

Florida taking new approach to online classes

MARIA BRITOS
Contributing Writer

Taking college classes might include going completely online. The future of online college classes is in the hands of Florida's board of governors.

Florida's State University System wants to develop better and greater online higher education to help more students earn college degrees exclusively online.

The Board of Governors is proposing to create a new online university for the state. The board discussed two options. One is the overall collaboration with different universities or appointing one school take the lead in developing online courses for the system. University of Florida and DeVry University were among the school choices.

State University System chancellor, Frank Brogan, said that Florida is a major contributor to online learning but needs to organize itself to get a better return for the future.

The university system hired a consulting firm, Parthenon Group, to help study the future of online programs.

Research by the consulting firm found that 40 percent of university and college students in Florida took at least one course online in 2010 to 2011 and students at all degree levels are enrolling in online degree programs.

"The world of online higher education is ever-changing, and there are many opportunities for improvement," said John D. Rood, chair of the Strategic Planning Committee in a press release last week. "Through this process, we are confident



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Students Victoria Camus, Rebeca Artilles, and Mariya Solomiychuk (left to right) donate their hair to the Relay for Life 'in Benefit of the Pantene Beautiful Lengths Program.' For every six ponytails donated, a wig can be made for cancer patients.

Florida will emerge as an even stronger national leader in online education—not only for providing high-quality offerings to our students, but for developing best practices that meet the strategic needs of Florida."

According to Board of Governors spokesperson Kim Wilmath, the decision followed a presentation by the University of Florida on its online learning strategies. The recommendations will be presented to the full Board of Governors for consideration at its telephonic meeting Feb. 21. The goal is to deliver an online education framework to the Legislature prior to the start of Session in early March.

Students believe that this could potentially find different ways to receive a degree.

"It sounds like this could create more options for students to get a degree," said Alejandro Vieta, a sophomore in International Relations. "I'm pretty sure almost every student has taken at least one online class."

This story will be updated with more information from the Dean of University College Joyce Elam later on this week. Joseph Riquelme, director of FIU Online, was unavailable for comment on this story.

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Writing Center offering more than just writing help

ALEXA ESCALONA
Contributing Writer

The Center for Excellence in Writing located at the Green Library doesn't only tutor students on writing, but also on a variety of tests and subjects.

The location is where students can find resources to help them with their academic struggles.

Tutoring is offered for subjects ranging from biology to writing and students can visit this office in the heart of the library for guidance in all of these areas.

"Our tutors work with students on how to study for a subject and how to build vocabulary for that subject. Once they go through a series of workshops, they get additional credit in their courses

and it helps them to do better in their activities in the class," said Maria Kulick, Director of the Center of Academic Success.

Kulick said that tutoring plays a major role in the success of the

students in the subjects that are giving them trouble. Tutoring in all levels of math, statistics, biology, chemistry, and physics are offered at the Center.

"We try to give students

a more personal, individualized contact with the tutor. We promise them dedicated time with them one-on-one if they'd like it," said Kulick.

Daniel Gil, an Asian studies major and tutor at the Center, said he prefers to use the non-directive method to teach.

"Instead of pointing out obvious errors, you ask them leading question to get them to notice their mistakes themselves, and that way they'll pick up on their cues more actively and hopefully, not make those mistakes again," Gil said.

Gil said that this method is effective, but adds that a large portion of students that come to the Center are students that have English as a second language.

"For the most part we do

use the non-directive method, but it changes depending on the student," said Jennifer Gonzalez, a psychology and biology major and tutor at the Center. "Then if we see that that is not working or it's not what the student needs, then we become more directive, meaning we ask them, 'There is an error in the sentence. Can you pick it out?'" said Gonzalez.

Brandon Paz, an economics major, currently attends tutoring at the Center.

"I do think tutoring will help me with what I need help in," Paz said.

Even though it is Paz's first time at the Center, he is confident that he will be able to achieve his goal in class.

“We try to give students a more personal, individualized contact with the tutor.”

Maria Kulick
Director
Center of Academic Success

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WORLD NEWS

China takes control of strategic Pakistani port

China took over operational control of a strategic deep-water Pakistani seaport Monday that could serve as a vital economic hub for Beijing and perhaps a key military outpost.

Control of Gwadar port on Pakistan's southwestern coast was transferred to a state-owned Chinese company, China Overseas Ports Holding Company Ltd., in a signing ceremony in Islamabad that was broadcast on TV.

Gwadar will soon be a "hub of trade and commerce in the region," Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari said at the ceremony. "It holds the key to bring together the countries of Central Asia" and will further improve Pakistan-China relations, he said.

Russian scientists recover meteor fragments

Scientists have found more than 50 tiny fragments of a meteor that exploded over Russia's Ural Mountains, and preliminary tests are turning up information about its contents.

However, local residents seem more interested in the black market value of the fragments. As they search for their own pieces of the meteor, sales offers already are filling the Internet, and police are warning all purchasers to prepare for possible fraud.

The meteor — which injured nearly 1,500 people and caused widespread property damage in Chelyabinsk city on Friday — was the largest recorded space rock to hit Earth in more than a century. Health officials said 46 of the injured remain hospitalized.

South Africa academic to form new party

Academic and co-founder of South Africa's Black Conscious Movement, Mamphela Ramphele, announced the creation of a new political party Monday "to build the South Africa of our dreams," lambasting the 101-year-old African National Congress of Nelson Mandela for corruption and power abuse.

The 65-year-old medical doctor, who was close to activist Steve Biko before he was assassinated and bore him a son, told a news conference that her party will contest the 2014 elections, campaign "from village to village" and serve millions of South Africans "who have confirmed a hunger for a new beginning."

Her party joins several in the opposition at a time when South Africa is burdened by a growing chasm between rich and poor, as well as massive unemployment, and increasingly violent protests against job losses, utility shortages and an education and health system in crisis.

US legislators in Mali on fact-finding mission

A delegation of U.S. lawmakers met with military officials in Mali's capital on Monday, and urged caution as the French-led military intervention to wrest back control of the country's north from the al-Qaida fighters entered its fifth week.

