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INTEGRATING HEALTHCARE
Some must wait and see as integration plans unfold

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
News Director
philippe.buteau@fiusm.com

When the Board of Trustees decided to increase the fee that pays for student clubs and activities, they also made a decision for a different fee that could forever change the way students receive their healthcare from the University.

Why only one? Because it’s still too early to tell.

That’s what University administrators on one end of the change said to Student Media.

On June 2, the University’s Health Affairs Committee presented a plan, which the BOT unanimously approved later in the day, that will send money generated from the student health fee in two directions: Student Health Services and FIU Health.

According to a public document from a BOT meeting and interviews with the director of SHS and Larry Lumsford, the vice president of Student Affairs, the University is executing a plan about ten years in the making that will “integrate” SHS with the FIU HealthCare Network, which manages FIU Health.

However, in its early stages, the plan is supposed to divide the fee so that a smaller portion of it remains with SHS, and a larger chunk of the money will be sent to the FIU-HCN, according to Oscar Loynaz, director of SHS.

In a presentation to the BOT, former Chief Executive Officer of FIU Health Yolangel Hernandez-Suarez noted full integration was expected for July 2015.

More than simply an accounting change of what department gets some student money, the plan also calls for a restructuring of operations in the University’s student health services.

The larger chunk that will go to FIU-HCN pays for clinical operations in SHS, which includes doctors, nurse practitioners, pharmacy staff, medical records and the cashier’s office. All of those operations, along with the people who conduct them, now report to staff in FIU Health, effective July 1.

For students seeking medical services while on campus it is business as usual, for now. But as FIU Health assesses what change could be in SHS’ clinical operations, the thousands of students who use on-campus health services will receive them from a different doctor or nurse, if they aren’t already.

“In new model, student health services will refer students to outside primary care practitioner rather than providing that level of care as it currently does,” Loynaz said. “Student health is no longer their main doctor.”

At both the Biscayne Bay and Modesto Maidique campuses, FIU-HCN operations has a projected total cost of about $4.9 million for 2015-2016.

The components of SHS that will stay the same, as in remain within Student Affairs, cost about $3 million.

The FIU Faculty Group Practice, which is also under FIU Health, has some of the same problems that SHS has in its clinical operations but lacks a pharmacy for the time being, according to Loynaz.

SHS will remain in the same buildings at both BBCC and MMC and students can still go to the blue and white Healthcare Center building at FIU and the blue and yellow structure that is the University Health Services Complex at MMC for their medical services, receive some prescription medicine at reduced prices and for the health promotion services.

The wellness components, which are now called “Health Promotion Healthy Living,” include massages, acupuncture, health training, dietician, HIV testing and counseling, health fairs, sex carnivals, workshops, insurance compliance for international students among other things.

What the new model will mean for the 6,340 students who were seen in spring 2015 to have FIU Health running their clinical services and when it will take effect, is a matter of playing the waiting game.

“I couldn’t tell when the changes will occur,” said Lumsford, who added that he’s waiting for FIU Health officials to tell him.

Student Media has contacted Enesida Roldan, interim chief executive officer of FIU Health, and Amy Mentel, director of quality management for the FIU-HCN, but their comments were not available as of press time.

FIU Health is comprised of staff from the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work and the College of Arts and Sciences.

The network performs various administrative functions related to medical practice, including billing and collections, contract management with vendors and insurance plans, provider credentialing and administration of practice operations.

FIUSM.com will have more on this story as Student Media continues to follow the University’s integration plan.

University to open doors for open housing option

ESHRAT NIKROOYE-ASU
Asst. News Director
eshrat.nikrooye-asu@fiusm.com

Though the option exists now, it will be 2016, the University will be more open about its open housing.

Open housing, commonly referred to as gender-neutral housing, is currently a trending topic. However, due to the variety of terms, most students are unsure what this option entails and if it is available for them.

Simply, open housing is the comprehensive ability in university housing complexes and dormitories to room with members from a broad spectrum of genders and sex.

While inclusive of all genders and sex, open housing is not a source of couple housing – but would be beneficial to the general housing population.

Joseph Paulick, director of Central Housing in the University, has confirmed that none of Florida’s other public colleges or universities offer open housing. Currently, the national majority of successful open housing facilities are located in private universities.

But the University, like the University of Florida and the University of South Florida, is becoming more accommodating of student requests for open housing.

Paulick has stated his interest in pilot testing open housing arrangements and noted that by fall 2016, the University housing webpage will have a section discussing the option with contacts and steps for open housing.

Students open to the idea were eager to join themselves or because of the potential attraction to incoming students open housing would have on the University.

“I think having the option of open housing would be appreciated by much of the housing population,” said Noah Spinster, a junior in computer engineering and housing resident. “I personally wouldn’t live in it, but having a few floors of a housing building used for open housing would probably attract more people to housing and may make people more comfortable. I think it’s a great idea.”

Yet, this current issue met controversy similar to the University’s previous proposal.

