

Classes do not always have a home

REBECCA PICCARDO
Contributing Writer

By the time enrollment begins every semester, the Office of Class Management has spent months preparing the space that is available for the classes that will be offered. However, because there are more classes offered than rooms available, the OCM staff needs months to sort through the homeless classes they have every semester.

"We did not have enough classrooms," said Leonard Bliss, professor of Research Design and Measurement in the College of Education.

More than once, he has received notice that his class is homeless. Homeless classes are courses that do not have a room assigned.

According to the OCM, there are about 401 homeless classes to sort through before classes begin in the fall.

"Ultimately, if homeless classes are not accommodated by the beginning of the semester, the class is cancelled," said Anthony Cosio, a senior and atmospheric science major, who has worked for the office for two years.

The lengthy process of assigning rooms begins with each departmental scheduler, who input all the classes the departments will offer into Panthersoft.

According to Anamile Buendia, a graduate in human resources management and an OCM staff member, the OCM staff runs the list of classes through special software that allocates the times and brings it back to Panthersoft.

To allocate homeless classes before enrollment, Cosio said that they go through the general assignment rooms. If there are no rooms available, the OCM staff tries to get the scheduler for whatever department needs space to reach out to certain departments that may have departmental rooms available. According to the OCM website, every academic department has departmental purpose classrooms.

Other solutions that the OCM suggests to the departments when they have homeless classes are: to change the capacity, the time, the day, to make it an online course or, in some cases, to move the class to the Biscayne Bay Campus.

"A class does not get cancelled

from one day to another. We speak to the departments a lot. It's like a back and forth emailing and if they don't change the time, or the days, then there's nothing we can do," said Buendia.

But in some cases, homeless classes are successfully allocated.

"Now I'm teaching a course on Monday night over in PC—it's a huge room and I only have about 19

Sink or float



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

The American Society of Civil Engineers hosted their annual concrete canoe conference. The three-day conference took place at the Modesto Maidique Campus over the weekend and featured schools from the society's southeastern branch including FSU, UCS and University of Puerto Rico. The canoes must be able to float and not sink if submerged underwater.

students," said Bliss.

Even when most homeless classes are allocated by enrollment time, the departments continue to add courses, which creates more homeless classes to allocate.

"The department and the professors try to push certain times," said Cosio.

Peak class times are 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., leaving a large number of homeless classes during these time slots.

"[The problem] has gotten better," said Bliss. "Of course, we've built more buildings."

According to Cosio, the OCM is in a constant battle between expansion of enrollment and expansion of space and the later the departments add the course, the greater the chance that the class will be homeless.

-news@fiusm.com

Candidates for MMC disqualified pending appeals

BRANDON WISE
NADRA MABROUK
FIUSM Staff

Candidates for the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus have been revealed but a crucial position is without candidates.

As of press time there are currently no qualified candidates for SGC-MMC president.

Alex Castro and Pablo Haspel have been disqualified as candidates in the upcoming student government elections.

Castro is currently the vice president of the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus and Haspel is president of the SGC

at Biscayne Bay Campus.

According to Castro, the disqualification comes due to an incomplete application submission.

"I was verbally notified. I have yet to receive an official notification of my disqualification. The reasoning for my disqualification was due to an 'incomplete' application my vice presidential candidate Philip Koenig submitted. However, per constitution, we met all requirements and that is why I submitted an appeal to the elections commission," Castro said in a statement to Student Media. "I believe the appeal will be heard on March 18. In addition, the commission, in collaboration with Campus Life, are not executing the required laws. They are operating under the old vague laws and

they are disregarding the Elections Code Reformation Act of 2012; a reform I spent six months to accomplish. I am also filing suit to the court for their failure of keeping the integrity of the institution of student government."

Haspel was disqualified because of a discrepancy as to which campus he would represent if elected president, according to Charles Perretti, SGC-MMC elections commissioner. Haspel declined to comment on the situation to Student Media.

Perretti said both candidates have been notified, but both are appealing.

In the event that neither candidate wins their appeal, the only candidate who can run for the president of SGC-MMC is Liane Sippin, Haspel's

vice presidential candidate.

A third candidate was also disqualified from BBC's elections, but that person is yet to be identified. Rafael Zapata, assistant director of Student Affairs who advises SGC-BBC, told Student Media that he cannot release the candidate's name until March 18 when the elections committee meets officially.

Michelle Castro, assistant director of Campus Life and SGC-MMC adviser, would not comment as of press time.

Also as of press time, a list of candidates for BBC elections was not made available to Student Media.

-news@fiusm.com

Entrepreneurship class to be offered fall 2014

RICHARD CLAPSO
Contributing Writer

Colleges claim their students not only graduate, but graduate as leaders.

The University will now support this idea with its new entrepreneurship course starting in fall 2014.

At a town hall meeting in February, University President Mark Rosenberg discussed the possibility of this new course being offered.

"We're going to have to do a lot better job at making sure our students have the education and the ability not just to take

good jobs but to create good jobs," Rosenberg said. "The future of our community from an economic development standpoint lies in homegrown opportunities."

While the University will be looking into new ways for students to get into the job market, some students don't think that this course should be a requirement.

"As part of the curriculum for all majors, no, I don't think that it should be required. There are so many prerequisites as it is to begin your intended major, this would just be yet another course students take

just to get to the meat of their college careers," said Michael Collado, junior journalism major. "That said, I can understand why the school would do this. FIU most likely wants to ensure that their graduating students leave with a tool set to not just be employees, but also employers — in other words, not just followers, but leaders. In the end, I can't say whether it's good or bad...but it certainly couldn't hurt."

University Provost Douglas Wartzok discussed at the town hall meeting that this course will likely not be a requirement in its first year or so, but it

instead could become an online course.

