

FOOTBALL

Turner named new head coach for football

EDUARDO ALMAGUER
Sports Director

FIU Athletic Director Pete Garcia found his big name: Ron Turner.

Almost exactly one month after firing former football Head Coach Mario Cristobal, Garcia signed Turner to a five-year deal with a base salary of \$500,000 a year on Dec. 3 to lead the football team into its first year in Conference USA.

Turner, who was officially introduced in a press conference in the FIU Stadium Club alongside Garcia on Friday, is looking forward to working with his new program.

"I'm excited to be back in college. I can promise you one thing, that I'm going to work extremely hard to make everybody in the FIU community very, very proud of this program," Turner said.

Garcia said he had Turner on his radar a couple of games before the NFL season. Garcia, who interviewed five to six candidates for the FIU job, sought help from current Indianapolis coach Chuck Pagano, Tampa Bay Buccaneers coach Greg Schiano, Carolina Panthers offensive coordinators Rod Chudzinski and Buccaneers assistant Butch Davis about Turner.

"He is no doubt the best quarterback coach in the country," Garcia said.

Turner, 59, was most recently working as the quarterbacks coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the NFL.

Turner, who will be the Panthers' third

coach since their 2002 inception, comes to FIU with nine seasons of college football experience. Eight of those were with the University of Illinois from 1997-2004.

He had one shining season in 2001 with the Chiefs where he went 10-2, won the Big Ten Conference title, and led the school to the Sugar Bowl where they eventually fell to LSU.

He was named the Big Ten Coach of the Year.

But aside from that lone season, Turner recorded several dismal seasons with Illinois. He is the only coach in school history to have two 11-loss seasons and he had a 0-8 season in 1997. His final record with the Chiefs was 35-57.

Prior to Illinois, Turner coached one season at San Jose State in 1992 where they went 7-4.

SEE TURNER, PAGE 7

COACHING SALARIES NEXT YEAR

Mario Cristobal*	\$453,183
Isiah Thomas*	\$220,000
Richard Pitino	\$250,000
Ron Turner	\$500,000
SUM:	\$1,423,183

*=FIRED BUT STILL UNDER CONTRACT



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Ron Turner was introduced on Jan. 4 to the University as the third head coach in school history. He replaces Mario Cristobal after six seasons.

PARKING & TRANSPORTATION

Golf carts restricted to outer roads of University

DIEGO SALDANA
Staff Writer

With a new year comes new restrictions to the University. As of spring 2013, the use of golf carts on the University premises will be restricted to the University's outer roads.

According to the director of Parking and

Transportation, Lissette O. Hernandez, golf carts will no longer be allowed in the inner areas of the school.

This includes the Betty Chapman Plaza, which is located between the Graham Center, the Gold Garage and the Green Library Breezeway. The restrictions will also be implemented at BBC.

However, there are a few exceptions to these restrictions which include the transportation of disabled students, who will be permitted access to the inner areas, and also the transportation of large and heavy tools used by Facilities Management.

Hernandez explained that the reason for the

new policy was in the best interest of the students.

"I think there was a need to have some control; it is necessary to make sure students are safe," said Hernandez.

All golf carts will have a map placed on them indicating the areas the drivers are allowed entry to. Drivers will have to match the pace of the pedestrians and park in the loading areas of buildings.

Charlie Blackwell, a refrigeration mechanic with Facilities Management and who has been with FIU for more than two decades, feels the new regulation could affect the time taken to complete certain tasks.

"It's not an inconvenience, it's time consuming," said Blackwell. "It's going to take longer [to get] where we need to be."

Blackwell feels that although the regulation slows down the speed at which maintenance workers can complete certain jobs, it is beneficial

to students.

"It has to be done for the safety of the kids," said Blackwell.

While safety is on the minds of most faculty and staff, some students have different ideas.

Music technology major, Javier Zapata, and physics major, David Sanabria, don't agree with the new restrictions and regulations.

"I never saw it as a problem in the first place," said Sanabria. "I never once thought the golf carts were a hazard to students."

On the other hand,

alumna Larrissa Taylor has experienced the inconvenient side of having the golf carts in the inner premises.

"They take over the sidewalks at times and wouldn't wait for students to pass," said Taylor. "Sometimes I'm forced to walk in the grass."

Hernandez said the regulation still needs final adjustments.

"We are going to have to work with [disabilities], there has to be balance," said Hernandez.

-diego.saldana@fiusm.com



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Pashy Veeramachaneni and Ed Blanco from the school of law library trying to get around campus in the EZ-Go Club Car despite the new restrictions implemented this semester.

1,690 ADDITIONAL PARKING SPOTS AVAILABLE

"All Decals" parking areas may be used by students, faculty and staff with parking permits.

- Northeast corner of campus by Market Station (300)
- Tamiami Park (1,000)
- Greek housing (140)
- Fair and Exposition Center (250)

THESE WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM JAN. 7-13.



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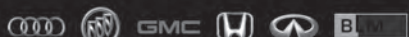
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ASSOCIATED PRESS

New tax law packed with breaks for businesses

STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
AP Staff

Tucked into the “fiscal cliff” tax package approved by Congress are billions of dollars in tax breaks that should make the new year a lot happier for businesses of many stripes, including film producers, race track owners and the makers of electric motorcycles.

In all, more than 50 temporary tax breaks were renewed through 2013, saving businesses and individuals about \$76 billion. Congress routinely renews the tax package, attracting intense lobbying — and campaign donations — from businesses and trade groups that say the tax breaks help them prosper and create jobs.