French President Francois Hollande unilaterally launched the intervention last month after the extremist groups began a push south. They later reached out to allies for logistical help. The United States is providing C-17 transport planes and in-air refueling, as well as help with intelligence gathering, but has ruled out sending troops.

For more world news, check out www.FIUSM.com.

VP files writ against president

NATASHA ROQUE
Contributing Writer

A Petition for a Writ of Certiorari has officially been issued to the MMC Student Body Supreme Court in the case of MMC Student Body Vice President and MMC Senate President, Alex Castro, as well as fellow case petitioner and former Housing Senator, Dean Gabriel Williams, against current MMC Student Body President and University Trustee, Laura Farinas, and MMC Student Body Senate Internal Affairs Committee Chairwoman, Vanessa Martinez.

This petition, where the members of the losing party of a case provide the Supreme Court with supplemental information for the review and potential appeal of a previous court decision, could see the removal of both President Farinas and Chairwoman Martinez from office this spring 2013 semester should the Writ of Certiorari be granted.

Vice President Castro and fellow petitioner, Williams, make a pointed argument in their Petition for a Writ of Cert, concisely and efficiently outlining eight counts of constitutional violations made under the power of President Farinas and Chairwoman Martinez.

These include non-compliance with: Article III, Section 3.05 (a) (ii), a statute indicating that either the MMC Student Body President and/or the MMC Student Body Treasurer should ensure that "individual budgets are approved for each line item in the Student Body Budget...by July 1 of each current calendar year before funds can be disbursed"; Article III, Section 3.06 (b)(ii)(2), where records obtained from the Student Government Office Manager in regard to this statute, which requires the approval of the Student Body President and/or Student Body Treasurer for any and all disbursement from the Student Body Budget, were inconsistent; and Article III, Section 3.06(b)(ii)(3), where "all disbursements from the Student Body Budget at or above \$3,000 must have the approval of the Campus Student Body President and the Campus Student Body Treasurer," as also proven inconsistent by records retrieved from the Student Government Office Manager.

Additionally, further instances of non-compliance with FIU's Student Government Constitution include those involving: Article III, Section 3.06(b)(ii)(5), which states that the Campus Student Body Treasurer must present the Campus Student Body President and Campus Government as a whole with a monthly report "on the status of

the Student Body Activity and Service Fee," seeing as to how petitioners only recall the MMC Student Body Treasurer giving this report orally before the MMC Student Body Senate once since Trustee Farinas took office and as supported by written records, Article III, Section 3.06(c), a statute which calls for the Campus Student Body Treasurer to jointly facilitate a Financial Training Seminar with the Activity and Service Business Office every semester that must be attended by both the President and Treasurer of each Campus Student Organization in order for their respective organizations to gain access to the Student Body Activity and Service Fee; Article III, Section 3.07 (t), which requires each Campus Student Organization who receives the A&S Fee to submit a Financial Report to the Campus Student Body Treasurer and, in the interpretation of this case's petitioners, keep frequent communication with the Treasurer of the MMC Council for Student Organizations, "so as to ensure the proper use and management of the aforementioned Fee by attending Executive Committee meetings of the MMC Council for Student Organizations", Article III, Section 3.08 (k), which seeks to establish a sort of "Activity and Service Fee Violations Tracker" by notifying entities receiving such fee of any violations by written letter, neglect of which has been evidenced by a lack of records indicating either the establishment of the tracker or of any official violations sent to those in receipt of the fee; and finally, Article III, Section 3.10 (e) (iii), a legislation which the Petitioners believe intends for the Campus Student Body Treasurer to attend all Campus Senate Finance Committee meetings, another matter evidenced by records as being neglected by the Campus Student Body Treasurer.

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This story will be updated on fiusm.com with further information from both Farinas and Castro on the issue.

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CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 24, Issue 64 in the article titled, "Audit reveals protected data at risk in College of Medicine," the College of Medicine is not currently at risk. The recommendations made by the Office of Internal Audit have all since been put in place.

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

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U.S. Government bends Constitutional law

KAREN NOA
Contributing Writer

Drones hover over communities in northwest Pakistan 24 hours a day. “Their presence terrorizes men, women, and children who have to face the constant worry that a deadly strike could be at any moment, and the knowledge that they are powerless to protect themselves,” wrote LivingUnderDrones.org.

President Obama already authorized 283 strikes in Pakistan, six times more than the number during President Bush’s reign in office, according to CNN.

Is the United States government engaging in unlawful acts when it uses drones, also known as unmanned aerial vehicle systems, to kill American citizens believed to be affiliated with al-Qa’ida on foreign soil?

Yes, they most definitely are.

Recently NBC News published a leaked 16-page “white paper” from the U.S. Department of Justice that

outlines the legal framework for the circumstances in which the government can exercise lethal force against a U.S. citizen in a foreign country.

On the sixth page of the document it outlines who can be killed and why.

It declared that the U.S. government would be able to exercise lethal force against a U.S. citizen located outside of the United States in the event that “the U.S. government has determined that the targeted individual poses an imminent threat of violent attack against the United States.”

This seemed like a valid parameter until I got to the seventh page where it claims that “the condition that an operational leader present an ‘imminent’ threat of violence attack against the United States does not require the United States to have clear evidence that a specific attack...will take place in the immediate future.”

The paper, which I read in its entirety, argues that the U.S. is not violating the Constitution. But how can

it not violate the Constitution when the definition of the word imminent can be changed in the federal law?

“What constitutes an imminent threat will develop to meet new circumstances,” cited on page seven of the paper. Then it proceeds to put the word “imminent” between quotations for the remainder of the document.

“The idea that the executive branch can extend the definition of a legal term to basically immunize itself from killing Americans is preposterous,” said Fred Blevens, journalism professor at FIU.

I agree. What scares me isn’t that the government is broadening the meaning of the term (thus changing the way in which our laws are interpreted), what scares me is that American people have no idea it is happening.

I asked a fellow FIU student, junior Gabriela Ramos, if she was aware of the situation and she replied “ehh no, I’ve never heard of that.” She wasn’t even

familiar with what a drone was.

If “imminent” no longer means “immediate,” what does that mean for our First and Fourth Amendment rights?

