Rebecca Fernandez (above), senior in international relations and member of the Jujitsu club, showed off her martial arts skills to other students during a presentation in the pit.

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MARTIAL ARTS MADNESS

PATRICK CHALVIRE

Staff Writer

The athletics department is planning a variety of events over their exams, the University has established a series of two one-week stress relieving events formally called Recharge for Finals, formerly known to students as Cram Jam.

Cram Jam continues into its second week, which begins the start of finals, with different events each day.

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The AP has learned that at least five secret meetings have occurred between top Obama administration and Iranian officials since March. Deputy Secretary of State William Burns and Jake Sullivan, Vice President Joe Biden’s top foreign policy adviser, led each U.S. delegation. At the most recent face-to-face talks, they were joined by chief U.S. nuclear negotiator Wendy Sherman. It was at the final get-together that the two sides ultimately agreed on the contours of the pact signed before dawn Sunday by the so-called P5+1 group of nations and Iran, three senior administration officials told the AP.

Egypt’s president issues law restricting protests

Egypt’s interim president on Sunday banned public gatherings of more than 10 people without prior government approval, imposing hefty fines and prison terms for violators in a bid to stifle the near-constant protests roiling the country. The new law is more restrictive than regulations used under the rule of autocrat Hosni Mubarak, overthrow in Egypt’s 2011 uprising that marked the start of unrest in the country. Rights groups and activists immediately denounced it, saying it aims to stifle opposition, allow repressive police practices and keep security officials largely accountable for possible abuses.

College of Medicine expands with physician assistant program set for August 2015

I’m glad a higher level degree is being offered in this field. It’s definitely a good look,” said Williams.

The main goal of the program is to provide students with tools to succeed in their final exams,” Biffs said. “Every-
thing in the program is geared to relieve the stress of students during finals week… for example, the chair massages in the pit of the stress of students during finals week… for example, the chair massages in the pit of
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Students at FIU do not approve of major retail stores opening on a holiday such as Thanksgiving Day. Most students think the stores should respect the meaning of the holiday and stick to the traditional 4 a.m. sales on Black Friday. “There is no respect for Thanksgiving anymore. It is only about the sales,” says Liam Sol, a junior broadcast media major.

Target, Macy’s, JCPenney, Sears and Kohl’s announced that this year their block-buster sales begin on Thanksgiving Day, at 8 p.m. Walmart and Best Buy open at 6 a.m. Toys ’R Us opens at 5 p.m. But the retail store that takes the cake is Kmart, opening the morning of Thanksgiving and remaining open until noon on Friday. This new event has a name: Brown Thursday.

Thanksgiving should be spent with family, not scanning items at the checkout.

The color brown perfectly matches the aura of this fake event: horrible, disgusting and should be flushed down a toilet. Students believe that employees in these retail companies are the ones that are being flushed. Thanksgiving should be spent with family, not scanning items at the checkout. This year, employees sacrifice their family time for over time. Instead of filling their stomachs with turkey and pumpkin pie, employees plan to restock shelves and control the mob of angry shoppers.

Junior theater major Juan Alfonso says, “These companies deprive the employees from their loved ones on this holiday.” The employees of these major retailers are obligated to show up on Thanksgiving — but this obligation is not extended to the public.

Without people to buy the advertised bargains, companies would have no reason to open on Thanksgiving. When asked if they will be shopping on the 28th, students said they would not.

Abandoning their family traditions to shop is not something they plan on doing.

Junior digital media major Richard Lawrence says, “The problem is that the more we shop, the more reason these retailers have to open for these times. If we don’t show up on Thanksgiving, there will not be a Brown Thursday next year.”

Should FIU step up to the plate and find a way to help accommodate the schedules of these working folks?

My dream is weeks away! My hope, though is that others will be given the opportunity to fulfill theirs.

Daniel Rigoyen
Contributing Writer

I am glad to say that in my three years at FIU, I have experienced how it has managed to grow in numbers and academic opportunities that are offered to the students. This boom does not only benefit FIU and its students, but also the larger Miami area. A special eye must be put on those who are threatened, our neighbor to the north. The University’s partnership with Sweetwater is visible not only in leadership, but also on the student level. The Honors College and medical program work closely with the community, offering students practical experience required to be useful once they enter the real world.

The long-term future for that city is heading towards becoming a college community — an extension of the University in terms of student presence and opportunities. What one might think of Sweetwater’s political leadership is beside the point.