"We can't say whether it'll be part of the core curriculum or not, but we will be instituting it," Wartzok said. "Initially, we're looking at possibly making it a [Massive Open Online Course] where everybody would take it and have to have a certificate of completion. Then, those who want to delve into more deeply would be able to take it for credit as well."

Some students, like Natalie Villarreal, junior digital media major, thought of the possibilities that this new course could

bring.

"I think this could be a huge boost not only for my future career, but also to the careers of people that I [employ]," said Villarreal. "I think all students should be required to take this class. It doesn't matter what field you're in, everyone has to work with a leader, so why shouldn't that leader be you?"

Rosenberg told the community that many students have successfully begun entrepreneurship programs from the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, College of Engineering and the Allied Health areas. Students,

like Noemi Nunez, senior public relations major, believes that this program could potentially help her beyond a career.

"I go to college not only to be qualified for a job, but also learning information that will aid me past my career. Life is like a business, so being able to maintain the money I make, and the employees I have, will all come down to choices," said Noemi Nunez, senior public relations major. "Choices that I could learn from this entrepreneurship course, and that's why I think FIU is adding it."

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WORLD NEWS

Brazil's new oil revenue law goes into effect

A new oil law that gives a greater share of royalty revenues from Brazil's vast oil fields to non-producing states has gone into effect. Producing states say they will file appeals with the Supreme Court.

The law was signed by President Dilma Rousseff Thursday night and published in the official gazette on Friday. The new law distributes oil royalties, from existing and future drilling and production concessions, more evenly among all of Brazil's 27 states instead of favoring top oil producers such as Rio de Janeiro, Espirito Santo and Sao Paulo states.

Gunmen kidnap Czech tourists in southwest Pakistan

Gunmen abducted two female Czech tourists and their police guard as they were traveling on a bus through a troubled province in southwest Pakistan, the Czech foreign ministry and a Pakistani government official said Thursday.

The women were on the road from Iran to Quetta, the capital of Pakistan's southwest Baluchistan province, when they were seized on Wednesday, said Abdul Qadus, the top government official in the area.

UN says US drones violate Pakistan's sovereignty

The head of a U.N. team investigating casualties from U.S. drone strikes in Pakistan declared after a secret research trip to the country that the attacks violate Pakistan's sovereignty. Ben Emmerson, the U.N. special rapporteur on human rights and counter-terrorism, said the Pakistani government made clear to him that it does not consent to the strikes — a position that has been disputed by U.S. officials.

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

2013-2014 ELECTION CANDIDATES

President/VP

There are two non-qualifying candidates currently pending an appeal.

Honors College (1)

Raul Alvarez
Bianca Gutierrez

Education (2)

Katerina Cortina
Kristen Robillard

Engineering (2)

Allan Espinoza
Jolene Fan
Felipe Martinez

Nursing and Health Sciences (2)

Cristina Brador
Teresa Guiu

Graduate (4)

Saman Sargolzaei
Svetlana Tyutina
Sahar Ajabshir
Tiffanie Stewart
Janiel Vargas

At-Large (3)

Caroline Lorenzo
Nicolas Alvarez
Javier Morales
Javier Navas

Arts and Sciences (5)

Myriam Ambrose
Evelin Urdaneta
Boris Aparicio Jr.
Nicole Buchely
Orlando Crespo
James D'Cruz
Robert Gramling
Bryan Morera
Stephanie Ortega
Joseph Perez
Desmond Petit

Lower Division (4)

Antonio Forte
Mary Corbin
James Drenning
Alexander Durant
Miguel Florez
Sasha Mallet
Mariel Navarrete
Alvaro Pareja

Architecture and the Arts (1)

Erica Ramos

Housing (2)

Mathew Atkins
Anita Tomic

Business (3)

Christopher Esteban
Nicholas Aquart
Martin Falconi
David Gomez
James Harden
Kristie Reyes

Public Health and Social Work (1)

Nicole Hosken

VISIT FIUSM.COM FOR CONTINUING COVERAGE OF THIS YEAR'S SGA ELECTIONS.

A list of qualified candidates for the Biscayne Bay Campus student government elections was not made available as of press time.

(Number of available seats)

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Modesto Maidique Campus:
GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 348-2709
news@fiusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus
WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 919-4722
bbc@fiusm.com

Editor-in-Chief:
(305) 348-1580
philippe.buteau@fiusm.com

Advertising:
(305) 348-6993
advertising@fiusm.com

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Breast cancer becoming more common in younger women

ALYSSA ELSO
Contributing Writer

According to Dr. Rebecca Johnson, medical director of the adolescent and young adult oncology program at Seattle Children's Hospital, 1 in 8 women will develop breast cancer in their lifetime and 1 in 173 will develop breast cancer by age 40.

As breast cancer in young women tends to be aggressive, early detection is beneficial.

The Women's Health Service at FIU offers a safe and private setting for women's unique needs and concerns. The clinic offers students basic gynecological services from FIU nurse practitioners and physicians that include breast exams and referrals for screenings and mammograms.

Published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, the study, led by Johnson, found that among women aged 25 to 39 years old, advanced breast cancer cases increased to 2.9 per 100,000 women in 2009, from

1.53 per 100,000 women in 1976, averaging to a little more than 2 percent a year.

The study is based on information from 936,497 women who had breast cancer from 1976 to 2009. Of those, 53,502 were 25 to 39 years old, including 3,438 who had advanced breast cancer, also known as metastatic cancer.

The results are troubling as breast cancer in younger women tends to be more aggressive, spreading to organs like the liver, brain or lungs, and has lower survival rates than breast cancer in older women.

"I know someone that got breast cancer in their thirties, and I think it is something that is becoming more common among younger women," said freshman biomedical engineer major Lauren Aguiar. "We as women just need to be more aware of our bodies and get regular check ups."

