

ELECTIONS 2012

Romney and Obama: students weigh in

DIEGO SALDAÑA-ROJAS
Contributing Writer

Speakers, stickers and posters welcomed students as they gathered around the screen to watch President Barack Obama speak last Thursday night.

The convention watch party was hosted by the FIU College Democrats on the first floor of the Green Library on Sept. 6, where students watched speakers on and off the screen.

Joe Garcia, who is currently running for a seat in congress, briefly addressed the gathering. Garcia also took the opportunity to ask for support in his campaign. The University is part of the district Garcia would be representing if elected.

Before Barack Obama and Mitt Romney can go head-to-head in the presidential elections they must first be formally nominated by their respective political parties. The nominations for president are formally announced at each party's convention.

Senator Marco Rubio, a local politician, was one of the speakers present at the Republican National Convention. Rubio, a Cuban-American native to South Florida, opened up his speech by asking those who were present to keep Cuba in their prayers so that it may one day be free.

Later on in his speech, the Senator appealed to Cuban and Hispanic sentiment by quoting his father in Spanish. "My Dad used to tell us: 'En este país, ustedes van a poder lograr todas las cosas que nosotros no pudimos.'" He followed by translating what he said in Spanish to

English. "In this country, you will be able to accomplish all the things we never could."

Nicholas Recuset, a sophomore political science and international relations major and supporter of the Republican party, believes the RNC received good media coverage. He enjoyed listening to Rubio and actor Clint Eastwood at the convention.

"They did a good job in choosing Senator Marco Rubio, he was one of my favorite speakers," Recuset said.

A couple minutes into his speech, Governor Romney also briefly mentioned Cuba.

"We Americans have always felt a special kinship with the future when every new wave of immigrants looked up and saw the statue of liberty or knelt down and kissed the shores of freedom just 90 miles from Castro's tyranny."

A theme present at the RNC was the attempt to make Mitt Romney more likable, a view that is supported by junior finance and accounting major Norberto Esquivel, a supporter of the Republican party.

Esquivel stated, "That's what the convention was trying to do, make him seem like a good person, not that boss you don't want to work for."

Recuset also holds the view that the Republican convention attempted to humanize Romney. He stated, "A lot of people view him as very out of touch because he is a business man."

Both of the presidential candidates wives also spoke at the convention and both used emotional

stories to humanize and rally support for their respective husbands. Both mentioned their experiences in college with their husbands and how they were trying times for both.

Michelle Obama directly mentioned how she and her brother were the recipients of financial aid. She also mentioned that her husband is in favor of increasing student aid and lowering interest rates on loans.

Recuset said that this year's conventions served as more of a rally to get party members excited about voting and the prospect of winning.

Junior English major Kieron Williams, who supports Obama but is an Independent, shared a similar view in saying that he relates both conventions to "pep rallies."

Where Williams and Recuset differ is in the view of the individual conventions themselves.

"I feel like the Republicans are sort of based on blind anger...it's like Republicans are throwing a tantrum during the convention," Williams said.

Democratic supporter Ivan Aguilar, senior sociology major, thinks that the Republican convention's agenda is more about making sure President Obama is not re-elected rather than supporting Governor Romney.

Esquivel agrees with Aguilar's statement, but believes it is merely a matter of ideology.

"The Republicans have always wanted to have Obama out. It's right versus left-wing at all times."

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SURVIVING



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Richard Leonard returned a 49-yard punt for a touchdown to give FIU the lead late in the game against Akron. *Check out fiusm.com for full coverage on the game.*

University President addresses critical issues

MELHOR LEONOR
News Director

In the midst of an academic year challenged by Florida's economy and with a student population crossing the 50,000 mark, University President Mark Rosenberg explains how the University plans to do more, with less.

Student Media sat down with the president to discuss what services he wants to improve, the University's ongoing Strategic Plan and other university issues.

FIUSM: What are the plans to address the parking issues faced by the University?

Rosenberg: We could turn this entire campus and the Biscayne Bay Campus into a parking lot. We could pave over everything and there still wouldn't

be enough parking. We are very anxious to see public transportation expanding to the Modesto Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus. If we had been more aggressive about public transportation years ago, we wouldn't be having this problem today. The other thing about building parking garages is that every time we build a parking garage, students pay for it, so the fees will go up. We are not anxious to see student fees go up.

FIUSM: Some students note that most of the construction they see on campus is part of the Academic Health Center and the College of Medicine. Are there any plans in the future to fund the building and remodeling of other departments?