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
News Director
philippe.buteau@fiusm.com

When the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the broad reach of President Barack Obama’s healthcare law on June 25, he wasn’t the only one to score a major victory.

Millions of young people across the country did as well.

With the court’s ruling, more than 5 million people age 19-25 could either stay under their parents’ health insurance, or, like the more “adulthood” adults, simply be able to shop for affordable health insurance through the federal marketplace.

The court ruled that the government may continue to provide tax subsidies for low- and middle-income people who buy insurance nationwide, even in states that did not create an official insurance exchange of their own, like Florida.

While Gov. Rick Scott and the legislative opponents to the Affordable Care Act dodged a bullet with the court’s decision, it did little to narrow the divide between Republicans in the Legislature over how to handle Florida’s uninsured.

The ruling reduces the pressure on state leaders to create a state exchange to cover the 1.3 million low- and middle-income Floridians who now rely on the federal program for health insurance.

The 6-3 decision from the nation’s highest court rejected a second conservative challenge to the law, one that could have left more than 6 million Americans, including 5.7 million 19-25 year olds, scrambling to pay for their coverage, or shop for health insurance before graduating college.

The ruling is a crucial win for younger people in the U.S., whether in college or just setting out on their own, as the court’s decision kept a few extra dollars in their already low bank accounts.

Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the court, said the “tax credits are available to individuals in states that have a federal exchange.”

If no tax credits were allowed in these states, “it could well push a state’s individual market

SEE HOUSING, PAGE 2

SCOTUS allowed young people to save money

SEE SCOTUS, PAGE 2
Greece to propose new bailout plan, trying to stave off bank collapse

Greece intends to put forward new bailout proposals to its European partners at an emergency summit on July 7, government sources said, as officials sought to stave off a collapse of their country’s banking system and its potential ejection from the eurozone.

Noriega tries to draw a ‘Get out of Jail’ card in Panama

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras hudled with leaders from across the political spectrum on the morning of July 6 and well into the afternoon to hash out a new bailout plan that they could support as a united front and that would be more palatable to international and European creditors.

Pakistan says it’s ready to launch offensive into last Taliban area

Pakistan’s military said on July 3 it had completed preparations for an assault on the Shawal Valley in North Waziristan, the last sizable tributary area on the border of Afghanistan still controlled by Taliban insurgents.

For the University, those people who are working and feel the tax rates, according to Page. “A full-time student who is not currently employed the subsidies are not available to them,” he said to Student Media in an interview.

That court ruled the other way it would have meant those under 26 being kicked off their parents’ insurance, and all of them having to pay more once they hit the marketplace.

For people who are really low income the idea is to expand Medicaid and make it available to them.”

This is a good idea because it gives the people opportunities to live with who they want to live with. If all of my friends are girls, I don’t feel suffocated in a room full of guy friends than a room full of strangers,” said Jennifer Russo, a rising biomedical engineering sophomore and current resident of University housing.

University students have also shown interest in the options this type of housing offers.

Mary Alexander, a rising sophomore and theatre major and housing resident said, “Definitely something I’ve wanted. I have friends living on campus in my field of study, but the majority are girls. I’m happy housing with friends but, now having the option to room with whoever would be fantastic.”

COURT VOTES TO KEEP HEALTH CARE SUBSIDIES

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

The court’s ruling, however, leaves unanswered the question of how Florida will handle the loss of $400 million federal Low Income Pool money used to reimburse hospitals and health care providers who provide charity care to the uninsured.

“The goal of the ACA is to give everyone a way to purchase health insurance,” Page said. “For people who are really low income the idea is to expand Medicaid and make it available to them.”

That was the basis of the issue and the concern about open housing because it allows for more individual choice and for more people to live as they choose in the same housing. We have students who are comfortable sharing a room with a roommate of the same gender as well as those who are not and we believe this allows for more options for students,” said Paulick.

The Beacon – Wednesday, July 8, 2015
Letter to the Editor: What is really going on at BBC

AZJMIN FELIX
Pre-medical student opinion@fiusm.com

It never ceases to amaze me how MMC goes; the perception that the Biscayne Bay Campus is nothing more than a desert; dry, unlively and filled with dust. But what is perhaps most appalling is the inability of those who are the most opinionated concerning the culture that MMC has, to ask questions. If you want to know what really goes on at BBC, just ask!

I spent three and a half years of my college career in the Student Government Association at the beautiful Biscayne Bay Campus. My first semester as a freshman, I was voted in as the Lower-Division Senator. By the next semester, I was elected as the Nursing & Health Sciences Senator and then the Speaker of the Senate; the youngest to ascend to the seat in the history of BBC at the tender age of 18. In the years that ensued, I acted as the rules, legislation and judiciary Chair along with the Operational Review Committee Chair. Then, in 2014, after two and a half years of dedicated service in the SGA BBC senate, I decided to run for President and was elected by my constituency.