They have been smart in gearing themselves to become a destination for college students, the surrounding community and those opportunities that both can bring to the area.

A word of caution must be inserted here: Despite all talk of partnership, growth and vibrant communities, FIU has not been smart about creating meaningful growth. Think about it:

On the one hand, the City of Sweetwater is pushing to rezone itself in favor of mixed-use development. In the way of saying neighborhoods with both shops and residences. On the other hand, FIU has almost moved the opposite way and divided its uses to the point that it stimulates little meaningful interaction among its many varieties of students. I ask, what is the point of trying to create a vibrant community with an adjacent city if FIU has not been good at doing just that so far?

Public environments, especially here in the United States, are one of the most important parameters and catalysts of good civic engagement and interaction. The ability of these environments to create and stimulate communication between citizens is crucial to building good communities, formulating good ideas and creating meaningful progress. Let us look at the design of FIU thus far. The medical program is in one corner of the campus. The business school has its own little enclave next to the law building. Housing is a concentration camp where few of the University’s students or commuters ever go. A new Student Academic Support Center is planned to be built to the east of the Blue Parking Garage (nowhere near any sensible location). Also in the pipe-line, separate plans for a transportation hub and a community clinic are being envisioned on the same tract of land north of PG-5 (oops).

At the moment, the University’s leadership is drafting the long-term goals that FIU will follow moving forward. I urge students to contact these individuals and express the need for sensible growth. FIU cannot ignore the importance of public design in its goal of becoming a leading urban public research university. Improving the way our structures — the way the campus is or is not built — are used will not only benefit the University a better sense of community, but will also improve the thought processes and academic achievements of its students. One of FIU’s goal is expanding enrollment and services. This is noble. However, this growth will be a waste of space and government funds if leadership is not smart in how to plan it all out.

Essay

New security alert system being released too soon

As students, we have been told that, by the end of November, FIU would be launching a “new and improved” alert system that would help keep members of the University informed of on-campus emergencies. As previously reported in The Beacon, the new emergency alert system will “allow for the integration of the separate communication platforms to allow for a more efficient, faster and automated activation,” according to Amy Aiken, director of the Department of Emergency Management.

We were told that the testing period for the new emergency system would take two weeks and would officially launch soon after.

It is now Nov. 27, the end of the testing period, and we are still much concerned that this new emergency alert system is not quite ready to be launched. Our reasoning behind this is due to a recent error that was sent out saying “All clear, all clear,” although no one knew exactly what this was referring to. This, of course, created mass confusion throughout the campuses until FIU’s Twitter account sent out the following message: “@FIU: Panthurs, we apologize for the most recent alert. It was sent in error while testing the system. Everything is fine and there was no danger.”

Granted, this error occurred during the two-week testing period. However, the problem with this is that we are now entering the final week of November.

There should have been a warning of some kind sent out to the University that this test was going to be taking place at this time as to not cause the panic that it did. This is just extremely concerning and frustrating that people had when they received a text, email, Facebook post, and tweet with an “All clear, all clear.”

In all, we hope that the new emergency alert system will have all its bugs sorted out by the time students return from their Thanksgiving break.

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon editorial board. These views are separate from editors and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.
COLUMNNIST

Juan Barquin

Gobble-up these
Thanksgiving-themed flicks!

As we all know, Thanksgiving is known for its bountiful collection of seasonally appropriate movies. After all, who could forget such classics like “Jingle All The Way” and “Scrooged.”

Wait, no, that’s Christmas. Sorry, I’m running on a little coffee and a lot of alcohol in preparation for everyone’s favorite time with the family. Anyway, here are some of the best Thanksgiving films around that you can watch on your own time or buy on Black Friday* if you don’t spend all your cash on that fancy new flat screen.

1. “The Ice Storm”

Ang Lee’s little drama is part of the Criterion Collection, instantly implying you’ll hate it if you don’t want an arty movie, and it’s a hell of a depressing one. It’s got sex, lies, comedy, death, Kevin Kline, Sigourney Weaver and a tiny Elijah Wood — all taking place around Thanksgiving in the good old year 1973. What more do you need for the holidays?

2. “ThanksKilling”

I feel like I shouldn’t have to explain much from the title, but you know what, let me sweeten the pot. Not only is there death and a holiday, but it’s all lead by — drum roll — a killer turkey. Yes, you read right. It’s trash, but I already threw a high brow work in, so this is your other option. You should be thankful that there is trash like this in the world for us to enjoy so thoroughly.