Rosenberg: Yes, there's a lot of investment in the

SEE PRESIDENT, PAGE 2



Legal status no longer reflected in tuition bills

MIRIAM ARIAS
Staff Writer

The legal status of their parents will no longer be reflected on the tuition bills of undocumented students.

Currently enrolled at the University and approaching graduation, senior and sociology major Ivan Aguilar remembers a time in his life when things seemed uncertain and indefinite.

At the age of 10, Aguilar was brought to the U.S. without papers by his mother, who was also undocumented at the time.

In an interview with Student Media, Aguilar explained the difficulties experienced by his mother.

“My mom did everything; she cooked, worked at flower warehouses, worked at clothing factories. The jobs were odd and continuously changing.”

Both Aguilar and his mother have attained legal citizenship.

He also mentioned that his younger sister, who was born and currently resides in Florida, would be asked to pay out-of-state tuition to be accepted in one of the state’s public colleges or universities.

However, students residing in Florida will no longer be asked to

pay out-of-state tuition to attend public colleges and universities, regardless of their parent’s legal status.

On Sept. 4, Federal Judge K. Michael Moore deemed it unconstitutional to require students to pay out-of-state tuition because their parents could not provide their legal status.

Prior to Judge Moore’s statement, children of undocumented parents were forced to pay out-of-state tuition to receive an education.

Senior and sociology major Jessica Cherubin commented on the decision.

“About time someone saw the indifference and made a decision to benefit them as opposed to holding them back,” Cherubin said.

Ediberto Roman, professor at the College of Law and specialist in immigration law, is worked to abolishing this law.

In an interview with Student Media, Roman noted that, along with students, the Southern Poverty Law Center and Students Working for Equal Rights are working toward this common goal.

SWER leader, Frida Ulloa, shared her thoughts on the subject.

She stated that it was wrong and illogical to not

PIT FIGHT



ALFONSO YEC//THE BEACON

Ricky Semiglia (blue shirt) sophomore majoring in recreation and sports management grapples during a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Exhibition.

allow Florida residents to pay in-state tuition.

Roman stated that this law overlaps the 14th Amendment, which grants citizenship to all children born in the U.S.

However, this law declares that the way to claim residency is through their parents.

He believes that the law’s intent is to attack undocumented parents through their children.

Another important subject for Roman is the

deferred action passed by President Barack Obama.

The young adults who fall under this criterion are those who have lived in the U.S. for a minimum of five years, arrived before the age of 16 and are 30 or younger.

Though the action in no way guarantees the attainment of legal citizenship, it will allow immigrants to receive a permit to work. The in-state tuition fee, however, does not apply to them.

Similar to the example of Aguilar, many young adults find themselves in this situation and although Aguilar received legal citizenship, many others have not been so lucky.

According to Roman’s assessments, young adults who meet the criterion should be eligible to pay in-state tuition just like the children of undocumented parents.

Roman believes that the deferred action passed by President Obama is a step

in the right direction. Presidential Candidate Mitt Romney does not support the deferred action.

“It is an act of courage that they out themselves,” Roman said. “My hope is to continue to fight for the Dream Act.”

With Obama and Romney at ends on this issue, the future of this deferred action is still to be determined.

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Campus expansion ‘balanced’

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health side of the house, but there is huge demand from students in terms of enrollment and health is a major area of economic and social development for the community.

I think it’s balanced. I don’t think we are over-investing in one area or the other, but clearly we have to have a world class Academic Health Center and that is where some of the investment, but no all of the investment, is going right now.

FIUSM: Will students be seeing a tuition increase next year?

Rosenberg: The agreement that we have with the legislature and the Board of Governors is that we will raise tuition by up to 15 percent every year for about 7 years to get to the national average... It’s not that we want to raise tuition.

The issue is, how can we continue to provide a quality education for our students?... The short

answer is, I am cautiously optimistic that we won’t have to raise tuition by too much if we do at all.

FIUSM: During an address to the University community this summer, you highlighted the importance of graduating in four to five years. Yet, at the same time, many students are faced with the effects of higher tuition and the popular, “the class I needed to take wasn’t available.” What would you like to say to these students?

Rosenberg: My message is that it’s a shared responsibility. Students need to identify what they want to do and lay that out. We’ve got to guarantee that the courses will be available for students to take in a timely manner.

And so, it’s a shared responsibility. We are going to work hard to do our part. We know we’ve got to do better.

Visit fiusm.com to watch the full interview.