There has been mention in the Opinion section that the democratic process doesn’t prevail at BBC and that our leaders aren’t competent. I beg to differ. The reason I ran unopposed in 2014 was because my competition was disqualified. The culture at BBC differs than that at MMC. If the majority believes that a competent and capable leader, such as myself, was fit for the job then there was no need for opposition because my constituency believed that I was the best person for the job at hand. I accomplished more in my two and a half years in the senate and one year terms as president than most people accomplish in their six years here at FIU. The culture that BBC has maintained since the first day I stepped foot into Panther Square is that of a comfortable, close knit family sort of feel, where you can see a person in your freshman year and see them again in your next semester; unlike never seeing them again until your senior year which occurs quite frequently at MMC – which isn’t a bad thing, if you have no desire to seeing certain people frequently. BBC is a powerhouse, thriving with things to do if you just get involved.

Contact Us
Sam Smith
Opinion Director
sam.smith@fiusm.com

Send us your letters
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With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter per month from any individual.

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Pope Francis merges religion and science

BRYAN PALACIO
Staff Writer
bryan.palacio@fiusm.com

Religion and science haven’t always seen eye to eye. If you take the Bible literally instead of metaphorically – as I believe is best – you will see contrasting ideas on a number of things including the origin of man and the universe. As a result, a battle has raged between science and religion for thousands of years.

But I think there is room to be both scientific and religious, and so does Pope Francis. He recently released the 184-page “Laudato si,” which translates to “Praise be to you.” In this encyclical he goes on to explain the role humans have played in “unprecedented destruction of ecosystems, with serious consequence for all of us.”

“This is why the Earth herself, burdened and laid to waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she ‘grieves in travail,’ ” wrote the pope. “Our immense technological development has not been accompanied by a development in human responsibility, values and conscience.”

To have the most well-known and powerful religious figure in the world not just accept the science on climate change, but also find it necessary to let all of his followers know about it is unprecedented. If the most religious person in the world can understand that science and religion do not have to be polar opposites from each other, then how can we not? I think it is also great to see someone willing to cross all the lines on science, religion and morality.

Albert Einstein notably said, “The more I study science, the more I believe in God,” but it may not mean what you think. There are so many things we can’t explain and it is this ignorance that keeps us yearning to learn more. Although some may choose to replace the unknown with religion, that is what science is for. A long time ago, we didn’t understand processes like celestial movements and weather, so we left it to religion, but as time went by, we deciphered these riddles using science. You can’t help but feel that it is too specific, too unique, to just be left to chance. Nature in and itself is divine in its perfection. If we all felt that way about science and religion, we’d be much more tolerant of each other.

“We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth; our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters,” wrote the pope.

He describes how we are all made of the same elements as everything else in our universe. The iron in our blood is no different than the iron floating in giant gas clouds in space. The things which make up our planet and every other celestial body in the universe are all the same. This is significant.

I believe the Bible is best taken as an allegory. Remember, the Bible – or any other religious book for that matter – was not written by God. It was written by humans and humans are fallible. They can be biased, exaggerate and even lie.

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Biochemistry students and professors team up this summer to conduct DNA research

LESLIE ANGELA BLANCO
Staff Writer
luisa.blanco@fiusm.com

Students under the department of chemistry and biochemistry are working on DNA related research over the summer from May until August. Some of the research that this entails is finding ways to develop a method of identifying drugs and compounds in the body, developing a method to test and screen antibiotics for their effectiveness, and changing a protein to be used as an antibiotic in order to kill cells. These experiments, conducted at Academic Health Center 4, are all under the supervision of Doctor Fenfei Leng, an associate professor of Biochemistry, whose interests include DNA research such as transcription-driven DNA supercoiling and HMGA-2 DNA interaction.

“Students with good academic standing are given an opportunity to do research under the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. These include undergraduate students, graduate students, and even a few high school students. Majors ranging from biology, chemistry and biomedical engineering are participating in different types of biochemistry research under the direction of Leng.”

“Students are also doing research on behalf of Kalal Marhe, professor of Molecular Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. The AHC4 building provides advanced research labs, study rooms for graduate students, office spaces and classrooms. Before completion, the AHC4 building had already won awards for design excellence from the American Institute of Architects and the Society of American Registered Architects. It has lived up to its name so far and has proven to be successful in providing students and faculty a progressive learning environment as well as a premier research and classroom space.”

Maria De Cabrera, a graduate student working on a Ph.D. in chemistry, is currently doing research that consists of purifying the CRISPR protein. “I started working at the lab last semester in January,” De Cabrera said, “and I was working on testing a certain type of antibiotic. We were looking for a way to screen how well that antibiotic works so that when new antibiotics get discovered they can be screened for their effectiveness.”

When shedding light on her current project, she said, “we’re working on something a little different, we’re working on how if you change the [CRISPR protein] it can bind to DNA and be used to kill cells as an antibiotic.”

