RAD instructor who has been with the program since its introduction to the University in 2009, teaches the course along-side Leal and hopes for the continued growth of the program.

"I hope that we get more officers trained and certified so that we can have it more available," said Meneses.

The Hub: Innovation by the students for the students

CARLOS COBA
Asst. News Director

As students approach the Information and Research Services desk on Green Library’s bustling second floor and make a left, they encounter the latest upgrade to the facilities: The Hub.

According to an excerpt of The Hub’s funding is a result of two projects. The first phase consists of two phases. The second phase will add 30 more computers, as well as introduce laptops, iPads and other types of tablets. The two multimedia rooms will also be revamped with Apple and Dell devices.

"These rooms will be available for students to reserve up to two weeks in advance," said Genevieve Diamond, circulation manager at the Green Library.

Library faculty and administration think that the addition of desktops, laptops and tablets will provide students with more computer access than previously available.

"On a good day, when all the computers were working, there were about 45 to 50 available computers," said Marissa Ball, technology fee proposals submitted by the library through the Technology Fee Advisory Council that “amount to over a million dollars," said Ball. The Hub is the product of a collective effort between outside vendors and various departments within the University and the library, such as the Information Resource Services Department, Access Services, Library Systems, and Academic Space Management.

"The library has been proactive by putting forward proposals through the Technology Fee Advisory Council," said Ball. "The committee that reviews those proposals has encouraged us to be innovative in enabling students’ research and study habits via the technology fee."

The technology fee payment amounts to 5 percent of every student’s tuition, as stated in the FIU Technology Fee website. This means that all students were involved in advancing this project.

However, some students got to contribute in more creative ways.

About two years ago, when The Hub was still in the planning stage, the library did a collaboration with an interior design class at the university, according to Ball. The students in this class had the opportunity to organize into focus groups that executed “used-space studies” in order to design what their ideal library would look like. Out of the seven designs that were ultimately submitted, several components of each were incorporated into The Hub’s design.

"(The Hub) was done by students and paid for by the students," said Ball. Current students feel like their financial investment in The Hub is paying off.

"The Hub is an excellent resource to the FIU community," said Sebastian Schlumpf, environmental studies junior.

"If I plan to study, I will definitely come here to do it," said Daniel Sippin, an undeclared junior. "But it may be tricky to find..."
Technology fees upgrading the Green Library for students

A seat because it’s so busy.

Library personnel hopes that The Hub is even busier by October, when the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled. Considering both phases of the project will be complete by then.

“This is for the students and I want them to know that it’s here,” said Diamond. “I want them to come and use it because they paid for it.”

Students start using The Hub, a brand new spared study space located on the second floor of the Green Library.

Affordable Care Act in effect

“Hopefully, in the end, the fact that we’re all on the same plan will re-

duce the premiums for everybody,” said Loynaz.

Oscar Loynaz
Director
SHS

HEALTH, PAGE 1

Medicine and the Academic Health Center so that Student Health Services can expand the number of insurance compa-
yes they accept.

“While the premiums for

insurance plans for domestic

and international students are

raised between last

year and this year, the premiums for domestic

students have been reduced.

According to Loynaz and

Giav Hawkins, a billing assis-
tant at the Student Health

Services, the changes in insur-

ance plans are attributed to the year’s losses for the insurance company, but more importantly, because the Affordable Care Act is enforcing a certain amount of

coverage.

“The Affordable Care Act has a lot of things that the government is forcing the insurance companies to cover for free, which they didn’t before,” said Loynaz.

The University has been part of a state consortium that

began in 2010, in which the member schools agree on a broker and insurance plan in order to bring down costs.

“Hopefully, in the end, the fact that we’re all on the same plan will reduce the premiums for everybody,” said Loynaz.

Aside from the changes due
to the Affordable Care Act, the health services covered by the student health fee will not be affected.

According to Hawkins, there are services for which insured students would be charged co-pay with an in-net-

work provider, but would be

free on campus due to the student health fee.

