

FIU faculty rated high on Rate My Professor

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Wikipedia's policy change a step in the right direction

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SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

Some SGC-BBC members want to meet twice a month, instead of the four times required by their bylaws.

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

Find out why registration this semester was full of obstacles for some students.

OPINION PAGE 6



The Golden Panther Marching Band cannot be replaced.

OPINION PAGE 6

Bloggers have the right to be anonymous.

LIFE! PAGE 9



Google's infamous Web "cloud" has its shortcomings.

LIFE! PAGE 7

The life of an RA is not as easy as it may seem.

SPORTS PAGE 12



Women's soccer loses to No. 7 Florida, yet manages to tie vs. Florida Gulf Coast.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cisco Adler & Schwayze, Sept. 2, 10 p.m. The duo will perform in GL 100. Tickets are going for \$30.

CSO Club Fair, Sept. 2, 11 a.m. Come down to the GC Pit and get ready to participate, and make connections. The event is free.

The Harder They Come, Sept. 3, 8 p.m. Enjoy the musical production of a great Jamaican masterpiece. The event is free at the Ziff Ballet Opera.

Anything Goes Anime, Sept. 3, 8 p.m. If you are anime crazy, this is the club for you! It will be held in GC 316.

WEATHER



WEDNESDAY
Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 79 HIGH: 89



THURSDAY
Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 78 HIGH: 88



FRIDAY
Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 79 HIGH: 87

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JUST DANCE



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

HYPNOTIC MOVES: Kevin Botten (center), along with a group of students, dances after being hypnotized by Hypnotist Sailesh during an Welcome Week event on Aug. 27.

MEDICAL SCHOOL

Neurology department gets renowned chairman

Dr. Jeffrey Horstmyer joins inaugural staff

DIANA JORDAN
Staff Writer

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine recently named Dr. Jeffrey Horstmyer, a physician at Mercy Hospital, as founding chairman of the Department of Neurology.

"I am proud to be part of this inaugural faculty and work among such distinguished physicians and talented students," Horst-

myer said in a statement. "The Wertheim College of Medicine is well on its way to changing the way we teach and practice medicine and I am honored to be part of it."



HORSTMAYER

Horstmyer, a certified diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, has held various positions throughout the South Florida medical community, including chief of the

Division of Neurology at Mercy Hospital, president of the Mercy Hospital medical staff and Board of Trustees member, chairman of the Emergency Room Committee at Health South Doctors Hospital and member of the Dade County Stroke Consortium.

He has also worked extensively with multiple sclerosis causes and is a member of the Professional Advisory Committee of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in South Florida.

Horstmyer is the founder and chairman

NEW STAFF, page 2

SGC-MMC

Debate sparks over A&S fees distribution

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

The Student Government Council at Modesto Mardique Campus senate voted to reject an appropriation to fund Student Day at the Frost Art Museum, commemorated the late U.S. Sen. Edward "Ted" Kennedy and debated a resolution aimed at curbing wasteful student government spending.

In an Aug. 31 meeting, the senate disputed over the proper way to spend the Activities and Services fee.

The debate began with the reading of the resolution "In support of Smarter Spending in Regards to Student A&S Fees by SGA," that was sent to the Operational Review Committee, and continued through the appropriation proposals for the Frost Museum and one for the Mechanical Engineering Department.

"The wasteful spending of student Activity and Services fees must come to an end," read Sen. Adam Johnson, one of the sponsors of the resolution.

The resolution called for SGC-MMC to commit to a promise to end wasteful spending by keeping FIU students in mind "before spending their money inappropriately."

Some examples of wasteful spending mentioned in the "Smarter Spending" bill were the use of \$60,000 for Campus Life Organization retreats.

"Cutting unnecessary costs such as having retreats on campus instead of at a five-star hotel will give SGA a chance to save thousands of dollars," read the resolution. "That money could be spent where it should be spent, on FIU students."

The retreats in question are trips that organizations

like SGC-MMC have at the start of the year as a sort of orientation to their roles and job expectations.

However, according to SGC-MMC Advisor Jose Toscano, such a University-wide retreat has to be 49.9 miles away from the campus, according to regulations.

"We are bound [to those rules]," Toscano said.

Senator Loren Fraute said he saw the retreat as something positive and a reward for committed students.

Another issue the resolution brought up was spending on office renovations and furniture, "which

Cutting unnecessary costs such as having retreats on campus instead of at a five-star hotel will give SGA a chance to save thousands of dollars.

Student Government Association resolution

cost thousands of dollars."

SGC-MMC Vice President Mykaelle "Myka" Figueiredo mentioned in the meeting that some of those renovations and furniture were for her office, and said she thought the current resolution was "lashing out at the administration."

Figueiredo, however, supported the spirit of the resolution, while believing it needed revisions. The vice president told Student Media that the retreats were worthwhile, but that there was also need to spend more wisely.

"We must get the most out of the money," she said.

Figueiredo didn't

SGC-MMC, page 3

NEWS FLASH

NATIONAL

Disney buys Marvel Comics

The Walt Disney Company has purchased Marvel Comics, the popular comic book company, in a deal totalling \$4 billion.

According to CNN Money, the deal, announced Aug. 31, will give Disney the rights to over 5,000 characters. Some of the characters include Iron Man, Captain America and Spider-Man.

Marvel Comics still holds deals with various movie studios, including Paramount, and plans to honor these deals. Disney is expected to become sole distributor of all Marvel movie projects in the future.

Apple to reveal new line of iPods

Apple has announced a press event titled "It's only rock and roll, but we like it."

According to Reuters, the event is expected to showcase a new line of iPods. Also expected to be released is a new version of Apple's media management software, iTunes.

The event will be held on Sept. 9.

Internet addiction rehab program admits its first patient

Ben Alexander began his college career at Iowa last year, playing "World of Warcraft" 16 to 17 hours a day.

He got a sense of fulfillment by playing as an alter-ego online.

"People always commented on how quickly I was progressing and that was a source of a lot of pride when I was playing," Alexander explained to CBS4. "I was a lot more outgoing in the game," he said.

According to a study published by CBS4, approximately 10 percent of people online could be addicted.

Seeking help, he went to a rehab program called reSTART Internet Addiction Recovery Program, which encourages people to limit the number of hours they spend on the internet.

Alexander is the first patient to admit himself into the 45-day program. Enrolling into the reSTART Internet Addiction Recovery Program costs \$14,500.

"To have our son back, it's a bargain," Ben's dad told CBS4.

– Compiled by Sergio Bonilla and Jorge Valens

G.I. Bill gives vets added benefits

Tuition, supply coverage lets vets graduate on time

JULIAN PINHEIRO
Contributing Writer

Veterans looking for a degree now have additional benefits thanks to an update on the G.I. Bill that went into effect Aug. 1.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the new and improved G.I. Bill, or Chapter 33, will give veterans who are studying the opportunity to receive annual books and supplies allowance of up to \$1,000, a monthly housing allowance, a one-time rural benefit payment and coverage of tuition and fees.

Ronise Da Luz, a junior in business administration, said that the new bill will be exciting for her since she will be able to concentrate on her studies and not worry about tuition.

The new G.I. Bill will also give veterans the

chance to transfer unused educational aid to spouses or children.

To be eligible for the new aid provided by the bill, individuals need to have served 90 days on or after Sept. 11, 2001 or be discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days.

During the summer, the University hosted an informational meeting to veterans who are interested on the new updates the bill has to offer.

"It's going to be the best thing that FIU can do because it will bring more vets to FIU," said Frank Lopez, an incoming freshman.

Mike Pishner, the University's veterans coordinator, said that during the post Sept. 11 G.I. Bill meeting, only 3 percent of veterans graduated after five years. He said that the new G.I. Bill will be

"a great tool for veterans to graduate in faster and greater numbers."

