Archaeological sites spur senior faculty research

REBECA PICCARDO
Asst. News Director

Until a few weeks ago, the Miami Circle was the only archeological site that was considered culturally significant for the history of Miami. Now, six new circles have been uncovered that reveal further findings about the Tequesta Indians.

For Professor Mary Pfeiffer, senior faculty fellow in the Honors College, this means holding off the publication date of her book about her research on the Miami Circle, which she started about 10 years ago before she became a faculty member at the University.

“This new site might be more significant than the Miami Circle,” said Pfeiffer.

Back when the Miami Circle was discovered, she participated in efforts to prevent the circle from being destroyed by developers. The “Save the Circle” movement proved to be successful. Now Pfeiffer, along with other key players in the conservation society, including Head Archaeologist of the Miami Circle Robert Carr, is looking to

SEE RESEARCH, PAGE 2

Judaism at cutting edge:
10th annual conference to talk torah and science

CLAYTON GUTZMORE
Contributing Writer

Nathan Katz quoted Albert Einstein: “Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind.”

These two topics are both explored through conversation by many professors, doctors and other experts in the 10th annual conference of the Study of Spirituality. The conference occurs every two years and this year marks the 10th year anniversary, Katz said.

According to Katz, the Program in the Study of Spirituality is a four day conference produced by the members of The Shul, a Jewish community center located on Collins Avenue in Surfside. The conference occurs every two years and this year marks the 10th year anniversary, Katz said.

“We have invited Avraham Steinberg who is leading religious authority in medical ethics and winner of the Israel prize,” said Katz, who is also one of the main organizers of the TSC.

According to Katz, the Program in the Study of Spirituality has been a co-sponsor of the conference for the past 12 to 14 years.

This year’s conference is going to host 16 presenters leading rabbis and top-notch scientists for appreciation and understanding of their viewpoints on religion and science,” said Katz, the director of the Program in the Study of Spirituality.

TSC is a four day conference produced by the members of The Shul, a Jewish community center located on Collins Avenue in Surfside. The conference occurs every two years and this year marks the 10th year anniversary, Katz said.

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SEE RESEARCH, PAGE 2

BANJO DITTY

Keycel Pelaez (above), senior in anthropology, relaxes by playing a tune on his banjo beneath the trees.

Women’s basketball gets first win, finishes second in Thanksgiving Classic

STEVEN ROWELL
Staff Writer

In the FIU Thanksgiving Classic the Panthers picked up their first win of the season, and finished runner-up in the Thanksgiving Classic by splitting their two contests.

On Friday Nov. 29, behind a second half surge led by senior guard TySSa McKINZIE, FIU pulled away from Valparaiso University en route to a 65-47 victory. McKINZIE finished with 11 points and 12 rebounds recording her first career double-double.

At halftime, FIU led 29-27 and shot 39.3 percent compared to 24.2 percent for Valparaiso. The Crusaders kept the game close in the second half in large part of shooting 11-14 from the free throw line as FIU was plagued by foul trouble in the first half. Junior guard ZoFia LABADY, McKINZIE, junior forward Briana WRIGHT and freshman forward Karrah Johnson each picked up two fouls in the first half.

The Panthers stayed out of foul trouble in the second half with only four team fouls and kept the Crusaders off the free throw line.

“We talked about that a lot, and in the second half I really thought we picked up defensively, and put them on their heels. Head Coach Cindy Russo said.

With Villanova University defeating Montana State University 79-55 on Friday Nov. 29 in the FIU Thanksgiving Classic, the championship round was set between FIU and Villanova. Villanova rallied in the second half behind junior forward Lauren Barford and senior guard Devon Kane to propel the wildcats to a 68-61 victory over FIU.

“Tve talked about foul trouble a lot, and in the second half I really thought we picked up defensively and put them on their heels. Cindy Russco Head Coach Women’s Basketball

SEE CLASSIC, PAGE 7
Drone on: novel uses for Amazon’s drone delivery

Amazon.com CEO Jeff Bezos wants his company to deliver goods — in 30 minutes or less — using drones. While many regulatory hurdles stand in the way, it’s not hard to imagine how such a service might change our lives. Forget home delivery. With the so-called Prime Air unmanned aircraft project, Amazon can potentially deliver goods to customers within minutes, instead of hours or days.