Despite the increase, the chances of young women developing metastatic breast cancer are still low, and routine

mammogram screenings are not recommended for women under 40, unless they have a strong family history of breast cancer.

While the study reported the increase in breast cancer among young women, it did not examine the cause of the increase. The exact cause is still unknown, and more research is needed, but Johnson and her coauthors believe the trend could be due to a variety of lifestyle changes like: obesity, diet, use of birth control, and delayed pregnancy.

"The thought that women are getting breast cancer at a younger age is kind of surprising, since we are not told to get breast exams until we are much older," said freshman elementary education major Melissa Folgueras. "I hadn't really thought about the possibility of getting breast cancer at a young age, but now I will be more aware of the warning signs."

-news@fiusm.com

Public sermons, freedom to speak obscenely on campus

LAUREN BANA
Contributing Writer

Most people have either seen or heard about the public sermons given by local radical ‘Christian’ Brother Emmanuel. I, myself, have had the opportunity to witness several of his rants on campus.

The first encounter was probably the most shocking.

On my way to the Gold Garage, I noticed an older gentleman in suspenders firmly holding the Bible in his right hand.

At first, it seemed as though he was just shouting obscenities, since he was solely yelling about fornication and masturbation.

But once I stopped to listen, it was clear that he was attempting to preach the ‘word of God’ to passing students and faculty. He allowed people to ask questions, but he seldom answered them.

Instead, he would interrupt them, and call them masturbators, homosexuals and fornica-

“
This was probably one of the most verbally violent events that I have ever witnessed.”

tors. He would address people by certain aspects about them that he deemed inappropriate in the eyes of God, such as ‘short-shorts’, ‘cameltoe’ and ‘tight pants.’

Even people from several of FIU’s Christian clubs, who were attempting to counter his rants, were not excluded from his bigotry.

I watched as the crowd of people grew larger, and the

public sermon became a public spectacle. Students would run up to him to take pictures as he continued with his speech. They yelled, “I’m a masturbator and proud of it,” in his face and his only response was, “You’re going to burn in eternal hellfire!”

I would say this was probably one of the most verbally violent events that I have ever witnessed.

This display of radical ‘Chris-

tianity’ has been around for years, and with the First Amendment readily available, it’s going to stick around.

Freedom of speech is an important piece of American history that makes this country great, but should we stand for verbal abuse on our streets and on our campuses?

“I think he’s entitled to talk about whatever he wants, but he shouldn’t be verbally abusing people,” said junior English major, Jake Moffett. “There should be a rule that eliminates public verbal abuse from freedom of speech.”

As the First Amendment states, we as Americans are allowed the right to speak freely without censorship, but when does freedom of expression become verbal abuse towards the public?

According to the American Civil Liberties Union, many universities across the country have adopted codes for prohib-

iting speech on campus that degrades or offends any group based on race, gender, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation.

In the case of Brother Emmanuel, he has crossed several of these lines, and if he were on any of those campuses that have incorporated this rule, he would not be allowed to give his sermon. As a university, shouldn’t we reinforce this rule?

I believe Brother Emmanuel has overstayed his welcome at FIU being that he cannot refrain from offending students in their place of study.

If he is going to preach his own idea of what the Bible states, then he should do so without verbally abusing other people.

Freedom of speech is a privilege and if people cannot put it to use without misconstruing its purpose and insulting others, then it should not be available to them.

-opinion@fiusm.com

Are students taking advantage of a convenience?

DIANA ANAYA
Contributing Writer

It’s clear why online classes continue to rise in popularity: accessibility. You can do your work when you want and where you want, whether it’s due to laziness or a difficult schedule. They may have an extra cost attached but many students, especially those that have a job, find the additional charge to be minor when compared to the freedom of an online class, not to mention the money saved on gas and other expenses.

This modernization of education and advances in technology is helpful in some cases, but the system is being abused. Students take online classes in order to fulfill unnecessary requirements or

“
Is something lost in translation when transforming an in-person lecture course into an online class?”

because they don’t want to attend lectures or because they’re easier.

Online classes were truly meant to benefit the working student that cannot attend class due to time conflicts, not slackers that can’t be bothered to get up.

But are online classes as beneficial

as an in-person 50-minute lecture? Like when novels are translated into different languages -- a long ordeal due to words or phrases that don’t translate well -- is something lost in translation when transforming an in-person lecture course into an online class?

I believe so. The human touch, the community and discussion of a classroom and the immediacy of a professor to provide more analysis is gone when taking an online class. Of course, students may still email or call the professor for clarification, but the in-the-moment opportunity to ask for help is eliminated.

It may be that I’m just traditional, clinging to ways that are quickly falling out of popularity. But for me, the idea of an online class where you may never see your professor or fellow students, in this culture that advocates the philosophy of ‘do you’, is frightening.

A university is supposed to be a center of learning, of people coming together to better themselves intellectually and share their information, from professor to student and student to student.

Online classes and even hybrid classes have forums where they often require discussion posts, but how often do those posts actually lead to a real discussion? Instead, everyone throws in their minimum posts, disregarding what others might have said, and throw in the towel.

I mentioned earlier that online classes are prime targets for slackers, but is it really that the students are slackers? Maybe the real question is: why are there classes considered ‘bulls**t’ requirements, and why do students not want to attend lectures anymore?

Obviously a fair percentage of these students genuinely don’t care to learn the material, but could there be some truth in these statements? That some requirements provide no real learning or advantages to the student regardless of major, or that the material includes information that students should already have coming in to college?

Online classes are invaluable tools in

the fast paced world we live in, but not useful for every subject. There may be a push to make more classes available online, but I hope they’re chosen with discretion. Maybe we need to wonder less about why there aren’t more classes online, and more about why in-person courses are being sidelined.