“If a student comes here for a sick visit, the health fee covers that,” said Hawkins. While some students claim that the health fee coverage does not cover anything, other students have found the preventative care to be helpful. Allie DiMeco, a senior journalism major, went during her freshman year thinking she had a stomach virus and she was referred to a hospital due to abdominal swelling.

“I had early appendicitis,” said DiMeco. “The experience was encouraging and I recommend their assistance.”

As far as adding insurance to Student Health Services, Loynaz expects to see results by the end of this fall semester which will encourage students to continue using this service on campus.

“If I think that students are insured and we can accept those plans, then students would continue to come here because it is a good service, it is a convenient service, it is available on campus,” said Loynaz.

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Investors brace for jam-packed September

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

Imagine gathering nearly everything that has riddled investors’ nerves over the past four years: the Euro-

pean debt crisis, lights over the U.S. government’s budget and moves by the Federal Reserve. Now imagine all of them crammed into one month.

That month? It’s September.

“Oh, it’s definitely going to be fun,” says Jason Pride, director of invest-

ment strategy at the money management firm Glenmede in Philadelphia.

As August wrapped up, trading desks and invest-

ment firms looked warily at the lineup of events slated for September and warned clients of turbulence ahead.

The Fed’s September meeting is when many on Wall Street think the central bank will begin winding down its massive bond-

Purchasing program. German voters will decide whether Chancellor Angela Merkel gets another term as the

leader of Europe’s largest economy. And Congress will be on a tight deadline to pass a spending bill before the month ends, a process which could easily turn into another brawlover raising the govern-

ment’s borrowing limit.

Each item on the calendar could cause big swings in daily trading. And collec-

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storm," says Mark

Luschni, the chief invest-

ment strategist at Janney

Montgomery Scott in Pittsburgh.

September has often been a cruel month for the stock market, which gives it a supernuisance of power for some investors. Since 1945, the Standard & Poor’s 500 index has slumped nearly six out of every 10 September, with an average loss of 0.6 percent.

This one could be much worse, investors say. Luschni and others think the S&P 500 could slump more than 9 percent below the record high of 1,709.67, reached Aug. 2.
VMAs were problematic, misguided

JUAN BARQUIN
Staff Writer

Another year of music videos offers MTV another chance to drag out celebrities desperate to do anything for attention or a better sales record.

The list of offenders runs long this year at the Video Music Awards, with one performance in particular drawing the most negative attention upon itself. In an awkward mashup of Miley Cyrus’ “We Can’t Stop” and Robin Thicke’s “Blurred Lines,” Cyrus, who donned a sheer, purple bodysuit and matching purple wig while she — as a woman into a sexual wrecker, while the man sprang around in the same beige underwear Thicke’s character sported in the Need for Speed movie, it’s clear to anyone that even the most dedicated viewers are going to walk away from this performance, and yet, the blatant sexism of “Blurred Lines” and the VMAs feces that comes with it overshadows something that has caused far less controversy, and was actually praised by many.

Macklemore, a straight white male hip-hop artist, received an award for “Best Video with a Social Message” for his support of same sex marriage in his song with Ryan Lewis, “Same Love.”

Accompanied by an empty, misguided speech that riveted allies everywhere, Macklemore sealed his place in the media spotlight like a young Democrat on the 2020 presidential ticket.

Even someone like Janelle Monae, with her young black man in a suit and tie, or Frank Ocean, who wore a flowy white tunic, and Angel Haze, who clearly emulated a drag queen with her white boots and dramatic makeup, were aimed at calling the attention of the media to the issues at hand rather than what “Same Love” expresses.

The list of offenders goes on about the issues with the VMAs were doing more harm than good by allowing this shameful nonsense to go on year after year.

There are bigger issues at hand than what Miley wore or Macklemore more supporting same sex marriage.

However entertaining they might be to watch in the moment, MTV’s VMAs are doing more harm than good by allowing this shameful nonsense to continue to go year after year.

—juan.barquin@fiusm.com

Hamburger University: Our newest competitors

ADRIANNE RICHARDSON
Contributing Writer

Most of us are in college because we want to have jobs with good salaries and be able to support a family without the stress of being broke. A lot of us work or have worked at places like McDonalds, Burger King or Publix while going to school because these are the jobs we tend to apply for in the meantime to have a little extra cash, but we never really imagined these jobs as the stepping stones to our lifelong career.