Everyone’s seen “A Charlie Brown Christmas,” and we’ve probably seen this one, too, but heaven knows I don’t remember it, so why not watch it while you’re at it. It’ll give you some of what you think of most of the holidays? Anyway, have you seen either one of their Thanksgiving episodes? They’re absolutely hilarious. You’ve got original holiday songs, wild “My Neighbor Totoro” hallucination sequences and turkeys being dropped in the toilet constantly. Bingo!

4. Eli Roth’s “Thanksgiving”

Okay, you caught me. I’m running out of material, but I never said they weren’t going to be short films. Either way, regardless of what you think of most of Roth’s horror work, this is a pretty fun little fake trailer. As are most of the trailers in “Grindhouse” actually. Heck, you might as well go ahead and watch both “Planet Terror” and “Death Proof” because they’re deliciously entertaining.

5. “Bob’s Burgers”

“But Juan, that’s a TV show!” Yeah, it is, but I just included a fake trailer, so what’s the limitation here? Anyway, have you seen either one of their Thanksgiving episodes? They’re absolutely hilarious. You’ve got original holiday songs, wild “My Neighbor Totoro” hallucination sequences and turkeys being dropped in the toilet constantly. Bingo!

So there you have it. All sorts of entertaining media for the holiday. We can’t forget to include an honorable mention though, and that’s the animated masterpiece “Foodfight!” Why? Because it involves food and disaster. That’s what Thanksgiving is all about, folks.

If you’re looking for holiday tunes, may I recommend Steely Dan’s under-rated 1975 album “Katy Lied,” whose lead tracked “Black Friday” may or may not have anything to do with Black Friday.

***The word “masterpiece” here only applies to those who wholeheartedly adore cinematic trash.

Juan Barquin

COMIC-FUN

More kicks than the players, make your kick game major

Inside look at where to grab the hottest shoe deals this Black Friday

As Thanksgiving fast approaches and the thoughts of warm, steamy meals fill our minds, another thought begins to dawn on us — the shopping pulozza that is Black Friday.

As a shoe collector, or “sneakerhead,” I tend to look at the best places of footwear. This past weekend, I visited a couple different stores to see how each one is gearing up for the upcoming shopping day.

My first stop was Sports Authority, a place known for its different types of sports gear and footwear. I spoke with sales manager Joseph Macias, who told me that although the Black Friday deals have not officially released to the staff yet, there is no doubt that the demand for footwear will be high.

“Right now we don’t have much going on. We have your basic sales and we switch up our sales every Sunday,” Macias said. “There is nothing major until Black Friday but the deals only get released on Thanksgiving.”

As for what brand Macias expects to see a lot of demand for the answer would come as a surprise to most people, even myself. “Of course Nike which is probably the top brand and Under Armour are always big sellers,” Macias said. “Lately, though, as far as running shoes are concerned, Asics is probably the biggest competitor. They’re very popular. People come in all the time requesting them for running.”

After a quick look around the basketball section to check out the new Lebrons and Kobes, I traveled to my next destination Dick’s Sporting Goods.

As I walked into the newly built Dick’s in Kendall Town and Country Center, I was led to David Capetillo, the sales representative in charge of footwear. Capetillo began to tell me how they are preparing for Black Friday and how they have installed new systems in order to help provide more customer service.

“We actually have a new system in place where you can press a button if there are no sales associates around you and you will have help right away,” Capetillo said.

When it comes to Black Friday deals, it seems that the same rule applies for Dick’s.

Freddy Mappin, junior premed, participated in the Comic-Con event held by the Comics Club. “I go through people’s comics hoping to find something worth more than what they’re selling it for. It’s like treasure hunting,” Mappin said.

COMIC-FUN

 sees Black Friday, page 7

JOIN OUR STAFF!

The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don’t be shy.

Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124 or apply at fiusm.com.
While I would love

LIFE! The Beacon – Wednesday, November 27, 2013

"Somewhere between here and nowhere,"some place good

whelmed by a style of music you'd

Stop These Tears (From Falling),"

has paid homage to influences such

numbers.

advocates reported slightly higher

Office of Migration. Authorities

leave had reached at least 350, said

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strategies.

DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS

COLUMNIST

fiusm.com

With this in mind, it's quite

The '60s influence has been

The expulsions and voluntary

in order to successfully execute any

Which leads me to my second tactic.

Think tactically instead: wear

to the store front at least 30 minutes before

and set up a base camp if you can, lest

you want to deal with torture of standing in line.

Which leads me to my second tactic.