The government isn’t thinking about the long term effects. By violating our laws they aren’t protecting the American people, they are putting us in further danger with al-Qa’ida. The deaths won’t go unnoticed, they are just promoting counter-terrorism.

What if al-Qa’ida turns the tables and starts sending drones to hover over U.S. land 24 hours a day and killing former Taliban tribesmen believed to be aiding our government? Not only killing them, but also our families simply because they were in close proximity.

I bet the U.S. government would have an issue with that.

Here’s an idea: how about we just stick to following our own laws? It’ll be in everyone’s interest.

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THE BEACON | Editorial

No need to rush the plan

The University decided to suspend its plan to increase total student enrollment specifically for the 2013-2014 academic year, and we believe that aspect of the plan should remain suspended.

Suspended, at least, until services are expanded to meet the needs of the students already enrolled.

Since 2010, the University planned to enroll 2,000 more students a year until enrollment reaches 50,000 by 2015. That number was met in fall 2012 with a total enrollment of 50,400 students. There are 44,019 students enrolled as of Feb. 14, 2013, according to the Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness.

However, a budget cut from the State Legislature and the combination of more than 50,000 students caused the University to change its plan.

“Because of the budget uncertainty we have agreed that there will be very limited student growth for the 2013-2014 academic year,” said University President Mark Rosenberg in an interview with Student Media in fall 2012.

Rosenberg has not elaborated on the suspension of the enrollment plan, but Valerie J. Johnsen said it was only for one year.

“Not a complete suspension of that plan, but its suspension for one year, specifically the academic year 2013,” said Johnsen, director of Enrollment in the College of Arts and Sciences.

We believe it should be suspended indefinitely, even though it does help the University in some way.

As Johnsen said in her interview with Student Media, a part of the enrollment growth plan was to offset the budget cuts the University has faced over the last few years – more than \$60 million since 2009-2010. The most recent cut of \$24.3 million came this academic year.

“The state support for public universities has been pulled back,” Johnsen said. “As these subsidies are being pulled back, universities are thinking about other ways to bring in the funds we need in order to support the students we have.”

And the funds have been coming in, because of the combination of the enrollment and yearly tuition increases.

In the 2010 fiscal year, students paid a total of \$129 million in tuition compared to \$179 million in state money, according to a budget presentation made in May 2012. In 2011, the student amount rose to \$174 million compared to \$166 from the state. In 2013, students paid \$192 million compared to \$140.

Having more students does give the University an assured revenue source that increases from year to year, but the University should not increase its enrollment total while it currently has students still undergoing their college career.

A cap on enrollment is an option, although administrators may laugh at the idea. By no means are we trying to suggest the University has enough funds to offset the cuts, or that the amount students are paying can completely cover expanding services. What we’re saying is instead of restarting the enrollment plan theoretically in two years – the 2014-2015 academic year – the University should focus on the services students need to graduate instead of adding more students before those services are in place.

This creates problems on top of problems. The students currently enrolled and those who will enroll need various student services to help them graduate on time. Those services are sometimes not adequate or enough. Thus the strain on the supply becomes more of a problem. We’ve seen this over the last three years.

We’ve also seen the University do its part to add to the services students need.

Over the last three years the University had added 460 new faculty, 220 replacements, 50 new advisers, and nearly 1,000 new classes. The student-to-adviser ratio has increased from 850-1 in 2009 to 450-1 in fall 2012. Also, the graduation rate has increased from 41.6 percent to 47.4 from summer 2011 to summer 2012.

These are the kind of numbers we like to see, and we believe focusing solely on these kind of services will help the University more than resume the enrollment plan.

The never-ending complaint: space around campus

JENNA KEFAUVER
Staff Writer

At the beginning of fall semester, we had a total of over 50,000 students. We now have about 43,000.

So there’s been a drop of 7,000 students from fall 2012 to spring 2013.

I’ve been told by many people that this doesn’t constitute a drop because there are still so many people all over campus. I disagree.

I think that there’s a lot more space. I love the fact that it’s almost possible to walk to class without being pushed around by masses of sweaty, angry college students.

But I do understand everyone saying that there are still a lot of people on campus, because there are.

People, this is a school of about 43,000 students. That’s a lot of people. Yes, there are still way too many people in classes, but that’s understandable.

This campus is very, very small and all we do is build on top of each other. We have so many construction projects right now that are trying to make more room for students.

Classes are always going to be packed. Again, we have 43,000 students and defi-

nately not as many buildings. Classrooms are going to be tight. I, too, wish that there were more classrooms, but for right now, there’s nothing we can do but wait until the construction is over and we have new buildings.

There is a plan in the works for a sixth parking garage that will house both cars and classrooms, so at least that little bit helps too. In a previous article written in The Beacon, Lissette Hernandez, director of the Department of Parking and Transportation, said that the sixth parking garage, to be named PG6, will be based off of PG5.

And about parking: people just need to be patient and calm down. I’ve been at FIU for three years. I’ve been here in the beginning of fall and spring semesters with absolutely no parking and I’ve been here at the beginning of summer semesters where there are parking garages that are basically empty.

It’s an occupational hazard of living in Miami, especially attending FIU.

“[It’s] very uncomfortable [and] very unreasonable to expect so many students to park in so little spaces. They put all these restrictions on the faculty, metered [and] admin [spaces]. There are no student spaces,” said Alejandra Fernandez-Baca,

senior psychology major.

Tiffany-Ashley Disney, a senior majoring in marketing, disagrees.

“I think there’s adequate parking spaces, just not adequate parking up close.”

But she does agree with Fernandez-Baca saying, “I also think there should be less faculty parking.”

So here’s my suggestion to you: get here early if you want parking close to your classes.

Don’t complain when you come to school at 10:30 a.m. and you can’t find parking. We only have so many parking garages and so many parking lots. If you want to accomplish something, do something. Don’t sit there and complain about how upset you are that you can’t find parking.

With the time you use complaining, write a letter to the University. Call the school facilities management or the Department Parking and Transportation. Try to find a solution to this persistent problem.

You can’t expect to get something done if all you’re going to do is say everything that’s wrong. Do something to make it right.

