Raúl Herrera
Staff Writer

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SEE SALARY, PAGE 2

Delivering graduation can drive up tuition costs

Jackie Skevin
Contributing Writer

Students who decide to stay in school longer may see their bills lengthen as well, according to state laws.

In fall of 2009, the Florida Legislature implemented the excess credit hour surcharge policy. Their goal is to motivate students to complete their bachelor’s degree as quickly and efficiently as possible.

“It is not just a way for the University to make more money off of students,” said April Lewis, senior academic advisor at the Academic Advising Center. An official count from the Office of the Registrar regarding how many students have been billed and when exactly the first students saw changes to their accounts was not available.

“The statute has been on the books since 2009, so not too many students have been affected yet,” said Lewis. “It is too early to tell if this will improve graduation rates.”

Types of courses that count towards the excess surcharge are failed courses, classes dropped after the add/drop date, any course taken at another institution that is accepted and classes retaken with or without the forgiveness policy. Courses attempted a third time garner a repeat surcharge and thus, the student is not required to also pay the excess surcharge.

Charges will vary depending on when a student entered the University. Those who entered between fall 2009 and summer 2011 and maintained continuous enrollment will be charged 50 percent of their tuition per credit if they go over 144 credit hours. Based on a 120 credit hour degree

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Leading authority in positive psychology to give lecture

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Contributing Writer

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University rewards employees and faculty for hardwork

**SALARY, PAGE 1**
...
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sity employees would also qualify for bonuses.

According to the email, negotiations with bargaining agreements for different departments would begin on respective dates.

Joann Cuesta-Gomez, director of Employee and Labor Relations, clarified the legislature’s increase.

“What the state legislature provided was two types of increases. One is called across the board increase which is $1,400 for anyone who makes $40,000 or less, or $1,000 for anyone who makes more than $40,000,” said Cuesta-Gomez. “The other is a bonus that’s ‘going to be paid in June 2014 and that is a merit bonus.”

Cuesta-Gomez said that this merit bonus would identify the ”top performers” employed at the University.

“Supervisors will be the ones who determine who the high performers are in their respective areas,” said Jaffus Hardrick, vice president for the Division of Human Resources, on the merit bonus.

“We have a process that we have to follow to make sure that these employees are truly deserving of the award. And I think that [...] the majority of our employees are. We really do have a great workforce here at the University,” said Hardrick.

A subsequent email by Hardrick and Provost Douglas Wartzok said that the Florida legislature said it’s a big incentive.”

It’s a big incentive. It says a lot about the University.

--News@Fiusm.com

**PSYCHOLOGY, PAGE 1**

leadership.

“Each year, especially for the leadership lectures, we try to pick businesspeople, researchers, professors or anyone in an active leadership role who can bring something to FIU and our community, offering insights on leadership,” said Headley.

“Positive Psychology: The Cutting Edge” will allow psychology, sociology, education and psychology classroom.

Psychology lecture looking at the glass as ‘half full’

**PSYCHOLOGY, PAGE 1**

Psychology lecture looking at the glass as ‘half full’

Tuition increases with excess classes

**CREDITS, PAGE 1**

many credits [are] needed for both majors.

Credits taken towards a minor also don’t count, provided that they are taken only to satisfy the requirements of the minor. Students who believe certain courses should be removed from the Excess Credit list are permitted to submit a written appeal to the Office of the Registrar. This especially applies to transfers. “I don’t agree with the policy because it’s not that affordable,” said Rodriguez.

Internship credit courses, remedial classes, courses taken while participating in a Reserve Officer’s Training Corps will be considered among those courses for exemption.

Regardless of the stipulations, many students feel that they are being punished for taking on additional programs or trying to further their education.

“They charge us enough as it is,” said Joanna McNamara, senior advertising major. “We pay tuition, fees, books and parking even if we don’t have a car or live on-campus. Why should we be penalized for taking more credits.”

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Wednesday, October 9, 2013

OPINION

Is walking at commencement ceremony worth the price?

ADRIANNE RICHARDSON
Contributing Writer

Graduation is what most students look forward to when attending college because it proves that you have made it through the trial of paying tuition and fees.

Paying $6,506.18 for in-state tuition is not easy, and personally, I pay an extra $3,000 plus for living on campus.