-melhor.leonor@fiusm.com

“... it’s a shared responsibility. We are going to work hard to do our part. We know we’ve got to do better.”



Mark Rosenberg
University President

Greek life, hell on earth

ALEX SORONDO
Asst. Opinion Editor

Rush week has ended and, for better or worse, more have fallen to the fanaticism of Greek life.

I speak as an outsider, of course; a plebeian; a measly “GDI,” as they so charmingly label us. (I won’t spell out the acronym for you here. Rather, I encourage you to approach the nearest sorority or fraternity member and ask them yourself.)

Being uninitiated, having never pledged a fraternity nor set foot in a frat house, the immediate and valid rebuttal to my skepticism about Greek life will be that, in my simple naiveté and obstinacy, I fear what I don’t understand, and refuse to understand what I fear.

“We can speak only of the general risk in having them on campus, and weigh the pros against the cons.”

The argument has also been made that those of us who regard Greek life with suspicion and disdain do so out of envy. The parties, the familial camaraderie, the luxuries.

We “independents” suspect we won’t fit in, and so rather than risking our self-esteem by pledging and being rejected we just demean them from afar.

The logic is clear. But while the philanthropic efforts of Greek organizations, when put together, no doubt yield gargantuan benefits for a range of charities, and the college experience of its many members is perhaps immeasurably enhanced, Greek life is nonetheless, in the minds of many, paired by immediate association with elitism, extravagant and (this by even

the consensus of its members) gouging expenses, and – at least at our University – political corruption.

Let’s not forget rape.

A few bad apples, the common Greek response has it, shouldn’t reflect the health of the bunch. Very true.

But when speaking of an institution that proves, consistently, to be corrupt and, in pockets, void of scruples (responsible, as they are, for everything from rape to – granting certain leniencies in one’s definition of torture – “hazing”), there seems to me no question of its insidiousness.

Rebuttal: “Is the institution responsible for the indiscretions of its members?”

To a degree, yes. Sororities and fraternities tell their members incessantly that they, as individuals, reflect the integrity of the organization. Punishments are in order, with certain groups, for members who appear on facebook with alcohol.

They pursue, the overwhelming majority, an upstanding image, encouraging charity and good will.

But people have been killed by hazing, women have been raped, and it’s all gonna continue.

It isn’t fair to speak of the moral fiber of each individual member on the basis of sparse crime; nor, even, to speak of the integrity of every sorority or fraternity.

We can speak only of the general risk in having them on campus, and weigh the pros against the cons.

Imagine, however, a group of rich men coming to our university, asking for housing.

The men tell us, in a public address, that they promise to give us tremendous parties, to donate \$1 billion to charity each year, and to serve the University with unflinching devotion for the duration of their stay.

In exchange, however, one of them will kill a student every few years by forcing the kid to drink himself to death, and he’ll rape a handful of women each year.

Meanwhile, he and the rest of the group will be putting money toward cancer research, feeding the poor, housing the homeless. All we have to do is look away.

For some, it’s worth it, and I can see the rationale. I, however, would rather not be complicit.

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JUST KEEP SWIMMING



Going greek, not that bad

JENNA KEFAUVER
Staff Writer

This week I did the last thing I ever thought I would do. I went through Panhellenic Sorority Recruitment.

I never really liked sororities. But for some reason, about two weeks ago, I decided that I should pursue one. All I had to lose was \$40 and five weeknights. So on Friday, Aug. 31, about 30 minutes before the registration deadline, I ran into the Campus Life office, and turned in my application, part of me confident and a much larger part of me wondering what I had just done.

With butterflies in my stomach, I tried to assure myself that one of the sororities would recruit me. But, no matter how often I reassured myself, I couldn’t fight this feeling that I was going to show up on Bid Day and my Bid Card would say “No, just go home.”

My boyfriend, ever the reassurer, asked me the next night: “What happens if someone doesn’t get picked?”, to which I responded, “You go home to Ben and Jerry and you cry.”

I’ll be honest, I’m pretty awkward. I am socially inept when it comes to small talk, and then when I start talking, I don’t stop. It was cause enough, I thought, to doubt whether I could convince at least one of the seven sororities to choose me from 500 other, probably more sorority-esque girls.

At the Meet Your Rho Gamma night, they played a video, which almost made me cry. A surprise in that I wasn’t expecting to trigger my emotions; slightly less of a surprise in that I cry at just about anything. I left, that night, feeling excited, planning my outfits for the rest of the week, but still absolutely terrified of rejection, and confused by feelings I was having.