Richard Gouin, a program specialist from the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs' State Approving Agency, which helps veterans in almost all issues from going back to school to owning property, listed the many opportunities the new G.I. Bill offers, such as: the VA will pay \$41.67 per credit hour for up to 24 credit hours,

veterans in the audience to "find out how many benefits they have before they make the commitment to Chapter 33."

The benefits don't include online classes, however.

Private universities such as University of Miami don't qualify.

Gouin also warned that if an eligible veteran decides to drop a course, he or she should do it before the deadline or the VA will

It's a great opportunity for veterans. It opens the door for [them] to go to graduate school.

Peter Velazquez, student

fees like health premiums and graduation fees will be covered and veterans are entitled to receive up to 36 months of benefits.

"It's a great opportunity for veterans," said student Peter Velazquez. "It opens the door for veterans to go to graduate school."

Gouin also warned the

charge the veteran that money.

Carlos Araica, a junior in construction management, said that the new G.I. Bill will "create a new life for veterans. It gives them a second chance to concentrate on school."

For more information, visit gibill.va.gov.

Distinguished physician recruited

NEW STAFF, page 1

of the MS Centers of Florida Foundation and the founder of the MS Center of Miami.

"We are proud to add Dr. Horstmyer to our growing list of world-class doctors," said Dr. John Rock, founding dean of the college, in a statement.

"Dr. Horstmyer is the latest example of the College of Medicine's efforts to recruit Miami's best and most community conscious physicians."

His service and leadership have not been limited to the medical community, however, as he has worked with various sectors of FIU.

He has served as a member of the FIU Foundation board of directors, chairman of the President's Council and as a member on the advisory boards for the Frost Art Museum and the Biomedical Engineering Department.

He has received awards from the Peñalver Clinic,

Camillus House and the Saint John Bosco Clinic for providing neurological care to those who cannot afford hospital visits.

"I think it's great that such prominent physicians are here to train and mentor us," said medical student Gabe Thornton.

"In order to become physicians that will change the world, we need to have the best physicians educating us and Dr. Horstmyer is one of them."

Horstmyer graduated from Emory University Business School and worked in real estate development.

He later attended the University of Miami

Miller School of Medicine and performed his internship neurology residency training at Jackson Memorial Hospital/University of Miami, where he was appointed administrative chief resident and completed a fellowship in neuromuscular neurology and electroneurophysiology.

Among his top procedures at Mercy Hospital are electromyography and nerve conduction studies where he works with patients suffering from a broad range of maladies including strokes, MS, epilepsy, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and vertigo.

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Resolution passes to pay tribute to 'Ted' Kennedy

SGC-MMC, page 1

comment if the resolution was perceived as hostile toward herself.

Senator Ernesto Rubi thought the resolution needed more "bite," and consequences if not adhered to. He also suggested the senate get more visibility on the spending of money.

"We need to ask for a report," Rubi said.

Senator Vignesh Doraiswamy asked if such a bill shouldn't be directed to the ORC. The senate agreed, and the resolution was recommitted to them.

"Money should be reorganized and used in a better way," Johnson said.

Efficient spending also had a hand in play when the senate voted against an \$1,000 appropriation that would have helped fund Student Day at the Frost Museum.

The \$1,000 were going toward food for the expected 4,000 students that would attend the event on Sept. 2.

"Where did that number come from?"

tioned the Finance Committee for funds, Miami's Best Pizza and Publix would donate pizza and drinks to the event.

The appropriation didn't pass with a vote of six yeas, 11 nays and five abstains.

Another resolution that would refund \$543.92 in travel expenses to a group of mechanical engineering students was also read and proposed.

The appropriation was to go to four students who want to compete at the 2009 Student Unmanned Ariel Vehicle Competition in Maryland.

The resolution, sponsored by Senators Janice Rubio and Yuniel Molina, stated that such a competition would garner high visibility toward the University and it had the possibility of attracting funding from private companies or the Department of Defense.

The appropriation was tabled, and will be reintroduced at another senate meeting, but not before sparking more debate on whether the outcomes of such competitions should be weighted.

"We shouldn't penalize over the

The wasteful spending of student Activity and Services fees must come to an end.

SGA resolution

Doraiswamy asked about the number of people attending.

Finance Committee Chair Marcos Oyola said that they were projections from last year.

Senator Taylor Prochnow asked if the museum really needed the money or SGA was just trying to get its logo on the event.

Because the appropriation request was made to the Finance Committee with so few days before the event, SGA's logo would not be on any of the promotional flyers.

"There will not be a logo, but we can have a presence at the event," Johnson said.

The consensus from the bill's sponsors, Johnson and Oyola, was that the money would go toward enriching the event.

"Most people go because of the food," Oyola said.

According to Ana Garcia, the representative from the Frost Museum that peti-

outcome," Figueiredo said.

Some, like Fraute, asked to have beneficiaries of A&S funds to brief the senate in person or in letter after such an event.

The Finance Committee has been working on a set of guidelines for requests that would include such a provision.

The senate also passed a resolution to commemorate the late Sen. Edward Moore "Ted" Kennedy.

The resolution acknowledged Kennedy's pivotal role in the enactment of laws concerning education, immigration, cancer research and civil rights, to mention a few.

His nephew, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., will come speak at FIU as part of the SGA's lecture series.

Senate Speaker Helena Ramirez told Student Media that the passing vote was twofold: one for his accomplishments, and two as a compassionate gesture toward RFK Jr.

New Web site allows students to find, apply for jobs on campus

JULIAN PINHEIRO
Staff Writer

Campus jobs may be convenient but can also be difficult to find. Now, thanks to a partnership, students will be able to view and apply for all the jobs on campus on one Web site.

The Division of Human Resources along with the Financial Aid Office have partnered to help students find the campus jobs they're looking for.

For the 2009-2010 academic year, the hiring process for federal work study is being done online through the University Job Board, a job applicant tracking system.

Work study is a federally funded form of financial aid. For students who do not receive financial aid, the University will include student assistant positions.

According to an HR representative, the motive

behind this initiative, which began in July, is to help students who need jobs while also helping the departments that are looking for students to fill their much-needed positions.

"The process is to help students find employment through an efficient and quick process," said Jaffus Hardrick, HR vice president.

They said that this process will unite the job postings of all the campuses in one Web site.

Human resources also created this initiative to eliminate the confusion that students had about where to find jobs on campus.

According to HR Recruitment Coordinator Ana Jimenez, most students are not aware about jobs on campus.

With the help of the Financial Aid Office, she hopes that this process will facilitate recruitment

for federal work-study positions.

She also hopes this initiative will put money in the hands of students and give them experience to improve their résumés.

According to Jimenez, around February 2009, 1,700 students were placed in student assistant positions while 350 students were placed in federal work-study positions.

Federal work-study is financed by federal funds; the hiring department will not pay the salaries of hired students.

Some jobs that need to be filled include a part-time receptionist, a course developer, a desk assistant, call center assistant and a program assistant.

According to HR, it is not mandatory for the student to have a résumé for most of student jobs.

To apply for a job, visit www.fujobs.org.

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CRAZY DAYS: (Top) Jeffery Bustos, sophomore in international business (left), plays "Connect Four" against Daniil Shkolnik, freshman biology major, as part of Welcome Week's Game Day on Aug. 28.

(Bottom) Alia Silvera, senior in public relations (left), holds Ryan Lytle, senior in criminal justice, against strawberry-flavored popcorn in his challenge against Fernando Vargas, freshman in management information systems, during Fall Fest's Wild and Crazy Stunts Day on Aug. 31

Students struggle to enroll

TIFFANY URRIOLA
Contributing Writer

Between budget cuts, a tuition hike and University accreditation, students have had a hard time registering for classes. Students are so desperate to get into classes, that some have even offered money to their classmates to give away their spots.