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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Psychology students experience sex museum

SELIMA HUSSAIN
Staff Writer

Sex, art and psychology intertwine for students taking the Psychology of Sexual Behavior course, taught by Professor Paige Telan.

As part of the curriculum for the class, Telan requires her students to make a trip to the World Erotic Art Museum, located in Miami Beach.

"Part of the reason I require students to go to the museum is because we're not exposed to a lot of sexual imagery in [Western] culture," said Telan. "I wanted students to have an experience with sexual imagery as an art form."

The erotic museum contains over 4,000 works of art, ranging from sexual sculptures, furniture pieces, paintings, and etchings, to more modern displays like video presentations and slideshows.

It carries ancient and contemporary pieces from all over the world, and is the only museum in the nation that is entirely dedicated to erotic art.

"There is a certain level of shock with this assignment, but I think each student walks away with something different. Not



EISSY DE LA MONEDA/THE BEACON

Psychology Professor Paige Telan requires her students to make a trip to the World Erotic Art Museum, located in Miami Beach.

only do I require students to go there, but I also ask them to reflect on what they experienced," said Telan.

Sarah Mayhew, a senior majoring in psychology, was not expecting the erotic museum to carry such a diverse and exhibitionistic collection of art.

"I guess I was very surprised to how open it was," said Mayhew. "I wasn't expecting [the museum] to be so out-there

and visual. It was an interesting first assignment."

Anisa Hosein, a senior majoring in psychology, was also surprised.

"I didn't really know what to expect," said Hosein. "But it turned out to be really nice, clean, sophisticated...I liked it."

Other students, like Sasha Bensol, had somewhat higher expectations of the museum.

"It was cool to see the

artifacts and how far sex dates back, but I thought it would be more interactive," said Bensol, a junior majoring in psychology.

Although reactions to the museum vary, certain works capture student's attention more than others.

"There was a piece with a naked woman who was holding the earth," Mayhew said. "I thought that was really cool because it made me think about women's

empowerment."

Bensol found an antique chair modeled after sexual organs to be a particularly interesting piece.

"After reading the card with the description of what the piece was about, I couldn't believe all the things that had happened on that chair," Bensol said.

While the erotic museum is famous for carrying sexual, unusual, and somewhat outlandish pieces, the

difference between art and pornography is a question for discussion.

"I see something that's pornographic as having a single purpose -- for arousal," Telan said. "But art sparks different emotions in people, and as a psychologist, I'm interested in the range of emotions it provokes."

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Students scuba dive in Curaçao for research

IVAN ARDILA
Contributing Writer

A coral reef is a wonderful sight to see, but it is much more than what meets the eye. These underwater structures are made of calcium carbonate and are built by colonies of marine animals that we call corals.

"When you look at a coral, you're not looking at a single organism. You're looking at a complex interaction of the host, the coral animal itself, and a really diverse microbial community that associates with it," said Anthony Bellanuoto, a graduate student completing his doctorate in marine biology.

Bellanuoto said the interactions with the bacterial community are not well understood.

"Understanding them is important to the context of the survival of the coral reef," he said.

Assistant Professor

Mauricio Rofriguez-Lanetty leads a group of graduate students in a lab as they study the interactions between the coral and microbial organisms found on the reefs, among other things.

They call themselves the Laboratory of Integrative Marine Genomics and Symbiosis, or IMAGeS.

It is currently composed of Rodriguez-Lanetty, Research Assistant Ariane Martin, and two doctoral students, Tanya Brown and Bellanuoto.

The group is currently on a 10-day trip to the Island of Curaçao where they will be collecting samples of the microorganisms existing on the reef.

"In Curaçao, we're going to be collecting these samples underwater via scuba diving and then bringing them to the surface, preserving them and taking them back to the labs at FIU," Bellan-

"In Curaçao, we're going to be collecting these samples underwater via scuba diving and then bringing them to the surface, preserving them and taking them back to the labs at FIU."

Anthony Bellanuoto
Graduate Student

Completing his doctorate in marine biology

uoto said.

The trip is part of a whole research project based on the findings of the location.

"We had been planning this trip for a couple of months now. My Ph.D. advisor has been investigating in Curaçao for a number of years already," Bellanuoto said.

Even though coral reefs are located in South

Florida throughout the coasts of the peninsula, IMAGeS is investigating this ecosystem in Curaçao because of accessibility and the diversity of the reefs.

"The access to the actual sites there will be directly from shore; we can dive in directly to the reef and back easily," Bellanuoto said. "Among the diverse range of this

island, there are areas with anthropogenic disturbance or human disturbance, as well as more pristine or untouched areas, so it works for us for that reason."

All this research might appear to be only important to those who are part of the scientific community; however, the understanding of these interactions is still of importance

to everyone else because of the implications it has not only for biology and ecology spectrums, but also for the economy.

According to coral-reef.gov, these ecosystems are fundamental to the fishing industry, coastal protection, tourism and pharmaceutical production. All around the world coral reef ecosystems are struggling to survive due to human intervention, global warming and other climate changes.

Any effort put towards the investigation is crucial, considering the estimated \$375 billion a year that these ecosystems provide in the form of products and services, aside from the ecological consequences of its deterioration.

If you want to find out more about what IMAGeS is doing you can visit their website at imageslab.fiu.edu.

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Mysticism in fashion with Professor Phyllis Baker

ASHLEY GARNER
Contributing Writer

Many students may not know anthropology Professor Phyllis Baker by name, but they probably have seen her once or twice on campus in her worldly ensembles, such as a traditional canary yellow Indian tunic and pants paired with a heavy gold choker and chandelier earrings.

"I've learned how to embrace [clothing] on as many levels as possible, and the older you get, you understand there are many possibilities to putting colors together, pieces together, ideas together. It's just a bunch of ideas; it's expression and some of us need it. We need that freedom. I am who I am, and I embrace who I am," said Baker.

What is style and where does it come from? What does it say about us as a collective people and individually? These are all questions that loomed in my mind after my first encounter with Baker.

When you look around the world, each culture has their own specific style and at the same time we as individuals within that culture can create a style that is all our own.

"Even the poorest women in towns would have on beautiful hats, particularly when they went to church. Their clothes were their art. It was their politics, a way of making them feel good about themselves and a way of sharing culture," said

Baker about her world travels.