As students, we agree to pay these amounts because we really want to earn a degree and be successful.

But what if I told you that we have to pay graduation fees? Do you want to attend our commencement ceremony? I know this may not come as a surprise to most of you because we all know that nothing is free. But, what if I told you that I see nothing wrong with the prices of graduation?

Call me crazy, but I have my reasons.

I feel that paying for graduation is not an issue because no one is making you pay--you pay if you want to! Plus, FIU has packages that students can choose from for their graduation expenses. According to commencement.fiu.edu, the cheapest grad-pack is $62.99 and it includes a cap and gown, tassel with the year, one year alumni association membership and various alumni gifts.

What more do you need? I am not the only crazy one. Justin Griffin, who majored in marketing, recently graduated from FIU in Spring 2012 and he agreed that the price was reasonable.

“I spent around $90; I got the basic stuff though. It was affordable. In my opinion, it could have been worse,” said Griffin.

College is really expensive and out of all the colleges around the world, we are not the only students who suffer from heartbreak every time we view our bank account status at the beginning and end of a semester; for some of us, it’s even during the semester.

I view graduation as a celebration and a cure for the entire heartbreak we go through for four years.

College is an opportunity that none of us are forced to take, but we choose to take. Graduation is also an opportunity that you are not forced to take, but some of us will choose to take, and I’m telling you it’s worth it!

You have time to think about this but I guarantee that $62.99 will start to seem a whole lot cheaper the closer you get to graduating! You will make so many people proud, including yourself. So, instead of asking “Why pay for a commencement ceremony?” ask “Why not?”

Thank me later.

-Juliette Reyes

An open letter to FIU’s drivers

JENNA KEFAIVER
Staff Writer

To the students who sit to the right of the turn lane and cut off lines of traffic in the turn lane: you are irrelevant.

You are not important enough that lines of cars should slow down and allow you to pass. You are single-handedly responsible for the traffic at the intersection of 151st Avenue and Biscayne Boulevard.

You are also single-handedly responsible for ruining my mornings. And don’t flick me off after you do it either. That’s just irrational.

And this is all from the point of view of a passenger. I can’t even begin to imagine how it feels to actually be one of the drivers sitting in that line. Maybe like my anger flaring.

Maybe the cop who is sitting there at the other corner of the intersection could, I don’t know, do his or her job and stop this from happening? Um, yeah... that’d be great.

But I do understand. Miami traffic sucks, maybe you’re late for class.

But you know who else is now late for class? The plebeians you cut off in your royal Trans Am with your awful spinning rims. I get it, you think you’re important.

But you know what? I don’t care if you’re LeBron James, you can get in line like the rest of us.

-Annie Kefauver

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
RE: PIKE’S LACK OF COOPERATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

I found it absolutely appalling that members of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity have refused to cooperate with law enforcement following an investigation that involved drug deals, hazing and explicit, inappropriate photographs of (allegedly) underage women. As a result of their “closing ranks” and refusal to “snatch” on their fellow brothers, no arrests can be made. This infuriates me as a woman, because those who were photographed without their consent did not deserve to have their images ridiculed or ogled over the Internet.

This infuriates me as an alumna, because I did not attend a university and earn a degree to subsequently become embarrased and disdained by a select number of degenerates who happen to be fellow Panthers.

While I applaud President Rosenberg for disbanding the fraternity, I have to say shame on those individuals, those cowards who would rather be loyal to their brothers instead of the values their fraternity and, by extension, FIU strives to uphold.

The ideal PIKE member, as described on the fraternity’s website, is one who “challenge[s] all brothers to uphold the code they follow – of integrity, leadership, and respect – and hold accountable those who do not.”

Preventing justice within this investigation clearly demonstrates their complete disregard for this code, as well as their selfishness and cowardice.

Iris A. Feneb
Alumna, 2010
B.A. in English

Although we might not always admit it and instead pretend to be the perfect, attention-seeking, socialites, we are not only one of us has at one point or another allowed our minds to wander away while in the lecture before us.

For some, it is as simple as daydreaming in the middle of class. For others, it is the complicated task of switching back and forth from social media to the sometimes monotonous professor at the front of the room.