"Over the summer, I was offered \$500 by another student to get into the class that he needed in order to graduate," said Roberto Bolona, a junior journalism major.

The 12 to 15 percent reduction in state funding has affected the 2009-2010 registration process, causing lines to form outside the

Office of the Registrar earlier than expected.

This semester, the University has been further impacted by a 15 percent tuition hike, which took effect this Fall semester. The University is also going through accreditation, so everything, including class size, must meet standards of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Accreditation is a process in which a University is reviewed by SACS every 10 years to ensure schools meet the standards established by the higher education community.

"Budget cuts have affected the registration process, and there are less class sections of classes

being offered," said Steven Kelly, director of the Office of the Registrar.

This situation not only frustrates students, but also professors who are often seen as the bad guys when they drop students for missing the first day of class.

"The first day, four or five students showed up to class wanting to get in, so I have to strictly enforce the you-must-show-up-the-first-day-of-class policy," said Neil Reisner, associate journalism professor.

Professors also feel there must be a limit on the amount of students each class can have, especially in upper division courses, in which students should receive

ENROLLMENT, page 5

SGC-BBC

Council tries to change frequency of meetings

Biweekly sessions suggested

MAUREEN NINO
Staff Writer

The Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus is required to meet every week as per its bylaws, but during their last meeting, some members tried to change that.

The first meeting of the fall took place Aug. 26.

With all members present at the mandatory meeting, SGC-BBC President Sholom Neistein, shared his excitement about the senate's attendance.

"It's great to see so many faces," he said.

At the meeting, members learned about a new proposition: having biweekly meetings, instead of the weekly meetings established by the campus bylaws.

"On the one hand, we will be more efficient. However, on the other, we will be placing too much emphasis on one meeting," Neistein said.

Neistein gave a partial opinion about the change, so the gavel was passed to Christin "Cici" Battle, SGC-BBC vice president.

SGC-BBC emulates the structure of the U.S. government and follows *Robert's Rules of Order*, a guide to parliamentary procedures which says that a partial opinion cannot be given by the chairman.

"It is a serious decision, and I think that the motion moving toward further consideration was a wise thing to do," said Keila Samuels, SGC-BBC internship coordinator.

"I think that the leaders of our council have our best interests at heart, and they would not have considered such a motion if it was not thought out and they saw that it might be more beneficial to the council members than not."

After a brief discussion about the proposal, Natalya Cohen, SGC-BBC senator at large, motioned to have biweekly meetings.

It was seconded by Tania Williams, SGC-BBC graduate senator.

"I think that the number of meetings we

hold should depend on their need to sufficiently reach our assigned goals," Cohen said.

"Otherwise, meetings tend to become redundant and that time can be allocated toward better ways of helping those we represent: the student body."

But some members disagreed. Robert Tassy III, SGC-BBC senator, is concerned that reducing the amount of times the council meets may delay any progress toward accomplishing assigned tasks.

"Council meetings almost force the council members to bring something new to the table.

Either something new or an update on a project they are working on," Tassy said.

Other members are confident that work will continue as scheduled with guidelines and specific

the members, Chikishev suggested that other sources, such as e-mails, Facebook and Twitter, can distribute information they need.

"Checking e-mail should be a habit for any serious college student or any professional. Checking SGC e-mails is a duty," Chikishev said.

"There is no excuse for checking Facebook five times a day and not having enough time to check your own e-mail account."

According to Cohen, senators have access to technology that makes the option of canceling meetings very plausible.

"We live in a society that is swarmed with multiple forms of communication," Cohen said.

"If things are planned out, we can use these to our advantage and improve our overall efficiency."

The motion was

"If things are planned out, we can use these to our advantage and improve our overall efficiency."

Natalya Cohen
SGC-BBC senator

deadlines that must be met.

"In Chapter 9 of the bylaws, under General Statutes, Robert Tassy and I wrote a set of rules the senate has already approved, which would create mandatory deadlines," said Nikolay Chikishev, SGC-BBC lower division senator.

But Tassy is also concerned that lack of frequent meetings may minimize the amount of information that is shared within the council.

"We all become informed of what the cabinet, directors, senators, judicial and executive board are doing," he said.

"We use that information to inform everyone else and to make decisions and plans accordingly."

To avoid a lack of communication between

revoked from the table after the disagreement between members, and Neistein returned to his position as chairman.

The motion was then substituted with a discussion to have regular scheduled meetings that could be canceled when needed.

The council was also in disagreement with this idea, and the decision to cancel meetings was also rejected until further review.

At the meeting, members were also assigned goals that SGC-BBC hopes to achieve this year.

The goal deadlines will be set during the next meeting Sept. 2.

Less classes, holds affect registration

ENROLLMENT, page 4

specialized attention.

“For upper division courses, we don’t get support from student aides,” said Gwyn Davies, assistant history professor. “Most of the history classes I teach usually have graduate components in them, so you end up with 45 undergraduate students and five graduate students in one class.”

Not allowing overrides in order to accommodate more students in classes that are already filled is a situation that sometimes goes beyond the hands of professors, departments and the University itself. To meet different criteria for accreditation or state regulations, some departments are required to have a limited number of students per class.

“The fire code doesn’t allow us to have so many students in a classroom,” said Teresa Ponte, interim chair of the Department of Journalism and Broadcasting. “Also, the accreditation board for the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, for example, doesn’t allow us to have more than 20 students per class.”

Due to accreditation, the University must meet

fire code regulations, which include filling classes only up to the maximum capacity dictated by the code.

Account holds also prevent students from registering for the classes they need, which fill up quickly. Students receive holds when they have an unpaid balance after payment deadlines have passed or when the student or the University itself has made a mistake in the paperwork.

Didier Georges, a junior international business management major, made a mistake in his financial aid paperwork, but did not receive an e-mail notification. Instead, he realized there was a mistake while registering for classes through Panthersoft.

“While I was trying to register for classes, I realized I had a \$531 hold,” Georges said. “It was an issue with the Financial Aid Office, and I just paid the bill. Otherwise, I wouldn’t have been able to choose the classes I needed.”

Kelly, however, considers FIU’s Financial Aid Office one of the most efficient he has ever worked in.

“In my 30 years of experience and after working in three different states, FIU’s

TIPS FOR REGISTRATION

- Check your University e-mail often.
- Take care of holds before you register.
- Check your enrollment appointment date and time, and enroll as soon as it’s time.
- Meet with advisors before advising week to avoid lines.
- Pick your classes prior to your enrollment appointment.
- Put classes in the enrollment shopping cart.
- Press the “Validate” button in the enrollment shopping cart to make sure the classes will go through by your enrollment appointment.
- Pick your classes for the next semester as well.

financial aid office to me is one of the most responsive, giving out each year \$230 million in aid,” Kelly said.

Kelly also emphasized that students need to check their University e-mail accounts in order to receive notices that could affect their registration status.

The Office of the Registrar’s call center has received 16,000 calls during the first week of August, compared to previous years, in which the number of calls was half

that amount, according to Kelly.

It is predicted that the amount of students in the University has increased, but the official amount will not be known until the end of the add/drop period, Kelly said.

“In my years of experience, every time economies have gone bad, the education population tends to rise,” Kelly said, adding that there will be less classes available for the amount of students who will need them.

STUDENT LIFE

BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS

Campus Life Fall Fest

Continuing the Fall Fest activities, students will receive free Chipotle gift cards on Sept. 3. That same night, the Biscayne Bay Campus Student Programming Council will host a comedy show from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. in Mary Ann Wolfe Theater. The event is free to students with Panther ID’s and \$5 for non-students.

On Sept. 4, SPC-BBC will collect canned goods from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. in Panther Square for the Feed Haiti Drive.

For more information, call Campus Life at 305-919-5804.