Businesses have grown used to many of the long-standing tax breaks, but they also have had to get used to the uncertainty of whether they will be renewed each year.

This time around the tax breaks were allowed to expire at the end of 2011 as lawmakers struggled to reach consensus on a wide range of tax issues.

The package passed by Congress this week and signed by President Barack Obama renews the tax breaks retroactively, so taxpayers can claim them on both their 2012 and 2013 tax returns.

The biggest of the bunch, a tax credit for research and development, helps U.S. manufacturers compete against foreign competition, according to the National Association of Manufacturers.

Another provision helps restaurants and retailers expand by allowing them to more quickly write off the costs, according to the National Restaurant Association.

These provisions have widespread support in Congress; others are more obscure.

For example, there is a tax credit for producing electricity from wind mills, a tax credit for buying electric-powered motorcycles, and tax rebates to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands from a tax on rum imported into the United States.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said the package is filled with “special-interest handouts” that make it difficult for him to justify his vote in favor of it.

“It’s hard to think of

anything that could feed the cynicism of the American people more than larding up must-pass emergency legislation with giveaways to special interests and campaign contributors,” McCain said.

Lawmakers are wary of making the tax breaks permanent because of the cost, even though they inevitably renew almost all of them each year.

Annual angst over whether the tax breaks will be renewed also provides incentives for businesses to lobby key lawmakers.

“All these provisions have a lobbying arm behind them, for the most part,” said Mark Luscombe, principal tax analyst for CCH, a consulting firm based in Riverwoods, Ill. “If they only extend them for a year or two then the lobbyists have to keep coming back and bestowing their favors on congressmen to get the thing extended again. If they made it permanent, then the lobbyists would go away.”

Among the provisions in the new law are:

A tax credit for research and development, benefiting a wide range of industries, including manufacturers, pharmaceutical companies and high tech companies. Cost: \$14.3 billion.

An exemption that allows banks, insurance companies and other financial firms to shield foreign profits from being taxed by the U.S. The tax break is important to major multi-

national banks and financial firms. Cost: \$11.2 billion.

A tax break that allows profitable companies to write off large capital expenditures immediately — rather than over time — giving some companies huge tax shelters. The tax break, known as bonus depreciation, benefits automakers, utilities and heavy equipment makers. Cost: \$5 billion.

A tax credit for the production of wind, solar and other renewable energy. Cost: \$12.2 billion.

A provision that allows restaurants and retail stores to more quickly write off the cost of improvements. Cost: \$3.7 billion.

Increased tax rebates to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands from a tax on rum imported into the United States.

The U.S. imposes a \$13.50 per proof-gallon tax on imported rum, and sends most of the proceeds to the two U.S. territories. Cost: \$222 million.

A 50 percent tax credit for expenses related to railroad track maintenance through 2013. Cost \$331 million.

A provision that allows motorsport race tracks to more quickly write off improvement costs. Cost: \$78 million.

Enhanced deductions for companies that donate food to the needy, books to public schools or computers to public libraries. Cost: \$314 million.