The actual complexity of this task might vary from student to student, but it still raises the question of whether or not this is something to condone or an unnecessary distraction.

From our perspective as students, it is very easy to say it should be overlooked and tolerated. Regardless of where you are in your university career, we have all been in that one class that is the equivalent of being tortured by the sound of fingernails scratching a chalkboard.

What makes it worse is that the source of this torture is almost always a combination of the subject itself and the professor leading the lecture, in addition to that one student we have all come across that dresses the class further.

Be it Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and any other social media site in between, they have all served an honorable purpose of relieving us from that class we just cannot help but zone out of.

Now, from the perspective of the professor, and sometimes even our fellow peers, one can be very quick to say the use of social media in the classroom is indeed an unnecessary distraction.

For our professors, it can be considered blatantly disrespectful when their students completely ignore them.

This is especially true in a class on a subject that requires students to fully engaged and interactive for class discussions.

Most of the time, professors find themselves standing at the front of the room, staring back at a class of blank faces, saying “Anyone, anyone?” in “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off.”

The question now is whether something should be done about this.

We doubt students would voluntarily give up their use of social media in the classroom, which is why some professors have enforced rules regarding the use of electronic devices. Some have completely banned them while others have a bit more lenient.

Lenity is really appreciated, as it shows that professors are willing to meet us on our terms. At the same time, we should be putting the effort as students to be more respectful and cooperative with our professors.

So, put the phones and laptops away for the time being, unless they are absolutely needed.

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 WUC 124.

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Gravity Film Review – “A visual wonder that will lift you out of your seat.”

MARTELL HARDING
Contributing Writer

How often have you gazed at the stars wondering what it would be like as an astronaut floating through space, hovering above the big blue ball we call home? Well, “Gravity” serves as a warning to all who have ever wondered while simultaneously giving us the most detailed and accurate visualization of space exploration any of us has ever seen.

Visionaries of popular shows of the 50’s such as “The Twilight Zone,” “The Outer Limits,” the infamous “The Munsters,” and “Odyssey” and “Star Wars” are easily put to shame in terms of vastness, solitary exploration any of us has ever wondered while watching a show or movie. “2001: A Space Odyssey” and “Star Wars” are easily put to shame in terms of vastness, solitary exploration any of us has ever wondered while watching a show or movie.

Visually speaking, “Gravity” has set the bar with special effects so stunning and accurate that you will look back on your favorite sci-fi cult classics and realize they didn’t quite hit the mark. “Life in Space is Impossible,” the dreadfully honest quote of the opening lines in the back of your mind as Dr. Ryan Stone (Sandra Bullock) and Matt Kowalski (George Clooney) struggle for every deservable breath against uncontrollable measures in this depth-defying joyride. What defines “Gravity” as one of the best films of the year is its ability to show us in scary detail the dangers and obstacles every astronaut faces. Evading shredded clothing towards you at the speed of light and being spun completely out of control are just the beginning. All of this action is matched with breathtaking suspense as director Alfonso Cuaron (Harry Potter and The Prisoner of Azkaban, Children of Men) proves his genius by not only putting us in the situations with point of view shots and extended scenes of tension and grief, but also by genuinely evoking a common pleasure into a newfound enemy. That enemy is silence.

It would be withholding to suggest seeing this film without highly recommending watching it in its 3D or IMAX format. Films such as this one give us an excuse to take the trip to the theater, consider spending the extra five to ten dollars for 3D and IMAX and leave not regretting it simply because adding those extra elements create the experience. Gravity will lift you off your feet and jolt you back into your seat again and again. This sci-fi thriller creates an experience unlike anything you’ve seen before; regardless being less if you thought that this genre has been played out. This film is rated PG-13 for intense sequences, brief but mistakenly strong language and some disturbing images.

American Horror Story: A Bewitching Travesty

The Beacon – 4

JUAN BARQUIN

COLUMNISt

There’s an urban legend in the world of television that always scares the pants off me. There’s a name you say three times in your bathroom mirror while all the lights are off and once the spell has been cast, it results in a tackle-out televisions series.

That name is Ryan Murphy. This is a name synonymous with some of the most unbelievably popular shows on television, from the teen tunes of “Glee” to the not-so-sexy surgery of “Nip/Tuck.” FX, the channel on which “Nip/Tuck” once aired its runs, is home to another one of Murphy’s series.

