Archaeological sites spur senior faculty research

REBECA PICCARDO
Asst. News Director

Until a few weeks ago, the Miami Circle was the only archaeological 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 much 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 further findings about the Miami Circle.

According to Katz, the Program in the Study of Spirituality is interested in exploring through conversation by top-notch scientists for appreciation and understanding of their viewpoints of both science and religion.

“If the last 20 years we have brought together 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.

In the last TSC conference, 16 presenters with provoking points on religion and science, said Joseph Bodenheimer, a professor at the Jerusalem College of Technology.

“These two topics are both explored through conversation by many professors, doctors and other elite Jewish intellectuals at the Torah Science Conference.

“For the last 20 years we have brought together 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.

“The Shul has based the criteria of the featured speakers on their topics of research. The 16 individuals come from institutions such as Columbia University, University of Maryland and colleges from Jerusalem.

“I want attendants to leave with a clearer understanding of how the Torah casts light on our lives as persons.”

Joseph Bodenheimer
Professor
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“I am most excited for the opportunity to discuss with colleagues various issues of Torah and Science,” said Joseph Bodenheimer, a professor at the Jerusalem College of Technology and an organizer of the conference.

At the last conference, John Loike, one of the professors from the Department of Physiology at Columbia University, presented the possible reality of cloning and the implications this would have on the laws of Judaism.

Author and Rabbi Simon Jacobson’s presentation used scientific concepts, like matter turning into energy and water turning into gas, to open the question: “Does life really end?”

This year, Bodenheimer will present his own take of the opening chapters of the Torah, the sacred book of Judaism. These chapters discuss the Genesis.

“This will be my second time presenting at the conference,” said Bodenheimer. “I want attendants to leave with a clearer understanding of how the Torah casts light on our lives as persons.”

According to Katz, the TSC is a mind-opening experience with topics covering the origin of the universe to neuroscience.

“A large part of this conference is not just to read papers, we want people to understand the harmonized viewpoints of both science and religion from top-level scientists and rabbis,” said Katz.

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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 Tytia McKinzie, FIU pulled away from Valparaiso University en route to a 65-47 victory.

Coley finished with a double-double tallying 30 points and 12 rebounds. 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 Zoofia 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 foul trouble 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 Burford and senior guard Devon Kane to propel the wildcats to a 68-61 victory over FIU.

“I think we just stopped rebounding in the second half and we broke down defensively,” Russo said. “A lot of good things happened out there but we just couldn’t put it together, I saw a lot of hustle and intensity but it was a tough team.”

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Cindy Russo
Head Coach
Women’s Basketball

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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 elite Jewish intellectuals at the Torah Science Conference.

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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.

“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 with provoking subjects of religion and science. The conference happens around this time of the year between semesters to allow more professors to join.

The Shul has based the criteria of the featured speakers on their topics of research. The 16 individuals come from institutions such as Columbia University, University of Maryland and colleges from Jerusalem.

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Judaism at cutting edge: 10th annual conference to talk torah and science
Discovery of new Miami Circles puts professor’s book on hold

RESEARCH, PAGE 1

save these new circles. “I have a completed manuscript on the Miami Circle, a Tequesta Indian rock circle unearthed in 1998 on a 2.2 acre parcel of land on the south side of the Miami River where it empties into Biscayne Bay,” said Pfeiffer in a statement of significance she drafted.

Pfeiffer’s non-fiction book, which focuses on her studies and personal encounters with the uncovering on the site, is her account of the efforts to save the Miami Circle. However, the recent discovery has caused her to halt the publication of her book in order to include the new research on the new site.

“I thought the manuscript was complete and preparing for publishing when another construction project on the north side of the Miami River came Met Square,” said Pfeiffer.

The new Met Square site revealed several perfect circles in the bedrock with interconnected paths between them. Since the new discovery, Pfeiffer and student volunteers from the Honors College have worked to declare a state of significance to establish the cultural and historical value of these new sites along with the Miami Circle.

Flavia Domínguez, a senior and international relations major, has volunteered to help Pfeiffer with research and wrote her own statement of significance about the Tequesta sites. “To exchange the magic of culture and history for a building is not a fair trade-off — at least not for most of us,” said Domínguez. She considers the new site worth preserving as a historical relic rather than allowing the developers to build more commercial property.

This new site might be more significant than the Miami Circle.

Mary Pfeiffer
Senior Faculty, Fellow Honors College

There has to be a line about how much we are willing to compromise for economic gains. Our city has become over the years a place to worship diversity,” said Domínguez. Joanna Rodríguez, a juvenile and criminal justice major that is another student researcher, considers the value of the sites towards education about the unearthed history of Miami’s native tribes. “Education has an enormous role within this site because we can spread the knowledge of the early indigenous South Florida Tribe called the Tequesta,” said Rodríguez.