-opinion@fiusm.com



PHOTO FROM STOCK EXCHANGE

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Students will run in mud to help prevent child abuse

KEILA DIAZ
Contributing Writer

New Year resolutions made during December tend to start fading in people's minds by the middle of January, and those new running shoes end up in the back of the closet somewhere.

But not for some.

"These races are like a final test for the training you've done at the gym and at the end you feel great because you did something you couldn't before," said Erika Sieira, a criminal psychology major at the university.

Sieira is referring to the Mud Run, an obstacle race that includes mud pits as part of the course.

The race this year will take place March 24 at Vista View Park in Davie.

The FIU Mud Run team has started practicing on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. with the FIU Bay Runners Club.

Mud Run events are done all over Florida with the first event taking place last September. These events are put together by Mud Dogs, a company based in Pembroke Pines whose mission is to bring people together for fun and for charity.

"The idea to use mud came because we wanted people feel

like they have overcome something and because it's fun," said Jason Marguiles, the creator of Mud Run.

The charitable part is due to a portion of the proceeds of these events being donated to local charities where the Mud Runs are held.

"For the last race the charity was Broward County Law Enforcement," Marguiles said.

Part of the proceeds from the March race will go to Kids In Distress, an organization dedicated to preventing child abuse and helping children who have been victims of abuse.

The muddy runs are sponsored by companies like Bass Pro Shops, Fitness Unlimited, LA Fitness and Whole Foods.

Mud Runs are races done in muddy terrain. These challenging courses test the participants' balance and strength through challenging obstacles in military style. Runners must climb, crawl, jump, do pushups, balance themselves on thin wooden planks, and carry sandbags at different lengths of the course.

"I did previously participate in an event called Muddy Buddy with my friend. It was a 5-mile race and a further distance than I had run in a long time, so I was really proud of myself after the race," said Melissa

Zwilling, doctorate student in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. "It was also tons of fun doing the obstacles, but there was no pressure to do them if you were unable. It was sort of like being a fan of a certain sports team. You don't know the other fans, but you root for each other and encourage each other. I love

"It's fun to just relax a little and get muddy," she said.

The race is organized so that participants can choose between the five-kilometer and 10-kilometer tracks as well as an untimed course.

"I will probably do the last wave because it isn't timed," said Christina Reddick, Biscayne Bay

include obstacles and other fun elements like the color powder thrown at racers in the Color Run.

For fitness enthusiasts, the Mud Run and races like it are exciting ways to test their fitness and endurance levels.

The FIU Mud Run Team practices consist of running and walking exercises. The practices take place along the Bay.

Students participating can train by themselves as well.

"I am continuing my normal workouts with my Crossfit box [gym] to get ready for the event, but I've also tried to incorporate running a little more often," Zwilling said.

Students are encouraged to join the FIU Team either to run or support runners on race day. Registration is still active on the Mud Dogs' website and FIU students can save \$20 using the special promo code sent to their school e-mails from BBC Recreation and FIU Tri Club.

-life@fiusm.com

I chose to participate in the Mud Run because it just looks like fun. It helps you keep in shape, have a goal to work towards, and it also adds another dimension of fitness to a 5K with the obstacles.

Melissa Zwilling
PhD Student

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

that kind of positivity."

Zwilling said it helps keep in shape, have a goal to work towards, and adds another dimension of fitness to a 5K with the obstacles.

Campus Recreation coordinator at FIU.

Mud Runs are one in a new genre of running courses. The Color Run and The Spartan Race are also very popular because they

MUD RUN
Sunday, Mar 24 7:30a to 12:30p
Vista View Park
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Walking Hard



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Local Miami band Those Fine Lads play vibrant tunes in the Graham Center Pit sponsored by Music Saves Lives. Those Fine Lads, which is comprised of Jaeger Figueroa (guitar), and students Matt Ashley (bass), Anthony Magalhaes (trombone), and Mike Sanchez (clarinet), is reminiscent of an infusion of Mumford and Sons meets reggae.

Spanish talk show educates community about health

EDWIVE SEME
Staff Writer

The FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and Univision Radio have collaborated to create "A tu Salud," a Spanish radio talk show, in order to inform the community about health issues.

The Spanish talk show is aired every Sunday morning at 10 a.m. on Univision Miami 1140 AM, and is hosted by Ileana Varela, an Emmy-award winning broadcast journalist who has worked on Miami's CBS4, ABC affiliates, and other television and radio stations in Tampa, Fla.

"Part of the mission of a public college of medicine is not just to educate medical students but to educate the community we serve," said Varela. "This was a perfect opportunity to educate beyond the campus."

The show involves doctors from the School of Medicine and other experts from FIU who speak on health topics such as vaccines for adults, how to have a healthier pregnancy and other health tips.

For some of the doctors, being on radio isn't something they do regularly, but they are all eager to join in helping this cause. "Everybody's on board and excited," said Varela about the team of doctors. "Everybody's excited to be part of it, and everybody feels like we're doing a great service for the community."

Univision is ideal for FIU's "A tu Salud," because of the audience the show

seeks to educate.

Claudia Puig, senior vice president of Univision Radio who is also a member of FIU's Board of Trustees, was a major part in making the collaboration happen. When the School of Medicine approached her with the idea, she immediately offered space on one of her radio stations.

"It was a perfect partnership," Varela said.

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine isn't tracking their progress yet, but they have plenty of more ideas and plans, such as being able to do the program live instead of their slot on Sunday mornings, which according to Varela, makes it difficult to do live.

"At some points we would like to do at least some interactions with the people," said Varela. The College of Medicine hopes to also broadcast a show in English on an English station, sometime in the future.