Fitness Center classes

The Fitness Center is offering free classes for students with a valid Panther ID.

On Train Hard Thursday, classes start with a Bust Your Abs from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; Zumba from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Nitro Kick from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.; Self Defense and Core Training from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Yoga from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

On Fitness Friday, classes start with Cardio Strength from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; Total Body Circuit from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., and Mediation from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

-Compiled by Pamela Duque

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FIU

The Wolfsonian





Marching band cannot be replaced

ERNESTO FERNANDEZ
Special to The Beacon

The elimination of the marching band five months ago was inevitable, since finding resources and support to keep it alive was impossible.

In an effort to save the band, I and other students – a group of individuals who shared a love and passion for music – stood by the GC fountain at the Modesto Maidique Campus and played the tunes that characterize FIU's spirit and pride.

As we all performed as an ensemble, we asked anyone and everyone to sign a petition to save the band.

After meeting with both the former University president and provost, we were given some hope that a solution would be found.

Sadly, the impossible became inevitable – there will not be a marching band, or any sort of athletic band at FIU this year.

All across the nation, everybody is talking about how FIU Athletics is trying to build a successful program.

While there will be a beautiful new stadium with over 100 less students in the stands, the University will still persevere.

The unanticipated consequences of what I believe was a short-sighted business decision have resulted in many phone calls requesting me to assemble a group to perform at the events in which the marching band used to perform, such as the Freshman Convocation, Trail of the Torch and the Honors College Convocation.

Sadly, my answer has had to be “no.”

The contributions of the FIU Golden Panther Marching Band cannot be replaced by putting together groups, just as you can't replace the FIU formation on the field during pre-game show, or replace the live fight song when a touchdown is scored.

Five months ago, we were ready, student government was ready and even some of the trustees were ready.

Five months later, we are now in a new era.

Will the music of the GPB be heard this year? No. Do we have the chance to make the impossible the inevitable? Yes.

We want to take the field in 2010.

We want the spirit and pride we have shown since the first day we stepped on the field to support a team and an athletic program destined for greatness.

We were needed then.

It is my hope that we will be wanted now.

Ernesto Fernandez is a senior double-majoring in music education and music performance. He also served as the Golden Panther Band's Drum Major.

Wikipedia strives for better accuracy

ERIC FELDMAN
Staff Writer

Wikipedia.org can tell the future. The popular online information source, which anyone can edit and modify, reported on Jan. 20 that Sen. Edward M. “Ted” Kennedy, who was at the time battling cancer, had died. Sen. Kennedy did not die until Aug. 25.

It is these kinds of premonitions, or vandalisms rather, that have caused Wikimedia, the nonprofit organization which runs Wikipedia and other “Wiki” sites, to adopt a new policy on editing articles, according to an article from *The New York Times*.

“Wiki” is a generic term to describe any Web site that can be edited by any user.

According to the *Times* article, now any time a change is made to a Wikipedia article about a living person, the changes will remain invisible until a trusted senior editor approves the changes. All other articles can still be edited by anyone – for now, at least.

Wikipedia has long been the bane of college professors, who have begun to see the Web site cited more often in APA and MLA format in research papers where peer-reviewed journal articles once were cited.

This change in Wikipedia policy is welcome and overdue. I agree with Wikipedia for holding this off as long as they could: complete freedom to create, edit and delete is the only reason Wikipedia has amassed as much information as it has. More than perhaps any other product of the Internet age, Wikipedia is testament to the human thirst for knowledge, as well as the ability to quench it.

Regardless of its flaws, that a project

Many professors bar the use of Wikipedia entirely, while others caution that it should only be used wisely and taken with a grain of salt.

of volunteers across the world sharing as much research and knowledge as possible has made it this far is simply fascinating.

Many professors bar the use of the site entirely in their class, while others caution that it should only be used wisely and taken with a grain of salt.

George Ackerman, a professor in the Criminal Justice Department in the College of Arts and Sciences, does not allow it at all.

“It is not a valid source or reference in the educational world,” Ackerman said. “Anyone, including a 5-year-old, can post the content to Wikipedia and it is never verified.”

Despite some misuse of the site for classes, students do know to use it with caution.

“I use Wikipedia for simplified

explanations of things I don't understand,” said sophomore Katrina Pratts, a nursing major. “But I wouldn't use it as a source in an academic paper.”

In fact Jimmy Wales, the creator of Wikipedia, has cautioned against using his site for academic research.

“For God's sake, you're in college; don't cite the encyclopedia,” Wales said at a conference, according to a 2006 *Chronicle of Higher Education* article.

“It is pretty good, but you have to be careful with it,” he said.

But just as once quaint neighborhoods grow and crime increases, Wikipedia, too, is a community, and reaching the size and influence that it now holds, it would be irresponsible to not take steps toward preventing continued misuse of the site by verifying the information that so many people around the world use as reference.

Newspapers have falsely attributed quotes to people thanks to false information provided by Wikipedia. The satirical news show “The Colbert Report” has even called for people to modify articles in order to put an end to the environmentalist movement – an act, though humorous, that further highlights Wikipedia's greatest weakness.

So, good job, Wikipedia. Hopefully, this experiment in social control will prove to be a success and be expanded to other articles on the site so that Wikipedia can not only be a source for the most information, but also the most accurate.

Bloggers deserve the right to anonymity, privacy

ANA AROCHA
Staff Writer

“Any publicity is good publicity.” At least, that is what celebrity gossip bloggers and other media sensationalists would like the world to believe.

Public figures have had to deal with the constant clicks and flashes of the camera and the sounds of their private lives being tweaked into fiction for decades.

But with the Internet's growing popularity over the last 20 years, defamers have stepped up their game and plastered the virtual walls of the Web with more animosity.

Web sites like *PerezHilton.com* scrutinize everything from armpit stains and drug binges to the legal and personal problems of celebrities with a devil-may-care attitude that stumps the

population.

The Internet has further mainstreamed the gossip industry by providing a stage on which it can freely broadcast all the information it desires, in accordance with the First Amendment.

This free reign to say whatever you want is available to anyone who can navigate their way around a Web site.

Web sites such as *WordPress.com*, *Vox.com* and *Google.com* host free blogs that circulate the Internet with advice, art and personal experiences. Every so often I take to my own blog to share funny videos, thoughts and life questions with my readers.

But even though I am not out to shatter the lives of any individuals, I feel that certain rules curtain my First Amendment rights.

About eight months ago,

an Australian *Vogue* cover girl, Liskula Cohen, discovered that she won the “Skankiest in NYC” award from an anonymous blogger.

Outraged, the model filed a defamation suit which ended in Google, who hosts the blog, releasing the blogger's e-mail.

After some careful Nancy Drew action, Cohen discovered the e-mail belonged to Fashion Institute of Technology student Rosemary Port. Port filed her own \$15 million lawsuit against Google for disclosing private information.

If I feel compelled to spill my anger about a certain individual onto my online journal, I should not have to fear that my identity might be disclosed to a reader.

The problem seems to stem from whether we can uphold our right to free speech and privacy while

patrolling and protecting against defamation in such a limitless medium such as the Internet.

But it is the expansiveness of the Web that seems to be a greater problem.

Governments spend millions tracking down and persecuting online threats, but the laws passed to enable them to do so form a grey area for the rest of the world.

This lack of clarity threatens our right to write what we wish.

I understand that certain cases are a matter of safety; for instance, the anonymity of the Internet allows for predators to assume fake identities and make false claims.

But the regular law-abiding citizen should have the right to use a pseudonym to protect their privacy and enable them to say what they wish without fear of being discovered.

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Got a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts in to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 240 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

WINNER/LOSER



Cha-ching! Marvel Comics will be sold to Disney Co. for a hefty \$4 billion. This marks Disney's second major purchase of another company after Pixar was acquired in 2006. This comes amid reports of the fourth installment of the Spider-Man franchise – Spider-Man IV: Nemo Versus Doc Ock.