For more world news, check out FIU.COM.
The Beacon  

Wednesday, December 4, 2013  

Are political talk shows really worth listening to?

LUIS SANTANA  
Contributing Writer  

A man runs from the door of his house fighting against the freezing rain to get inside his car. His face is vengeful, and cranks the car to life. As moves the car forward he clicks a knob and on comes a loud commanding voice. 

The words fly from the radio like flames from a furnace, burning the ears of the listener and inciting a rage in him that burns hotter than a thousand George Freeman grills.

He starts nodding his head in agreement and yelling, “Yes! He’s so right this government is in shambles!” and sometimes, “This world is going to hell in a handbasket!”

He swerves around traffic, beeping at those who have a different elected official’s name on their bumper, shaking his fist wishing he could give them a piece of his mind.

The voice on the radio keeps spurring him on and on until the man is furiously agreeing and preaching a message not of his own making, but of what the voice tells him to say.

The man parks his car at his job, nodding in approval towards the radio as he hears the final words of his lecturer, turns off his car and storms off, fueled by anger for the rest of the day and passing it on to everyone he meets.

Later that night he will go home and sleep, and wake up to do the same thing tomorrow.

He will listen to a message of his own creating.

The problem I see with political talk radio and those who listen to it is that they really allow their emotions to be riled up by these speakers.

And rage, one that is meant to make you paranoid and furious. A voice that is known to us as political talk radio.

I am not a Republican. Nor am I a Democrat.

If I bring up a figure that may be affiliated with one side of politics or another, I’m not trying to bash that party. I am simply a person who has had the displeasure of have to sit in cars that have had these boisterous preaching voices for most of my life.

Out of every talk show host, I’ve had to listen to Rush Limbaugh the most.

Now, I don’t have a problem with a man wanting to make money off of other people listening to him. Our media culture is formed on the notion that we watch these people in the glitter and glam and use it to make you want to buy something.

But what he does, like most media, is give you HIS opinion. These figures spend hours inciting your emotions rather than informing you. These figures have a commanding voice.

When I’ve heard Limbaugh talk he does give you a piece of the news, he tells you about the president’s plan to advance X and Y plan.

But what he does, like most media, is give you HIS opinion. These figures spend hours inciting your emotions rather than informing you.

The problem I see with political talk radio and those who listen to it is that they really allow their emotions to be riled up by these speakers.

They purposely play on the hyper patriotism of these Americans and use it to create anger in them.

Is it really worth it, no matter what knowledge you gather, to go around the entire day being upset?

Instead, read the news. Take the angry voices away from your ears and instead allow your own voice to develop. Inform yourself of these events rather than letting others sway their opinion.

...opinion@fiusm.com

Credit card acceptance moving FIU forward

Until recently, members of the FIU community had to deal with several departments having different stances on what credit card providers they accepted.

We can all agree this was a huge inconvenience, as it limited the services members of the FIU community could take advantage of.

For example, Visa was accepted at dining locations while it wasn’t accepted to pay tuition. This frustration led to this in the Department of Parking and Transportation, which takes all credit cards.

The University has now finally made Visa a permanent payment provider and we can commend them for it. It was a real hassle for several students to find out that they couldn’t pay for their classes at the cashier’s office due to Visa being accepted. This was the last straw for the issue involving the acceptance of certain credit card providers, so it definitely is a good thing that the University is taking into consideration the needs of its members.

The next step for the University is to accept more cards and follow the example set forth by the Department of Parking and Transportation.

As previously mentioned, parking accepts all credit cards.

We understand that each department has its own interests in mind when it comes to accepting certain credit card providers; however, the purpose of University departments that work with the FIU community is to serve their members. With that in mind, the departments need to take into account the variety of cards that the community has access to. Not everyone is given a credit card and those that are able to get one don’t always have access to Visa.

Three lessons from the bear in a flock of birds

CRISTINA GARCIA  
Staff Writer  

As the semester comes to a close and course evaluations are passed around, the time has come for some serious reflection. In the tradition of bodhisattvas (being in Buddhism that spreads enlightenments), I wanted to take a moment to share the three most important lessons I learned in my time at Florida International University.