“In terms of continuing her research beyond the summer, De Cabrera said, “If it continues to be interesting for me then yeah I’ll keep doing it probably into my Ph.D. I actually think it could be a PhD project. It just depends on where it goes and if the government continues to fund it because all of these labs are government funded.”

Gabriela Ortega, an undergraduate student majoring in chemistry is working on developing a method of identifying drugs in the body and compounds via DNA and protein interactions. “Basically there are millions of compounds that can be modified and studied through our method.” said Gabriela Ortega. This is important in order to detect compounds that form tumors and cancer in the body, and in detecting this, they can help modulate them further.

Ortega is still deciding on whether she’ll like to continue researching this project after the summer. “Dr. Leng told me that if I didn’t like it I could just do it for the summer, but so far I really enjoy it and am thinking of staying for the fall and if not I’ll come back next year.”

“In regards to opportunities in working at the labs and doing research under professors for students that are interested, she said, “There are opportunities that a lot of people don’t know about but if you’re a good student and you have the time to put in then I would definitely reach out to professors and ask them if you could join their labs.”

Leng, who specializes in bacteria genetics and Biochemistry, and who also oversees these projects has much to say about his students and the work they are doing. “I am very happy to have them in my lab to do different projects. We are pretty busy working in the summer and I’ve actually been the one who is serving the assistants (students).”

“These projects will also make contributions for the World’s Ahead University.”

“We are going to continue to make contributions to FIU and the scientific community. We are here to train our students. That is our mission,” Leng said.

A night out with local band Last Night Out

NADINE RODRIGUEZ
Contributing Writer
nrod@fiusm.com

Growing up in Miami, one gets used to seeing music scene. Salsa, Reggaeton, Hip-Hop and Pop mainly dominate the radio stations and local venues, rarely sharing the stage with cover bands and small time artists.

So when Michael Cooper and Juan Pastor met at a friend’s house back in eighth grade and decided to create a punk band in Miami, they knew they had their work cut out for them.

“It never really happened until we met Jose freshman year of high school. That’s when we came up with the name,” Juan said.

“We officially started playing as a four part group sophomore year, but we had a different drummer,” Jose said. “We’ve had a few drummers before our current, Nick.”

“Senior year was when everything was together,” Mike said.

The band began playing at different venues that year. “We played Talento Farm and Revolution Live,” Jose proudly said.

“Although Last Night Out has finally reached a seemingly permanent line up of members and has a couple of venues on its resume, the band has faced various struggles along the way. “I think the biggest struggle as a local band in Miami, specifically rock or punk, is finding shows. Once you meet the right people to talk to and connections, you got yourselves a couple of shows. But initially, it’s hard,” Jose said.

“There is a big underground punk culture that exists in Miami, it’s just not supported right now. There are not enough labels, booking agencies, anything.” Jose said.

After asking where Last Night Out dreams of playing Jose excitedly said, “One of our goals is to play at Warped Tour.”

“But we need a CD,” Juan said. “We don’t have a CD yet. We’re finally writing music consistently. With past drummers we wrote maybe 3 songs every few months.”

When asked about their writing process, the band began to speak about their different musical influences.

“Two nights ago we went to see Incubus and Panic At The Disco as his influences, while Juan went a more emo route with Set it Off and Alesana.”

Nick said Taking Back Sunday, before quickly changing it to Brand New, Jose chose Green Day.

“We all have different music tastes,” Jose said.

“When you hear our original songs, we’re all over the place. Some are funky, some are screams, some are very punky,” Juan said. “We’ve actually updated some of our old songs. We added words- a riff here and there.”

“We’re not static. We make sure our influences are present in our music,” Mike said.

“With such diverse songs, we can fit in with almost any crowd or band. We’ve played with cover bands all the way to screams bands,” Juan said.

For now, it seems that Last Night Out have a positive outlook on their future.

With more local shows to be announced, and a first CD in the process of being recorded, the four young men are ready to break out of the pre-set mold for musicians in Miami.

Although they aren’t featured on Spotify or iTunes yet, Last Night Out has a Youtube channel, as well as a Facebook and Instagram.

“We play what we feel, and we all feel different things,” Jose said.

Almost on cue, Mike delivers a powerful sentence. “It’s human music, that’s all there is to it.”
**Vince Staples’ Summer ‘06 album is ‘top-notch’**

**JULIAN BALBOA  Contributing Writer julianbalbo@fiu.com**

“I’m tryna have a good time this evening,” Vince Staples said.

And if “Summertime ‘06” is any indicator, Vince Staples most definitely has a good time.

His debut album spans twenty songs over two CDs. It’s also a concept album that delves into the life he used to lead at 3230 Poppy Street in Long Beach, California. It’s full of vices and different prices being paid by the time he and his cohort, Earl Doggett in the end of season one, was able to make the show good but not great. This is top-notch. No I.D. and Clams Casino’s production on this album is ‘top-notch’ with Vince’s themes as he tackles relevant issues.