Well, what if I told you that there are people out there who are getting managerial positions at restaurants at such businesses without going to college?

According to Christopher Connell’s article, “Starbucks, Wal-Mart offering classes for college credit,” the problem is that businesses like Walmart are tired of waiting for colleges to give them the managers and other high-position holders that they need to run their company.

So, Walmart and other Fortune 500 companies and corporations have taken matters into their own hands.

For example, Conell reports that McDonald’s has a school called Hamburger University at its headquarters in Oak Brook, Ill. This university teaches its students how to improve their business and professional skills with discipline. Each student can graduate with 23 credits towards an associate’s or bachelor’s degree.

Connell reports another example in which Arianna Suarez, an immigrant from Cuba, began working as a cashier at a Walmart in Hillsabach after arriving in America with a need of money to survive. Now, Ariana has become a store manager and will soon earn a college degree because of online college-level courses offered to Walmart employees.

As students of an actual university, we have so much competition in the workplace with a degree we pay a load of money for.

Yet, who would have thought our competition would include those students who graduate from 2-year colleges like Hamburger University and Walmart’s online school?

The world is forever changing and our mindset has to change as well. This is an issue I never thought would exist, professors at universities of fast-food restaurants teaching their students to compete with us.

The only way to challenge this problem is to be smarter than the problem by simply trying to be the cream of the crop in your field.

At the academic level, earning a minor to complement your major or taking on more challenging majors, such as business entrepreneurship, engineering, physical therapy, law, etc., can help put you ahead of the game.

Gaining experience through internships is also ideal. Above all, maintain professionalism. Employers want the well-rounded individual who will accomplish what needs to be done.

The tips that I gave are for your benefit in this game that we all have to play in order to get where we want to be in life, or close to it at least. It is a survival-of-the-fittest game where only the best win.

Don’t let “Fast Food Universities” win! Study harder, longer and make me proud.

Thank me later.

-opinion@fiusm.com

Send us your letters

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WEC 104. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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Leonor Anthony appointed artist-in-residence

KATHERINE LEPRI
Staff Writer

The legendary artist Vincent van Gogh once said there is nothing more truly artistic than to love people.

For FIU’s new artist-in-residence, that lesson is at the heart of her work.

“My biggest passion through the arts is to make the world a better place,” says painter and philanthropist Leonor Anthony, who is also a somebody get a meal, it’s beyond humbling.”

In relation to the FIU community, Anthony, who is also respected as a philanthropist, plans to give back to the academic and arts community by doing reproductions of artists such as van Gogh, Edward Munch and Caspar David Friedrich, by doing reproductions of artists such as van Gogh, Edward Munch and Caspar David Friedrich, as an expressionist in the art community. Her works are represented in private collections across the globe, including the United States, Europe and Africa.

“With donation of [my] work, I’ve been able to raise money for different organizations in different places.”

Anthony now joins the Honors College as artist-in-residence alongside the College of Architecture + the Arts' artist-in-residence Xavier Cortadas and the School of Music’s musician-in-residence Kemal Gekic to work to improve excellence in the arts at FIU.

“Art gives me an opportunity to give back,” says Anthony. “Painting is such a gift for me that when something that my little hands made can actually help somebody get an education or simply get a meal, it’s beyond humbling.”

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“The opportunity to enjoy and intermingle with different cultures is one of the charms of traveling. Walking far away from your comfort zone breaks you in pieces, awakens you and somehow allows your natural strength to kick in, in an instinct that is normally suppressed by everyday western daily life,” Anthony says. “Traveling is an important element in the construction of our own Taj Mahal, our unique structure. Our lives are always under constant change such as of the temple of love that changes its colors depending on the reflection of the sunlight. Every good or bad experience will represent and become an irreplaceable piece in your Taj Mahal. Such as this wonder we need open our minds, give and receive.”

For the full story, visit fiusm.com
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*As a Coast Guard active-duty member while serving as a full-time student.
**Upon graduation and successful completion of Officer Candidate School.
Cuban baseball game canceled by FIU amid controversy

PATRICK CHALVIRE  
Staff Writer

What started as a way to reunite former baseball players turned into a controversial battle.