THE BEACON

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ROLLING INTO THE NEW YEAR

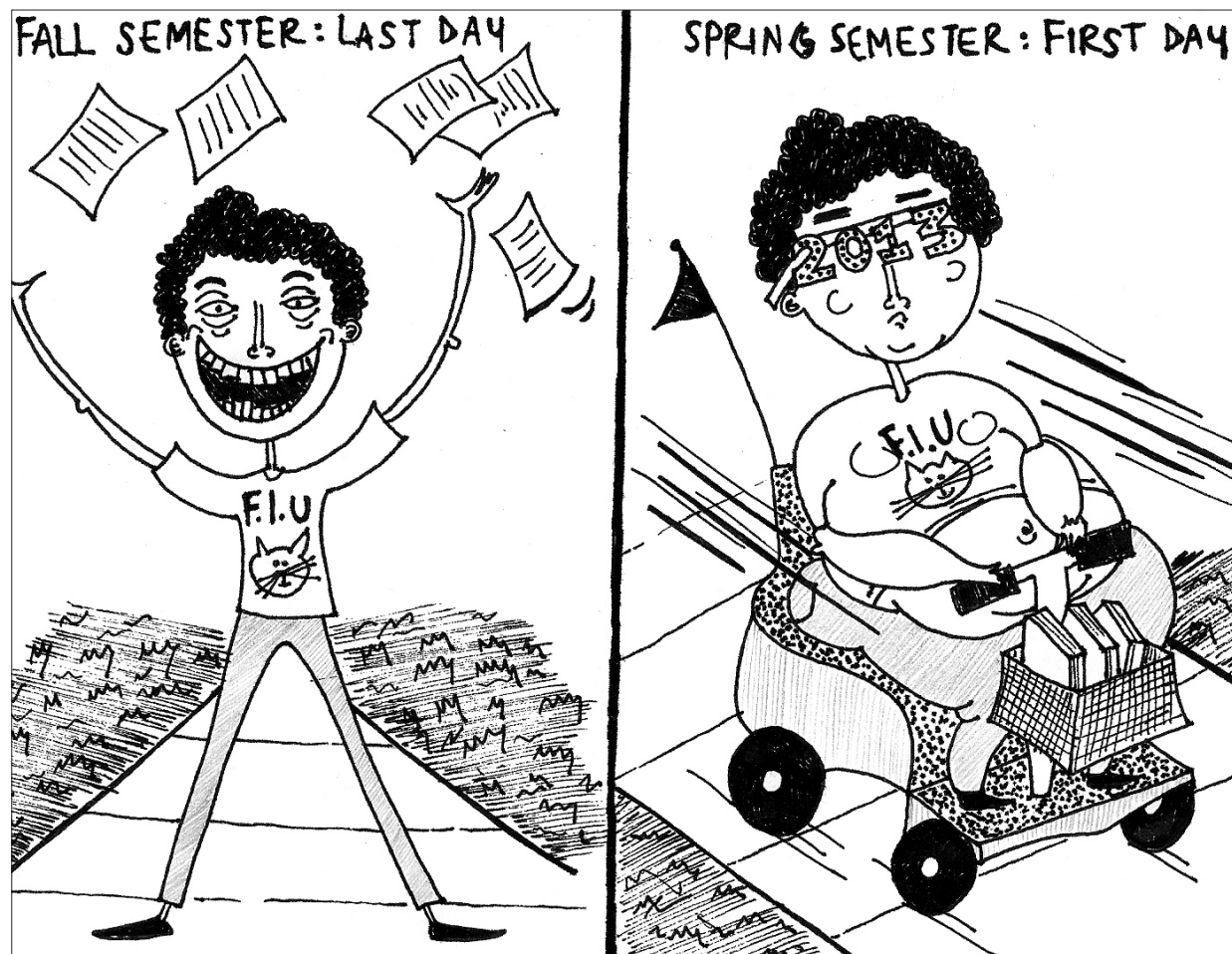


ILLUSTRATION BY CAROLINA GUILLOT/THE BEACON

The Negatives of (A) minus

DIANA ANAYA
Contributing Writer

An A- in and of itself isn't a problem; like the other minuses, it serves its purpose. However, in our university there is no A+ to balance out the A-. This can be a serious issue for students that have to maintain their GPA for graduate schools, clubs, or scholarships.

The simple answer would be that the student should just work harder in order to make sure they attain that A. But getting an A in all your classes while going to work or attending five to six classes per semester -- or even both -- is easier said than done.

In fact, there are a large number of students who receive scholarships that require a minimum amount of credits per semester, such as the Bright Futures Scholarship or Presidential Scholarship.

Taking five core classes, which can range from mildly taxing to requiring several hours of study every day, and attempting to earn an A in all of them, is not easy. There's no such thing as the perfect student and no university should penalize students for not being perfect.

Then, when you get that A- and see the reduction it makes to your GPA, you must suffer in the fact that your GPA will never recover from this drop. You may get A's in all your future courses, but if you had a 4.0, it's gone forever.

This type of grading system is unfair to the very students our university should be supporting. Any student fighting over an A- is not a 'slacker' and deserves to reap the benefits of their hard work.

There are three possible solutions, to what I see as a problem, which are simple in theory but undoubtedly require strong support from students in order to be put into action.

First, the A- could be removed from the grading scale. In this case an A would be made into a grade that is difficult to achieve, but at least when a student receives an A they get the full benefits of the grade.

Second, the exact value of the A- could be changed. The value of an A- is currently 3.67, which some students consider too low for an A-.

"I think they should lift it higher, to a 3.75 or a 3.80, so it doesn't weigh so heavily on the GPA," says junior psychology major Evelyn Lopez. "A 3.67 is a lot closer to a B than to an A."

The value of a B+ is currently 3.33.

Finally, FIU could introduce the A+ to the grading system which would counteract the value of an A-. Although it would be tough grade to obtain it would ensure that the students getting an A+ truly care about the class and their grade.

Craig McGill, academic adviser for the Department of English, disagrees with that solution. He believes that the addition of the A+ would not be the positive outcome some students are looking for.

"I think what you are proposing would actually hurt students because if an A+ becomes 4.0, that means an A must be below a 4.0 on a 4.0 scale," he said. "The system should not be catered to working students. That lowers the integrity of the degree and the coursework."

An A- may not be pressing matter for some students, but for those who are trying to keep their GPA up to get into a graduate program, it is of utmost importance. The discussion of whether or not the grading scale is more beneficial or more detrimental could go on and on, it is of course an imperfect system.

-opinion@fiusm.com

Pronto Wash: A convenient clean-up

JUNETTE REYES
Staff Writer

Miami is a driving city, and FIU is a commuter campus; so most students rely on a car to get around. Cars get dirty, a fact every driver is familiar with.

Conveniently, FIU offers a carwash on campus, Pronto Wash, a fact every student is "not" familiar with.

"They wash your car while you go to class," said junior Erica Obando. "But I heard something about \$80."

Many students have the same misconception without full knowledge of the service, deeming it too expensive. Yet despite what you might have heard, or decided for yourself, basic services are quite affordable, even on a college students' tight budget.

For a standard exterior/interior wash the prices are \$20 for cars and \$25 for SUVs.

If these prices still don't impress, Pronto Wash also

offers deals at shop.fiu.edu with discounts anywhere between 30 percent to 50 percent off.

The real problem may not lie in affordability, but in lack of promotion.

Most students don't check the site for these discounts and continue to go elsewhere for cheaper services.

Listing of the services and their discounts should be presented in different media outlets, informing students and faculty of services they can take advantage of in the comfort

and convenience of their own university.

Franchise owner, David Holley, said Pronto Wash employees don't simply throw on a shirt, grab a bucket of water and get to it. They are trained to be detail oriented and make the car wash as eco-friendly as much as possible.