According to Pfeiffer’s written statements about the site, “A prominent developer had purchased the downtown parking lots with intent of revitalizing the area. Contracts are in place for retail stores and a movie theater on the Tequesta village Met Square site. Pfeiffer, along with the student researchers, is actively participating with other members of the preservation society to advocate for Miami-Dade County to halt the development and preserve this new site.

“Many preservationists find themselves once again working to save a unique cultural heritage site from destruction. I am revising the manuscript to include this important new discovery,” said Pfeiffer.

Glenn Hubert Library to renovate second floor by August 2014

LIBRARY, PAGE 8

The person in the center desk will provide students with appointments to talk to tutors at one of those tables and tutoring rooms. A multimedia section will be available to students with two flat screens over two peninsular tables with the opportunity to seat five or more students around them, inspired by The Hub located at Modesto A. Maidique Campus’ Green Library.

Behind the multimedia section there will be offices for administration. Next to those offices, students will have available one color printer, three black and white printers and an FIU OneCard machine. The laptop bar that will be between the six computer tables and the

All the students that have been part of this process had the chance to be part of the creation of their ideal library.

Bryan Cooper
Technical Dean
Digital and Special Services

Miami readies for opening of $131 million Perez Art Museum

ANDRES VIGLUCI
AP Writer

Go ahead. Grab a rough-hewn Adirondack chair, settle down on the expansively shaded deck under the pendulous greenery and bask in what may be the best public views — inside and out — anywhere along the water in downtown Miami.

This is, after all, your new museum of art — a $131 million haute-design showcase for modern and contemporary work that also manages to extend an open, dare we say homespun, welcome.

When it opens to the public at the edge of Biscayne Bay on Wednesday, on time and on budget, the strikingly original and meticulously thought-out Perez Art Museum Miami will put art front and center on the city’s landscape for the first time. In doing so, supporters and civic leaders fervently hope it will redefine Miami as a cultural destination.

With wrap-around verandas cooled by lush gardens and a monumental overhanging roof, 360-degree views of bay and city from within and without the adjacent new plaza, park and baywalk, the unusually porous museum could also become a unique cultural heritage site from destruction. I am revising the manuscript to include this important new discovery,” said Pfeiffer.

“Part of the renovation is to make the laptop bar attractive for students” Cooper said.

According to Cooper, the renovation will also address issues of lighting in the library. Cooper said that although the library will be better lit with LED spot lighting throughout the second floor.

“The second floor will be a very clean, colorful and open space,” Cooper said.

news@fiu.edu

NEWS2 The Beacon – Wednesday, December 4, 2013

fiusm.com
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.

The words fly from the radio like angry voices away from your ears and incite a rage in him of his mind.

While I wasn’t the fastest runner, I do. I ran every single race, including the final round. I could get inside his car.

I do. 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.

The problem is give you HIS opinion. These figures are supposed to design The Center for Women’s and Gender Studies for Women’s and Gender Studies.

I have to run to the end of the finish line – they didn’t specify how they could get the ball. After five minutes of holding her in place, both to conserve my own energy and wear her out, I was able to take the ball from her and take it across the finish line.

During one event, two teams of students faced off in a race that was run across a specified line. They had the displeasure to have to sit in cars for her to turn around. When she did, she stopped dead in her tracks.

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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 that they mention during orientation? I do.

As a surprise, my father signed me up for Panther Camp in 2005 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 strong. It wasn’t until the final round that burns hotter than a thousand George Foreman grills.

The words fly from the radio like angry voices away from your ears and incite a rage in him of his mind.

He swerves around traffic, beeping at people listening to him. Later that night he will go home and sleep, and wake up to do the same thing tomorrow.

The voice on the radio keeps spurring him on and on until the man is furious agreeing and preaching a message of his mind.

I felt him to say.

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Discovering virtues of love under the sun of Ladnun

Inversing yourself in the land of colors and faiths while mourning for the momentary loss of a high-speed Internet service, meanwhile dealing with interrupted water and electric services, can be a task of the ages.

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 respecting all the living creatures in the universe. In Jainism, this is one of the basic and most important spiritual practices and duties. According to a study on nonviolence by the Jain Vishva Bhrati University, ahimsa is the first among the five vows of Vedic, Buddhism and Jainism. Nuns and monks apply nonviolent actions to thoughts, words and actions in their daily routine. A nonviolence spiritual path offers deeper implications for the liberation of the soul. Jains believe in “the equality of the spirit regardless of faith, caste, race or different animal kind.”