Think tactically instead: wear

clothes you can easily remove

or can easily place clothes over.

Said garments can aid you in

avoiding the mile-long dressing room lines.

If you are like me,

you view black friday as nothing short of a mili-
tary operation. Coordina-
tion and cooperation are the best weapons when it

comes to dealing with the

hordes of shoppers that

ascend upon all shopping malls.

In order to successfully execute any

operation you’ll need a battle plan.

That with said, relax and take notes as I

provide you with my black friday survival strategies.

1) Be selective: While I would love
to conquer six or seven different stores I

understand that black friday is nothing short

of absolute chaos. Knowing this, I choose

two to three stores and arrive with a target

already in mind. Go online and most stores

will have sections of their sites already set

up with what will be in stock as well as

specials and offers. Once you’ve honed

on your targets stick to them, silence

any voices of dissent amongst your ranks. Get

ready to stand in line/sit/levitate in line you might

have to keep yourself busy you should also make

in line just a tad bit less agonizing. Along

with finding adequate and disruptive means

to keep yourself busy you should also make

sure you are battle ready by selecting the

right gear.

3) Dress comfortably: If you’re going
to stand in line/sit/delve in line you might as well be comfy about it. There is a second
to why wearing your extra-tight jeans with boot heels (because we all know how

absolutely freezing it gets during “winter” in Miami) is a bad idea is prob-

ably because you’ll be looking for a new pair anyways. Think tactically instead: wear

clothes you can easily remove or can easily place clothes over. Said garments can aid you in

avoiding the mile-long dressing room lines. I recommend sweat pants, sneakers,
t-shirts and sweaters. Bring a back-pack, tote bag or government issued rucksack to carry

all your loot along with snacks and a bottle of water (or whatever you’re drinking).

4) Have an escape plan: After a few

short hours of scavenging, digging, standing and verbally (or otherwise) fighting over

items you’ll need to find some cover. Most malls have benches and chairs you can sit

on but if you’re a real trooper anywhere’s a good spot to crash: children play areas, the

food court, an arcade, the sidewalk and even the walls of the mall itself if you feel

like you want to snooze, recharge and reload. For the less adventurous—a car works out just

fine. At the end of the day/night retreat to your or a friend’s house for some leftovers and

egg nog knowing that you successfully and efficiently completed your mission. At ease

Diego Saldana-

fiusm.com

More than 100 additional people have either been deported to Haiti or
left on their own accord from neigh-
boring Dominican Republic after

an elderly Dominican couple was

killed, authorities and a spokesman for a migrant advocacy group said Monday.

The number of Haitians and people of Haitian descent who have been

expelled or volunteered to leave had reached at least 350, said Lolo Sterne, coordinator for Haiti’s

Office of Migration. Authorities had reported a total of 252 people expelled as of Sunday. Migrant

advocates reported slightly higher numbers.

The expulsions and voluntary
departures follow violence near the town of Neiba in the southwestern corner of the Dominican Republic.
The couple was slain last week during an apparent burglary near the border between the two countries,

and a Dominican mob retaliated by killing a Haitian man.

On Monday, the Dominican Republic's national police chief, Manuel Castro Castillo, visited

Neiba to look into bolstering secu-

rity in the area.

Migrant advocates say many of the deported people first went to a police station seeking refuge and

some volunteered to leave the country because they feared being victims of mob violence. Others

left because the Dominican authori-

ties rounded them up in the streets, migrant advocates said.

Dominican police issued a state-

ment saying people were expelled

from the country, but rather went to

the police station because they

feared reprisals and asked authori-

ties to escort them to the border so

they could cross it themselves.

Juvenal Celedon was among those

who went to the police station on his

own accord.

Carrying a backpack and a gym

bag, the 34-year-old construction

worker said he relied on a Domini-

can friend to take him to the police station while others opted to lie low

because they were scared of being lynched.

"Many of us had to go into hiding," Celedon said Monday afternoon.

He spoke before boarding a government bus that was taking him

and a couple dozen others to a bus station. He planned to catch a bus

to his Haitian hometown of Thom-

azeen, a lakeside community near the border where his wife and four

children live. He said he wanted to

leave the Dominican Republic until

things cooled but planned to go back

as soon as possible.

There had been no additional reports of people being killed in

Neiba.