A long way from the privileged white world of “The New Normal” is the dark, dreary and disturbed “American Horror Story.”

While its existence is rare considering the state of horror based programming, the delightful “Hannibal” and tiresome “The Walking Dead” as other inclusions, by no means is it one that stifles the need for more genre works on television.

Murphy, with co-creator Brad Falchuk, has created an unstable experiment of a series, one that finds pleasure in showing audiences the most ridiculous things without an ounce of real love for horror.

Murphy has created an unstable experiment of a series, one that finds pleasure in showing most ridiculous things without an ounce of real love for horror.

So why, exactly, is it that “American Horror Story” is such a popular series that I’m somehow drawn into watching on a weekly basis? Because there’s always a light in the darkness for those who press on, or at least that’s what a bunch of movies have told me. That light is a cast of actors who actually make for a show that’s damn entertaining to watch, regardless of how shamelessly bad the writing is.

Whereas something like Aaron Sorkin’s “The Newsroom” is just plain bad on all levels, “American Horror Story” is lucky to have a cast of women (and James Cromwell as a much-anticipated male addition) that, by some black magic, lift it up to a level of pure entertainment.

Solely sticking to the recent “Asylum” – because blocking out the memory of all the latex ghost rape in “Murder House” is something I’m still trying to do – it’s really a special treat to just watch some of the cast go camp and crazy while others sadly stick to being serious.

It’s nearly impossible to deny the fact that Sarah Paulson, Lily Rabe and Jessica Lange are the shows most valuable players, with one suffering constant abuse, another embracing a gleefully devlish possession and the last being the only one who actually seems to understand character development.

“American Horror Story” will never stop being Lange’s game, always delivering an interesting performance regardless of the writing, and her involvement in its third season is reason enough to go on watching.

As a matter of fact, after weeks and weeks of frustration with “Asylum,” it’s her talent that delivers what could be considered the only genuinely great thing to come from the series to date: a musical dream sequence in which Lange sings and dances to Shirley Ellis’ “The Name Game.”

It’s just as messily crafted as the rest of the series, but it is a moment of pure craft that is like a breath of fresh air amidst all the disappointment.

With “Coven” drawing near, I begin to wonder how Murphy and Falchuk will make a mess of things this year. Considering the themes include “witches, incest, slavery and voodoo,” it shouldn’t be hard to imagine the train wreck that’s coming. Much like its third wreck though, I’ll keep watching “American Horror Story” as I drive by slowly and crash myself.

Maybe it can be, it may be my penchant for bad television (I’m looking at you, “Scandal”), or maybe, just maybe, the Ryan Murphy urban legend is real and I’ll never escape the curse.

“American Horror Story: Coven” premieres October 9 on FX.

-juan.barquin@fiusm.com
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Win for Panthers shows promise in multiple aspects

Faciane and Spearman III come up big in win against USM

RHY'S WILLIAMS  Staff Writer

Last Saturday brought something that many in the Panther nation did not expect out of the football program this season—a win.

The Panthers beat the University of Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles, who now have lost 17 consecutive games, 24-23.

“One of our sayings is, ‘guys, we’ve got to believe before this happens.’ At some point, though, you have to have the evidence, so it’s nice to be able to get a ‘W,’” said Head Coach Ron Turner. “I’m sure, like the other side, all our guys have been working their ass off. It was good to see them be rewarded. I’m sure if that field goal went through, I’m sure they’d have said the same thing on the other side.”

Spearman III has breakout performance

Going into the game against the Golden Eagles, running back Lamarq Caldwell had the majority of the carries for the Panthers with 153 total yards on the season. After the game, Caldwell had only added 32 yards on 12 carries to bring his season total 61 carries for 185 yards.

In comes Silas Spearman III to the game, running for 136 yards on 29 carries, scoring a pair of touchdowns.

Spearman, who now has 169 total yards on 49 carries, though the running back core with average yards per carry (minimum 10 attempts), long run (32 yards) and touchdowns with the two he had in the win against the Golden Eagles.