Apple, in response to claims of exploding iPhones in Europe, said the combustion was due to external pressure and “not our fault.” Reports of a fire retardant iPhone skin is in development, but for now users can download iExtinguisher.

DAILYQUERY

As you may have noticed, the Graham Center is going under quite a face lift. Signs have been replaced, the walls have new paint jobs and new eateries have taken root (i.e. Jamba Juice). What do you think of these changes? Do you think these renovations are what's best? Let us know! Send responses to opinion@fiusm.com

OPINIONPIECE

70

The percentage of Wikipedia users who are under the age of 30.

WE'RE #6!

Web site ranks FIU faculty among the best in U.S., based on student ratings

JANET CAREAGA
Staff Writer

At the start of a new term everyone is scrambling around trying to pick classes and one concern runs through the minds of students: What if I get a bad professor? If they don't have a friend who has previously taken a class with the professor they are considering, many students turn to *RateMyProfessors.com*, which allows students to rate professors based on their opinions of the particular instructor. Some students use these ratings to help determine what to expect from their potential professors.

Based on student-generated professor ratings, the Web site compiles a top 10 list of universities with the top rated professors in terms of quality as well as the "hottest" professors and the top faculty members overall. Out of more than 6,500 schools listed on *RateMyProfessors.com*, FIU rated No. 6 in the top faculty category in 2008.

"The professors at FIU are all different when it comes to their methods of teaching. What I do

like is that they are flexible and make their class procedures easy to adapt to as a student. This high rating by *RateMyProfessors.com* comes as no surprise to me," said Carlos Acevedo, a junior majoring in English and political science.

That is quite an accomplishment for our university but, if FIU has some of the overall best rated professors out of over one million that are listed on the Web site, why do some people often complain about classes and their professors?

"Based on my friends' experiences and my own, I wouldn't necessarily rate our professors the highest but I would say they are mediocre. I've had teachers that I felt went above and beyond making sure their students succeeded and I feel some do the bare minimum and don't try to do what is best for their students. Some professors don't even make themselves accessible," said Ariel Rodriguez, a sophomore majoring in business administration.

For some instructors at FIU, these high rankings were far from shocking.

"It doesn't surprise me," said Mariela Campuzano, an adjunct

instructor and coordinator for the center for leadership and service. "We have a very diverse group of instructors. When I was an undergrad, I had some really good professors so I stuck around for my master's. It was a really good experience," Campuzano said.

In order to come up with the ranking, the Web site only used schools that had at least 30 professors rated. According to *RateMyProfessors.com*, all professors were verified as actively teaching in the current semester by each school at the time the lists were compiled. From the ones that had 30 or more rated professors, they took the average of all the professors that had at least 30 ratings.

They then ranked the schools based on their average rating from highest to lowest. When compiling this list, the Web site also made sure that school size would not affect the outcome, i.e. professors from larger universities would have an advantage over those in smaller ones. They found no correlation between school size and number of ratings.

Although it appears that *Rate-*

RATE, page 9

MY LIFE! EXPERIENCE

RA experience both rewarding and frustrating

Students often look at resident assistants as enforcers and hall monitors, out to bust parties and confiscate questionable items. The reality is that we are students too. We are students with lives and interests that often lie outside of housing.

With time, many students realize that, in actuality, RAs are more student resources than they are student police, working as mediators, guides and campus advocates.

COMMENTARY



COURTNEY
BAAS

During my time as an RA for the Summer B term of 2009 at Modesto Maidique Campus, I experienced a wide range of housing incidents.

There were definitely times when our residents put us through the wringer, with their no-pants parties, illicit activities and stowaways.

Yet, even with all the chaos of college life on campus, the residence hall experience is something that I consider essential to getting the most out of our college years.

First-year floor mates transition into friends which sometimes transition into brotherhoods, the bonds of which can go well beyond our college years.

Being a resident assistant consists of late nights, odd hours and striking experiences.

One such experience that encompassed all three elements happened on a routine midnight checkup one Wednesday with another RA.

While we walked down the halls checking for any disturbances, we witnessed two separate parties; both fully loaded with alcohol and, of course, with people playing beer pong.

To get an idea of just how much alcohol was consumed, imagine a mini-fridge full of beer and hard liquor and multiply that by a half-dozen people and, then, multiply that by two parties.

Naturally, we stayed up well into the early morning trying to reason with over a dozen inebriated residents and their guests and then dealing with the mountain of paperwork needed to document the situation.

Thus, as a resident assistant, one must not only expect the unexpected but also expect to be woken by the sweet sound of the late-night duty call.

Many students look at being an RA as a free pass for room and board every year and, out of dozens who apply, many end up committing to the job for that reason alone.

What they don't realize though, is that by the end of the year, the so-called "free room and board" will be more than paid-in-full in terms of stress and pure dedication.

LIFE EXPERIENCE, page 8



F.R.E.E.: FOR RIDICULOUSLY EXCITING ENTERTAINMENT

Forgetful elephant star of game

ASHLYN TOLEDO
Staff Writer

As most of us know all too well, an elephant never forgets – well, almost never.

From developer Armor Games and programmer jmtb02, the same guys behind *Grid 16* and *Four Second Frenzy*, comes *This Is The Only Level: Adventures in Singularity*, a free, online flash game that shows us what happens when one tiny, blue, forgetful elephant forgets every level of his game but the first.

It's not an incredibly fresh level design. You've probably seen it all before.

The object here is to move the elephant from one side of the screen to the other while avoiding the spikes – or not.

There's really no penalty for dying other than seeing your little elephant's corpse on the screen for a while and watching the death counter climb, mockingly, in the lower right-hand corner of the computer screen.

Along the way you'll (usually) need to press the "requisite" button to open the gate to the exit pipe. That's right, elephants love pipes.

Also, it seems this elephant has forgotten the rest of his game's song.

The 10-second loop is enough

“With 100 achievements up for grabs, there's plenty here to distract you from the fact that this game isn't really a game at all.”

to drive even the sanest of us mad. Luckily, you can toggle the sound off once you've had enough.

Each time you make it to the end, you are asked to repeat the same level with a slightly different set of rules.

The controls may be reversed, they may change altogether, you may be thrust into a powerful headwind or find that gravity has suddenly turned against you.

There are hints at the bottom of the screen to guide you and a pause button in case your boss walks by your desk or the commercial break has just ended. If you get stuck,

there's a panic button to reset the level.

If you're really taken by this little guy, you can check him out in his first game, *Achievement Unlocked*.

Alas, there is still just one level to play through but, in this case, your goal is simply to unlock every

last achievement.

Don't worry though, you'll earn the first four just for starting the game. To get a sense of things, practically every time you touch your keyboard, you'll be awarded another achievement.

Achievement Unlocked is a non-game that playfully mocks a recent trend in gaming that has gamers everywhere obsessed with virtual trophies and gamer scores.

With 100 achievements up for grabs, there's plenty here to distract you from the fact that this game isn't really a game at all.

So, if spikes, buttons and a jumping elephant with a poor memory aren't enough to get you to want to play these games then, well, don't.

But, for everyone with a sense of humor and a couple minutes to spare, you can find *This is the Only Level: Adventures in Singularity* and *Achievement Unlocked* at armor.games.com or at jmtb02.com under the games tab.

COLUMNIST



TOLEDO

Students often take RAs' hard work for granted

LIFE EXPERIENCE, page 7

A large chunk of what we do as RAs goes above and beyond the average work shifts.

In no way is being an RA a normal nine-to-five job. If it were, more than half of the time tracked would be considered overtime.

Apart from the long hours that come with being an RA, there are individual incidents that prove extremely frustrating.