Do you remember that silly-sounding three day retreat they mention during orientation? I do.

As a surprise, my father signed me up for Panther Camp in 2008 and packed my introverted self on the next bus to the Everglades to help me transition from high school to college. After several painful introduction exercises, I started opening up. The most memorable moment came during the last day when we had a field day and had to go through various obstacle courses.

During one event, two teams of about eight to ten people were lined up across from each other; their objective was to retrieve a ball before their opponents and bring it across a specified line. They had us race in different directions and time after time I lost because I was a heavyset woman far from fit and time after time I lost because I was not a morning person, don’t creating problems for yourself by taking the 6 a.m. “Shakespearean Tragedies” class.

While volunteering at the Digital Writing Studio, I was introduced to Professor Ben Lauren, an instructor in the Writing and Rhetoric program. He introduced a completely new classroom system to me, one in which the professor only acts as a moderator, where the student is respected, where divergent thinking is encouraged and all parties could teach each from another.

Divergent thinking looks a lot like brainstorming. Basically, it’s when you generate multiple possibilities for any given problem. It tends to be spontaneous and organic.

During my time at the studio, I was supposed to design The Center for Women’s and Gender Studies student journal, “Making Waves.”

A typical day might look like the following: walking in, researching the science behind color, reflect on the color choices of a poster in the room, talk to my colleagues about the colors in the poster and those I intend to use in the journal, commence to talk about the colors of different national flags and what they mean, dip briefly into Asian history, then apply any conclusions we might reach to my work.

Some people might consider the course challenging and found a way to use my strength, literally.

Second, find a system that works for you. Use Rate My Professor or any other tools to find professors, courses or programs that fit your needs. If you know you’re not a morning person, don’t create problems for yourself by taking the 6 a.m. “Shakespearean Tragedies” class.

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to opinion@fiusm.com.

Send Your Letters

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com. You are encouraged to sign your letter, but are not required to include your name, major, year, or copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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Inversing yourself in the self of colors and faults while mourning for the momentary loss of a high-speed Internet service, meanwhile dealing with interrupted water and electric services, can be a l(а)thьing experience.

However, those little sacrifices become priceless when you have the opportunity to discover a unique experience in your early twenties before society and daily life pressures have destroyed your hope for a better world and, one day, a peaceful society.

After my second week in Ladnun, India, the land of “either you love it or hate it,” I decided to sit in the entrance of a small library to guard myself from the midday heat. My eyes were intrigued by white fabrics that coated peaceful souls while they were walking barefoot around the hot ground. They were looking for “ahimsa,” clean food liberated from any type of pain or suffering.

Ahimsa, one of the cardinal virtues for the Jain community, refers to nonviolence and a peaceful way of living by using any type of clothes that may hurt any living creatures. They also do not support any kind of job or action that may create harm to the Earth or others.

Jains particularly attempt to avoid doing any intentional harm; for this reason, they follow a complete vegetarian — and, some of them, vegan — diet. Any type of food that may carry animal suffering or violence is absolutely intolerable.

To eliminate harm, the Jainism community promotes forgiveness, tolerance, peace, love, charity, respect, and animal and human kindness, respect for the environment and honesty.

Following this peaceful path, Jains are vegetarians and do not respect all the living creatures in the universe. In Jainism, 18 virtues of love under the sun of Ladnun

In this case, soldiers defending their country or their self are justified. The Jainism message of nonviolence has traveled all around the world and the vegan/vegetarian community have felt their support.

In my few years of vegetation and now veganism, “unbeatable minds” have always started the argument of where I get my protein from or they may insist that we, humans, are a stronger species so our legacy of blood and sacrifice is acceptable. However, why not for once you take the chance, have the courage and break stereotypes, depart from your comfort zone and ultimately experience the benefits of a different diet that will lead you to a different lifestyle horizon.

Today, we can obtain fruits, vegetables and seeds all year around, for instance, so there is not a justification for a lack of variety in your meal. And if you do not care about mass production, vaccines, hormones or suffering in your plate, maybe you are concerned about your inner self and how vegetarian diets will straighten your metabolism. Or at least step out from a shadow of ignorance and discover where your food comes from. From a nonviolence lifestyle is a beautiful path that involves not just what we eat, but also how we act and what we think.