“It was a combination of both offensive line and running back play. You can’t run the ball if you block anybody and you can’t run the ball if you block people, but you’d have to get it up in there. I thought Silas was really hitting it up in there. The last three weeks, he’s really practiced well and he took it to the field,” Turner said.

Spearman III entered this game off of a less than great game against the Cardinals of the University of Louisville in which he put up only 12 yards on 14 attempts.

Kicking game by committee

In the spring, Turner said that the kicking game was Sergio Medlock’s to lose. He’s had only added 32 yards on 12 attempts, long run (0 yards) and touchdowns with the fact that one late step can cost you somewhere.

For Southern Mississippi, and not the previously 0-4 Panthers.

Their losing streak is over! The Panthers got their first win of the season Saturday, along with their first win in Conference USA against the University of Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles. Though it was against a team who hasn’t seen a win since 2011, a win is, in essence, a win.

Now, what made this win impressive was the fact that the stars of the game were freshmen. Guys who just a few weeks ago got their feet wet for the first time in college football.

Panther fans, say hello to Spearman III and tight end Donna Smith. It is early to say this but for sake of debate and because I can, I will. Could either of these two be the new star or stars for this program?

Spearman III got the nod to start at running back and didn’t disappoint, racking up 136 yards on 29 carries, 55 of those yards in the fourth quarter alone.

With only the bulk of the first half under his belt, Spearman III had a team-high four passes for 43 yards, though he missed most of the second half due to an injury.

Now everyone knew this was a young team and that it would take some time to get these men involved in a new offense, but if Saturdays game had anything to say for it, Head Coach Ron Turner and his staff may have found the answer they needed.

With issues at the running back position, it was only a matter of time until someone stepped up to the plate and took the reigns. With the losses to Kedrick Rhodes and Jakhari Gore due to legal issues, Lamarq Caldwell had been seeing most of the reps from behind the line of scrimmage.

Caldwell has shown that he’s more of a “bruiser,” the type of running back that is clearly a better time to come around the guys needed.

The biggest concern was and has continued to be the mental game for the defense. Trick plays and even simple play action plays have gotten the best of them.

Moving forward, I’d expect to see Spearman III move more as the team’s running back, with Caldwell being moved to fullback. A position change that may suit the team better, assuming the game against the Golden Eagles wasn’t a fluke.

This led to backup E.J. Medlock going down once again to what appeared to be an apparent concussion.

Another concern for the Panthers was the protection, or lack thereof, for Medlock and Hilliard. Hilliard was sacked twice and when he wasn’t, forced throws to avoid a sack were evident.

Take all of that out of the picture and if you are a glass half full type person, then your prayers for this team may have been answered, at least for one game.

Clearly it is too early to say anything about these freshmen. They’ll now likely feel the pressure to have those types of games and more will be expected from them, but if they can carry the load, this may be the turn around the guys needed.

There are still plenty of plays that need to be filled in this sinking ship of a football team, but they’re still afloat.

Spearman III and Smith seem to be repairing what is needed, slowly but surely. Time to see if these young bloods can keep the ball rolling when they come back home for their homecoming game.

COLUMNS

The losing streak continues!

For Southern Mississippi, and not the previously 0-4 Panthers.

PAUL CHERLICEY

Panther fans, say hello to Spearman III and tight end Donna Smith. It is early to say this but for sake of debate and because I can, I will. Could either of these two be the new star or stars for this program?

Spearman III got the nod to start at running back and didn’t disappoint, racking up 136 yards on 29 carries, 55 of those yards in the fourth quarter alone.

With only the bulk of the first half under his belt, Spearman III had a team-high four passes for 43 yards, though he missed most of the second half due to an injury.

Now everyone knew this was a young team and that it would take some time to get these men involved in a new offense, but if Saturdays game had anything to say for it, Head Coach Ron Turner and his staff may have found the answer they needed.

With issues at the running back position, it was only a matter of time until someone stepped up to the plate and took the reigns. With the losses to Kedrick Rhodes and Jakhari Gore due to legal issues, Lamarq Caldwell had been seeing most of the reps from behind the line of scrimmage.

Caldwell has shown that he’s more of a “bruiser,” the type of running back that is clearly a better time to come around the guys needed.

The biggest concern was and has continued to be the mental game for the defense. Trick plays and even simple play action plays have gotten the best of them.