Only one pint of water and a biodegradable, highly concentrated, foamless detergent is used per car.

Pronto Wash is located in the Red, Gold and Panther garage at Modesto

Maidique Campus and perhaps an expansion beyond the main campus would also be beneficial.

Unless you know where to look or simply try out the service on your own, you would not really know that the service works this way.

And while business might not be halted, it certainly can be improved when misinformation and lack of knowledge tend to keep customers away.

-junette.reyes@fiusm.com

“Only one pint of water and a biodegradable, highly concentrated, foamless detergent is used per car.”

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to jonathan.szydlo@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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Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to jonathan.szydlo@fiusm.com.

THEATRE

Spring semester to bring 'polar opposite' plays to stage

ALFREDO APARICIO
Staff Writer

History's most wicked double cross and the escalating consequences of one lie will finish off the Department of Theatre's Spring semester with "The Last Days of Judas Iscariot" by Stephen Adly Guirgis and "The Liar," adapted by David Ives from Pierre Corneille's original script.

"The Last Days of Judas Iscariot," directed by Associate Professor Wayne E. Robinson, Jr., tells the story of the court case that will ultimately decide Judas' fate in a modern interpretation of purgatory.

"It's a very strong script with a lot of tough language and profanity," explained Chair and Artistic Director Marilyn Skow. "It was something I had to overcome, but if the script is strong enough, then I have no problem with the language. The profanity isn't gratuitous, it's essential to the setting of the play and the characters are clearly drawn and well conceived that the language isn't a problem because they are believable."

The message of the play, to take responsibility for one's own actions, is also one of the reasons why Skow was so willing to accept the script regardless of its strong language.

"The message is strong and very popular with our acting students; they use these scenes in acting classes," Skow said. "A

A lot of the play is about how people should be thinking about what they do and why they do it and the sense that you need to be responsible for yourself and not make excuses and blame others. You are the one that determines your fate.

Marilyn Skow
*Chair and Artistic Director
Theatre Department*

lot of the play is about how people should be thinking about what they do and why they do it and the sense that you need to be responsible for yourself and not make excuses and blame others. You are the one that determines your fate."

The cast of the play itself has also brought some interesting surprises to the production.

"The roles aren't gender specific, and that makes it easier to play around with gender bending. There'll be some unexpected things, especially in regards to what the audience expects to see and what they will see."

For Skow, one of the most affecting scenes is the face off between Judas and Jesus near the ending of the play. "It's this very tender moment between the two of

them, and I think that scene alone is worth the whole play."

However, Skow does not believe the audience needs to be Christian or believe in Christianity to enjoy the play. "It's about accountability; what it comes down to is love and being loved and the power of love, and that crosses all boundaries, even if these characters are from a biblical context. Judas is kind of an everyman."

The last play of the semester, "The Liar," directed by Assistant Professor Michael Yawney, is the polar opposite of "The Last Days of Judas Iscariot."

"It couldn't be more different," said Skow. "It's French farce from the Neo-Classical period that has been adapted with contemporary language, but we are keeping

the period clothing because it's what helps the jokes work."

While "The Last Days of Judas Iscariot" is more character driven, "The Liar" is more plot heavy and relies more on the twists and turns and revelations of the plot than its characterizations.

"It really keeps you on your toes and has a surprise ending, so I think it's a great way to end the season. The actors are having a goof time so far in their initial table work," said Skow.

"The Last Days of Judas Iscariot" runs from Jan. 25-27 and again on Jan. 30-Feb. 3. "The Liar" runs from Mar. 1-3 and again on Mar. 6-10.

-alfredo.aparicio@fiusm.com

**"THE LAST DAYS OF
JUDAS ISCARIOT"**

Runs from Jan. 25-27
and again on Jan. 30-Feb. 3.

"THE LIAR"

Runs from Mar. 1-3
and again on Mar. 6-10.

DEBATE TEAM

Debate Team sets goal, to enhance student involvement in debates

VICTORIA RIVERA
Contributing Writer

The Debate Team has disputed current event topics at the University since its beginnings in 2011. This year will bring new issues and topics to hash out.

In February 2011, the Debate Team competed in a tournament at the University of Central Florida, where Emily Bello-Pardo and Sam Morales became finalists.

"It was an exciting experience not only to travel and participate in these debates, but also to make it to the finals," said Morales, senior communication arts major.

The Debate Team hosted the Irish National Debate last year in the Lincoln Road facility at the University. The topic of the tournament was, "Should the public fund [the education of] the arts?"

"Florida has wanted to cut the budget for public schools to teach art-related things from kindergarten to high school," said senior Bello-Pardo, president of the Debate Team and double major in international relations and political science.

Last month, the Debate Team attended the local Miami Debate tournament hosted at the University of Miami.

They discussed foreign policy, specifically whether the United States should intervene in the conflicts of other nations, as well as the impact of the fiscal cliff, which was the most noteworthy topic of discussion after President Obama was re-elected.

Their hybrid team won third place, and Bello-Pardo ranked as the sixth best speaker in the competition.

On Jan. 30, the Debate Team will continue their discussion on "Life after the Fiscal Cliff."

"We are not trying to find solutions, but instead we just want to further public conversation on these issues," said Daniel Blaeuer, assistant professor in the Communications Arts Department and director of the Debate Team.