“At the center of non-violence stands the principle of love,” as according to Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Catching Fire” is a decent enough sequel

I’ll be honest when I say that I remain, to the frustration of many friends, not all that impressed by “The Hunger Games: Catching Fire.” This kind of reveal is far less shocking than anything the film throws in the way of its main characters, but people seem shocked nonetheless when I bring it up.

Some may remember I was generous with the first film of the series, finding Gary Ross’ rather gritty presentation of the dystopian society in turn into danger in the arena to be a positive feature. It was raw and dirty, just the way it should have been. “Catching Fire,” however, has received a major makeover.

No, it’s nothing like what Effie or the denizens of the Capitol wear all over their face, but it might as well be. A good chunk of the film takes place in the upper class sections of Panem as Katniss (Jennifer Lawrence) and Peeta (Josh Hutcherson) embark on the Victory Tour long after winning the games. This is all, of course, before they and fellow victors are sentenced to yet another death match, in celebration of the 75th anniversary of The Hunger Games.

There’s an all too notable difference between the style of “Catching Fire” and its predecessor in that it’s all glitz and glamour. Cinematographer Jo Willems sure knows how to make a pretty movie, and I can’t fault him for that, but director Francis Lawrence should know better than to keep the the slums looking as pristine as President Snow’s mansion. As gorgeous as it looks, though, it’s the film’s inability to spread out its acts evenly that make it less exciting than it could be.

It’s hard to judge “Catching Fire,” without referencing the novel it’s based on, as writers Simon Beaufoy and Michael Debruyn try as hard as they can to keep it as close to the book as possible. While it could have used an extra half hour, filling up a two-and-a-half-hour movie properly is no easy task and these men don’t do a half-bad job. The novel has an attention to detail in throwing out clues and bringing them back later, but the film just makes everything happen — only caring about prepping the world for “Mockingjay” next year. Fingers crossed writer Danny Strong has a good plan on how to spread that novel out properly.

It’s entirely possible that I sound too harsh, but as much as I complain, I still think “Catching Fire” is a good enough movie. There are a lot of things to be thankful for with this adaptation, but nothing is quite as great as some of the character performances. As much as I loathe the love triangle, Liam Hemsworth and Josh Hutcherson aren’t nearly as frustrating on film as on paper, and even with Jennifer Lawrence losing most of her tan, she’s as enjoyable as usual to watch. But nobody steals the show like Jena Malone’s Johanna and Sam Claflin’s Finnick.

Malone’s elevator scene and general snappiness was more than what the first gave them. As critical as I am to the books, but just as likely to please those who wanted more than what the first gave them. As critical as I am of it, the film’s a solid sequel, a definite crowd-pleaser and less than likely going to be a good fit in the series’ long run.

-Life@fiusm.com
Miami gives a false sense of identity to tourists

COLUMNIST

Let’s just get one thing straight: there is more to Miami than South Beach. It is unknown if it has to do with the way the Magic City is portrayed in movies, or the fact that Miami Heat star LeBron James told the world he was taking his talents to South Beach, but since when did the entire city become a waterfront?

As much as I support and love LeBron James, he should’ve done his research before his hour-long special on where he will continue his NBA career.

The American Airlines Arena is in Downtown Miami, next to Bayside, along Biscayne Boulevard. Did he not know that South Beach is a drive away from where he will be contending for a championship?

Since the world seems to enjoy the glorification of celebrities and athletes, outsiders fail to do their due diligence and flock to the notion that what he says goes. As appealing and enticing as it is for tourists, the reality is that there is more to Miami than sand and clear blue water.

Yes, Miami is known to have some of the most beautiful women anyone can ask for, but there’s more to it.

Unfortunately, the University has also fed into the notion of outsiders and recently became a member of Miami’s newest college Bowl game, the Miami Beach Bowl.

Legoland Florida to Build New Hotel by 2015

TAMARA LUSH

AP Writer

While shoveling a ceremonial brick, Legoland Florida executives announced Thursday that the theme park will build a 152-room hotel on its property by 2015.

The news is significant for both the theme park and the area. Since opening in 2011, the park has drawn many guests from families who are staying in Orlando and visiting the area’s large theme parks like Disney or Universal.