Somos Cuba, the entity formed to bring veteran Cuban players from Lourdes Induria to Miami to celebrate 50 years of the team, was denied a stadium to play in after FIU backed down from a signed lease with the group.

A lease was signed between Somos Cuba director Alejandro Canton and Heath Glick, Chief of Staff of Athletics, on July 10.

On Monday, July 15, Martin De Jesus of the FIU athletic department asked Canton for a list of players. Executive Director of Sports and Entertainment Pete Garcia received the list and had it sent to Joseph Corey, Director of Athletic Operations, and then to Sandra Gonzalez-Levy, Senior Vice President of External Relations.

Several hours later, FIU’s general counsel Kris-tina Kuattama directed the termination of the lease. “Go ahead and send the termination notice,” according to Glick, in the termination letter sent to Canton.

According to Kuattama, FIU terminated the lease due to a breach of the Use Agreement and for the reason that the lease had not been paid the fee required for the lease, that its free use of the athletic facilities for expression and that state law might prohibit the lease because the players would be returning to Cuba.

Senior Forward Chelsea Leiva may not see the field this season after suffering an apparent knee injury. Head Coach Thomas Chestnut said he is unsure when she will be back.

DEFENSIVE TACKLE RISES DEPTHS OF THE STORM

RHYS WILLIAMS  
Staff Writer

When everything gets taken away from you, people do not especially expect you to rise above those circumstances and do great things. For Isame Faciane, Senior defensive lineman for the Panthers, the event was Hurricane Katrina, the 2005 storm that cost the United States nearly $108 billion in damages.

Hurricane Katrina, which is currently in its eighth anniversary, caused massive damage to the shores and state of Louisiana, where Faciane is from. The damages included up to seven feet of water in the home where he was raised by his grandparents.

“My grandparents had a lot of stuff that they could call their own and it was taken by the storm. We lived in one of the mobile homes provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for a long time after it happened,” Faciane said. “It also didn’t help that my grand- father was diagnosed with a life threatening disease fairly soon after we got into the mobile home. He was given two to six months, but lived past that until July of 2007.”

Faciane, a 6 foot 4 inch and 275 pound defensive lineman, uses this storm and his grand- mother as motivation to get to the next level.

“My grandmother doesn’t get money from disability and still has to pay for everything she does. My main goal is to make it to the NFL so she doesn’t have to work or pay for anything anymore,” Faciane said. “She and my grandfather have their house entirely paid for and now she is alone and having trouble making it from month to month.”

Faciane recently got a tattoo of a mural depicting the storm so that he would not forget the past that until July of 2007.

“I would say that he has the ability to be in the top two percent of the defensive line,” defensive line coach Andre Patterson said. “Coach Patterson has shown me great film on guys from a few years ago to even back when I was about 3 years old. It sounds funny but a decent amount of all the film he shows us of professional players and his former collegiate players focus on the same thing,” Faciane said.

“He has made us learn completely proper pass rushing tech- niques and it’s helping a lot. He has adjusted a lot about me and it has been helping me to be the best that I can and I have the ability to pick his brain until I leave here.”

Coach Andre Patterson, who has had an illustrious tenure in the coaching profession, gave a compar- ison to a former NFL defensive lineman who he had worked with in Pittsburgh.

“I would say that he has the ability to be in the top two percent of the defensive linemen I have coached in my life,” Patterson said. “When I was at Washington State, I had seven linemen go to the NFL and I wouldn’t put it past this group of linemen including Isame, Paul [Crawford], and Greg [Rickman] to add to that number along with some of the others down the line.”

Faciane also spoke on the team being ranked to finish last in the conference and near the bottom of Division I in general.

“They don’t really expect anything out of us, so we can surprise them. We are going to be a Cinderella story this season,” Faciane said. “When I got to high school we only had about 25 guys on the team and we only won two games. The next year they expected us to do something and we won,” Patterson said.