Germino Suarez, of the Jesuit

Service for Refugees and Migrants,

told The Associated Press from the Dominican border town of Jimani

that some people did go on their

own to the border, terrified they

could be harmed by mobs seeking revenge. Others approached mili-

itary posts only seeking protection, he said.

justin.angelo@fiusm.com

People flee, are deported to Haiti after killings

EVENS SANON

AP Writer

Haiti and the Dominican Republic have had a long and vola-
tary relationship as neighbors on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola.

The Dominican Republic was

among the first countries to respond

after the devastating 2010 earth-

quake in the Haitian capital and has

helped with reconstruction.

But relations have been tense in recent weeks following a ruling by a

Dominican court that upheld a provision of the Constitution

denying citizenship to non-citizens and their descendents and ordered

the government to purge the voter rolls of non-citizens. Migrant advoca-

tes say the ruling may strip citi-

zenship of 200,000 people, but

the government says few people will

be affected and has sought to dispel

fears of mass deportations.

Karen Graham

The Associated Press

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The Associated Press
The Panthers did not win a home game this season as they fell to the Thundering Herd of Marshall University 48-10. The closest win was a 41-38 result against Florida Atlantic University 41-38. The Panthers have allowed 219 points on the road this season. The worst was a 72-point defeat to the University of Central Florida who put up 38 unanswered points earlier in the season.

Allowing a lot of points has been a trend for Panthers this year, whether at home or on the road. The Panthers have allowed 219 points on the road this season. The worst was a 72-point defeat to the University of Louisville.

However, let it be noted that the Panthers have not won in Miami since Sep. 8, 2012 when they defeated the University of Akron 41-38.

However, it has been noted that the Panthers did not win a single game at FIU Stadium this season as the Thundering Herd of Marshall University dominated both the running and passing games in their 48-10 win over FIU on Saturday, Nov. 23.

The Thundering Herd was Senior Night for a handful of players. Some of the leaders of this young team played their last collegiate game in Miami.

Defensive tackles Imane Faciane and Greg Hickman, whose names have been mentioned by NFL scouts, played their final game at FIU. The two have received multiple honors. Hickman was named to the preseason Senior Bowl watch list – the Senior Bowl is the final chance for seniors who want to go into the league to show game performance. Faciane received player of the week honors for his field goal block against the University of Southern Mississippi’s Golden Eagles.

Some other defensive seniors that played their final game at FIU Stadium were cornerback Sam Miller, safety Mitch Worzniak and linebacker Markieth Russell.

Three tight ends and two receivers are among the offensive players who will be finishing their collegiate careers on Saturday against FAU: Junior Delpe, Zach Schaubabut, Cory White, Rockey Vann and Jaurs Williams, respectively.

For some of these players, the FAU game will be the final football game of their careers. However, some may get opportunities to turn professional as FIU names have gotten bigger in some professional football leagues.

Medlock making name as punter

For three weeks in a row, quarterback Jake Medlock has been a trend for Panthers this year, despite last season having limited minutes. Sophomore guard Taylor Shade, junior forward Tynia McKinzie are seeing an increase in playing time as last season; players like sophomore guard Katrina Epnere went from playing time as last season; players like sophomore guard Katrina Epnere went from playing time in two games, appearing in three and totaling 53 minutes last season has appeared in three of four games last season has appeared in three of four games for the Panthers as well.

While those three and four if Davydova returns expected to receive the same kind of playing time as last season; players like sophomore guard Taylor Shade, junior forward Brianna Wright and junior forward Tynia McKinzie are seeing an increase in playing time despite last season having limited minutes. Sophomore guard Katrina Epnere went from playing seven of 11 games in 11 games to starting three, in appearance in three and totaling 53 minutes this season.

It is perhaps an obstacle for FIU to start the season as they have been trying to get in sync on the offensive end. The process of figuring out the offense is showing as FIU is averaging 15 turnovers a game this season. After committing 19 turnovers in the opener against FGCU in which Russo attributed it to being lack of playing experience.

Players such as Wright, who only appeared in three games last season has started every game this season and already has two games in double figures. FIU is hoping that the junior can produce down in the low post and be active on the boards.

Shade didn’t see the court much last season and is expected by Russo to provide more scoring and dribble penetration to take some of the load off of Coley.

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McKinzie is another that only saw limited action last season but this junior has made an appearance in all four games.

In addition, in all four games this season, Russo has played two freshmen in Karath Johnson and Janika Hegedus with Hegedus being placed in the starting line-up in their three-game road stretch.

Junior forward Aseille Durant played in 29 games last season has appeared in three of four games for the Panthers as well.