A brightly-colored Lego-themed hotel is expected to draw more visitors for longer stays to Winter Haven, a small city in Polk County about 50 miles (80 kilometers) from Walt Disney World.

“This shifts us from a single day visit to a multi-day destination,” said Adrian Jones, the general manager of Legoland Florida.

This will be the world’s fifth Legoland Hotel; there is currently Lego-themed lodging in California, England and Denmark. Another hotel is under construction in Malaysia.

Local Florida officials said they traveled to the California location and saw how the Legoland park and hotel has expanded the entire area’s tourism offerings.

“This was our hope from the beginning,” said Winter Haven Mayor JP Powell, adding that he’s hoping other large hotel, restaurant and tourism companies will add outposts in the area — which was once orange groves decades ago.

Legoland Florida is on what was once Cypress Gardens, an old-timey Florida theme park that offered water ski shows and Southern belle-dressed in hoop skirts. Some of Cypress Gardens’ amusement such as the historic botanical area, were preserved and are still on Legoland grounds.

Area of Walker car crash known for street racing

AP STAFF

Fans of “Fast & Furious” star Paul Walker erected a makeshift memorial near the site of his fatal automobile crash, as investigators worked to determine the cause of the fiery weekend wreck that also claimed the life of his friend.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department said speed was a factor in Saturday’s one-car crash, though it will take time to determine how fast the car was going.

Roger Rodas, Walker’s friend and financial adviser, also died, according to Walker’s publicist, Ame Van Iden. She said Walker was a passenger in the 2005 red Porsche Carrera GT when they drove away from a fundraiser in the community of Valencia, about 30 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles.

Sheriff’s deputies found the car engulfed in flames when they arrived at the site of the crash, near the fundraiser at Rodas’ sport car dealership. Officials have not identified either person found in the car.

Because Walker is so closely associated with the underground culture of street racing portrayed in the popular film franchise, the accident had an outsize tragedy — a tragic end for a Hollywood hero of speed.

On Sunday, fans of Walker, 40, gathered to leave flowers, candles and memorabilia from the action movies. His “Fast & Furious” co-star Tyrese Gibson broke down when he visited the crash site.

“Paul is the heart and soul of this franchise and we’re gonna see to it that his energy and presence lives on forever,” Gibson later posted on his Instagram account.

Sheriff’s deputy Peter Gomez said investigators were trying to determine how fast the car was traveling and what caused it to go out of control, including whether the driver was distracted or something in the road prompted it to veer.

After the Porsche crashed into a light pole and tree, it burst into flames. The downed light pole had a speed limit sign of 45 mph.

Walker rode the “Fast & Furious” franchise to fame, starring in all but one of the six action blockbusters, beginning with the first film in 2001. He had been on break from shooting the seventh installment; production began in September and while much of the film has been shot, it’s incomplete.

Universal Pictures has not said what it plans to do with “Fast & Furious 7,” which currently is slated for release in July.

Walker and Rodas had thrown a fundraiser benefiting victims of the recent typhoon in the Philippines. The event was held by Reach Out Worldwide, a charity Walker founded in 2010 to aid victims of natural disasters.

The fundraiser and toy drive took place at Rodas’ custom car shop, Always Evolving, in an area of warehouses and office parks. Rodas, 38, and Walker co-owned an auto racing team. Rodas competed in 10 Pirelli World Challenge GTS races this year, the racing organization said in a statement.

Attendees rushed to the crash, which was nearby but out of sight, to try to put out the flames with fire extinguishers.

One attendee of the event, Jim Torp, said he heard the loud sound of a car’s engine revving and then an explosion. Walker and Rodas planned a quick ride, Torp said.

“The last words Paul said to anybody were, ‘Hey, I’ll be back in five minutes. All right?’ And that was it,” according to Torp.

Torp said Rodas had a young son, whom he tried to stop from running to the accident scene, but could not catch him in time.

Walker left behind two completed films. He stars in the upcoming Hurricane Katrina drama “Hours,” which Lionsgate’s Pantelion Films is to release Dec. 13. He also stars in “Brick Mansions,” a remake of the French action film “District B13” that Relativity plans to release next year.