The topics for these tournaments are generated through the Debate Team's partnership with the Kettering Foundation, which fosters the National Issues Forum. This network hosts conversations and public forums on pressing social issues.

"This partnership allows the FIU Debate Team to promote community dialogue about crucial issues, as well as engaging our students in the democratic processes of our nation. FIU Debate is definitely 'Worlds Ahead' with this partnership," said Bello-Pardo.

Last year, the Debate Team competed in tournaments at several colleges such as Harvard, Yale and New York University.

Some of Bello-Pardo's most important goals for the Debate Team this year will be to enhance civic engagement among the community even further and to encourage more students to join the team.

In this Debate Team, there is more to debate than mere competition. The Team hosts numerous events throughout the year, such as the National Issues Forums, presidential watch parties and debate training sessions.

Blaeuer is also planning to host debates in Spanish, as well as encouraging more participation from the Miami community.

Students who want to expand their public speaking skills can join the Debate Team.

One of the challenges members of the Team face is learning to advocate their opposing views about a certain topic.

"We help our students grow in more ways than just being able to deliver a speech; we try to build a democracy [with] engaged citizens who are not afraid of talking about the tough topics," said Bello-Pardo.

For more information, join the Debate Team's Facebook page or stop by Blaeuer's office in VH 219.

-life@fiusm.com



How to deal with bottled-up issues



Dear Nick,

I tend to bottle my problems up. This brings issues to my close relationships. What is the best way to deal with this?

O.P.

Senior

Psychology Major

Dear O.P.,

It seems as though you hold your emotions in and your close relationships might not feel connected to you. Sometimes we hold our feelings in to avoid a repeat of a bad past experience of expressing ourselves, or we hold our feelings in because we are unsure how to express them. In either instance, being more self aware is a great place to start. Try being in the moment and feeling your emotions, and these close relationships you are describing are wonderful opportunities to begin to find your emotional voice. This will not only help you improve your relationship, but it will help you feel better about yourself. Remember to be kind and patient with yourself as you develop this new way of being.

Be Well,

Nick



Nick Scheidt, M.S. is a Doctoral Psychology Intern at FIU Counseling and Psychological Services. He is a Clinical Psychology Doctoral Candidate from Carlos Albizu University. Once he completes his internship at FIU, Nick plans to work as a Psychologist, Writer, and Professor.

Do you have questions you would like to Ask Nick? Send an email to: Nscheidt@fiu.edu

DANCE

Panthers dance their way to helping Miami Children's Hospital

DANIEL URIA
Staff Writer

As the New Year and Spring semester begin, the FIU Dance Marathon presents Golden Panthers with their annual Mr. and Ms. Dance Marathon pageant.

The pageant takes place yearly as FIU Dance Marathon's final fundraising event before their flagship Dance Marathon event. It celebrates those who have pledged to participate in the Dance Marathon and helps raise money for Miami Children's Hospital.

Dance Marathon E-Board Communications Director Isamar Huingo said that they will pull out all the stops for this event. "This is our final special event before Dance Marathon, so it's going to be big!" said Huingo. "During this event, we have invited the new winners of So You Think You Can Dance and Golden Idol to perform, as well as last year's Mr. and Ms. Dance Marathon who are hosting."

"Although the event is about dancing, the true focus of the FIU Dance Marathon committee is to raise money for Miami Children's Hospital," said Huingo. "All our hard work is dedicated to children, in order to collect funds so they can live."

Since being founded in 1997, FIU Dance Marathon has raised over \$650,000 through

MR. AND MS. DANCE MARATHON PAGEANT

When: Wednesday, Jan. 23
at 6 p.m.

Where: GC Ballroom.

Price: Admission is free for all FIU students with their Panther ID and \$5 for non-students.

their special events.

Apart from pledging as a Dance Marathon participant, students can get involved by attending events.

"Donations are always accepted during these events; we usually have food we are selling, as well as Viewer's Choice voting," said Huingo.

She stressed the importance of event attendance to the FIU Dance Marathon. "The most help comes from FIU students, even if they don't know it. By just attending our events or buying a slice of pizza at the event helps us get one step closer to our goal."

-daniel.uria@fiusm.com

WEEK OF WELCOME SPRING 2013 EVENTS

MONDAY, JAN. 7

COLD AND FLU RAW DAY!

WHEN: 10-11 a.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC GL Breezeway

WEEK OF WELCOME WITH UHS

WHEN: 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC GC Pit

WEEK OF WELCOME KICK-OFF: BBC GOES TO THE CIRCUS

WHEN: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: BBC WUC Panther Square

STUDY ABROAD OPEN HOUSE

WHEN: 12-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC PC 113

FIU MEN'S BASKETBALL VS BETHUNE- COOKMAN

WHEN: 1-4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC

TUESDAY, JAN. 8

UHS TABLING-WEEK OF WELCOME

WHEN: 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC GC Pit

CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL

WHEN: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: BBC WUC Panther Square

STUDY ABROAD OPEN HOUSE

WHEN: 12-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC PC 13

REFLECTIONS ACROSS TIME: SEMINOLE PORTRAITS

WHEN: All Day
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC The Frost Art Museum

MEET THE GREEKS PT. 1

WHEN: 12-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: MMC GC Pit

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

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ CAMPUS LIFE AT BISCAYNE BAY PRESENTS ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WORK HARD PLAY HARD

WEEK OF WELCOME



Division of Student Affairs

Presented by the Office of Campus Life at Biscayne Bay. Funded by SGA. Qualified individuals with a disability requesting an accommodation to attend this event must make the request no less than five working days in advance by calling 305.919.5804 or TTY via FRS 1.800.955.8771. FOOD IS BASED ON FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED. For additional event information please call 305.919.5804 or visit WUC 141.