In Jainism, a peaceful way of living by liberated from any type of pain or suffering. Some types of violence include physical, mental, verbal and involuntary. An action can also be considered violent when it is committed by you, promoting it or others, unless it’s unintentional. Emotional and mental pains are also considered a way of violence. In addition, there is anger, pride, jealousy, greed and selfishness that can create an unfair behavior against others and ourselves.

To eliminate harm, the Jainism community promotes forgiveness, tolerance, peace, love, charity, respect, animal and human kindness, respect for the environment and honesty. Following this peaceful path, Jains are vegetarians and do not use 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.

Jain monastic followers wear cloth masks over their mouths to avoid accidentally harming to insects. Some of them only travel barefoot to create less harm and protect the environment.

“All living beings desire life and not death. No one has the right to take away the life of any other being; to kill a living being is the greatest of sins.”

Furthermore, they allow violence in self-defense by performing a legitimate duty. 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 vegetarians 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. 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.

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 turmoil and the first film of the series, finding Gary Ross’ rather interesting. In Jainism, a peaceful way of living by

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Miami gives a false sense of identity to tourists

PATRICK CHALVIRE
AP Writer

While shoveling a ceremony memorial of Legos, 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 Legoland-themed hotel is expected to draw more visitors for the area’s tourism offerings. “This shifts us from a theme park to a resort,” said Winter Haven, a small city in Polk County about 50 miles (80 kilometers) from Walt Disney World. “This turns us from a day trip 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.

GET LUCKY

TAMARA LUSH
AP Writer

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Area of Walker car crash known for street racing

AP STAFF

Fans of “Fast & Furious” star Paul Walker erected a make-shift 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’ sports 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 heartbeat 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 swerve.

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 Firefly World Challenge GTS races this year, the racing organization said in a statement.

Attendees rushed to the crash, which was nearly 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.
FIU football: Remembering the forgettable season

RUBEN PALACIOS
Columnist

The fat lady has sung everyone, football season is over at FIU. The Panthers put an end to a frustrating season with a 21-6 loss to rival Florida Atlantic University in the Shula Bowl on Nov. 30.

The loss to FAU ended the Panthers season just like it started, with a dud. One win and 11 losses is what will be remembered when this Panthers squad is talked about. Lowights highlighted the year for FIU.

The humiliating memories from this year are endless. The first loss to an FCS school in FIU football 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 loney bright side FIU experienced this season was its lone win. Senior quarterback Jake Medlock, according to David Neal of the Miami Herald, was an offense that averaged only 9.8 points per game in 2013 — which tied for last in Division 1A college football.

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.

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 corner back. I know God has blessings after blessings for this dude. It’s going to be bitter sweet today. #FIU

Players and coaches were unavailable for comment.

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Women’s basketball picks up first win after rough start

Classic, PAGE 1

The first half saw Villanova getting open looks and 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 15-3 run to go ahead for good.

After shooting 34.5 percent in the first half including 2-14 from the arc, Villanova’s shots started 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.

Idom makes her return

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

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

Cindy Russo
Head Coach
Women’s Basketball

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

Idom played 13 minutes, registered one point, shot 0-5, and shot 1-2 at the free throw line.

Russo was still happy with Idom’s performance.

"I was real impressed, she kept her composure and she played some nice defense," Russo said.

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.

Russo trying to find the right mix

So far this season after six games, Russo has had three different starting line-ups.

In the first two games against Florida Gulf Coast University and the University of Central Florida, Russo had a starting line-up of three guards in Coley, Labady, sophomore Taylor Shade, sophomore Katrina Epnere at forward with Wright at center.

Against Harvard College saw the same line-up with the exception of Epnere being replaced by freshman forward Janka Hagedus.

Asked if it was for reasons of matching up, Russo said that it wasn’t the case but more of finding the right combination.

"I am just trying to figure out what the heck we are doing," Russo said.

Perhaps Russo has found her starting lineup as for the past three games Russo has been starting Wright, Coley, Labady, junior forward Arielle Durant, and McKinzie.
Library renovations by students for the students

ALEXANDRA MOSQUERA NETZKARSH  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 millenium gift 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 past 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.” – Bryan Cooper

Cooper said, “All the students that have been part of this process will have the chance to be part of the creation of our ideal library.”

Cooper is still open to suggestions.

“It would be great for students to be involved in the process.” – Bryan Cooper

“I would be happy to meet with students to discuss their opinions regarding the renovations.” – Bryan Cooper

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, the second with two more tables and one computer table.