Every RA has moments when they realize the job is a lot more trying than it might seem: when we've spent more than 18 hours spread over two weeks painstakingly decorating our halls for our residents, only to have some drunkard rip them all down without a second thought.

Or during 14 hour days of training that all resident assistants must attend for two weeks in order to be prepared to deal with

residents.

Or even when those very same students we work so hard for inform us that we're slackers out to get a free room and crash their parties.

At those times, the experience of being an RA can only be justified through our common love for our peers, our duty and, most importantly, our residents.

It is that love that sustains us when we otherwise might lose our cool or become overwhelmed.

So the next time you see your RA, take a moment to consider all that they do, not for their sake, but for yours.

Students living in residence halls should realize what may sometimes seem bothersome or invasive is actually genuine concern, and that the appreciation we feel from our residents is what makes all of our efforts worthwhile.

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Student government funds housing amenities

ISABEL MAZA
Contributing Writer

Although many housing students enjoy the luxuries provided to them on campus, such as the Rec Center pool and a Residence Hall Association, few are aware of where these amenities actually come from. Both the pool and RHA, along with many other groups and activities around campus, are funded and supported by the Student Government Association.

According to the SGA constitution, the purpose of SGA is to be the voice of FIU students and to work as a governing body to address student needs and interests. This mission is not lost in the housing community.

“Housing is vital to our continued success as a university, and key to the further expansion of student life,” said Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus President Anthony Rionda.

In an attempt to ensure that the needs of housing students are given proper attention, SGA has two housing senators, Janice Rubio and Edward Proenza. Housing students are also represented in RHA.

SGA works with Parking and Transportation to provide the free Panther Safety Tram, which provides rides around campus. Students can also utilize a Recreation Center with a swimming pool used specifically by housing students. Any issues or concerns housing students may have can be brought up to their SGA senators or RHA members.

SGA has plans regarding housing that it would like to implement this year.

“We want to make the halls more eco-friendly and also improve the bond between RHA and SGA,” said housing senator, Janice Rubio.

Some other long-term goals the housing senators hope to accomplish include a digital bulletin board, an expanded recycling program and more awareness of SGA and RHA within the housing community.

“We hope in the next year to partner with Residential Life in improving events and areas within the housing quad and providing better information and communication between residents and on-campus events,” Rionda said.

The housing senators also aim to complete several other objectives. Some of these short-term goals include increased involvement on campus from housing students, increased student activity at sports games, an RHA Web site and an improvement of basic housing facilities.

SGA expects that these improvements will help foster a greater sense of community for those living on campus. Both housing senators say they are determined to make students residing on campus feel at home and comfortable in the residence halls.

The benefits of living on campus are numerous, and many of them have little or nothing to do with SGA. Resident students enjoy access to computer labs, study groups and academic advising.

Each student has access to high speed Internet and cable TV in his or her room and campus police and residential staff are available 24 hours a day.

Due to their close proximity, housing students are able to easily attend sporting events, movies, concerts, SGA or club meetings and any events that may be happening on campus. With the help of Residential Life, SGA aims to make sure each housing student takes full advantage of all the opportunities offered.

BREAK YA NECK



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

UPSIDE DOWN: Victor Alfonso breaks it down in the Graham Center Pit during a late night practice on Aug. 31. Alfonso uses the name B-Boy when he break dances.

FISTFULS OF TECH!

Google looks to Web for storage

JORGE VALENS
Asst. News Director

With Google's development of the “Chrome” Web browser and rumors that it will serve as the primary interface for a future operating system, it looks like Google is taking steps to become something much more than just a search engine, it wants to be a computer. But, I'm not sure this is the way to go.

Up until 2004, Google sought to make the end user experience for Windows and Mac better.

With applications like Google Desktop, that seamlessly merged Web and local computer searches, Google did just that.

It was here where Google shined; it was the No. 1 search engine on the Internet and its information services, like Google Maps and the satellite imaging program, Google Earth, made it the go-to source for information on the Web.

Google has single-handedly redefined the way we use and explore the Internet. Just as it did then, Google is now seeking to redefine the way we use our computers by making a move toward “cloud computing.”

The idea of cloud computing has been around for a long time. It revolves around the notion of a computer accessing the internet, or “the cloud”, for the bulk of its applications, computing power and

storage.

This has many pluses: you can access the information from anywhere and you really don't need a full computer to access it, a very inexpensive netbook would do.

But, with advantages come disadvantages. Cloud computing doesn't allow the end user to physically keep their data.

COLUMNIST



VALENS

So, any embarrassing pictures of that trip to Vegas will be stored on some distant server, controlled by someone else, rather than in a folder on your hard drive named “work stuff.”

Another factor is stability. Recently we saw a few cyber-terrorists launch denial of service attacks against Facebook and Twitter, bringing those services down for hours.

Similar attacks could prevent people from accessing their information as well.

And, if it's information that is more important to you than your status updates and crops you have to cultivate on Farmville, that could be a problem.

Google has been slowly moving toward this idea in almost every facet of their business.

In July of this year, Google officially announced that Google Docs and Gmail, its answer to Microsoft's Office Suite, would be officially out of beta.

This was a big move that struck a fear

in Microsoft and forced Apple to take iWork, its productivity software package, online as well. No doubt a move to show business users Google's viability in that market.

I will concede to the fact that Google's online programs are very successful, convenient and practical. So much so that recently I have grown to love Google Docs – I'm actually typing this very column on it right now.

But, it took me a long time to trust this whole idea of storing my information on the “cloud.” I still back everything up feverishly on Microsoft Word once I hit save.

Cloud computing has its promise, but it will never be what Google wants it to be.

Too many people, myself included, are too dependent on having everything in one place – particularly, one place we control.

More importantly, applications like Photoshop and Premiere will never jump to the cloud and, if you tried to run them on a cloud optimized netbook it would explode with the force of a thousand suns.

People like power computing, they like hard drives and they especially like the information on those hard drives.

Though cloud computing is convenient, it is also limited. Google should stick to what it does best – making power computing and the Internet best friends.

FIU faculty among best in U.S., site says

RATE, page 7

MyProfessors.com has taken most variables into account to ensure the accuracy of their list, the fact remains that they can only work with the ratings that they have. Professors have hundreds of students every semester and only a handful of them take the time to go on that site to rate them.

Often, students only rate the professors if they had a really awful experience or if they had a great one; this skews the ratings.

“Sometimes I get a professor with bad ratings and they end up being great. The same goes for some professors with really good ratings, they just end up being too easy and not challenging enough,” said Emmanuel Rodriguez, a junior majoring in electrical engineering.

RateMyProfessors.com is a good place to start when looking to find out what a professor is like, but what may seem like a horrible professor to one person may be an outstanding professor to another.

You won't really know what they are like until you take a class with them. For now, all we can do is take pride in FIU making the top 10 list and be glad that some of the great professors we do have on campus are getting their praise.

No. 21 ranked Wildcats prove too much to close weekend

VOLLEYBALL, page 12

The set saw a number of tie scores, but the Golden Panthers pulled away late in the set to secure a 25-21 win and a 2-0 lead going into the third set.

The third set proved to be all FIU as the team jumped to a 13-5 lead to start the set. West Carolina never got closer than six points after that; the Panthers rolled to a 25-15 third set win and a 3-0 sweep over the Catamounts.

Senior Olga Vergun led the Golden Panther attack with a team-high 12 kills and Natalia Valentin led the team with 32 of the team's 38 assists for the match.

FIU 3, NORTHWESTERN 2

The second match of the tournament for the Golden Panthers against the Northwestern Wildcats was filled with drama and ended in an exhilarating win for FIU.

The Golden Panthers struck fast and early, winding up taking the first set 25-18.

It was during the second set, however, when Northwestern made things interesting.

The two teams fought back and forth, battling to several ties before the Wildcats pulled away for a 25-16 set victory and evening the match at 1.