-life@fiusm.com

A TU SALUD

Aired every
Sunday morning at 10 a.m.
on Univision Miami 1140 AM.

Student studying in England shares her experience

KATHERINE LEPRI
Staff Writer

Natalie Santiyani sticks her head out of her bedroom window as the lustrous white flakes fall on the cracked pavement. She breathes in the frigid air then shivers and smiles.

It is the first time she has ever seen snow in her life.

Santiyani, 22, a Miami-native and FIU student, is currently residing in England while studying elementary education at the University of Hull during the spring term.

“Living here is completely different from Miami,” Santiyani said. “There is a little Ferris wheel at the bay and the Scarborough Castle at the top.”

Santiyani is one of approximately a quarter of a million American students that study abroad every year, according to a 2011 survey by the Institute of International Education.

“I picked this country to study abroad in because of its rich history and well-known primary teaching programs,” said Santiyani, a junior.

Santiyani is part of a group of 3,000 international exchange students from over 125 countries that studies at the University of Hull every year.

“It’s a very popular place because the cost of living is very low even compared to Manchester, a two-hour drive away. You’ve got bars, clubs, restaurants, everything,”

said Melanie Hall, international assistant at the International Office at the University of Hull. “It’s a very compact student area.”

Scarborough is a small town on the North Sea coast of England and home to one of two campuses at the University of Hull. The pubs offer traditional British food such as roast beef, Yorkshire puddings, sausage and mash, meat and two veg, and the ubiquitous fish and chips.

Unlike the pristine 70-degree weather that hits South Florida at this time of the year, exchange students like Santiyani are wrapped up in their down jackets with hats, scarves and gloves on in much colder temperatures.

The weather, however, isn’t the only big difference between Miami and England either.

“I think students from the states struggle here because they think it’s going to be British speaking and it’s not going to be a culture shock,” Hall said. “It actually is [a culture shock] for students from the U.S. because they presume it is not going to be.”

Santiyani said that although England is completely different from South Florida, she hasn’t experienced any sort of “culture shock” just yet.

“Miami can get overwhelming and busy,” Santiyani said. “Here, time is appreciated and things don’t move at such a hurried pace.”

Compared to many

exchange students who may find themselves lost in a new culture, Santiyani realizes that she continues to remain unaffected by the big differences between Miami and her new home.

“Everything I see and get to know I fall in love with,” she said. “It is just one of the best experiences I have had and it has only just begun.”

During the first week of the semester, international students had to face to face register with their departments for registration for their classes.

“This is a smaller city and is more old fashioned,” Hall said. “All the student housing is close to each other, you can pop in and out and really enjoy the social side of it as well.”

“We are still very English in that way,” Hall said.

Santiyani also notices how the British are seemingly more cordial.

“In Miami, people seem to be tense, insensitive and angry,” she said. “The people here are just so friendly and welcoming.”

While many people in the Magic City may disagree with that assessment, the University of Hull has a reputation for its positive approach to teaching.

According to the 2012 National Student Survey in Britain, 88 percent of Hull students praised the professors’ ability for “enthusiasm” on their respective topics.

-life@fiusm.com



Campus Resources



Dear Nick,

What are some resources on campus for gay students? I’m new to FIU and feeling lonely.

A.L.
graduate student
hospitality management

Dear A.L.,

FIU has many opportunities for LGBT students from groups to counseling; with the right direction you are certain to find meaningful connections. I sat down with Dr. Tyler Wasson who is the LGBT specialist here at CAPS to ask for his unique perspective on resources for LGBT students here at FIU. Dr. Wasson recommended “the first place students can look is the website lgbt.fiu.edu, this page has information about all of the LGBT organizations on campus, a calendar of events, and links to more information.” Dr. Wasson mentioned that there are a variety of upcoming events here at FIU. He told me that April is full of gay pride events here at FIU, and also there is a statewide gay student leadership conference entitled FCPC “Ignite” being held at FIU with three full days of workshops and presentations addressing gay college student needs. Dr. Wasson mentioned that “the stonewall pride alliance is a great place to connect with other students in a variety of settings and formats. Additionally, the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services is a great hub of information and they have their finger on the pulse of what’s going on, many students may not be aware that there is even a fraternity (Delta Lambda Phi) here on campus for gay, bisexual, and progressive men. There is also a student activist organization (GLBT Advocacy Coalition) for those who are interested in more political issues locally and nationally.” In addition to all these great resources students can always come and talk with counselors here at FIU counseling and psychological services where we can help students explore their identity and make meaningful connections.

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

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After up and down season, Panthers await WNIT decision

RUBEN PALACIOS
Staff Writer

The regular season is in the rear view mirror and the Sun Belt Conference Champions have been crowned. The women's basketball team fell to eventual champions Middle Tennessee State University in the semi-finals and now all they can do is wait for a potential bid to play in the Women's National Invitational Tournament. The Panthers finished the season with a 19-12 (12-8 SBC) record.

Prior to the first tip-off of the year, the Panthers were picked to finish second in the East division of their conference behind only MT. The coaches in the conference recognized the amount of talent the Panthers could put out on the floor. More importantly, they recognized Jerica Coley, the reigning conference Player of the Year, was returning for her junior campaign in the FIU navy and blue and voted her the Preseason Player of the Year.

Coley did not falter in the limelight. The 2012 Associated Press All-American dominated the conference, along with any other team put on the floor with her, on her way to a second consecutive Player of the Year award. Coley, who is the lone Panther to ever snag a POTY award, became the first in FIU history to repeat as the top player in the conference. As of March 6, Coley continues

to lead the nation in scoring with an FIU single-season record average of 26.1 points per game.

Head Coach Cindy Russo almost has a regular catch phrase when she sums up the stellar play of her All-American during post-game news conferences: "Thank God for Jerica Coley!"