They told us that night, when we asked how we’d know which sorority to join, that we would “just know”, that we’d “feel at home”. Which sounded like a lot of evasive nonsense to me at the time.

But when I went to Sorority 101, I felt that feeling. Not like I could spend the rest of my life in that room, but I was getting comfortable. Maybe this was because I was becoming somewhat more comfortable in my own skin and didn’t feel like passing out anymore.

The bad thing about sorority recruitment is that they ask you the same questions they ask 500 other girls, and they get relatively similar answers every time. You have to be that one different girl. So I tried to switch up the way I worded my answer each time.

At the end of that night, four out of seven of the sororities had dropped me. I’m not going to lie and say

I wasn’t sad; I was devastated. And I was really upset that I felt that way.

So I went home and tried to not cry and be pathetic. And I somehow succeeded.

I went back the next day to find out that my top choice had dropped me. I was angry, but I decided that, having at least been invited back to two parties, I should try to make the best of things. And so I went to the first party of the night, watched their Sisterhood and Traditions video and I cried. And it was ridiculously embarrassing. So in an attempt to stop my crying, I asked a question I had asked Tuesday night, to the same exact girl. And she remembered, which sucked.

But it was okay, because I had found that feeling I was looking for, the sisterhood that I didn’t think existed.

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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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REC CENTER

LOSE IT

REC Center helps students and staff lead healthy lives

JODIANN JACKSON
Contributing Writer

Students are losing it at FIU — weight that is.

On Sept. 4, contestants in the Lose It program offered at the Rec Center entered an intensive 12-week program to try to lose weight for this semester.

This includes three days a week of group personal training at times suitable to participants' schedules. Their exercise regiment will be regulated by staff that are "Biggest Loser" qualified by the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America.

For the first week, contestants will be greeted with an assessment. There will be two assessments for comparison, one at the beginning of the semester and the other at the end.

They will consist of body weight, body fat percentage, and Body Mass Index measurements of upper arm, waist, hips and thighs.

"It's not all about the weight and number, but they do a push up test of regular or modified, and the plank test regular or modified as well," said Janette Janero, fitness program graduate assistant. Contestants are welcome to use the scale throughout the semester, but that is for their own personal use.

In fall 2010, the program was originally

named The Biggest Loser because it was based on "The Biggest Loser" television show that has aired since 2004. But since spring 2011, the program has adopted the name Lose It to be more FIU-personalized. The program is also officially certified by

conducted throughout the semester based on the scientific and physiological aspect of weight loss. In the summer, some of the workshops included "Breaking Through Plateau and Learning about the Weight Set Theory," as well as "Relationship with

three winners are offered prizes that are generated through the Rec Center.

"We want to make sure that we educated the students and faculty on practical choices they can make outside the gym to help them reach their weight loss goals as well as in the gym. Weight loss isn't all about working out in the gym, but also when you are not in the gym. Nutrition plays an equally important, if not a more important role in weight loss," said Janero.

She said that what she really likes about the Lose It program is how the gym becomes a second home to the contestants, instead of a place they used to be intimidated by. She also mentioned that in the past, quite a number of participants were diabetic, and Type-2 diabetes can be helped by exercising alone.

Over 130 people have signed up online through a now paperless process, where in the past the whole process. Lose It is now doing the majority of the paperwork online through the scheduling and the meal plan option.

Over 60 contestants are now participating, and this semester more students have signed up than staff.

Everyone in the program will not only shed some pounds, but also compete for a grand prize.

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"We want to make sure that we educated the students and faculty on practical choices they can make outside the gym to help them reach their weight loss goals, as well as in the gym."

Janette Janero
Graduate Assistant
Fitness Program

"The Biggest Loser."

Apart from group personal training, the metabolic test and nutrition plan, contestants can look forward to weekly "Tools for Success." Additionally, little tokens, such as window decals for participants with a reminder to "Ditch the Drive Through" and little bells for the fridge and cabinets, were given to each contestant.

There will also be two workshops

Food."

Janero also mentioned new elements to look forward to this semester, like a partnership with the Office of Sustainability to do walks within the preservation. There will also be a dietetic and nutrition student who will offer a one-on-one counseling session.

But contestants shouldn't forget the competitive edge to the program. The top

CAMPUS LIFE!

University students open game studio for "dreamers"

HOLLY MCCOACH
Staff Writer

Dreams can be difficult to remember for some University students, but they may now only be triangular, circular and x-shaped buttons away.