As the season moves forward, many players in the regular rotation were not so much last year and are expected to step up this season. Of the top six players leading in minutes played this season, only two of them saw action regularly last season which are Coley and Labady.

FIU Hosts Thanksgiving Classic

After dropping their fourth straight contest to start the season with an 89-69 loss to Boston College, the Panthers look ahead to the FIU Thanksgiving Classic which will host Valparaiso University on Friday, Nov. 29. Last year the Panthers split their contest in the Thanksgiving Classic, defeating the University of Iowa 66-65 before dropping a 76-69 decision to Louisiana State University. Both teams are seeking their first win of the season with FIU standing at 0-4 and Valparaiso sitting at 0-5.

FIU will look to sharpen their perimeter defense after allowing Boston College to shoot over 60 percent from three point land allowing 12-19 for the game. Coley will look to continue her solid play after posting over 20 points in the last three games including 36 against Boston College. Wright will look to continue her production late in the two last of the three last games she was one rebound shy of recording a double-double. For Valparaiso, the Crusaders are coming off an 84-78 loss to Tennessee Tech University on Sunday Nov. 24. The Crusaders are led by sophomore guard Abby Dean averaging 11.7 points per game and is coming off a career high of 17 points against Tennessee Tech.

The women’s basketball team was unavailable for comment at the time of publication.

Young Panthers getting increased play this season

For FIU, many players have seen increased roles and increased playing time so far. After losing three starters to graduation last season and the addition of four new freshmen FIU finds itself in a rotation with many players lacking consistent playing experience.

So far this season, senior guard Jerica Coley and junior guard Zoeifa Labady are the only players this season playing that appeared in the bulk of the team’s games last season.

Senior center Marita Davydova is the only other to appear in 30 games last year but has not suited up all season and her status is until uncertain. Davydova was out against Florida Gulf Coast University in head Coach Cindy Russo called a coach’s decision. The senior stayed home as the team hit the road for their
GARCIA, PAGE 1

played so far, attendance has already reached an all-time high, according to Garcia.

“We’ve had students come out to our games in record numbers this year,” Garcia said. “We’ve sold more season tickets than we did in the past and we’ve had record number of students so we’re getting big crowds.”

The Panthers will host three nationally televised games: Florida Atlantic University and last season’s sweet-16 opponent Florida Gulf Coast University. The last game, against last season’s national champion the University of Louisville, will be the first in University history with a national championship.

For Miami natives, the festivities can be taken for granted.

“Whether it had to do with LeBron James saying ‘I’m taking my talents to South Beach,’ or whether people just think of South Florida and think of the beach, people look at us as ‘South Florida, the beach.’ Garcia said. The University of Oregon first brought out the culture of a new themed image to basketball courts in 2010. The University followed right after and 21 other colleges, including the University of Central Florida, have changed the look and feel of their courts.

The addition to the cabanas has sparked some controversy. The seating used to be reserved for the band who has now been infused with the student section.

Questions arose as to where students will be placed during games.

“We added student sections to the lower bowl; those are good seats,” Garcia said. “At the end of the day, the students are what gives us the energy. We want them to be rowdy and loud.”

Athletics has also included giving away free food and non-alcoholic drinks for fans that attend the home games.

In a separate interview with Student Media, MMC Student Government Association President Liane Sippin was unaware of the shift of the student section and did not know of changes being made, but worried about how Athletics was run.

There is so much going on in Athletics, and I don’t think they have enough people to deal with the marketing of everything,” Sippin said. “The Beach Bash, I think they started advertising it three days before. It could’ve been so great but the fact they got their flyer out late, I don’t know.”

Garcia was unaware of the situation and unable to comment.

Attendance at sporting events remains a problem. Many fans arrive early but leave after tailgates—an issue that Garcia says he is well aware of.

“Students are having a great time at the tailgate, so we want to come up with some ideas of how we get that festive, loud atmosphere to come into the stadium,” Garcia said. “We just gotta take the same creativity and we gotta do some of these same things over at the football stadium.”

According to the NCAA, a requirement for Football Bowl Subdivision teams is an average of 15,000 paid or actual attendance during a two-year period. The University failed to reach that number last season during the football season, but according to Garcia, the concerns should end.

“We went three and nine and we didn’t meet the attendance requirement, but they let you meet it every other year,” Garcia said. “People gave up on the team and stopped coming to the games and we’ve actually had better attendance this year. According to Conference USA and the new coach and everything else, we’ve had better attendance.”