Coley might have been the lone steady factor in a season otherwise full of peaks and valleys. According to Russo, there were many lows her team endured throughout the year, none worse than the 25-point loss in the second game of the year against Florida Gulf Coast University. Russo noted that a visit to FGCU so early in the season was a difficult situation to come out with a victory from.

The biggest valley this team had to overcome, though, did not come against any particular team; it emerged when the team reluctantly had to deal with injuries. During a difficult mid-season stretch the squad suffered injuries to sophomore Kamika Idom and seniors Diamond Ashmore and Finda Mansare. At the time of their injuries, Idom and Mansare were part of a strong starting unit and Ashmore was the defensive anchor to a thin second unit.

"I'm not completely happy. I think we dropped some games we shouldn't have," Russo said. "That stretch without some of our key players hurt us because we really had some great momentum going at that point."

Despite dealing with the injuries, Russo was extremely proud of the performance her team put up in the games played while dealing with a short rotation. Her squad won three of the five games without Mansare and Ashmore.

Russo, who has been coaching at FIU for 37 years, cited a game against Iowa the day before Thanksgiving as one she will remember for some time to come. The matchup would have been tagged a David versus Goliath, but Russo noted the FIU women's program is no David. The Hawkeyes entered the game as heavy favorites and were coming off a season where they earned a No. 9 seed to the NCAA Tournament.

Iowa led throughout the contest and went into the halftime break with a 34-25 deficit. The Panthers fell behind by as many as 13 in the second stanza, as Iowa went ahead 43-30 at one point. The Panthers went on a 14-0 run, capped off by a three-pointer from Coley, to take their first lead of the contest at 44-43. The two teams would exchange leads for the rest of the game until Iowa held a one-point lead with 18 seconds to play. Iowa gained possession and the Panthers were forced to foul and put the Hawkeyes on the free throw line. What came next was a direct result of the heroics of Coley. A pair of missed Hawkeye free throws ensued, and Coley went coast-to-coast for a layup as the

clock expired, giving FIU a 66-65 victory.

"That was my happiest moment," Russo said as she recalled the upset.

Close games were the Achilles' heel of this year's team. Half of their 12 losses were by single digits. If the Panthers would have pulled off victories in those six games, the season would be looking much different at this point. Their record could easily be 25-6 and their destiny could have been decided already instead of having to sit anxiously for the WNIT committee.

-sports@fiusm.com

HOW THEY STACKED UP

CATEGORY	FIU	Rank
Record	19-12 (12-8 SBC)	5th out of 11
Points per game	61.0	9th
Free throw %	.762	1st
Field goal %	.407	5th
3-point FG %	.245	11th
Rebounding margin	+7.2	1st
Assists	11.6	5th
Steals	6.3	11th
Blocked shots	+7.2	1st

Stats from Sunbeltsports.org

Panthers making a habit of going streaking



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

FRANCISCO RIVERO
Staff Writer

Anybody who is a fan of the film "Old School" will tell you Will Ferrell's "We're going streaking!" line is the staple of that film. The FIU baseball team seems to have adopted Ferrell's philosophy and have gone streaking to start the season.

FIU started the season by winning seven of their first eight games, then proceeded to lose seven straight, and now ride a three-game winning streak through March 15. Baseball has always been a sport of streaks and this is something that the FIU team knows all too well.

"We just got to believe in each other and have each other's backs and that's going to help us keep winning ball games" said freshman pitcher Dillon Maya.

"We just got to play with confidence. We knew we were going to have some struggles but it's all about fighting and staying together and trying to stay positive," said centerfielder Roche Woodard. "Even during the losing streak, we would always tell each other we would get over it and then we finally got over the hump and now we're starting to get things rolling."

PANTHERS WALKING IT OFF

The team's three-game winning streak entering conference play did not come

After a hot start to the season, the baseball team endured a seven-game losing streak to drop to eighth place in the Sun Belt Conference as of March 15.

SEE BASEBALL, PAGE 7

Looking back, the youth of FIU basketball

KEVIN CASTANEDA
Staff Writer

It is undeniable that the FIU men's basketball team had a run for the ages.

Their 11 conference wins this season were the most ever in school history. Their 18 wins were the most the program has ever recorded since joining the Sun Belt Conference 13 years ago.

The team even had a five-game home win streak, which surpassed the four consecutive home wins during the 2006-2007

season.

All this led to the Panthers' first SBC championship game. So after such a glorious run, why did FIU lose to the sixth ranked Western Kentucky Hilltoppers?

Youth and inexperience is what Head Coach Richard Pitino, who could not be reached for comment, would tell you.

His four active seniors this season combined for an average of 14 and half minutes a game. This is skewed, because Manny Nunez averaged only a minute per contest while Cameron Bell was on the floor for about 20

minutes a game.

The point is that Pitino lacked veteran presence on the court. The veteran experience that Bell and Tola Akomolafe provided as returning players from last season was seemingly nonexistent. They were a part of a turmoil fueled 8-21 team just a year ago.

The players who averaged the most minutes were Malik Smith, Tymell Murphy and Jerome Frink, were also the best players.

Smith is a junior who played about 30 minutes a game, and was the leader of the team.

Murphy, who had a great

season for the Panthers, is only a sophomore. His 33-minutes-a-game allowed him to average 15 points and seven rebounds, both team highs.

Finally, freshman Frink clocked in just over 30 minutes per contest. The time he spent on the floor this season was a learning process for Frink, so his time on the floor was a trial by fire approach.

The significance of looking at the amount of minutes allocated explains why the team was so inconsistent this year. Every minute became a learning experience

for all of his players. Even the returning players of last season needed to adapt to the new culture brought by Pitino.