The term oneironaut refers to someone who explores and travels in their dreams. It became part of the name of the gamestudio, Oneironaut Games—a creation of two University students.

Incubated in late July at the Game Developers Guild on campus, Gio Peralto-Pritchard, a sophomore information technology major, and Carlos Gonzalez, a junior communication arts major, formed the studio.

"People have aspirations. People have dreams. As a company, we all have dreams," said Peralto-Pritchard.

Without a South Florida or Miami game group, Peralto-Pritchard and Gonzalez harvested Oneironaut Games hoping to cater to the strong culture and community.

Although the studio is young, and not yet at its peak, two games have already been strung up by the creators, along with

other members of the studio.

Their first game is currently available to the public. With the mindset of providing free, fun and games, Oneironaut Games starts their journey with "Battle Ninja Otter."

Their second and newest game "HarmEvil" is their first real game with good development provided by a great programming team. Gamers create characters to match their personality to provide engagement between the character and gamer.

Examples of characters include a tiger which quickly battles obstacles, a tank that is slow but strong, and a mouse that is neither slow nor fast and uses intellect to outsmart the others.

Even though the creators are avid fans of all games, they have their preferences when it comes to how video games should be created.

Gonzalez is encouraged by the solid stories and characters of modern games, but finds that it makes the game tedious. However, his fascination with them continues to make his viewpoints positive.

"There's a whole culture to [fighting games]. It's a competitive feel to the game... it's like

reading a book," said Gonzalez.

However, Oneironaut Games focuses on improving the foundations of mostly old school games.

"We are about the challenge. We are trying to reinvent all the ways of challenge. We are going for entertaining the players themselves while they are playing the game," said Peralto-Pritchard.

Oneironaut Games is interactive with the public, because its creators demand feedback from students and gamers alike.

"We want to be open to anyone who is interested in our goals. We like testers, and we want people to really be critical," said Gonzalez.

The creators recently began a Kickstarter account, a website that allocates a platform for projects of all sorts. With the Kickstarter, students and gamers can help support Oneironaut Games.

"If people are really interested in the game development industry, they can look at the Kickstarter tiers. We say in the Kickstarter that you can meet up with us," said Peralto-Pritchard. "We will be teaching you the tools of the trade," he said.

For enthusiastic gamers, this is the opportunity to meet



PHOTO COURTESY OF ONEIRONAUT GAMES

up with the game developers, provide feedback, and learn more about the industry. The Game Developers Guild also provides hands on experience for learning possibilities.

Although Oneironaut Games is a small group, they work as a company and hope to create a culture, or perhaps even further

current one.

With influences from Nintendo to the Game Developers Guild, Oneironaut Games hopes to grow into something huge, something that gamers of South Florida can identify with and expand with.

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CAMPUS LIFE!

Making the most with what little time we have

ANTONELLA MORALES
Contributing Writer

With the fall semester already in full swing, many students walk around campus with their minds on fast-forward, running through everything they need to get done. The one thing most of these students have in common is the question of how they'll be able to do it all.

When a new semester begins, it's only natural for students to think about classes and how to do their best. But, like life, school is never all work and no play. Students also like to focus their attention on their social lives, such as hanging out with friends or joining clubs in hopes of making new friends.

And on a serious level, there are students who have to think about their jobs and how they'll be able to fit

studying into their schedules while completing their work hours.

While most students are still trying to figure it out, some have already been able to make the most of their time and become comfortable with their schedules.

Jumi Ayo-Ajayi, freshman computer engineering major says that while she's strict with her studies, she'll find time to hang out with friends in between classes or she'll hang out with them when she's done with all her work.