Although Baker does it effortlessly, I often worry myself about not wanting to offend people of the culture I am adorning that day. I don't want them to think that I am wearing their traditional garments out of ignorance, but instead out of respect.

"It's like you're embracing who they are and for many of them they want to be affirmed in their culture. I like other people and I want to bring their stuff into my world," said Baker.

After discussing how other cultures have influenced her style, Baker described her style as "synergist." "I like to mix and match, merge things together. I'm an alchemist," said Baker.

Baker, who teaches the class Myths, Rituals, and Mysticism describes how her class has influenced her style. "A part of embracing mysticism and anthropology is tapping into creativity from around the world. When I travel, I like to observe the way people live their lives and how they get meaning from life, and while I'm doing that, I'm also absorbing their artistic forms."

Baker refers to her style as an art that runs deeper than the threads that are used to make it. It is a philosophy, a perspective and something that can be completely unique and individual while simultaneously embracing the world around us.

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PHOTOS BY -ASHLEY GARNER/THE BEACON

AIESEC encourages leadership in students

KARLA REYES
Contributing Writer

The International Association of Students in Economic and Commercial Sciences is promoted as the world's largest youth-run organization that promotes individual growth by working within the community. Due to the many opportunities AIESEC provides for students within the spheres of economics and commerce, the organization is popular among students seeking a degree in business administration. AIESEC is a fast-growing organization in FIU and around the world. Because it is a worldwide organization – being present in over 113 countries and territories – there are many great opportunities for networking.

AIESEC boasts thousands of partner organizations around the globe that support them and their development of future, talented leaders.

Through their internship programs, students are able to gain experience while working with very prominent global industries such as Unilever, Microsoft and Alcatel-Lucent. Members of the organization are then driven by this global network and are able to contribute to positive changes in society.

While AIESEC has a lot to say about their international connections and opportunities, they are also proud to acknowledge the fact that their organization is purely "run by young people for young people," according to aiesec.org. The organization is run by students and recent graduates, which allows for the youth to truly experience and develop skills that they will need to face the real world and their careers.

By having a youth-run organization that is active around the world, AIESEC develops future world leaders with common values and behaviors, which then allows for more

positive and peaceful international interactions in the future.

In fact, alumni of the organization are now working as leaders within their communities, using the skills and values from their experiences to promote and create positive changes.

Since the beginning of AIESEC, the organization has reached 1 million alumni with a current membership of 86,000. FIU's chapter started two years ago and has continued to grow since.

There are currently about 30 to 35 active members on campus, but they are still open to new members.

The internship recruitment will be starting soon; the organization will be tabling and having info sessions in the week of Feb. 18. For more information on AIESEC, contact Daniel Osorio at vpcomm-miami@aiesecus.org.

-life@fiusm.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING 2013

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20

LIBQUAL SURVEY (A SURVEY OF STUDENT/FACULTY/STAFF OPINIONS OF LIBRARY SERVICES)

WHEN: Feb. 18-Mar. 11
WHERE: Paper survey forms available at Green Library, Hubert Library; web survey form available at <http://libqual.fiu.edu>

MMC MINDFULNESS MEDITATION SESSION

WHEN: 12-1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Students are welcomed
WHERE: MMC Graham Center Rm314

DE-FROST AFTER HOURS

WHEN: 5:30-9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: The event is 21 and over with a \$10 cover charge.
WHERE: The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum

THE LEMBA JEWS OF ZIMBABWE

WHEN: 6:45-9:15 p.m.
WHERE: Jewish Museum of Florida

F.I.U. ORGANIC FARMER'S MARKET

WHEN: 12-3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GL Breezeway

JAZZ AT THE WERTHEIM SERIES

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center

HOUSE OF MANDELA WINES

WHEN: 3-5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to all students, faculty and staff. RSVP recommended. ID required.
WHERE: MMC GC 140

THURSDAY, FEB. 21

LEAVE A LEGACY'S PHILANTHROPY MIAMI 2013

WHEN: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
WHERE: Jungle Island

JASON TORCHINSKY DEBATE MURRAY GREENBERG ON CITIZENS UNITED

WHEN: 12-2 p.m.
WHERE: RDB 1000

NETWORKING STRATEGIES WORKSHOP FOR BUSINESS STUDENTS

WHEN: 3:30-4:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: RSVP in CBA Career Link is required.
WHERE: MMC CBC 121

*To have your event featured, email us at
calendar@fiusm.com*

Panthers buckle up, road games still bumpy



JASEN DELGADO/THE BEACON

Head Coach Richard Pitino is one win away from securing the first winning season in more than a decade for FIU men's basketball, but if his team doesn't win their last home game tomorrow, they'll have to do so in their final two road games.

KEVIN CASTANEDA Staff Writer

The men's basketball team needs to take some road safety courses if they want to survive the highway of wins and losses.

Road wins in the Sun Belt Conference have been elusive for the Panthers, as they are 2-6 in conference games away from the U.S. Century Bank Arena. It is a stark difference when compared to their home conference record of 7-2.

Head Coach Richard Pitino has revitalized a program that was in complete disarray last year. But even with the abysmal 8-21 season Isaiah Thomas's team put together last season, they were at least an even 4-4 in SBC road games.

Pitino has managed a 3-3 non-conference road record, which is much better than last season's 1-5. However, conference games have the most meaning, since they are what sets up the seeding for SBC tourna-

ment play.

One primary reason for the team's woes on the road might just be lack of rest. In the first month of play, the Panthers had to endure a six-game road trip, never having more than five days to recover. After going 2-4 during that 20-day span in December, the Panthers came back to the U.S. Century Bank Arena to rattle off three consecutive wins, and then pick one more on the road at Arkansas State on Jan. 10.

But on one day of rest, the Panthers lost to Arkansas-Little Rock. The same trend continued as they came back to Miami, and won two consecutive home games, then one on the road at Louisiana-Lafayette. This time, with only two days of rest on the road, the Panthers fell to South Alabama on Jan. 27.

Pitino has not completely bought into the notion that the losses are solely based on rest.