Despite backlash, most notably from a firepetegarcia.com website, Garcia thinks that the best for athletics is yet to come.

“We’re going to keep pushing the envelope because at the end of the day, the people at FIU want to be the best. They don’t have a lot of patience.”

-Ashley DeSanto

Air Jordans among top sellers for Black Friday

BLACK FRIDAY, PAGE 4

“There’s no doubt that the Jordan brand will always be the big sellers, regardless of what day it is. However, the Lebron brand is quickly starting to make Jordan run for his money. “When it comes to Black Friday, I would consider sticking to your local shoe and athletic store when it comes to getting workout gear or running shoes. However, if you’re a person who is into the sneaker game and is looking for a Jordan or Lebron shoe, then prepare to invade and fight your way through the sea of people at the mall.”

The two biggest ones that will be released this Black Friday will be the KD VI or “Maryland Blue Crab” and the Air Jordan V Retro or “Oreo.”

There’s no doubt that the Jordan brand will always be the big sellers, regardless of what day it is. However, the LeBron brand is quickly starting to make Jordan run for his money.

The Lebron XI will be releasing three different models in the next few months, the first one being released today, Nov. 27. The “Terra cotta Warrior” will be part of the Black Friday pack that will also include a number of different Nike and Jordan shoes.

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Women’s swimming and diving continuing early success at Mizzou

SWIMMING, PAGE 8

Horner commented on their progress.

“This is the midpoint of the season so everything is according to plan and they are meeting their expectations, there are very few surprises,” Horner said.

As the second day of the Mizzou Invitational got under way, Perez Arau picked up where she left off the day before, and she did it in record breaking fashion for the Panthers. Perez broke the school record along with the Conference USA record on the 400 IM event. A time of 4:09.59 was what gave her the new school and conference records and it currently ranks third in the country, a place that will probably give her a spot in Minneapolis, Minn. for the NCAA Championships in March.

The later rounds also gave chance for other FIU swimmers to step up to the challenge, and they did, with performances like the one from Alfani in the 100m backstroke as she posted FIU’s best time this season, and Farrugia who posted a career best in the 200m freestyle.

With two over-achieving performances on the first two days of the competition, FIU looked to keep the pace of the event entering the last day of the Mizzou Invite, and who better to spark the team than Perez and Gustafsdottir, they would face off again on the 200 meter backstroke. But this time the Icelandic native Gustafsdottir came out on top. The Panthers finished one and three in the event. Johanna posted a time of 1:55.74, a team high for FIU this season, Perez took the third place honors by setting a new personal record with a time of 1:57.35. In that same competition freshman Maddie Rapp, senior Valeria Popova as well as sophomore Becky Wilde all set career highs in the event.

“Women’s swimming was also well represented in the diving platforms by Sabrina Beaupre, who set a new FIU record on it by participating, and posting a time of 231.90 on her fifth place finish.

Horner commented on the success of Perez and Gustafsdottir and their possible NCAA tournament qualifying times.

“These are two of the swimmers we prepared for this competition, giving them a little more rest and they stepped up,” Horner said. “Sonia with a time that is 99 percent sure to put her in the tournament, and Johanna also recorded the same mark that got her into the tournament last season, but we will see.”

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Panthers set records at Mizzou Invite

Luis Barroso Contributing Writer

The FIU Swimming and Diving team had a record breaking performance this past weekend as they visited in the Mizzou Invite. FIU was led by senior Sabrina Beausper in the diving competitions and senior Sonia Perez Arau as well as junior Johanna Gustafsdottir in the swimming competitions. In an event that featured 12 schools in conferences such as the Big Ten and the Pac-10, FIU showed they are not a school to be overlooked as they finished in strong fashion being an event that featured 12 schools in conferences such as the Big Ten and the Pac-10, FIU showed they are not a school to be overlooked as they finished in strong fashion that day.

This is a mid-season invitational and our second biggest of the season, there are good caliber programs outside of Florida that compete, they received a week’s rest and came to compete, they went 100 percent across the border, they all stepped up,” Head Coach Randy Horder said.

FIU started the event on Thursday night, and they set the pace for their entire tournament in record breaking fashion right off the gates. It all started by a friendly competitive match up in between Gustafsdottir and Perez in the 200 IM. While on the preliminary races for the event, Sonia’s time of 2:00.25 was a couple of seconds shy of the school record, but Perez was just warming up at that point, as she came in the finals to break the record mark with a time of 1:58.08. As Perez was having one of the best days of her career, the owner of the previous school record Gustafsdottir was ready to hit the pool. She meant business, Gustafsdottir then re-broke her previous record and Perez’s time by clocking a 1:58.27, a time that was just 0.19 of a second short of the Conference USA record. These times currently rank Gustafsdottir sixth in the nation while Perez sits in with the eight best time and both achieved NCAA B Standards.