Vince, who has grown to love from the production by the time he and his cohort, Earl Doggett in the end of season one, was able to make the show good but not great. This is top-notch. No I.D. and Clams Casino’s production on this album is ‘top-notch’ with Vince’s themes as he tackles relevant issues.

The season’s introspectiveness makes for a heartfelt tale but at times, you’re left to wonder if the show could have given milk and meat. But amusement aside, Orange is the New Black manages to put a lot of woman’s issues into perspective, and very responsibly at that.

For example, in the Mother’s Day themed episode, we see Pennsatucky and Boo said, played by Lea DeLaria. twenty years after Roe v. Wade, when the unborn children would have been “of prime crime age.” Big Boo asserts that due to their absence, crime hit new lows.

Asst. Entertainment Director Chris Rodriguez chrisc.rodriguez@fiu.com

While you’re at your summer picnic, eating apple pie and lighting up fireworks, these are the albums getting the most spins on FIU Student Radio. Tune into 95.3 to hear songs from these great albums and more.

1. Jamie xx – “In Colour”
2. Girlpool - “Before The World Was Big”
4. Braids – “Deep In The Iris”
5. Unknown Mortal Orchestra – “Multi-Love”
6. Vince Staples – “Summertime ’06”
10. Creepoid – “Cemetery Highrise Slum”

**Orange is the New Black puts women’s issues into perspective**

**JASMIN ROMERO  Staff Writer Jasminero8@fiu.com**

Well into the third season, Piper Chapman, Orange is the New Black’s cynical turned convict, driver who could be the greatest speech for modern-day feminism (but take it with a grain of salt).

Piper, looking to convince her fellow prison mates to join a lucrative “panty fetish” venture, stands with her signature lucid narrative mode. When alone, they should defy these characters and celebrate their bodies.

“Sisters, we may be incarcerated, but our panties will travel the world,” she wails. These are the albums getting the most spins on FIU Student Radio. Tune into 95.3 to hear songs from these great albums and more.

### Whatsername

The production on this album is top-notch. No I.D. and Clams Casino’s production on this album is ‘top-notch’ with Vince’s themes as he tackles relevant issues.

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**University students take center stage as band Redshift**

**JASON ROMERO/TEA BALBUS**

Left to right: Indie rock band Redshift’s members are Christian Gil on bass, Enrique Rosell on guitar and vocals, Yabor on drums, and Jose Maldonado on lead guitar. Maldonado on lead guitar, Redshift shows precision and potential. Rosell’s voice is smooth, emotive, and suits each cover. Because the band is new their energy is kept formal but not detached. They did not hesitate to interact with the crowd; Rosell went as far as sharing a story about his near-death post-gym experience.

“Luna” and “No Name,” the two originals from the band, were sweet and sappy. “Luna” is similar to a serenade, composed of only Rosell’s singing and gentle guitar playing. “No Name” is more pop-punk -- something you can jump to. Instead of showy, each song is sincere. Redshift left the stage with the echo of applause and an air of promise. I am curious to see how this band will evolve and mingle with the rest of the scene.

**CHRIS RODRIGUEZ**

**Contributing Writer Chris_rodriguez@fiu.com**

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Left to right: Indie rock band Redshift’s members are Christian Gil on bass, Enrique Rosell on guitar and vocals, Yabor on drums, and Jose Maldonado on lead guitar.
MIAMI DOLPHINS

MIAMI DOLPHINS TO HOLD A SCRAMMAGE AT OCEAN BANK

PETER HOLLAND, JR.
Contributing Writer
sports@fiusm.com

As Sun Life Stadium is in the middle of construction and shoulder ready until the NFL season starts, history will be made in connections with the Miami Dolphins and FIU Athletics. Starting on August 7, the Miami Dolphins will have a Friday Night Scrimmage at Ocean Bank Field at FIU Stadium.

“FIU proudly welcomes this partnership,” FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg said. “We are pleased that the Miami Dolphins will be having a Friday Night Scrammage at Ocean Bank Field at FIU Stadium. This will be a great chance to showcase FIU and give Dolphin fans the opportunity to see their favorite players in action.”

Parking lots will open at 4:00 p.m. for special tailgating and a fan festival. Tickets are only five dollars if you purchase them online at Dolphins.com. There will be free parking for the public.

The public is invited to attend the scrimmage. The public is invited to attend the scrimmage. The first two players to commit to FIU in the class of 2016. They both provide versatility in the offensive line position. They also fill the system as they are quick enough to do zone blocking schemes.

Darris Scott WR 5’10” 175 lbs
Booker T. Washington High School Miami, Florida

Scott is very smooth in his route running ability. You can line him up anywhere at receiver and can still remain effective. He is also a blocker and can create open space for running backs who are trying to get to the edge. He’s well connected to former Booker T. Washington High School head coach now assistant head coach for FIU Tim Harris Jr. Most likely his recruiter.