He is survived by his 15-year-old daughter.
The football program closed the book on a 2013 season with a 1-11 overall record and 1-7 in Conference USA - the first season of play in the new conference after leaving the Sun-Belt Conference by falling to Florida Atlantic University in the annual Shula Bowl 21-6.

The Panthers gave up 431 total offensive yards to the Owls in the loss, 282 of those yards to quarterback Jaquez Johnson who had three passing touchdowns.

However, the most valuable players of the game were two defenders in Owls defensive end Martin Wright and Panthers redshirt senior linebacker Michael Roper. He had 11 total tackles which led the Panthers on the day. Russell spoke about his final game on Instagram the day after.

"This one is going to hurt for a while," Russell posted with his picture. "Yesterday seems so surreal..." He also posted directly following the game.

"Not the outcome we wanted but I can honestly say after five years I'm humbly proud to say "#$honda#Panthers #FtinFootball MarkKeith C. Russell loves you!" Russell wrote on his Instagram account.

Russell was one of 11 Panthers whose final time wearing blue and gold was on Nov. 29.

Other notables were fellow defensive players defensive tackles Isame Fiaciane and Greg Hickman and cornerback Sam Miller as well as offensive players tight end Zach Schaubhut and wide receiver Rockey Vann.

Fiacane had five tackles and a sack for a six yard loss against the Owls. Hickman notched four tackles in his final collegiate game. Although Miller and Schaubhut did not register any statistics on the night Vann had a single reception for eight yards. Vann was on an offense that averaged only 9.8 points per game in 2013 - which tied for last in Division 1A college football with the University of Miami (Ohio) – and got his final reception on redshirt junior quarterback Jake Medlock, who for the last few weeks of the season handled most of the punting.

That may have also been the final game as a Panther for Medlock as, according to David Neal of the Miami Herald, there is talk that he may transfer out. This would leave way for quarterback E.J. Hilliard to step in and start as he did in several games this season including against the University of Louisville, East Carolina University, Middle Tennessee State University and his final start came in a 48-10 loss to Marshall University.

Junior cornerback Randy Harvey also posted on game day about Miller who he would be playing with for the final time.

"Today is the last day I get to ball with my bro," Harvey wrote. "Time flies I just got here in August and didn’t have a clue how this year would go for me and now it’s the last game. I just want to show my appreciation to my big bro who helped me get better and showed me how to grow and be more focused at the 50. I know God has blessings after blessings for this dude. It’s gonna be better sweet today. #FIU"

Players and coaches were unavailable for comment.

Quarterback E.J. Hilliard (right) may get a chance to be a full season starter as rumors are spreading that starter Jake Medlock may be transferring out of FIU. Hilliard started four games this season.

FIU football: Remembering the forgettable season

The humiliating memories from this year are endless. The first loss to an FCS school in FIU history happened with a 34-13 loss to Bethune-Cookman University in the third game of the year. That loss was followed by a 72-0 romp by the Cardinals of the University of Louisville, the worst loss in school history. A couple of weeks later, this team lost its homecoming game to a two-win University of Alabama at Birmingham squad.

The lone bright side FIU experienced this season was its lone win. One-point victory against Southern Mississippi University, which allowed the Panthers to avoid what could have ultimately been one of the worst seasons in NCAA Division-I football history.

Some would say that after such a poor season the Panthers have no choice but to get better. "It’s always darkest before dawn," something like that. The only thing is, I don’t see the dawn anywhere in the Panthers future. FIU’s two best players this year, Greg Hickman and Isame Fiaciane, are both seniors and will probably be playing in the NFL next year.

"I’m sad the season’s over with. I wasn’t ready to give it up yet," Hickman said to the Miami Herald after the loss. "Just being around the guys and enjoying my team. Next year, I don’t know what"

Even worse lack of depth. This team lost many of its best players to either legal or academic issues before the season. No team can be successful when its best players are off the field, it’s just that simple.

The season might have been different if the Panthers not stripped of their depth because of ineligibilities and disciplinary reasons. If Kedrick Rhodes, FIU’s top receiving core entering this season, not been academically ineligible quarterback Jake Medlock might not have seemed so pedestrian behind center. If Richard Leonard the Panthers top return man and corner back, kept his grades in line this defense would have been a bit more stout instead of allowing over 37 points per game.