The Panthers also stepped up on the 200 meter freestyle relay race, with Gustafsdottir beside junior Courtney VanderSchaaf, freshman Jennifer Alfani and junior Kara Anderson, the group clocked a time of 1:33.58 and set a new school record on the process. The 100m butterfly event was also an event that brought success to the Panthers, as FIU had four swimmers qualify for the preliminary finals. The Panthers were led by Alfani who set a time of 55.89 secs by setting a season record on the event for FIU while ranking fourth all time in the school. In addition to Alfani, freshmen Jenny Deist and Therese Nord also set personal bests in the event while qualifying.

On the 500 freestyle junior Nadia Furgia along with VanderSchaaf set top times for FIU this season. On the 50 freestyle Anderson, along with Popova, Alfani and Deist each set the top four times for FIU this season on the event.

Student Services looks to alleviate the pressures of finals week

Jeffrey Pierce Contributing Writer

In the final weeks of the semester, it’s not unusual to find students stressed away within the library, sleep-deprived, anxious or running solely on coffee or energy drinks. Finals week is a high stakes game and students adjust themselves accordingly. “The entire mood of the campus shifts,” said Julian Rivas, a junior psychology major, describing the appearance of students during finals week. “You walk through the [Wolfie University Center] and all you see are stressed-out zombies hiding behind books and laptops.”

During the two weeks of preparations and exams, students are faced with two major issues: finding ways to remain thorough and attentive all throughout their studies, and managing the stress that comes with act of studying in itself. The way students cope with the latter can often be the most important factor in the outcome of finals week and grades.

It’s with this motive that Camila Pham, senior health educator at Student Health Services, partners up with Maxine Hyton, director of Student Affairs at the Graham Court, to help students at Biscayne Bay Campus “charge for finals” -- a week of festivities similar to Modesto Maidique Campus’ “Cram Jam” but Pham said she did not want to promote cramming for finals.

“If the past, what we’ve done is purchase things that were healthy for students studying for finals. We would buy things like fruits and granola bars and pass them around to students studying or heading to class to take an exam,” said Pham. “But for the past three years we’ve been partnering up with the Graham Center to do something more.”

On Dec. 2, Dec. 4 and Dec. 5, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Student Health Services will be stationed in the Green Library, in Room 220, to provide students with various tips, resources and services that can ease the stresses that come with preparing for finals exams. Students can expect to find herbal teas, fruits, granola bars, healthy snacks, free massages and various types of aromatherapy.

Aromatherapy, which is the practice of using the natural oils extracted from flowers, bark, stems, leaves, roots or other parts of a plant to enhance psychological and physical well-being, is used by many students through Student Health Services during finals week. Each blend can provide students with various forms of mental and emotional relief. For example, peppermint extract is said to aid students retain information and promote mental functioning (a common practice used during the FCAT with peppermint candy), while Yang Yang extract can help students relax and can even lower blood pressure.

“Last year, we went through over 800 vials of different types of aromatherapy blends,” said Pham. “We’ve had blends for headaches, stress and sleeping problems. This year we’re expecting a lot more. Our students love, love, love them.” Students at the Biscayne Bay Campus can look forward to Campus Life’s Midnight Breakfast: Boogie at the Bay on Dec. 9 from 10 p.m. - 1 a.m. in the Wolfe Center Ballrooms, where the BBC Wellness Center will provide free massages.

“Shari Little, our licensed massage therapist, will be giving students 10 minute sessions. The session will include an aromatherapy diffuser with a special relaxation blend,” said Ludovica Virgile, the program assistant at the Biscayne Bay Campus Wellness Center. The Wellness Center also plans to hand out “stress release and relaxation” related giveaways that can benefit students.

Campus Life at BBC will also host a spa day on Dec. 4 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. that will give students a chance to unwind with a massage, and, female students, a chance to be pampered with nail polishing and makeup applications.

Throughout the semester, Student Health Services says it is dedicated to providing students with the resources to maintain healthy and productive lives, both in and out of the classroom. Finals week should be no exception.

“We are trying to make it more personalized and more intentional for students,” said Pham. “So when students study, they can learn and use techniques on how to study in a healthy way.”