The third set saw more of the same, and even though the Golden Panthers fought hard to counter, it wasn't enough to stop the Wildcats from taking the third set 25-17, giving them a 2-1 match advantage.

Both teams were entrenched in a pivotal fourth set, no team taking more than a two-point advantage throughout the entire set.

With the score 21-21, Natalia Valentin provided two pivotal assists to sophomore Sabrina Gonzalez and Ines Medved to help put the Golden Panthers ahead for good.

The squad evened the match at 2-2 with a critical 25-22 fourth set victory, setting up the stage for a fifth and final set.

The Golden Panthers carried the momentum from their fourth set victory into the final set, never allowing the Wildcats to get the lead in the set en route to 15-11

fifth set win and a 3-2 match victory over Northwestern.

Isadora Rangel finished the match with a team-high 20 kills for the match. Natalia Valentin turned in another solid performance, leading the team with 6 blocks and 53 assists, both team-highs.

KENTUCKY 3, FIU 0

Kentucky, the No. 21 team in the nation, proved to be too much for the Golden Panthers in the finale of the Kentucky Classic as they were handed their first loss of the season in a sweep.

The Wildcats were in control for most of the first set, and although the Golden Panthers came close to mounting a comeback after falling behind 24-14, they fell just short and dropped the first set 25-22.

While FIU managed to hang on to slim leads during the early parts of the second set, it was all downhill after that for the Golden Panthers.

Kentucky busted the second set wide open, outscoring the Golden Panthers 16-7 on their way to a 25-16 second set victory.

Kentucky would go on to win the third set, sealing the sweep, with a 25-13 third set victory.

Playing without Rosa, who was out for the weekend with a sprained quad, hurt the Golden Panthers ability to generate much on offense against Kentucky, according to Coach Tomic.

"I believe if we had Yari, our game against Kentucky would have been much different," Tomic said.

Natalia Valentin and Olga Vergun earned spots in the Kentucky Classic All-Tournament Team for their performance over the weekend in leading the Golden Panthers to a runner-up finish in the tournament behind Kentucky.

"Overall, for the first weekend, we're in a good place," Tomic said.

"There's a lot of things we need to work on in practice, but we are in a better place than we were in the preseason last year."

GOLDEN PANTHERS FOOTBALL

Defense continues to make strides; new rule on helmet-to-helmet contact

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers defense was able to hold the offense to minimal gains for most of the team's third preseason scrimmage on Aug. 28.

The defense allowed only two scores, both of which occurred when the offense started inside the defenses' 20-yard line.

It rebounded from a lackluster performance in the second scrimmage, in which they allowed 158 rushing yards.

Coach Mario Cristobal said the defense is going to have an advantage when third stringers play each other, but the first and second teams made strides.

"Ones and twos offensively did real good stuff," Cristobal said about his first and second-team offense. "I

think with threes naturally you're going to have the defense be a little bit ahead. But I think ones and twos exchanged blows pretty well."

The scores came from Kendall Berry, 11-yard run, and Trenard Turner on a one-yard push at the goal line.

Berry had five carries for 25 yards and Turner took five handoffs for 22 yards.

The longest passing play of the day was a 29-yard completion from Paul McCall to Elliot Dix. McCall threw for 15 yards but Wayne Younger led all quarterbacks with 50 yards and completed four of his five throws.

Besides those few plays, the defense was in control for most of the scrimmage.

Cody Pellicer had two sacks, and Armond Willis had 1.5 sacks for the defense.

Aaron Davis intercepted a Chris Shrippa pass to end the scrimmage.

NEW RULE

The NCAA has placed a new rule in order to reduce helmet-to-helmet contact on tackles this season.

A hit with those circumstances could result in suspension going forward. The Golden Panthers will have to adjust to the rule to avoid such punishments.

"You saw a couple of fantastic plays from our safeties," Cristobal said. "I wouldn't say fantastic because they still caught the ball. They are going to stay as aggressive as they have always been, they just have to drop your pad level a little bit more so that there is no helmet to helmet contact. It changes football dramatically but we have to continue to get better and follow the rules."



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Rugby Club returns to campus, opens season on Sept. 26

SERGIO BONILLA
Sports Director

He coached a rugby team comprised of navy seals and green berets to compete in an international rugby tournament while stationed in the Philippines last August.

In a span of two weeks, U.S. Navy Public Affairs Officer Gabe Puello prepared military men with no prior experience playing rugby.

"I've got a lot of experience teaching guys from scratch," Puello said. "In the military, all the guys I played are rookies – guys that never played before."

Now, Puello hopes to do the same for the FIU Rugby Club as the team gets ready for its first game against the University of Florida's club, Sept. 26.

Puello was the club's founder in 1980, but he returned to coach the team three months ago while in active duty with the U.S. Navy. The club was inactive from 1991-2000. It returned in 2001 but was inactive in 2007. It became an official club this year.

The school recognizes the club as active, but its members hope it can become an intramural sport under Recreational Services.

For now, the team will play anyone willing to face them. This semester they will play Florida Atlantic, South

Florida, Miami and Florida.

HOPING TO TACKLE

Junior Jacques Rozier joined the team about three weeks ago. During a practice the team got a chance to work on tackling.

Rozier did not make the practice and could not be more upset.

"I was so mad because I wanted to get out there and start tackling and everything because that's part of [the game]," he said.

Rozier is one of the smallest players on the team, and his friends give him a hard time about his small frame. When he tells them he is going to play for the club, he receives a general response.

"'Why? You're so little.' I want to try it just to see what it is about," Rozier said.

GOOD HIT

Senior Denis Tavita joined the team two years ago and has some fond game memories.

"During a tournament in Fort Myers Beach, the ball got passed really high. I just laid one into his chest," Tavita said of one of the biggest tackles he has ever administered while playing rugby.

Tavita also noted how different rugby is from American football. Forward passes are not allowed in rugby. Football defenses try to stop



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

RUNNING WILD: The rugby club, which practices in Tamiami Park, is looking to move on campus as an intramural sport.

the offense from advancing the ball. In rugby, the ball changes possession following every tackle and no blocking is allowed.

Rugby teams also starts 15 players while a football teams starts 22 on offense and defense.

This season, the FIU club will be playing games with two 40-minute halves and no substitutions.

That's part of the reason Tavita describes the game as "non-stop."

Puello also noted that there are many misconceptions that label rugby as a barbaric sport.

In his 26 years of playing, including tournaments on every continent except Antarctica, the worst injury he's sustained is a dislocated finger.

Puello said the most dangerous position in rugby is the scrum.

This is when opposing players interlock heads to regain position of the ball after a penalty or out of bounds play.

"Me, as the coach, that is the most technical position that I'm going to coach," Puello said of the scrum.

The 26-year veteran said the hits in rugby aren't as

dangerous because of the technique and nature of the hits. Players are taught to wrap their opponent rather than ramming opposing players with a shoulder shot.

"Obviously, if I don't have pads and you don't have pads, I'm not about to dive at you," he said.

MEMBERS WANTED

This year's squad has 20 members ready to tackle without padding, but Puello said the club needs more student members and organization to become part of the United States of America Rugby Football Union.

The team needs at least 25 members before joining the union.

If the team does join, it will be able to play full seasons against other universities and have a greater chance of becoming an FIU intramural sport.

While the club searches for more students other than club President Hector Gomez to organize the team, Puello expects his team to be prepared for a full game of body contact by Sept. 26.

"I've got a lot of beginners," he said. "I only need about two weeks to get them ready for tackling."

Volleyball's postseason aspirations rest on building early season confidence

ON THE ROAD, page 12

hitter, felt the same way.

"We prepare for every game the same way. Every game is the most important game."

OBSTACLES, OPPORTUNITIES

Coach Danijela Tomic sees the advantages to having a difficult road schedule that can help carry and strengthen the team.