"We’re rebuilding," said Medlock. "We changed the whole offense. We went from five-wide spread to now a Power I. We tried to slow the game down a little bit. Run a power game, play action passes. I feel like we’re going in the right direction."

Medlock is completely right, the Panthers are in full-fledged rebuilding mode and won’t be done for quite a while. FIU lost so many experienced players before they even played a down this season, and that forced a lot of inexperienced players into a position where they had to play before they were ready. This is something, though, that the Panthers can use to build on for the future. Those same guys that started this year as inexperienced will start next season as experienced veterans.

Next year will still equate to a rebuilding year for the Panthers, but the second year in the remake process is almost always better than the first. And remember, Mario Cristobal also lost 11 players in his first year as the Panthers head coach.
Women’s basketball picks up first win after rough start

**Classic, PAGE 1**

The first half saw Villanova getting open looks, unable to connect and FIU leading 25-22.

In the second half, the Panthers jumped out to their largest lead with the score 30-24.

Then FIU went nearly seven minutes without a field goal as Villanova went on a 13-3 run to go ahead for good.

I scored a shooting 34.5 percent in the first half including 2-14 from beyond the arc, Villanova’s shots falling as the Wildcats 56 percent in the second half and 5-11 from three-point land.

Burford finished with 19 points and went 5-6 shooting in the second half and knocked down three treys as well. Kane finished with 17 points with 15 of those coming in the second half.

For FIU, Coley struggled by going 9-26 shooting but still tallied 24 points.

I was really impressed, she kept her composure and she played some nice defense.

Cindy Russo
Head Coach
Women’s Basketball

While the Thanksgiving Classic saw FIU finish in second place, it also marked the return of junior guard Kamika Idom.

Idom feels that she will little by little get back into form with practice and with the games.

Against Villanova, Idom looked much better finishing with 13 points on 3-8 shooting and going 2-6 from three-point land in 32 minutes of action.

Freshman guard Jason Boswell and the rest of the FIU men's basketball team have been performing at a high level heading into a 7-3 record on the season.

Women's basketball picks up first win after rough start

**Patrick Chalvire**
Staff Writer

FIU’s top player from last season hasn’t missed a beat and has no plans on stopping.

Senior forward Tymell Murphy scored at least 20 points for the third straight game, after the teams 61-60 nail biter win against Georgia State University.

Murphy, who is averaging 16.3 points per game, continues to lead the new look Panthers into their inaugural year in Conference USA.

“I just try to keep my team motivated,” Murphy said. “I tell them it’s 40 minutes of play, not 20, so I try to be that guy that leads by example.”

In just 10 games played, Murphy has already recorded six double-doubles. Going into the 2013 year, Murphy had only eight in his career.

With newcomers joining Murphy, the Panthers seemed poised to continue off their success from last season. Finishing with one of the best seasons in over a decade, the Panthers added size in Miami-native, Rakeem Buckles.

Buckles leads the team with 10 rebounds per game, including a season high 17 against Georgia State. Buckles has also been key for the Panthers on the defensive side of the ball. The 6-foot-7 redshirt senior also leads the team in blocks, with 19, eight of which came from their 75-66 win against Stetson.

The Panthers record, 7-3, was part of a five game winning streak. The Panthers are now undefeated at home, averaging just over 72 points per game on the Lime Court. The Panther’s ninth straight home win is the longest streak since they reached 18 in a row from Feb. 15, 1997 to Nov. 20, 1998.

**Freshman taking on new role as starter**

Bronx native Jason Boswell didn’t expect much in his first year as a Panther, but not even being named the starting position over an upperclassman.

“I feel like I’m learning, getting a lot of experience,” Boswell said. “Coming in I didn’t come in with any expectations. I came here ready to work hard and let it play itself out.”

The NCAA has once again been focused on the Panthers, as concerns arose as to whether or not redshirt senior point guard Raymond Taylor is even eligible to play at FIU.

FIU was informed of the case prior to the team’s game versus Bethune-Cookman. Due to the open investigation, Taylor was pulled from that game and has since seen the floor.

After the 2011-12 season while at Florida Atlantic University, Taylor declared for the NBA Draft. Via the NCAA manual, a deadline is set for players if they wish to withdraw. Once the NBA released their early entry list on May 3, 2012, Taylor’s name appeared. His name though was the only one, among all college players, that withdrew from the list on June 20, 2012.