Spring 2013 | January 7-13

MONDAY, JANUARY 7TH
 Week of Welcome Kick-off: "BBC Goes to the Circus"
 Food, Fun & Entertainment - 11 AM to 2 PM | WUC Panther Square
 Just Ask Me Info Tables - 9 AM to 4 PM | Library & AC1 Area

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8TH
 Just Ask Me Info Tables - 9 AM to 4 PM | Library & AC1 Area
 Caribbean Festival - 11 AM to 2 PM | WUC Panther Square
 International Welcome Dinner - 5:30 PM to 7 PM | WUC 155

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9TH
 Golden Panther Brunch - 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM | WUC Ballrooms
 Relay for Life Kick-off - 11 AM to 2 PM | WUC Panther Square
 Peer Advisor Announcement - 12 PM | WUC Panther Square

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10TH
 Involvement & Volunteer Fair - 11 AM to 1 PM | WUC Panther Square

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11TH
 Game Day - 11 AM to 2 PM | WUC Panther Square

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13TH
 Morikami Museum & Japanese Gardens Trip - More info in Campus Life (WUC 141)
 Organized by Campus Life at BBC, BBC Recreation Center and ISSS.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Coley, Panthers heat up during winter break

RUBEN PALACIOS
Staff Writer

Women's basketball Head Coach Cindy Russo got what she wanted for the holidays: plenty of wins.

In December, the squad played six games and won five. This was a team that started out winning just two out of its first six games, so its .830 winning percentage was a refreshing turnaround for a team that started off slow.

The resurgent month can be credited to an uproar of great defensive play. During their run of five wins and one loss, the squad allowed an average of 54.5 points per game. The 54.5 points allowed during the run is more than four points less than what the team has averaged throughout the year thus far.

"Defensively, we are doing very well right now with our matchups," Russo said.

In addition to playing outstanding defense through this past month, the team extended their stellar play when it comes to rebounding. The team leads the Sun Belt Conference in the rebounding margin as they out-rebounded opponents by an average of 8.3 rebounds per game.

"We are unselfish and we hit the boards hard," Russo said. "We have been doing a really nice job on the boards our last five games. We have really been out-rebounding teams by a lot."

HOLEY COLEY SHINES ON

Junior guard Jerica Coley

remained outstanding throughout the six games during the break.

The All-American is averaging 23.2 points per game, a mark that leads the SBC and stands third in the nation.

Coley set a new career high in points when she netted 39 points against Dartmouth on Dec. 15. It was an overall dominant performance by Coley, who almost single-handedly defeated the Big Green.

Coley also added six steals, six rebounds and four assists in the 64-57 win at the U.S. Century Bank Arena. Coley, however, downplayed the stats.

"It means a little bit I guess, as long as we win," Coley said on her new career high. "I don't remember what the other career high was. So it's not like a huge deal, I'm just glad we won."

All Russo could say about the performance was simple and plain: "Thank God for Jerica Coley."

In the six games during December, Coley led the team in scoring in all six of the games. Along with her new career high 39 points, she also scored 37 points on one occasion, at least 23 on three occasions and only came up under the 20-point mark once.

"Jerica is starting to come in the back door," Russo said. "She was going through the front door for so long, and now she is coming in the back door. You can't keep her down for long."

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Coley got some help during the break from a familiar face:



JASEN DELGADO/BEACON FILE PHOTO

Jerica Coley (left) capped off the first game of the Thanksgiving Classic with a buzzer beating lay up against the University of Iowa 66-65 on Nov. 23 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena. Coley scored a season-high 31 points and also pulled down six rebounds in the win.

her sophomore cousin Kamika Idom. It was Idom who stepped into the starting shooting guard spot when senior Carmen Miloglav was forced to miss the opening game of the FIU Sun and Fun Classic against Northeastern.

Just two days after celebrating her 20th birthday, Idom stepped on the court alongside her cousin and she had a game to remember.

Idom scored a season-high 15 points on five of 10 shooting from the field and was two of seven from behind the three-point line, proving much needed spacing on the floor for Coley. The performance helped the team to a 66-56 win and a trip to the tournament championship game against Georgia Tech.

"I was going to go out there and give it my all. I wanted to hustle, rebound and help the

team out in any way possible," Idom said.

"I know how well she can play and I know she can play like that all the time," Coley said about Idom's performance. "So I'm glad she's stepping up and playing well and now I expect this for every game."

The Panthers fell just short of winning the Sun and Fun

SEE WOMEN'S, PAGE 7

Garcia: "He's the best quarterback coach in the country."

TURNER, PAGE 1

When Garcia first reached out to Turner, Turner admitted that he wasn't too familiar with the program, but got excited once he did some research.

"When I came down here I could feel the passion and the direction going in a positive way. I think it's one of the top up-and-coming programs in the country," Turner said. "I really believe that this program is ready to take the next step."

The hiring comes as a surprise to many who expected former University of North Carolina Head Coach Butch Davis to take the job.

Word spread that a contract feud with UNC was preventing Davis from taking the job, but his lawyer, Jon Sasser, debunked the rumors.

"Butch Davis has no dispute with UNC. He did not even sign

a settlement with UNC and he will not be coaching at FIU, and plans to remain as a [Buccaneers'] adviser," Sasser said via Twitter.