"Our team matures faster playing on the road, playing in front of another team's fans," Tomic said. "It helps us get mentally tougher earlier. Good teams win on the road. So if we are going to be one of the best teams in the nation, we have to win

these games."

The team has found a way to return to Miami on a high note. With the Golden Panthers opening the past three seasons with a combined 17 matches on the road, they compiled a 13-4 record during that span.

This year they start the season with six matches on the road and have a 2-1 record so far.

"Winning early on gives us confidence," Tomic stated. "A game that signified our season last year was our win against No. 19 Clemson. This year we play No. 21 Kentucky. It's a similar situation."

When looking ahead to this season, Coach Tomic said the biggest key to getting

off to a solid start begins with the talented group of players on the roster ready to take on the tougher competition they expect to encounter throughout the season.

"They work hard," Tomic said. "Everyone understands their roles and they push each other in practice. That's where it all starts."

POSTSEASON DREAMS

The team realizes the road to the NCAA tournament begins with winning on the road.

"We can have a great start, but then if we don't continue playing well, it doesn't really matter," Tomic said.

"Our goal is to be consistent, to go and play well against whoever is across the

mat and see what happens in the end."

While the Golden Panthers have enjoyed more success over the past few seasons, they have been unable to win the Sun Belt Conference Championship.

This fact has not escaped from three-time All-American and the Sun Belt Conference's 2009 Preseason Player of the Year, Yarimar Rosa.

"The only thing I want to do before I graduate is get a Sun Belt Championship," said Rosa, who is playing her last season as a Golden Panther. "When we start winning, we gain confidence. Our goal is to finish strong, winning the conference and get to the NCAA tournament."

SUN BELT VOLLEYBALL EAST DIVISION

TEAM	CONF	OVERALL	PCT.	STREAK
Middle Tennessee	0-0	3-0	1.000	W3
South Alabama	0-0	3-1	.750	L1
FIU	0-0	2-1	.667	L1
Troy	0-0	2-1	.667	L1
Western Kentucky	0-0	1-2	.333	W1
Florida Atlantic	0-0	0-4	.000	L2

SUN BELT VOLLEYBALL EAST DIVISION

TEAM	CONF	OVERALL	PCT.	STREAK
Louisiana-Lafayette	0-0	3-1	.750	L1
Arkansas State	0-0	2-1	.667	W2
UARL	0-0	2-1	.667	W2
New Orleans	0-0	1-2	.333	L2
Denver	0-0	1-3	.000	L3
North Texas	0-0	1-3	.000	L3
Louisiana-Lafayette	0-0	0-3	.000	L3

*All records up to date as of Aug. 31

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VOLLEYBALL

Strong start: team takes two out of three

JOEL DELGADO
Contributing Writer

All-American Yarimar Rosa was out of the lineup with a strained thigh muscle, but the Golden Panthers volleyball team still managed to win two out of three games on the road.

The first two games were not a problem for the team, but No. 21 Kentucky overwhelmed the Golden Panthers who played without one of the top outside hitters in the nation.

Despite the two wins, Coach Danijela Tomic believed that there was room for improvement.

"We didn't play well," Tomic said. "We beat them, but I don't think we played well. We have to be more consistent. We have our moments of brilliance and then we look so bad. Good teams, championship teams, cannot go up and down so much."

FIU 3, WESTERN CAROLINA 0

The Golden Panthers (2-1) opened up their season with a three-set sweep over the Western

Carolina Catamounts in the Kentucky Classic in Lexington.

The first set was a back-and-forth affair with the teams exchanging the lead before the Golden Panthers burst through with an 8-1 run to give them a 15-11 advantage.

Western Carolina would close the gap, but the Golden Panthers managed to get the better of the set as freshman Chanel Araujo capitalized on a service ace to end the first set with a 25-19 score and a 1-0 match lead for the Golden Panthers.

The Golden Panthers struggled to produce early in the second set as West Carolina took advantage to take a 4-0 lead.

That changed when junior Ines Medved, with an assist from junior Natalia Valentin, recorded the first kill of the set for the Golden Panthers and sparked a comeback for the team.

"Natalia is the engine of our team," Tomic said. "She came up big in crucial times; she always steps up and delivers."

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VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

HIT DEBUT: Sophomore middle blocker Andrea Lakovic is tied for the team lead in blocks as the Golden Panthers took two of their first three games.

Road games crucial early on

JOEL DELGADO
Contributing Writer

With another season underway, the Golden Panthers volleyball team is starting its 2009 campaign the same way it has the last three seasons: on the road.

The Golden Panthers have managed to get off to a fast start on their way to the conference championships in 2007 and the NCAA tournament in 2008.

Despite what appears to be a daunting road schedule to begin their season, which included a loss to No. 21 Kentucky, the team understands how important it is to get the season started on the right foot.

"We want to start strong and it's really exciting to beat someone in their own house," junior setter Natalia Valentin said. "If we started at home, it would be the same way. But since it's the first tournament, we are more focused."

"When we start strong, we want to keep winning. We prepare to win every game."

Ines Medved, a junior outside

ON THE ROAD, page 11

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Golden Panthers lose to Florida, tie Florida Gulf Coast

CHRIS GREEN
Staff Writer

Coming off their first season-opening win since 2001, the Golden Panthers women's soccer team took to the field against No. 7 Florida and Florida Gulf Coast from Aug. 28-30.

While the offense failed to score a goal, the defense was able to hold both opponents to 155 scoreless minutes over two games.

UF 3, FIU 0

After defeating Stetson University 3-0 on the road, the Golden Panthers (1-1-1) faced the Gators on Aug. 28 in Gainesville, Fla.

"The first half, we played really well," said senior Amy Jackson. "But in the second half, we just made a lot of mistakes and they capitalized."

In the first half, the Golden Panthers outshot the Gators six to four and held the team to a scoreless half.

Gators goalkeeper Katie Fraine was able to keep Panthers

Mayara da Fonseca Bordin, Marina Pappas, Deana Rossi, and Kaley Durrance from putting the Golden Panthers on the board.

However, the Gators came alive in the second half, scoring three times to seal the game.

"They worked hard throughout and at this part of the season, to perform that way I think speaks volumes," said Coach Thomas Chestnutt to *fusports.com*.

Gator Lindsay Thompson made her first goal of the season at the 61-minute mark, giving them a 1-0 lead.

Golden Panthers freshman goalie Kaitlyn Savage took over for sophomore Melanie Raimo around the 69-minute mark.

Erika Tymrak and Brooke Thigpen scored for Florida in the final 10 minutes.

"It's a game we can learn from," Bordin told *fusports.com*. "But on Sunday, we just have to put it behind us."

FIU 0, FGCU 0

FIU held Florida Gulf Coast to a 0-0 tie through two halves and

two 10-minute overtime periods in the home opener on Aug. 30.

Starting the first game of her career, freshman goalkeeper Kaitlyn Savage recorded seven saves against the Eagles.

"Our defense kept us in the game for sure," said senior Marina Pappas, who lead the FIU offense with three shots on goal. Pappas, however, couldn't find a reason as to why her shots never found the back of the net.

"I was aiming the ball appropriately. I was hitting the ball hard enough. I don't know," she said.

Chestnutt said the main reason his team wasn't able to notch a victory over Gulf Coast was because they couldn't take advantage of early opportunities.

"We had a lot of chances early on in this game," Chestnutt said. "Again, that's soccer. If you get early chances, you need to put one of them away, otherwise it could come back to haunt you."

FIU goes on the road to Tampa to face South Florida on Sept. 4 and then faces Central Florida on Sept. 6.



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

DOMINANT HALF: Sophomore goalkeeper Melanie Raimo held No. 7 ranked Florida scoreless during the first half of a 3-0 loss.