Ulice Gillard Wide Receiver
6’1” 190 lbs
Lake Nona High School

This Orlando native is very dynamic in his size. He may not be the fastest receiver out there, however he is very explosive and can go vertical when making the catch. He’s physical and can fight for the football then make yards after the catch. He’s very hard to tackle and can run over a defensive back that gets in his way.

Jawn Hamilton Running Back
4.4 220 lbs
Booker T. Washington High School

Most of his high school career came from South Dade High School and is planning on playing for Booker T. High School for his final year. He is a very patient runner and with good vision in finding the hole. He may be smaller than the average back, but lives for the contact and will refuse to go down. He’s very elusive during yards after contact. His legs will keep churning even if you tackle him head on.

CHEERLEADING

Cheerleading head coach addresses state of cheer

DAVID DRUCKER
Staff Writer
david.drucker@fiusm.com

Head Coach Cory Hines thinks that cheerleading probably isn’t a sport in fact, he believes that it’s all a little more complicated than that.

“When you think what is cheerleading, you immediately think people on the side holding pom poms. That’s correct – that’s where cheerleading came from and I understand that completely,” Hines said. “What people also have to realize is that cheerleading now has a very athletic and competitive component as well.”

Florida International University cheer has evolved into an athletic group of men and women that not only boosts school spirit at football and basketball games, but also pushes fundamental athletics on its participants and does work in the community.

The growing team saw nearly 70 people come out to their tryouts in May. Not all of them made the team.

“We do take people with no experience, but the majority of the girls have previous dance experience or sideline experience. We look for athletically capable people who can perform stunts when necessary,” Hines said.

The job of a cheerleader at FIU is no longer as simple as waving a pom pom or holding up a sign; most cheerleaders are required to perform group stunts at events. This requires bases and a back-spot, who is typically the taller person of the group, to lift a flyer. Their success - and safety - demands that the cheerleaders work together and that they all be athletic.

Most cheerleaders that audition for the fall are automatically retained for the spring, although separate tryouts may occur for the different seasons and for different positions based on need.

Being an FIU cheerleader isn’t a job restricted to the turf or the hardwood. The group is often present at community events and travels to compete in competitions.

“We fundraise all season long. We like to be seen, we like to be out there and let the community know that we’re active,” Hines said.

Ultimately, Hines believes that it’s important for this sport to be perceived for what it is: an activity rooted in cheer and support that has evolved into beyond pompom waving.

“I totally understand the criticism about it not being a sport, but cheerleading is evolving even further. Now there is a Title Nine equivalent and an Olympic equivalent. Everything that used to be called cheerleading is developing into its own unique athletic activity. I don’t know if it’s a sport, but when you see everyone going on ESPN to compete in it… how can you not call that sport,” Hines said.
FIU’s MMA Club continues to expand

JOSEPH BUSATTO
Contributing Writer

By day, Yannick Saez is a broadcasting major. By night, he leads the Mixed Martial Arts Club at FIU. Saez is a senior and the president of the MMA Club. He oversees the progress of the members and strives for a family atmosphere within the club. He also organizes club events such as fundraisers to showcase what the club is about.

Saez took over the club in 2011, two years after it was first founded at FIU. Club members would train in FIU’s recreation facility and the Freestyle Fighting Academy across the street.

Eventually, the club was no longer allowed at the FFA because of the rising number of members and the quest for a new facility began.

A student instructor, Daniel Perez, opened up his own MMA facility called Sunset MMA where the club meets when the Rec Center is not available.

The FINA World Championships is an international event of aquatic sports that include swimming, diving, and endurance. Three students on the FIU Women’s Swim team have made moves and plans to be a part of the club which would be a staple of the world of swimming since she was a young swimmer.

Swimming seems to be part of her family as well since her team swam in the 2012 London Olympics. Gustafsdottir joined the Icelandic Junior National Team in 2003 and swam for it for seven years, while making 25 Icelandic national swimming records in that time.

As a freshman, she was an extremely effective swimmer, being named the Sun Belt Conference Swimmer of the Year Award. She set Sun Belt Conference and FIU records for the Individual Medley 200 meter and 200 meter backstroke. She also set FIU records in the 100 meter backstroke and 200 meter freestyle. She ended up being ranked nationally in many categories.

Every year since her freshman year she has continued to rise and now, she is on the world’s stage participating in the World Championships.

The FINA World Championships is an international event of aquatic sports that include swimming, diving, open water swimming, synchronized swimming and water polo. This event gives athletes a chance to compete at an internationally high level and prepare for the Olympics. Johanna Gustafsdottir has been one of the leaders of the team ever since she arrived at FIU. Born in Denmark and of Icelandic descent, she has been a staple of the world of swimming since she was a young swimmer.

She also qualified for the Youth Olympic Games and won five gold medals at the Botswana Nationals in 2013.

Saez said to look out for Miami-Dade College transfers Chris Rivera and Josh Solano this upcoming year, who he said are both “super dedicated.” Saez is set to graduate in fall 2015 and is now looking for a successor to take his position.