Turner replaces Cristobal who was in year two of a five-year extension with a yearly base salary of \$450,000 before being fired. He posted a 27-47 record in his five years at FIU while taking the team to back-to-back bowl games in 2010 and 2011.

Cristobal, whose 2012 squad fell short of expectations with a 3-9 season, was still confused as to why he was fired.

"It's a very puzzling day," Cristobal said in a brief interview with the media the same day of the firing. "Especially considering what we have become as a program across the country. The accomplishments, the progress, the exposure for the university has been abso-

lutely incredible so all of that makes it very puzzling."

Turner met several of the assistant coaches for the first time on Friday, but didn't say whether he would bring everyone back.

He said he had a few names in his head not currently employed at FIU, but that he also wants to meet with the staff.

Turner emphasized that Garcia and President Mark Rosenberg said they would give Turner all the resources necessary to ascend the program to the next step.

About five players attended the press conference and shook hands with Turner, but the newly appointed head coach has yet to meet with the team. He hopes to do so tomorrow.

"The only thing that worries me is [Turner] not fulfilling what he says. If he says he's going to do something, he should

carry it out," Senior linebacker Markeith Russell said. "Once you put something in words the next thing is action and that's

something that we need around here, positive action."

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TURNER AT A GLANCE

- College head coach record: 42-61
- San Jose State University (1993)
- University of Illinois (1997-2004)
- Chicago Bears (Offensive Coordinator in 1993-96, 2005-09)
- Indianapolis Colts (WR and QB coach in 2010-11)
- Tampa Bay Buccaneers (QB coach in 2012)
- Signed for five years at \$500,000 base salary per year
- Coached QB Jeff Garcia (San Jose State), WR Brandon Lloyd (Illinois), RB Pierre Thomas (Illinois)

Idom, cousin of Coley, enjoys season-best game

WOMEN'S, PAGE 6

Classic. They faced off against Georgia Tech and lost a tough game 65-63. A 37-point performance by Coley and an early 17-point lead was not enough to hold off Georgia Tech late in the game.

Coley and junior Marita Davydova both received All-Tournament honors.

FIU (8-5, 2-2 SBC) takes on Arkansas State on the road (5-9, 2-3 SBC) on Wednesday at 8:05 p.m.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Six-game road trip wears out Panthers over the break

KEVIN CASTANEDA
Staff Writer

The FIU men's basketball team must have been on Santa's naughty list this winter break.

The Panthers endured a long six-game road trip, going 2-4 in that span. The trip was three times longer than any other road trip in the season. December's trip was rough for FIU, but they came back home for the new year with a resolution to win.

The Panthers' road trip started against the Stetson Hatters (2-5) on Dec. 9. The Hatters were on a four-game losing streak. Junior guard Malik Smith took advantage of the weak Hatters' defense by scoring a career-high 29 points.

Tymell Murphy, Gaby Belardo, Juan Ferrales and Jerome Frink all scored in double-digit figures to go alongside Smith's superb shooting night. FIU came out on top, 82-79, starting the road trip in the right direction.

Four days later, the Panthers traveled to play against the Florida Gulf Coast Eagles. Even on the shoulders of a Frink double-double of 10 points and 10 rebounds, the Panthers fell to the Eagles, 76-73.

The Panthers' defense has struggled all season to keep opponents from scoring. They allowed both Chase Fieler and Christophe Varidel to score 18 points each. The Eagles ended the game shooting above 55 percent from the field and out-rebounded the Panthers by three.

FIU received six days of rest before heading to Louisville, Ky. for the marquee coaching matchup of the year on Dec. 19. FIU's first-year Head Coach Richard Pitino faced his father, Rick Pitino, and the Cardinals team that was ranked fifth in the nation.

The game was relatively close through the first 12 minutes of the first half. However, after an official television timeout,

the Cardinals went on an 8-2 run that the Panthers could not recover from. The Panthers were down 27-41 at the conclusion of the first half.

Rick Pitino's team came out of the half locked-and-loaded by pouring on six consecutive points. With just three and a half minutes left in the game, the Cardinals' 30-point lead was more than enough to squash FIU's comeback hopes in the 79-55 blowout.

Following the shellacking by the Cardinals, the Panthers traveled to face the 1-11 Texas Southern Tigers. The Panthers, who had been averaging almost 70 points per contest, barely beat the Tigers, with an anemic final score of 48-45.

The two final road games for the Panthers were against conference opponents. The first game was against Western Kentucky University on Dec. 27, and the second came two days later against Middle Tennessee State University.

Western Kentucky's George Fant scored 24 points, shooting a perfect 6-6 at the free-throw line. The Hilltoppers also had three other players in double-digit points as they shot 54 percent from the field as a team. Pitino had re-inserted Frink in the starting lineup, but his 15 points were not enough to help the Panthers. The Panthers lost the rebound, assists and steals battle,

ultimately leading to their 76-63 loss.

Against the Blue Raiders, the Panthers lost the rebound battle by 20. The Blue Raiders had an astonishing 41 boards, 15 of them on the offensive side. Their 18 assists doubled that of the Panthers. Shooting below 39 percent from the field added another loss to the Panthers column, with a final score of 69-52.

The turn of the new year and the end of the road trip meant the Panthers were back in the U.S. Century Bank Arena to face the Florida A&M Rattlers. Murphy opened up the scoring for the Panthers with a deep three. The shot ignited a spark in forward, who went on to score 24 points and grab 20 rebounds. Smith supplemented Murphy's monstrous performance by adding 23 points of his own.