Moving forward, I’d expect to see Spearman III move more as the team’s running back, with Caldwell being moved to fullback. A position change that may suit the team better, assuming the game against the Golden Eagles wasn’t a fluke.

This led to backup E.J. Medlock going down once again to what appeared to be an apparent concussion.

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There are still plenty of plays that need to be filled in this sinking ship of a football team, but they’re still afloat.

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Women’s soccer by the stats

The early season for the women’s soccer team has not been a walk in park, or on the field. The Panthers are drowning this season in their own shortcomings. They have a 4-8-0 record and are close to last in nearly every statistical category in Conference-USA.

To name a few, the Panthers are second to last in shots per game with 11.09, second to last in goals scored with 1.09 and my personal favorite, dead last in the conference for goals allowed with 2.27.

To maybe put these stats into perspective for you here are the statistical leaders in each of the categories I previously mentioned.

The University of Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles leads the conference with 18.38 shots per game, the Golden Eagles also lead C-USA with 2.97 goals per game and Tulsa allows only half a goal a game.

I know what you’re probably thinking. Why aren’t we Golden Eagles fans, right?

Well, on the bright side junior forward Ashleigh Shim is ranked in goals scored with four and is two goals removed from second place, where she is currently ranked 10th in the conference.

The only other Panther that is ranked in a statistical category is redshirt junior goalkeeper Paula Zuluaga.

She is first in the conference in saves per game with six.

Unfortunately for Zuluaga she is a talented player on a defense which is last in its conference in goals allowed.

Aside from being last in the conference in goals allowed, the most concerning stat for this Panther team is the shots per game. When you have a defense that is very young like the one FIU fields, you need to put more emphasis on your offense.

Tilt the math in your favor by being more aggressive in order to protect your defense.

When you know you have the worst defense in your conference you cannot be conservative with your offense as FIU has done.

You need to take advantage of the talent you have in Shim and be more aggressive in looking for shots.

We see a correlation in shots taken per game and goals scored, by looking at the Golden Eagles team. They lead C-USA in both fields.

It’s simple really. Shoot more, score more.

Obviously there are consequences with a more aggressive offense; you leave your team venerable for counter attack leaving your defense fighting transition offense.

While true, how much worse can the worst defense in the conference get?

You have a goalkeeper in Zuluaga who makes correct reads and is capable of making saves and you have a player in Shim who can score with the best in the conference.

With an offense designed to get shots we might be talking about Shim as the second leading goal scorer in all of C-USA.

Clearly this FIU team has had struggles this season and is looking to get on the right track for this season and others to come.

A change in system and philosophy might be something to give this team life.

To do a job correctly you cannot have fear of losing. You need to play to win. Do all it takes to find a system to tilt math in your favor.

Do something, don’t do nothing.

For the sake of the FIU’s inaugural C-USA women’s soccer season, I hope they do something.

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Football shows vast improvement in victory

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 6

and quarterback Jake Medlock, had his slowest game against the Golden Eagles only being used six times with a long of 45 yards and an average of just under 34 yards.

Ayers is currently listed on espn.com tied as the eighth most used punter with 36 on the season to date.

He is tied with Sean Kelly, the kicker and punter from Florida Atlantic University, who the Panthers will face in the final week of the season in Boca Raton, Fla.

Faciane saves the day

The Golden Eagles started the final drive of the game with only one minute left on the clock at their own 28 yard line.

After three downs, the Golden Eagles converted on fourth and 10 with a completion by quarterback Jake Medlock to wide receiver Markese Triplett to gain some momentum.

Following that play, the Golden Eagles marched down the field and were aided by two Panthers defensive penalties, an offside call and a pass interference on cornerback Sam Miller got the Golden Eagles into field goal range.

This is where defensive lineman and NFL prospect, Isame Faciane, got into the middle and blocked a 44 yard attempt from Golden Eagles kicker and punter, Corey Acosta, with six seconds left in the game.

"Me and [redshirt junior defensive end Michael] Wakefield, we have a responsibility to blow up the guard and we looked at each other and were like, ‘Man, we got to get this, we got to go through there and we got to block this.’ And I’m like, ‘Shoot, I’m going to block it, bro, I’m going to block it.’ We got low, put both our hands on him, drove him back. I just jumped up, stuck my hand up and it hit all four of my fingers and fell short,” Faciane said.