"I think if you look at it, you are playing Little Rock which is one of the best teams in the league at home. So you lose to a very good team, on the road," Pitino said. "Then you go and lose to South Alabama in the last possession, on the road, to one of the better teams in the league."

After nearly three months of play, the tendency to lose after short rest has not stopped. The Panthers demolished the Florida Atlantic Owls on Feb. 7, but with one day rest they lost by 10 on the road to North Texas.

"It's hard to do what we did last game. Where we played at home on a Thursday, travel on a Friday and then you've got to play the next day, that's hard to do," Pitino said.

Pitino is certainly aware of the burden that traveling puts on his team when trying to prepare for games.

"We've got to try and watch more film and not practice as hard when you have one day prep," Pitino said. "We've got to

do more things in the film room to work mentally, instead of physically, but it's very difficult."

Even with four days of rest after the North Texas loss, the Panthers lost again on the road to the Troy Trojans on Feb. 14.

FIU traveled back home after the Thursday loss to face a tough Western Kentucky squad on Saturday.

The one day rest could have been a problem for FIU, but playing at home has always been a boost for them. The Panthers pulled out an 87-82 win against the Hilltoppers.

Pitino has credited the fans as a factor for how teams perform.

"There is a difference of playing in front of a couple thousand people calling you every time you make a shot, as opposed to when you have your family and friends supporting you," Pitino said. "Certainly we are more comfortable playing at home."

The significance of looking at FIU's road record is that of the remaining three games the Panthers have to play, two are on the road. The final one will be against their in-state rival, FAU.

The Owls are just below the Panthers in the SBC standings, and they will be gunning for the number five seed that FIU is currently maintaining with their 9-8 conference record.

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Medlock still feels at home in new offensive system

JONATHAN JACOBSSKIND Staff Writer

With a new era of FIU Football with Ron Turner at the helm, Turner and his recently hired staff have begun the process of building their offense. Learning a new set of plays and offensive schemes is a challenge for all quarterbacks, but Jake Medlock has the luxury of avoiding that learning curve.

According to Medlock, he is no stranger to Turner's new offense. Medlock, a Fletcher High School alumnus from Jacksonville, Fla., ran a similar system in his high school years.

"It's going to be a very fast paced offense and it's going to be what Coach Turner ran with the Bears when they made it to the Super Bowl," Medlock said. "It's also going to be very fun to learn this offense and understand it the way he ran it in the pros."

The familiarity factor will need to pay dividends for Medlock as the offense struggled to move the ball in last year's forgettable 3-9 campaign. FIU registered an average of 383.8 yards per contest compared to their opponents' average of 402.9 a game.

While many speculated former Head Coach Mario Cristobal's offense was a bit predictable through his final year at the helm for the Panthers, Medlock was still able to throw for 2,127 passing yards, racking up 13 touchdowns with just two interceptions

in his first year as the Panther's full-time starter in 2012.

Along with the offense receiving loads of criticism, Medlock also dealt with a nagging foot injury in a 28-21 loss to then No. 18 Louisville in just the fourth game of the season. In his second year as FIU's starting quarterback, Medlock is poised to have a breakout year for the Panthers because the offense is geared towards his own strengths.

"The offense is more on my own mind-set and my game. I'm going to be making the calls and checks," Medlock said. "It's going to be pretty fun. Whatever way we get the win is all that matters."

After a hectic couple of months of recruiting and searching for assistant coaches, Turner has finally rounded out the remaining pieces to his coach staff. Turner has elected to not hire an offensive coordinator and take over the play-calling duties.

As for the other supplemental assistants, Turner kept part of his hirings within the family tree as he hired both his sons, Cameron Turner will coach the quarterbacks and wide receivers while Morgan Turner's responsibilities lie with the offensive line and tight ends.

Josh Conklin, who most recently served as safeties coach at the University of Tennessee during the 2012 season, will take the reigns as defensive coordinator and Kevin Wolthausen comes from Purdue University to coach special teams.

"They're a great bunch of guys, intelligent, they know the game," Medlock said. "I've talked to all the coaches and I just can't wait to learn a lot from them."

BIG SHOES TO FILL

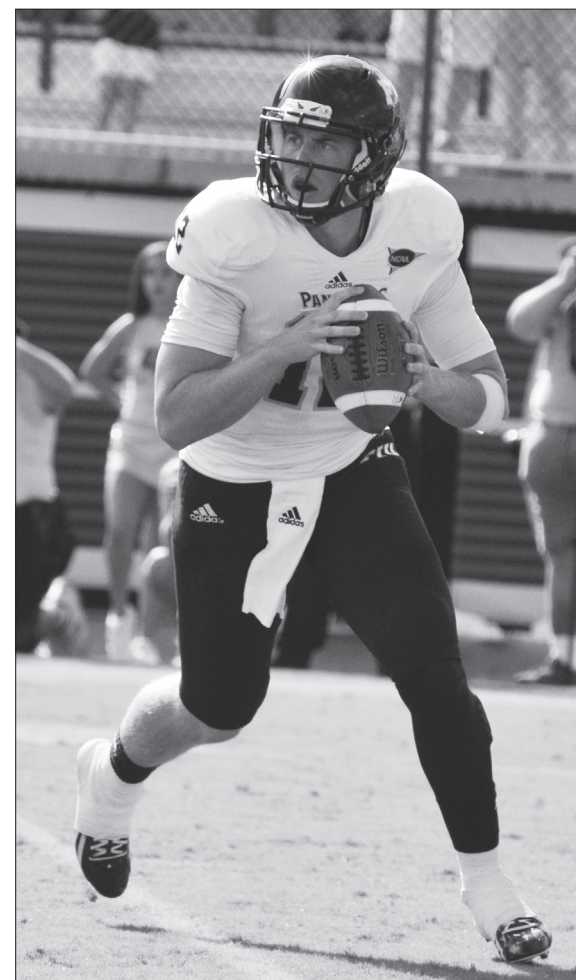
The number four is returning to the field this season, but not on the player's back fans are used to seeing it on.

Last month, Medlock asked former Panther great and now Indianapolis Colts rising star T.Y. Hilton, if he could don the coveted number four.