The Panthers dominated the Rattlers on rebounds, 48-38, which is a rarity for the club. The 14 steals also aided the Panthers in their 88-72 home win.

Dropping four games out of six on the cold December road trip left FIU with a 5-7 record (1-3 SBC) through Jan. 4.

FIU takes on Bethune-Cookman University (5-9) today at 1 p.m. in the final game of a three-game homestand.

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Golden Panther becomes bronze: new tradition awaits students

STEPHAN USECHE
Asst. News Director

FIU starts the new year with a new statue, along with a new tradition.

A statue of the University's mascot, Roary the Golden Panther, has been built and placed in front of the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

"Now we have this really nice [statue] that every time students come to start their freshman year or graduate, they're going to take pictures with it and rub it before football games.

It's just a great tradition to start," said Anthony Rionda, chief of staff of the College of Law and former Student Government Council president at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

The thought of having an iconic statue at FIU interested the members of the Student Government Association back in 2009 when Rionda was president. As student leaders visited other universities, SGA noticed the statues of their mascots.

"Those schools had big statues of their mascots," said Rionda. "In FSU, they have the big horse; in UCF, they have the knight on the horse; in UF, they have the alligator, etc. So we really wanted to have a unique statue on campus that spread the panther spirit."

At the time, SGA didn't have enough funds to go through with the project; however, Helena Ramirez, SGA president in 2010, "took the bull by the horns," according to Rionda, and they finally completed the project this year.

The base of the statue had to be "very strong," said Larry Lunsford, vice president of Student Affairs, because of the composition of the ground it's standing on. The price for the base of the statue was not made available to Student Media.

There will be a panther statue built on the Biscayne Bay Campus after it receives approval and funds from SGA.

"It takes a while... you can't get something off the bat, you need to get a lot of administrative assistance," said Carlton Ng, graduate assistant, as he explained the process of completing the project.

The statue was created by artist Brian Hanlon, who has been dubbed "New Jersey's Sculptor," according to his website and who also enjoys creating statues of athletes, firefighters and police, among others.

"Hanlon built a full-scale sculpture out of clay in his studio in New Jersey and then sent it to China for use in creating a mold. The mold was later divided into several smaller ones, and from



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

The brand new Panther Statue will be unveiled on Jan. 10 on the Modesto Maidique Campus. Soon, construction will begin at the Biscayne Bay Campus for their own Panther Statue. It weighs 2,000 pounds and is made of bronze.

these pieces the final work of bronze were cast. All were then welded together and shipped as one solid structure to the Port of Miami," according to FIU News.

The Panther statue cost

\$85,000 from SGA funds. It's made of bronze and weighs 2,000 pounds.

According to Lunsford, who was part of the team that reviewed designs for approval, it will last a long time.

The statue will be unveiled Thursday, Jan. 10 at 1:30 p.m. in front of the arena. The ceremony will be open to all students.

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CAMPUS LIFE

Put away the holiday decor, the circus is in town for BBC

JUNETTE REYES
Staff Writer

Campus Life will put on its clown nose to kick off the first week of spring 2013.

Starting today, Jan. 7 and ending Sunday Jan. 13, the Week of Welcome kicks off with its theme "BBC goes to the Circus."

Circus performers and balloon makers will provide the entertainment. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. in Panther Square at the Wolfe University Center.

"Just Ask Me" information tables will be set up from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Glenn Hubert Library and Academic I area to give students information about the resources BBC provides as well

as information about organizations on campus. The info tables will be around for students to take advantage of on Tuesday as well.

Tuesday, the Caribbean Festival from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Panther Square, and the International Welcome Dinner from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in WUC 155 will bring students the flavors of the Caribbean with steel drummers and traditional dishes.

Wednesday will include the overlapping of three events, the first being the Golden Panther Brunch from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the WUC ballrooms.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., there will be the kickoff for the Relay for Life event, sponsored by the Center for Leadership and Service in association with the American Cancer Society, which is set to occur on March 1 to raise awareness and funds for cancer research.

The announcement of the new peer advisors will also be made at 12 p.m. in Panther Square.

The pace begins to slow down as the end of the week nears, Thursday bringing the Involvement & Volunteer Fair from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The fair aims to involve students in all kinds of organizations and clubs as well as leadership opportunities that can be done on campus throughout the semester and summer.

Organizations such as the Center for Leadership and Service, Student

Programming Council and Student Organizations Council will be present.

Friday is Game Day, where a pool table and hockey will be available for students.

The Week of Welcome festivities will come to an end with a visit to the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens on Sunday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., organized by the BBC Recreation Center and International Student and Scholar Services along with Campus Life at BBC.

The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens introduces Japanese arts and culture to South Florida with monthly tea ceremonies in its Seishinan tea house, exhibits, outreach programs with local organizations and schools and Japanese festivals celebrated for the public.

Oshogatsu, the Japanese New Year, will be celebrated at the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens on the 13th.

Gary Santos, graduate assistant in Campus Life at BBC feels like they are "going in a different direction" and "gearing towards not only fun events but academic events as well."

They hope the community comes out beyond their usual numbers of 250 to 300 guests and that they not only have fun but become enriched by what they have in store.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CAMPUS LIFE BBC

Campus Life will be offering a week full of circus-themed fun events starting today.