“Patterson Sports Talk Live

Listen every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday on Radiote FMM: 88.1, 95.3, and 96.9 FM

Wednesday, September 4, 2013

fiusm.com
Women’s soccer start off season on the wrong foot

When it comes to sports on campus, it seems the most attention from fans goes to the football and basketball teams. Most people would think it’s rightfully so, but what about a team that had won a conference title three out of the last four years?

Enter the women’s soccer team. Under the reigns of two-time Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year Thomas Chestnutt, the Panthers have earned various awards and honors from the Sun Belt Conference and National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Now the Panthers are entering into new territory in Conference USA, but with a track record like Chestnutt’s, there doesn’t seem to be much concern headed into the new year.

For those who love to ponder and debate preseason standings, according to the official website for C-USA, the Panthers entered the season ranked sixth in the East Division. I take it as a cliché as it sounds, it is too early to tell how this team will react to such a loss, so I wouldn’t throw out the white flag just yet. Let’s just keep a look out on the team and see how they bounce back after the loss.

Chestnutt didn’t seem to know of any injury in regards to Leiva, which brings up the question, does he truly not know what is going on with his team, or is he deploying the method of not spilling the beans? For now, I’ll go with the latter option.

Now as cliché as it sounds, it is too early to tell how this team will react to such a loss, so I wouldn’t throw out the white flag just yet. Let’s just keep a look out on the team and see how they bounce back after the loss.

The move that intrigued me the most after game one was the start of newcomer Vanessa Plasencia protecting the net.

Now Plasencia did have 13 saves in her first collegiate game, but unless you’re the proverbial Jerica Coley of the soccer team, I can’t seem to grasp the need to play a rookie over junior Kelly Struyf, but hey, I’m not the one getting paid to make those decisions. It isn’t uncommon for coaches to make a move such as this so early in the season, rather than late in the year when you’re fighting for position in the conference.

Such move didn’t seem to be the biggest headline on campus or with other media outlets that cover FIU, so maybe the rookie just needed to get her feet wet.

But if Plasencia continues to start over Struyf, we may need to start wondering what’s going on.

Did playing behind former Panther star Kastlyn Savage not give Struyf the time and help she needed to take over, or is Plasencia the next “rookie sensation”?

When it’s all said and done, if Leiva can return from her injury or whatever absence she may be going through, and with the experience and success this group has had in the past, this team should be fine getting through C-USA with some minor bumps and bruises.

Either it didn’t matter or the people who placed the teams in their standings were able to look into the future. Preseason All-Conference player Chelsea Leiva and last year’s second-leading scorer Scarlett Montoya didn’t see any action when the Panthers faced Arizona for their first game of the season. They ended up losing that match 4-2.

As I spoke to a member of a separate media outlet, it seems star forward Leiva suffered a knee injury and to add insult to injury, that injury may sideline her the entire year, ending her senior season before it even started.

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Lease terminated, reasons still unclear

BASEBALL PAGE 6

When speaking with Student Media, Julin addressed the National Anthem played at several sporting events and the message it conveys on a daily basis.

“It’s very disingenuous for FIU to be saying that they had to terminate this lease because of the political message that the game was going to convey,” Julin said, in an interview with Student Media. “If you regard it as conveying a message, it was really because of the political message that the game was going to convey,” Julin said, in an interview with Student Media. “If you regard it as conveying a message, it was really because of the political message that the game was going to convey,” Julin said, in an interview with Student Media.

“I hope that the truth does come out and that it comes out soon,” Julin said. “If the truth is that First Amendment rights were violated, I hope that FIU would acknowledge that and would apologize to Mr. Canton and would compensate him for any losses that he has suffered by having to move the game to Fort Lauderdale.”

The game was later played at Fort Lauderdale Stadium Saturday, Aug. 31.

Neither Garcia nor Glück were available for an interview per request by Student Media.

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Did playing behind former Panther star Kastlyn Savage not give Struyf the time and help she needed to take over, or is Plasencia the next “rookie sensation”?

When it’s all said and done, if Leiva can return from her injury or whatever absence she may be going through, and with the experience and success this group has had in the past, this team should be fine getting through C-USA with some minor bumps and bruises.