A common theme Pitino used this season was referencing back to past games. That was the only way he could teach his players what they did right or wrong. The only problem is that Pitino never had a way to reference a championship game. This was his first year as a head coach and this was something the Panthers had never done as a program.

-sports@fiusm.com

Despite team struggles, Orlando provides hope for future

STEVEN ROWELL
Staff Writer

Despite the dark cloud of a season the FIU tennis team is having with a 2-10 record through March 15, there has been a ray of sunshine from freshman Carlotta Orlando.

The Italy native has a team leading seven singles victories this season with a record of 8-3 and two of those three losses were matches where Orlando push her opponent to the maximum three sets.

The early success hasn't taken Head Coach Katarina Petrovic by that much surprise.

"Based on her results from before, it's normal, but of course it's more pressure since you play for a team and not for yourself," Petrovic said. "I'm sure if she was playing for herself the results would be even better."

While Petrovic feels she is meeting expectations, Orlando felt somewhat surprised from the success she has had on the court, considering the circumstances when arriving.

When Orlando arrived at FIU, time was not on her side as the freshman came to the University three days before the season opener.

Despite the feeling of

being overwhelmed, Orlando had a good showing in her collegiate debut winning in doubles and singles against Florida Gulf Coast University back on Jan. 26.

While having little time to get up to speed with the team before the season was a challenge, the freshman still had her share of other challenges and transitions to make. That included going from playing on red clay tennis courts in her hometown of Trieste, Italy to the hard courts in the United States.

"Playing on the style of courts here is different, you have to play more aggressive, and faster, but in the red clay I can run a little bit more," Orlando said.

Then there is the typical transition anyone has to make when coming to the U.S. for the first time of getting accustomed to life in the states.

"In Italy, I felt like there was more freedom, but here I feel the people are more helpful and open," Orlando said.

Once Orlando got settled into Miami and FIU, she took the time to get close with her teammates. She points to the trip to New York back on Feb. 3 as one of the key times the

freshman really got to close her teammates and most notably junior Giulietta Boha.

"Giulietta was the first person I started to talk a lot with, in the trip to New York from the car, and being roommates in the hotel, we became a lot closer," Orlando said.

The success that Orlando has had on the court so far has prompted Petrovic to have Orlando as the number one position in singles, which is reserved for the player who the coach feel is the strongest in singles on the team. The fact that Orlando is the number one in singles speaks volumes of the confidence Petrovic has in the freshman.

For Orlando, she sometimes feels the pressure of being the number one in singles.

"Sometimes I get a little nervous because I know I have to play good and sometimes it is pressure knowing you're playing the other team's best," Orlando said.

With the success Orlando has had as a freshman, a bright future might be ahead for Orlando, and perhaps the whole team with the Italy native leading the way.

-sports@fiusm.com



JASEN DELGADO/THE BEACON

In the midst of a rough spring season, freshman Carlotta Orlando has arguably been the team's best player. The Italy native held a 7-3 in singles matches through March 14 and is the only player above .500.

Errors force Thomas to shake up defense

BASEBALL, PAGE 6

without its share of drama. During a two-game home stand where FIU hosted the University of South Florida, both games went into extra innings with both games coming to a thrilling conclusion.

During game one, the Panthers' sophomore catcher Aramis Garcia stepped up to the plate with a runner on and no outs during the bottom of the 11th inning. Garcia was able to end the game with a walk-off double securing the win for FIU in a 5-4 victory over the Bulls.

"You know I was thinking during the game as a coach you always what to know who are the guys that want to be in that situation," Head Coach Henry Thomas said. "The guys who are relaxed enough to have good bat speed or relaxed enough to make good pitches, you don't always have those situations in every game you play. So when the situation does come up you want to see who can deliver in those spots."

The next day was more of the same for the Panthers, as USF was able to tie the game in the top of the eighth. During the bottom of the 10th, USF elected to walk sophomore first baseman Oscar Aguirre in order to pitch to Woodard.

"I actually did feel disrespected and I knew I had to come through on that at bat," said Woodard. "So I just took that as a challenge

instead of disrespect."

The gamble did not pay off for the Bulls as Woodard got the game-winning hit for FIU. Securing another walk-off win for the Panthers and extending the winning streak to three games.

"My main goal for that at bat was just to find a pitch I could hit or I can drive", said Woodard. "Look for a pitch in the strike zone, don't swing at a pitch outside, just find a pitch you can hit and get a nice solid drive out of it".

CHANGING UP THE DEFENSE

Over the last couple of games Thomas has changed up his defensive alignment, which has resulted in fewer errors so far. He moved second baseman T.J. Shantz to left field and moved shortstop Julius Gaines over to second. Filling in Gaines spot is first baseman Edwin Rios and utility man Aguirre filled in the hole at first base.

This new line up was put into effect after a series of games against Ole Miss resulted in the Panther having multiple errors in each of the three games. Despite the success of the new defensive lineup, Thomas was not solid on it becoming a permanent staple just yet.

"We got to see about the changes," Thomas said. "We still got some tweaking we have to do."

-sports@fiusm.com

WANT TO BE A WRITER FOR THE SPORTS SECTION?

Email sports@fiusm.com if you want to become a part of the sports team at The Beacon.

FIU | FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The University Capital Improvement Trust Fund Fee Committee will be holding public hearings on

Monday, March 25, 2013 MMC
GC 140 at 10:30am
Monday, March 25, 2013 BBC
WUC 155 at 2:00pm

The objective of these meetings will be to give interested individuals an opportunity to hear arguments pertaining to the proposed increase to the CITF fee, used to fund student buildings.

The amended fee will become effective in the Fall 2013 term. Students and other interested individuals are invited to attend these meetings.

Panther Square renovations receive approval

VINSON PRESSLEY
Staff Writer

Panther Square is set to undergo a makeover in the upcoming months.