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.” – Bryan Cooper

The center desk will provide five different services for students. There will be a technical staff member 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.

SEE LIBRARY, PAGE 2

Students Government Association petitioning for second road access

PAOLA MOUNI  Contributing Writer

The Student Government Association is in communica-
tion with the City of Miami to open a second road to access Biscayne Bay Campus.

Richard Azimov, vice president of SGA, is urging students to get involved in the Second Road to Success Campaign. A second road to BBC will allow students to get to class without the limited access and delays, which is a concern among students.

“We only have one road, which is 151st street,” said Azimov, who is in charge of the campaign. “Imagine if something were to happen like a fire, a flooding or even a simple accident; it would take us a very long time to get out of campus.”

The Second Road to Success Campaign was initia-
ted by SGA’s council this year and its purpose is to raise awareness and to educate students as to why access to a second road is necessary.

“There are many individuals, especially those who work or go to school here, to get out of the house an extra 30 minutes early just to make sure they don’t arrive late for their classes,” he said. “We don’t want, but need, a second access road. Not just for us, FIU, but for our community as a whole.”

According to the Vice President of Governmental Relations Steve Sauls, the University took concern over the one road access and began exploring different routes last spring.

President Mark B. Rosenberg went to the mayor of the City of North Miami and asked the Metropolitan Planning Organization to do a study.

The results: three new routes with a study on improvements needed for the existing road access.

The three new routes evaluated were from 135th Street, 143th Street and one alternative through Oleta River State Park to 163th Street. The route through the State Park was not granted and the route through 135th Street received opposition from residents.

Last spring, the University was “vetting” for 143 Street – a “straight shot” from the school entrance.

SGA has started a petition for students to sign and show their support for the campaign.

It has already been signed by more than 1,000 students and staff members. They are also setting up tables around campus where students will find more information about how they can get involved and what the worst case scenarios would be if the road is not built.

Ramon Soría, a hospitality major, says a back road would be helpful and is also a concern.

“Traffic is insane when I get out of class. I got a ticket a few days back for going five miles over the speed limit,” said Soría. “Kids tend to walk around the street when school is not in session. It gets very annoying.”

Rossi Galán, a biology major, agrees that a different route to school, one that is not so crowded, is essential.

“I have to come to school an hour early just to make it class,” said Galán, referring to the high school and middle school in route to BBC. “Not to mention, when I get here, I have to go to the school zone speed limit.”

SGA has tried several times to reach out to the previous council members of the City of North Miami in hopes of getting a posi-
tive response to this matter, but due to environmental and budgeting issues, they have been unsuccessful.

The student government body is now working on building relationships with the city council and showing their support by attending events, such as Haitian Awareness Day as well as attending the city’s Thanksgiving parade.

“This fight has been going on for many years,” said Azimov. “We want the student body to be educated, we want them to support us and to understand the reasons why we need a second access road. We don’t have all of the answers, so we encourage students to come give us ideas as to how we can make this campaign bigger.”

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

The center desk will provide five different services for students. There will be a technical staff member 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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Lighting Up the Stage

THE A capella group Kazual performed at the holiday fest and tree lighting ceremony, where students enjoyed a holiday meal and lights.

Student Government Association petitioning for second road access

PAOLA MOUNI  Contributing Writer

The Gay Straight Alliance at Biscayne Bay Campus is hosting a Winter Wonderland Masquerade Ball in the Wolfe University Center ballrooms on Wednesday, Dec. 4, from 7 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. The night will provide an opportunity for students to dance and relax.

The Gay Straight Alliance organizes for students to sign and participate in the event, excluding sneakers and flip flops. Students are encouraged to bring decorated masks from home or to purchase at the event. Masks will be given out at the event, however, they are limited.

Christina Sinord, treasurer of SGA and planner of the event said the first 20 guests are guaranteed a mask.

The person with the best looking mask will receive a prize.

“We’re looking for origi-
nality and creativity,” Sinord said.

According to Sinord, the event is scheduled around finals so students can attend and relieve stress from their studies. “This masquerade ball is more of a reliever,” she said.

Although the event is geared toward students, non-students may attend.

Friends and family of University students can partici-
pate in the event for free of charge. As for attire, students should dress casually to the event, excluding sneakers and sandals.

“As a way to relax, we are really trying to make this event welcoming,” Sinord said.

“Anybody and everyone is welcome,” Sinord said.

WEB PAGE 2

WUCC Ballrooms
Dec. 4, 7 p.m.-11:30 p.m.

GSU hosting its first masquerade