Due to the team playing in Miss. and timing for publication, all quotes were courtesy of the Athletic Department of the University of Southern Mississippi.

The Panthers will face the University of Alabama at Birmingham for the annual homecoming game on Friday, Oct. 12 in Miami.
Campus event gives LGBTQQA students a voice

JACKIE SKEVIN
Contributing Writer

Students in the community who face difficulty expressing their sexual orientation or gender identity now have an outlet and a source of support.

National Coming Out Day, held annually on Oct. 11, started in 1988 as an anniversary of the March on Washington for lesbian and gay rights.

At FIU, it’s the first year that events are happening all day on both campuses and “is the first time its organization is such a concerted effort,” said Gisela Vega, associate director for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning/Queer and Ally services.

“There are so many issues affecting the community,” said Vega. “Homelessness among the youth, family and culture” and “bullying that is magnified due to prevalence of social media and regional values, depending on what part of the country you’re at.”

Events will be held in different parts of Biscayne Bay Campus’ Wolfe University Center and the Graham Center Pit at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus starting at 9 a.m. on both campuses.

Members of the LGBTQ community and their allies will begin their day at BBC at 9 a.m. with breakfast. At MMC, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. they will have food and giveaways.

The Coming Out Campaign will be held for the second time this year. Students previously submitted their testimonials of their coming out experience and starting this year their pictures will be featured right next to them.

“When I think about Coming Out Day, I see strength and unity,” said William Stirrup, sophomore marine biology major, who is on the planning committee this year and president of the Gay-Straight Alliance.

“Students want to feel safe on-campus and need the resources to do so.”

At BBC, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Ally Awareness Day 3D Series will be hosted. It’s a monthly program that focuses on one topic or issue that LGBTQQA members face in the real world, and this month’s topic focuses on issues in the workplace. Questions will center around hiring and promotion discrimination and stigmatization in the workplace.

“The Defense of Marriage Act may have been struck down, but that is not the end of the difficulties future employees face,” said Vega. “Cross cultural issues also have a huge impact both inside and outside the workplace.”

“My ex-girlfriend is Cuban,” said Patricia Figueroa, a Nova graduate and intern at the LGBTQQA Initiatives Center. “It was unfortunate to see that even though she was out, there was still some homophobia from her side due to the culture she was raised in. I feel like the culture down here could often be detrimental to LGBTQs getting hired.”

One new component to this year’s events will be the Mentoring Program Kickoff. It will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in Career Services at BBC and GC 316 at MMC. Twenty-four trained mentors have been paired up with 24 LGBTQ students and have created a list of goals and expectations for the year. The mentors will provide positive role models and give back to a group that is often marginalized.

The night will wrap up with the Homecoming Dance starting at 7 p.m. at BBC. Anyone interested can pick up a white T-shirt at the breakfast portion and join the group.

“Coming Out is one of the fall semester signature events of the LGBTQQA Center. It promises to give a voice to those who previously felt invisible and a support system for those without one.”

Drinking the layman’s wine

Sept. 26, I was transported to Greece through a wine selection from the store, Mas Vino. The store on Hallandale Beach offered a wine class on Greek wines, hosted by George Spiliadis from Estiatorio Milos Restaurant. Estiatorio Milos is a well-known worldwide restaurant, with its newest location in Miami.

I became familiar with Greece by taking “History of Wine” last fall with William Hebrank, adjunct lecturer for the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. According to Hebrank, the Greeks were the first ones responsible for making wine popular and available to the masses. Prior to that, wine was considered only a beverage of the privileged, such as queens or kings. Previously, ale was the choice for the layman.

I became enchanted with the tales Hebrank shared of Dionysus, also known as Bacchus, which in modern Roman society is considered the god of wine, harvest and fertility. Dionysus, a woman’s god, let them free by consuming this miracle beverage, wine. It took them out of their daily misery; life was rough in those days and women were slaves to their men. Dionysus was their unique release. Wine then transformed into the layman’s drink, not like in Egypt where it was reserved for religious purposes for the aristocracy.

For the full column, visit fiuwm.com.