Plans to renovate Panther Square have been approved and work on the project is set to begin May 1. The idea to renovate Panther Square began a year and half ago as simply an effort to remodel the flooring of Panther Square but after further consideration, it was decided that more needed to be done.

According to Pablo Haspel, president of the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus, a decision was made to “make a major investment” in this project, a project that was approved by SGA, the Interim Vice President of Student Affairs Larry Lunsford and University President Mark Rosenberg.

The renovations will include Panther Square itself, the computer lab, the balconies, and the outside area; renovations will be made on all three floors of the Wolfe University Center.

The purpose of giving Panther Square a new look is to “improve student involvement, student interaction [and have] students stay on campus,” Haspel said.

Haspel also said that no renovations have been made to Panther Square in almost 10 years and hopes that the new look will provide “space where [students] feel comfortable staying.”

Andres Bermeo, marketing coordinator for Campus Life-BBC said he is looking forward to the renovations. Bermeo mentioned some of the potential benefits such as a “bigger space to accommodate more students,” an upgraded HD projector which will help with their movie series and updated sound equipment.

Bermeo also suggested that there may be drawbacks, such as “demolition, noise and dust”, but nonetheless is in favor of the renovations.

Davon Johnson, senior journalism major believes the renovations are a plus as long as it does not raise tuition.

“We’re worlds ahead right? Anything we can do to improve our campus, draw more students and make our campus [better],” said Johnson.

Tuition is usually an area of concern for students when they hear about new plans going into implementation.

According to Haspel, these renovations will not cause students to pay more for their education.

“[The renovations] will not affect tuition. The funds for this project came from a special line item from the SGA Annual Allocation and another account from Student Affairs,” said Haspel.

Some students are not against the renovations but do not see a necessary need for them.

“It looks fine now. It’s not

Celebrity Spotting



SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

Gabrielle Union is one of many celebrities that have visited the University’s campuses this year. Others include Spike Lee and Carl Hiaasen.

falling apart,” said Sofia Iglesia, sophomore biology major. Iglesia does not object to the renovations but doesn’t really see a fierce need for them either.

“I don’t feel it’s urgent,” said Iglesia.

The renovations to Panther Square will certainly bring change, something some folks

do not mind.

“Change is always good,” said Bermeo.

-bbc@fiusm.com

Classes may be held in WUC Theater, Ballrooms

VINSON PRESSLEY
Staff Writer

There is a possibility that locations at Biscayne Bay Campus usually reserved to see a movie or get free food for an event, may become areas for classes.

Certain courses will be taught in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre or the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms

“It hasn’t been finalized,” said Pablo Haspel, president of Student Government Council at BBC.

If the ballrooms or theater are chosen to become sites for future classes, the change “will be done to minimize conflict with established programming,” Haspel said.

Haspel elaborated on minimizing the conflict with other events by saying that classes held in the WUC Theatre or ballrooms will probably be scheduled morning or evening classes. Haspel mentioned later on that classes were held in the WUC Theatre just a few years ago.

Emmanuel Jerome, treasurer for the Student Programming Council at BBC is against the idea.

“I hate it. The ballrooms and theatre

are our main venues for us to have our main events like comedy shows, concerts [and the] lecture series,” Jerome said.

Jerome hopes that if this plan is finalized, that classes will be held in the morning since “not many of [SPC’s] events start that early;” “most of SPC’s events run from 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.,” said Jerome.

Marie Pierre, outreach director for the Student Organizations Council has a different perspective on the matter.

“I don’t think it’ll cause complications. MMC uses the SIPA auditorium for classes and there’s been no problems there,” Pierre said.

Pierre later on mentioned that if a problem does occur with scheduling, SOC would try to collaborate with professors and administrators to ensure that events do not interfere with class time. “Education is a priority and it should come first, then an event for SOC,” said Pierre.

She also said if necessary, SOC would either hold the event outside, reschedule or cancel to ensure it does not disturb classes.

Some students have no objections about having classes taught in the WUC Theater or Ballrooms.

Amera Jordan, junior hospitality management major believes having classes in the WUC Ballrooms or WUC Theater will reduce the number of students in other classes by using the available space.

“It is a good idea to reduce the amount of students in the classroom,” Jordan said.

“We can offer more classes but we’ll have to hire more teachers,” said sophomore Sofia Iglesia.

Iglesia would not mind if classes were held in the WUC Theatre or WUC Ballrooms. Iglesia mentioned that this semester she couldn’t take a necessary Physics 2 class because it was already full and she will have to wait until next semester to take it.

“It sucks because there’s only one physics professor at BBC and MMC is too far,” said Iglesia. Iglesia also discussed the size of her science classes. She estimated that her chemistry class had about 200 students and her physics course had about 100-150 students.

Although some students see the potential benefits, others are not quite as confident in this potential decision.

“I appreciate [that FIU] is trying to

reduce class sizes but it would still create bigger classes,” said Karen Gonzalez, sophomore international business major. Gonzalez mentioned that due to the size of the WUC Theatre and ballrooms, it would still foster a large classroom given the amount of space available.

“I think it’s kind of pointless,” said Edwin Gonzalez, sophomore accounting major who pointed out the drawbacks of having courses in the WUC Ballrooms. Gonzalez expressed concern that having courses in the WUC Ballrooms may affect the events that are usually held there.

Gonzalez was in favor of having courses in the WUC Theatre though, saying he would like to see classes such as Introduction to Psychology, Music Appreciation and other courses that students usually take during their first year of college.

Gonzalez mentioned that seeing as his Psychology of Drugs course has over 225 students, he wouldn’t mind seeing courses of this nature held in the WUC Theater.

The WUC administration was not available for comment as of press time.

-bbc@fiusm.com