He is looking for “someone who gives 110% and someone who will take good care of the club.”

The club is also for those who want to get in shape. Practices start with what Saez called the “crazy warm up.” The crazy warm up tries to simulate an actual fight. It consists of three, five-minute rounds that focus on a different body part each round.

Following the warm up, there are a few minutes to rest and then the course begins. The purpose of the warm up is “to tire you out so once you do the technique, you can’t use strength. You have to use the technique itself.”

In other words, the warm up exhausts you so you must rely on proper technique and not solely on strength.

Many members have started out of shape and have lost a significant amount of weight by just joining the MMA club. Being an active member in the club can pick up healthy nutritional habits from others.

Saez compared attending competitions to a family gathering. Everyone attends and supports team members. As time has gone on, the club continues to expand.

When asked if the club will grow, Saez declined. “Yes, MMA itself is growing exponentially.” The FIU MMA club has actually trained with a UFC fighter with a 20-6 record, Demian Maia.

The club has around 20 members made up of about 15 men and five women. Meetings aren’t required which allows members to participate whenever their schedules allow. Yannick Saez wanted to emphasize a clear message.

“(The Club) is for everyone to be honest. You get the hardcore guys that do MMA, then you get those who love jiu-jitsu.” He also stated that no prior experience is necessary. “Have a good attitude. Come with an open mind and good heart and you’ll be welcomed with open arms.”

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FIU men’s soccer club looking to develop new talent

JOSEPH BUSATTO
Contributing Writer

The FIU Men’s Soccer Club was established a few weeks ago. But don’t be mistaken. This club has made moves and plans to be a large sport’s club at FIU.

Even though they have just recently been formed, the club already has twenty members. Soccer is played eleven players versus eleven players, including the goalkeepers.

Club President Nico Scott formed the club because of his love of soccer and to stimulate the interest of others. Scott has been playing since he was five years old. Now, he leads this club as the striker of the team, where he was originally a goalkeeper and found it too boring.

Scott said his role as President is to “Look out for every aspect of the club which would be financial, marketing, advertising and structural.”

The club’s first practice was Friday, June 5. According to Scott, it has taken awhile to find a practice date due to field availability and the schedules of club members.

The first few practices are going to be a full game scrimmage setup to see the level of everyone’s skill and then look where they need to develop.

Scott believes that his team won’t be ready for this fall coming up. But he plans to continue to develop the players so they will be ready for a tournament in spring. During this process, he hopes to find some players within the club that could help him with the organizational part of the club and get everyone involved.

And hopefully after a year of training and preparation, the team will be ready for the official season of fall 2016 to play in their regional conference against other universities. However, in fall 2015 he plans to advertise the club regularly at FIU to expand the club and add more talent.

Scott’s message to the university about the FIU Men’s Soccer Club is, “I think there’s a lot of talent of players at FIU and I would like to see it represented in the club. It is sad to know that there’s so much talent being wasted.”

“You know, a lot of players try out for the varsity team. They’re very good, exceptional players and they don’t make it on the team for whatever reason. Then they go through their whole career wanting to compete in soccer and they’re not able to because they didn’t make it on the team. This gives them a chance to explore this opportunity,” Scott said.

Three women’s swimmers bringing FIU to the forefront at World Championships

SWIMMING, PAGE 8

JOSEPH BUSATTO
Contributing Writer

Some club members participate in MMA and jiu-jitsu competitions and tournaments regularly. They have had two competitors who have competed in eight fights, including Saez.

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Veto makes mold Royal Caribbean’s responsibility

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
News Director
philippe.buteau@fiusm.com

A few pen strokes from Gov. Rick Scott kept more than $8.7 million from reaching the University of Miami, more than a quarter of that money was to remove mold at Bay Vista Housing.

In an email sent to the University community from President Mark Rosenberg, he wrote that the State Legislature approved, but Gov. Rick Scott vetoed, a request from FIU for $3 million to remove mold at the housing facility that is now more than 25 years old.

Royal Caribbean, now in the third year of a land lease agreement with the University, is in the process of renovating BVH for the performers that entertain guests onboard one of the cruise line company’s 23 ships.

RC is required to pay all costs, expenses and fees for the building’s operation, management, maintenance, replacement and upkeep which cost them about $6.5 million, but any serious problems that existed before the deal was finalized are the University’s problem, according to an email message from University Spokeswoman Maydel Santana-Bravo.

“While FIU is not responsible for any of the costs, the University did agree to use reasonable efforts to seek funding from the Florida Legislature to pay for the cost of any legally required remediation of hazardous substance or materials being removed in the facility before it was turned over and discovered during the Royal Caribbean renovations.”

But with the governor’s denial, the mold is now Royal Caribbean’s to remove, Santana-Bravo replied in a follow-up email.

“FIU will not pay for the removal,” she wrote. “That is Royal Caribbean’s responsibility.”