Medlock was granted his wish and will finally wear a number that he's yearned for since his days playing for Fletcher High School. According to Medlock, the number four is more than just a number as he is trading in his former number 12 to pay homage to a future Hall of Famer who also wore number four.

"I have been wanting to wear number four since high school. It was retired in my high school because we had a great running back that went on to play at the University of Florida and broke all state records in rushing so I wasn't able to wear [it]. Then I wasn't able to wear it when I came here because of T.Y.," Medlock said. "I've always wanted to wear number four because of Brett Favre. Brett Favre is my idol. I have always wanted to play like him. In every way, I've always wanted to be Brett Favre."

-jonathan.jacobsskind@fiusm.com



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Jake Medlock had a 57 percent completion rate last year with 13 touchdowns and 2,127 yards in nine games.

Young arms help underdogs sweep underdogs

FRANCISCO RIVERO
Staff Writer

Having to play Stony Brook University, who won the most games in college baseball last year with 52, was bad enough.

The Seawolves were the underdogs of the 2012 College World Series, stunning the world game after game.

Top that off with a rainout on FIU baseball's opening night and having to play a double-header as your first two games is just a recipe for disaster.

However, FIU and its 22 new faces didn't seem to care about the Seawolves' past success as they completed not only the double-header sweep on Feb. 16, but also the series sweep on Feb. 17.

FIU's impressive pitching led the team to success, which at one point held the Seawolves to 23 straight scoreless innings. FIU pitching combined to allow only four earned runs while recording 34 strikeouts.

"Twenty-three innings in a row that they didn't score, that's pretty good," said Head Coach Henry



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Ty Sullivan made his FIU debut in game one of the double-header on Feb. 16 and pitched four scoreless innings of relief. His outing helped contribute to FIU's sterling 1.33 ERA over the weekend.

Thomas. "Now you know a lot of that is, yes, our pitching staff, but also it's about them coming from up north and it snowed three feet a week ago up there."

This dominant performance now gives the Panthers a total team earned run average of 1.33, which is number one in the Sun Belt Conference, almost half that of Univer-

sity of South Alabama's 2.67.

In the series' third game, starting pitcher Mike Franco, who made his first start after coming off Tommy John surgery

only 10 months ago, went only 2.2 innings but recorded four strikeouts while not allowing a run in his first division-one win.

"It felt great, first start for the FIU Panthers. I just felt excited to be back on the mound," Franco said. "They had me on a pitch count, but everything was just coming together little by little. I can honestly say that I've felt a lot better in this first game than I've felt in intra-squad games so that's a good sign."

Franco also realized the importance in sweeping such a high caliber opponent in Stony Brook.

"Truthfully, this team, there's some potential, everyone wants to win and we're all pushing each other because our main goal is to make it to Omaha," Franco said.

"I feel we have a really good chance to win with this team because everyone is pushing each other and no one is downing each other. Like I should be playing this or that, everyone wants to win so everyone is in it together."

On the other side of the ball, the Panthers'

bats were led by short-stop Julius Gaines who ended up with seven hits, leading his team. Not too far behind Gaines was right fielder Nathan Burns who ended the series with six hits and five RBIs.

FIU's first strong game against the Seawolves, where they ended up winning by a score of 10-4, placed them as the fifth best team in the SBC when it comes to batting average.

The Panthers (3-0) now play Bethune-Cookman (1-2) in a one-game stand today Feb. 20 at 4 p.m. The Wildcats are coming off a series loss against No.16 ranked Arizona State University in which they were heavily outscored 26-18.

FIU last season went 2-1 against the Wildcats with their last stop in Daytona Beach, Fla., being a 15-3 rout of Bethune-Cookman.

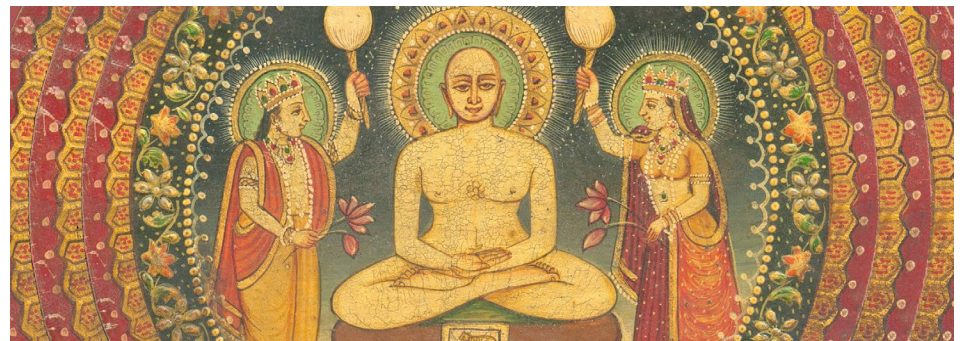
One player to keep an eye on for the Wildcats is outfielder David Lee, who ended last season with a .306 batting average while collecting three home runs and 47 RBIs.

-sports@fiusm.com



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Mariah Dawson winds up in a match on Feb. 16 that the FIU softball team won against Connecticut. The softball team's three wins over the weekend added on to baseball, women's basketball and men's basketball's wins in one of the better weekends for the Panthers.



Florida International University Department of Religious Studies

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES TO
STUDY JAINISM IN INDIA, SUMMER 2013

The Department of Religious Studies in conjunction with Jain Vishwa Bharati University (JVBU, Ladnun, Rajasthan, India) offers a Fellowship for summer 2013. The Fellowship provides airfare between Miami and India, travel/ project allowance, and tuition, room and board for a three-week Jain Studies immersion program at JVBU during July-August, 2012. The study program carries three credits from JVBU, entirely transferable to FIU.

Undergraduate students in all fields are eligible to apply. A letter describing the student's background for and interest in Jain Studies. Preference will be given to those who have taken courses in Jainism or Indian religions.

Additionally, the Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship offers Bhagwan Mahavir Scholarships to cover tuition for summer immersion programs at JVBU, or the International Summer School for Jain Studies (ISSJS) in New Delhi, or perhaps other similar programs. Credit for the ISSJS or JVBU programs are transferrable directly to FIU.