”It’s very disingenuous for FIU to be saying that they had to terminate this lease because of the political message that the game was going to convey,” Julin said, in an interview with Student Media. “If you regard it as conveying a message, it was really because of the political message that the game was going to convey,” Julin said, in an interview with Student Media. “If you regard it as conveying a message, it was really because of the political message that the game was going to convey,” Julin said, in an interview with Student Media.

“I hope that the truth does come out and that it comes out soon,” Julin said. “If the truth is that First Amendment rights were violated, I hope that FIU would acknowledge that and would apologize to Mr. Canton and would compensate him for any losses that he has suffered by having to move the game to Fort Lauderdale.”

The game was later played at Fort Lauderdale Stadium Saturday, Aug. 31.

Neither Garcia nor Glück were available for an interview per request by Student Media.
Biscayne Bay Campus: The hidden jewel

FIU is an extremely diverse University. The main campus, Modesto Maidique Campus, has all the action. The main issue I have found with MMC, as beautiful and diverse as the campus is, has been the inability to actually relax on campus.

MMC is always moving, always busy, rarely quiet, and each semester we find students falling asleep during the fall and spring semesters. A typical day at MMC has many students desperately searching for a decent parking spot, something that has at times taken me over 10 minutes.

While this chaos is in many ways what the university life is all about, there are days when I just want to relax on campus after class. But, we have another campus, which is often neglected.

MMC is 5 miles west of downtown Miami. The main campus is home to the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, and the School of Environment, Arts and Society. It is a sight to behold, and truly relaxing, yet I rarely see students genuinely interested in taking courses there. Usually the only students that attend MMC do so out of necessity, or if they are majoring in any of the aforementioned professions.

It always surprises me what little interest some students show in traveling to MMC. Some see it as a chore due to how far apart both campuses are. On the contrary, I think MMC is relaxing and overall a jewel that not many FIU students take advantage of.

I’ve always managed to find parking at MMC without much of a hassle. During midterms and finals, it’s much easier to find a quiet place at MMC than it is to do so at MMC. Whether it’s sitting down by the bay, or outside the food court with a cup of coffee and a banana — not one or the other, like last year.

Speaking of which, the library at MMC is no exception; while it is much smaller than the one at MMC, I still manage to find a place to study.

The view of the bay on a beautiful morning is spectacular. I encourage all FIU students to come to MMC at least a few times during the semester. You won’t regret it.

MOISES FUERTES
The Beacon – 9

Some school districts quit healthier lunch program

CAROLYN THOMPSON
Associated Press

After just one year, some schools around the country are dropping out of the healthier new federal lunch program, complaining that so many students turned up their noses at lower-priced food.

Districts that rejected the program say the reimbursement was not enough to offset losses from students who began avoiding the lunch line and bringing food from home or, in some cases, going hungry.

“Some of the stuff we had to offer, they wouldn’t eat,” said Caitlin Ill., Superintendent Gary Lewis, whose district saw a 10 to 12 percent drop in lunch sales, translating to $100,000 in the red.

“Some you sit there and watch the kids, and you know they’re hungry at the end of the day, and that led to some behavior and some lack of attentiveness.”

In upstate New York, a few districts have quit the program, including the Schenectady-area Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake System, whose five lunchrooms ended the year $180,000 in the red.

Near Albany, Voethesville Superintendent Teresa Thayer Snyder said her district lost $30,000 in the first three months of the program. The program is a “designer meal” that was developed in the school year after students repeatedly complained about the small portions and apples and pears went from the tray to the trash untouched.

Districts that leave the program are free to develop their own guidelines. Voethesville’s chef began serving such dishes as salad topped with flank steak and crumbled cheese, pasta with chicken and mushrooms, and a panini with chicken, red peppers and cheese.

In Catlin, soups and fish sticks will return to the menu this year, and the hamburger lunch will come with yogurt and a banana — not one or the other, like last year.

Nationwide, about 31 million students participated in the guidelines that took effect last fall under the 2012 Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. The agency had not determined how many districts have dropped out of the program in the 2013-14 school year after students repeatedly complained about the small portions and apples and pears went from the tray to the trash untouched.

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