The University’s deal with Royal Caribbean - a multi-billion dollar company that brought in more than $1.8 billion between December 2014 and March 2015 - goes back to 2012 when it published an invitation to negotiate with the company to build and operate a production, rehearsal and performance facility at BBC and Royal Caribbean responded, according to public documents from June 12, 2013.

Royal Caribbean’s entertainers and performers were housed around the Hollywood, FL area and their training centers were dispersed, according to Mohammad Qureshi, then the associate dean of the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. He is now Director of Facilities and Budget at Royal Caribbean China.

Seeking to consolidate the performers’ housing and training to one area, Royal Caribbean set its sights on BBC.

Kenneth Jessell, FIU’s chief financial officer, said in 2013 that although housing students at BBC had to move, the School of Architecture and the Arts will be allowed access to the new facilities.

Per the lease, Royal Caribbean will also provide FIU’s students with 20 internships, work with FIU to improve its cruise line course, will engage the students in a Study at Sea program and will also provide access to data which will aid FIU’s research efforts.

In all 10 students from Architecture and the Arts and 10 from SMCC will receive internships in the company’s Study at Sea program and have access to data.

Jessell was not available for a follow-up interview as of press time.

As far as the students who live in Bay Vista, FIU believes that most students would want to move to Modesto A. Maidique Campus’ new housing facilities.

“MMC is finishing up new housing facilities this fall and will have more supply than demand, which is different to previous years when there has always been more demand,” Qureshi said in 2013.

Larry Lunsford, vice president of student affairs, said in 2013 that the demand for housing at BBC has been on the decline.

“There is an important business aspect to University Housing, and it is important that the demand is there to keep it operational,” Lunsford said at the time. “The cost of renovations needed to improve Bay Vista Housing most likely would result in the facility being cost prohibitive for our student residents.”

Bay Vista had room for 272 students and six resident assistants, according to the housing website, but they all had to leave by May 1, 2014. Students at BBC no longer have an option to live on campus.

“New housing is on the master plan for BBC,” Lunsford said at the time. “As decisions are finalized regarding the future of BBC housing, we will communicate these plans to students.”

In addition to renovating the housing facility for its performers, Royal Caribbean has also built a 45,000 square foot training facility that will become property of the University at the end of the 30 year lease agreement.

“FIU is hoping that with the money from the land lease, we can then use those funds to start a new housing project for the students in BBC,” said Qureshi at the time.

Sizzlin’ SPC Movie Night

LESLIE BLANCO
Staff Writer
leslie.blanco@fiusm.com

The Student Organizations Council and the Student Programming Council at Biscayne Bay Campus are hosting a series of events over the summer for upcoming and current students based at BBC. One of the events coming up this week hosted by SPC is “SPC Movie Night: Alexander the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day.” It will be showing Wednesday, July 8 in the Wolfe University Center, Room 244B, at noon. According to the movie director at Campus Life, Shancie Ellis, she decided to pick that specific movie because it’s a movie everyone can watch.

“Families can get together and watch it as well. The movie gives the students time to relax and sit down in between or after classes. Instead of going home or waiting around for their class to start, they can watch the movie in the meantime,” Ellis said.

Children from the Summer Camp residing at the FIU Biscayne Bay Campus can also attend and view the feature film. The event is free and open to the public.

“We hope that the events bring out more people and that they are better and more proactive than past events.” Ellis said.

If folks miss the noon showings due to class schedule conflicts there will be another showing at 5 p.m. in the same room, WUC 244B. Snacks and beverages will be provided depending on how many people attend the screening. This will be the third event in the series of events hosted by Campus Life’s SPC organization.

Be there, grab your popcorn, and feel free to enjoy a family-friendly comedy before you rush to class or if you want to escape traffic.

New look for library

ESHRAT NIKROOYE-ASLI
Asst. News Director
eshrat.nikrooye-asli@fiusm.com

By the start of the fall semester, students who frequent the Glenn Hubert Library might appreciate its new coat of paint. But the people who are there the most will like the other improvements made to the library throughout the summer.

Come late August the University expects renovations to the library, which include fixes to the leaking problem and a replacement to the surrounding sewage system, to be complete.

Originally painted in coral, GH’s panther spirit has been rejuvenated. The building now boasts a coat of white, gold and blue. But more importantly, the leaks that plagued the library are now a thing of the past. The roof has been repaired and the rusted iron casted sewage system that surrounded the library is in the process of being replaced.

While construction is still ongoing, the library remains fully operational. Students can still use the private study rooms and all library-goes can purchase coffee from the Starbucks on the first floor.

The library last saw interior renovations throughout 2013 and 2014 which resulted in a modern computer area and working stations on the second floor. Bryan Cooper, associate dean of Technical and Digital Services at the library, said to Student Media in 2013 that the layout of the second floor would have different sections aimed to simplify students’ lives.

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

Around one of the columns, which is 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 – one Apple computer table, and five that run other operating systems.