Taylor then transferred to FIU where he sat out a season under former head coach Richard Pitino. If Taylor is found guilty of violating any NCAA rules, FIU may vacate the four wins earned in which is played.

The Panthers have missed the 12.2 points and 6.2 assists per game by Taylor and the speed he brings to the table, but according to Head Coach Anthony Evans, the switch is nonexistent.

“We might run something for Jason where we can get a post up for him, rather than something Ray, but that’s it. Everything remains the same,” Evans said.

The Panthers will need to find an answer for Senior Russ Smith, who played a big factor in last year’s championship team. Smith averages 18.9 points per game.

The Cardinals are currently ranked ninth in the country and don’t face a top 25 team prior to their matchup against the Panthers.

Women’s basketball picks up first win after rough start

**Jason Delgadillo/The Beacon**

**Against Valparaiso, the junior looked rusty and is still in the process of getting back into form.**

**Sophomore center Janka Hegedus.**

**Junior guard Jason Boswell and the rest of the FIU men’s basketball team have been performing at a high level heading into a 7-3 record on the season.**

**FIU has allowed 65.5 points per game, so the Panthers will need to rely heavily on Buckles to make himself known in the paint, as other teammates will be spread throughout the floor.**

**The Eagles are ranked 281 in the country in points per game, so the Panthers will need to rely heavily on Buckles to make himself known in the paint, as other teammates will be spread throughout the floor.**

**The Eagles will then face Louisville, Dec. 21, led by Rick Pitino. Pitino has his connections to FIU, as his son coached FIU last season before heading to Minnesota. Rick Pitino also holds a strong friendship with Executive Director of Sports and Entertainment Pete Garcia.**

**The Cardinals have only lost one game this season, they were upset by the No. 24 ranked University of North Carolina. The Cardinals average 82.4 points per game and are number 56 in the country in rebounding.**

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Library renovations by students for the students

ALEXANDRA MOSQUERA NETZKARsch
Staff Writer

The Glenn Hubert Library at Biscayne Bay Campus is undergoing renovations on its second floor with an updated layout that will include new computers, services and a fresh environment with bright colors and fresh lighting – changes for students by students.

Construction will begin in February or March; renovations to the library will be paid for technology fees financed both by students and 5 percent of tuition costs per credit hour. The library also received a million-dollar reward for the renovation project which is set for completion in August 2014.

However, students have a larger role in the renovations than just their fees. Bryan Cooper, associate dean of Technical and Digital Services at the library, said the renovations will be based on student input with a trial-run of furniture in January before they finalize plans and begin construction.

Cooper has collaborated over the last three years with the Student Government Association, staff members and students, such as interior design majors, to start this renovation project.

“We want to have a useful and fun environment on one of the floors of the library to make studying more enjoyable and easier,” Cooper said. “All the students that have been part of this process have the chance to be part of the creation of ideal library.”

Cooper is still open to suggestions.

“It would be great for students to be involved in the process,” Cooper said. “I would be happy to meet with students to discuss their opinions regarding the renovations.”

Cooper said the layout of the second floor will have different sections aimed to simplify students’ lives.

There will be six columns on the floor, and two of them will be used as book shelves organized for students to pick texts based on their studies, from English writing books to popular literature.

“The library wants to offer a combination of old and new books in the display area,” Cooper said.

Around one of the columns, which will be close to the center desk, there will be eight or more seats facing inside for students to read comfortably and undisturbed.

Six tables with computers will also be available for students to work on their homework – five PC computer tables and one Apple computer table.

The Apple computers will be equipped with Adobe Photoshop and different multimedia editing software. At the end of the computer tables there will be a counter table with at least four seats for students to study in a group.

“The second floor will be an area of quiet interaction. Students will be using library voices,” Cooper said.

The center desk will provide five different services for students. There will be a technician in charge of helping Panthers with technical difficulties, there will also be a person in charge of setting up appointments for the Center for Excellence in Writing, a representative of Student Services, a library staff member and a representative of the University Technology Services.

The Center for Excellence in Writing will have two tables and two tutoring rooms for a more quiet and private environment to help students with any questions regarding their homework.

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