Applications are due April 1, 2013, and should be sent to:

Prof. Whitney Bauman
Undergraduate Program Director
Department of Religious Studies
Florida International University
whitney.bauman@fiu.edu

Students journey to the jungle for spring break

STEPHANIE MASON
Staff Writer

From venturing deep into the creature-filled jungle to diving into the skeleton infested caves in this small, Central-American country, students in the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management will truly embark on an adventure by traveling to Belize.

Carolyn Lusby, CSHTM professor, will conduct this trip during spring break this year from March 8 to March 17.

The trip is designed for both undergraduate and graduate students in the CSHTM, however, it welcomes any student interested in going.

Nine students will go on the trip this year. The course offered for this trip is HFT 3993 Adventure Tourism at an undergraduate level or HFT 5957 Abroad Research Program at graduate level depending on the student.

“Every trip is a little different depending on what we’re teaching, what we’re talking about, but the standard itinerary stays approximately the same,” said Lusby.

During the trip this year, Lusby said students will participate in numerous activities including very heavy community service, working in the schools with the kids, Myan cooking and farming, exploring Myan archaeology and temples, canoeing, rain forest medicine, coral reef ecology, snorkeling, kayaking and exploring caves.

“It’s a great opportunity; it’s a fun way to get a couple credits,” Teddy McCarthy, graduate student in the CSHTM and one of the students going to Belize, said

about the trip.

McCarthy said he is excited “just to get to see the sights and take in the ‘Belize culture,’” as well as to get, “a greater idea of what adventure tourism is all about.”

The cost for each student is \$2,969 which is all-inclusive for food, transportation, lodging and activities.

Although it’s her second year conducting the trip at the University, this will be Lusby’s fifth year taking students to Belize.

Lusby started trips to Belize in 2008 and has since become one of the founders of a shared non-profit organization, Climbing Horizons.

“We now raise money for scholarships for local kids, ongoing projects, libraries and now it’s spreading over to the neighboring village so they have a library now,” Lusby said about the organization.

Although Climbing Horizons is not directly affiliated with the Study Abroad trip, since the organization’s start in 2011, Lusby has incorporated it into the trips.

“The idea to raise funds and to keep giving back came from the students because they wanted to stay involved,” said Lusby.

Christine Joseph, sophomore in hospitality management, said not only will this be her first study abroad trip, but it will also be her first time leaving the country at all.

“I really wanted to just leave Florida, leave the country and the fact that it was a hospitality course just added on to it, but I just wanted to go somewhere,” said Joseph.

“I really don’t even know what to expect because this is



SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

University President Mark Rosenberg, above, held a town hall meeting with students, faculty and staff at the Biscayne Bay Campus. During the town hall, students raised concerns about food services, the Golden Panther Express shuttle, and Rosenberg listed new projects the University has been working on at BBC. For full coverage of the town hall, including video, visit fiusm.com.

unlike anything I’ve ever done so I don’t know what to expect but I know I’m going to come back a brand new person,” Joseph said.

“New experiences, new knowledge that you otherwise don’t learn in the classroom,” is what graduate student in hospitality management, Brett Burgs, said he hopes to gain from the trip to Belize.

Lusby feels that traveling outside of one’s regular environment changes students for the better.

“It impacts students in ways that they can’t really predict beforehand; it really changes them. I’ve seen students overcome fears, overcome self-doubt, self-confidence, building confidence in yourself, changing

careers, really having a passion for other people and giving back,” Lusby said.

Although entry to this trip is now closed, Lusby said that she will conduct another trip to Belize this summer which students can currently apply to attend.

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Political weary, Sink focuses on business growth

BRENDAN FARRINGTON
AP Writer

Watch Alex Sink talk with people forming startup technology companies and she’s smiling, energetic and confident. She exudes ideas for making Florida a place where young adults with a vision can grow them into multi-million dollar companies providing high paying jobs.

Watch Sink talk about politics, and the tone is much different. There’s disgust over how Republican Gov. Rick Scott has led the state since he defeated her in 2010. There’s frustration over policy she thinks the state should be pursuing and isn’t. And there are also moments where she just looks weary. The Democrat started and stopped her sentences when talking about whether she’ll again seek the governor’s office.

“I wish I weren’t thinking about it,”

she said, after letting out a big sigh. “I just have too much of an idea of how things can be so much better for people.”

Sink, 64, is torn. She wants to develop ideas through her FloridaNext foundation to make the state a place where startup businesses flourish, and she dreams of having a long, far-reaching effect on the state — much like Jeb Bush did with education after he lost his first bid for governor in 1994. She also knows that her ideas would go much further if she sat in the governor’s office, she just doesn’t know if she has the will for another campaign.

A big reason is the loss of her husband, Bill McBride, whom she was strategizing with about another gubernatorial run before he died suddenly of a heart attack in December.

“Without a husband, without the person that I relied on the most to shore me up

and give me good advice. That’s changed. That’s changed everything,” Sink said. “Right this minute, if you’re asking me, it’s off the table. I’m not prepared to say, ‘No I’m not,’ but I’m much further away from a run today than I was three months ago.”

There are other factors, too, that make running again not so enticing. She’s tired of raising money: challenging an incumbent with millions of dollars is difficult no matter what popularity polls say about voters’ current antipathy toward Scott.

And unlike 2010 when she had no primary opposition, she won’t have as easy a path to the nomination with the possibility of former Republican Gov. Charlie Crist, who recently switched parties, and others also seeking the Democratic nomination.

“Alex Sink is viable in any scenario even against Charlie, because she could

run as ‘I’m the real Democrat here, he’s not,’” said Screven Watson, a Democratic consultant. “Take Charlie out of the mix, she’s your front-runner.”

But either way, it would be a more difficult path for Sink. She could no longer walk to the nomination, and some might have doubts she could beat Scott because she’s lost to him before, Watson said. That makes it more difficult to raise the money needed, and Watson said she’d have to run the campaign more efficiently and be more aggressive.

Instead she is putting her energy into FloridaNext, a non-profit she started after the 2010 election, which Scott won by 1 percentage point.

“After such a close loss, I said, ‘OK, I still have these ideas, I still think they’re great ideas. I don’t want to give up on these ideas and these concepts,’” Sink said.