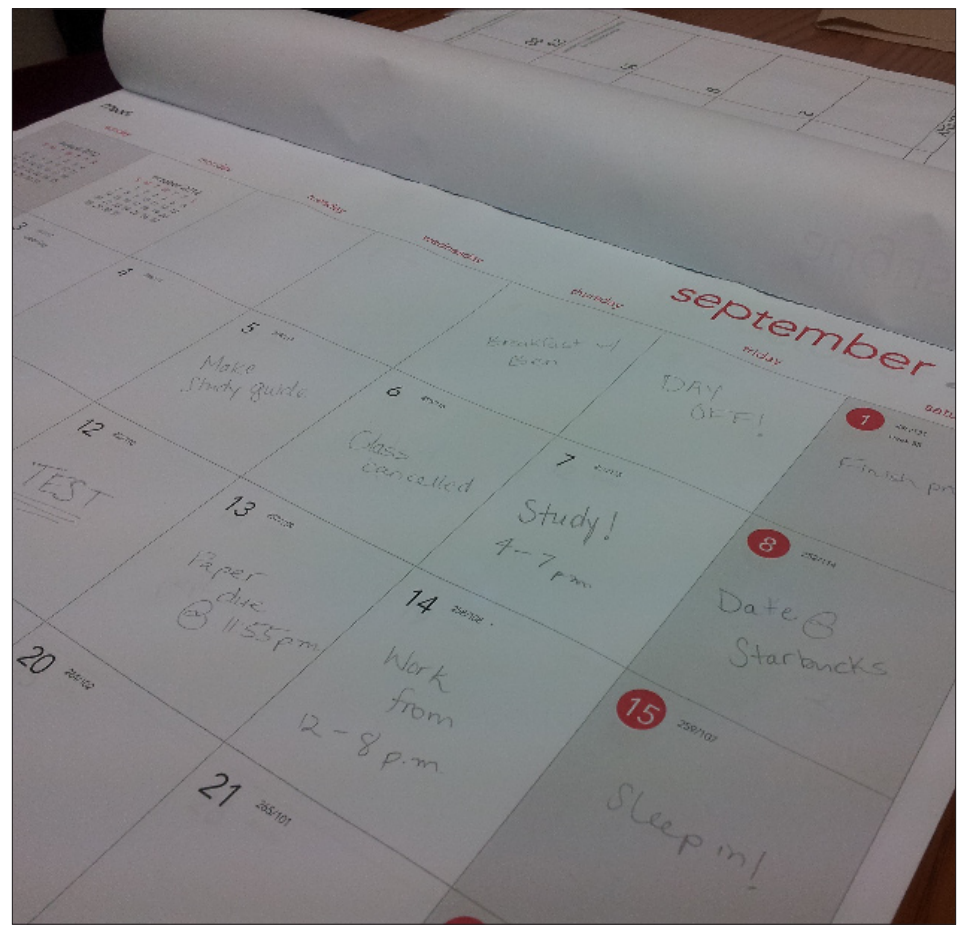
Some students find it easy to keep track of their time. One such student is junior Ariel Diaz. Diaz works at the check-out counter at the Green Library, and his answer to the dilemma is, "Time management and no procrastinating."

While some students tell themselves to stay away from procrastinating, others go to greater lengths to keep track of their schedules.

To keep balance of her sport and studies, freshman golf player Megan McAaron added, "Make a list of everything you have to do and stretch your work to get it done, because that's the most important thing."

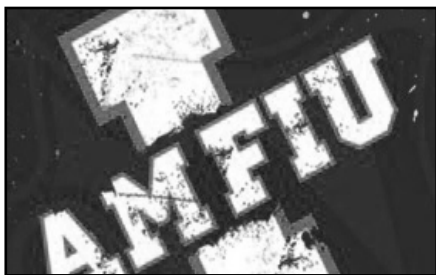
However, there are still a few students out there who keep it simple and use their planners. Junior Becca Chavarria keeps a planner and organizes her week beforehand. She said that there is nothing really frustrating about her schedule and it's about getting everything done while making time to study.

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ESSY BY LA MONEDA/THE BEACON

CALENDAR FALL 2012 EVENTS



KEEP UP WITH THE CALENDAR FOR A FRESH UPDATE OF EVENTS HAPPENING AROUND FIU

MONDAY, SEPT. 10

CHATOOGA RIVER RAFTING & ZIPLINE ADVENTURE REGISTRATION OPEN
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC REC Center

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CIRCLE
WHEN: 3-4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC (Library 1st floor- Writing Center)

MEET YOUR DEAN
WHEN: 3:30-5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC WUC 221

ONCE UPON A TIME IN LITHUANIA AND THE FLORIDA COLLECTION
WHEN: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Jewish Museum of Florida - FIU @ 301 Washington Avenue • Miami Beach • Florida 33139

HEALTH & WELLNESS WEEK FALL 2012 - BROWARD PINES CENTER
WHEN: 4:30-6:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Broward Pines Center Main Lobby

BEER AND BUTCHERY PAIRING
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$75
WHERE: 8 Oz. Burger Bar

TUESDAY, SEPT. 11

CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES: #1 "THE POLES"
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Wertheim Concert Hall - Wertheim Performing Arts Center 10910 SW 17 Street, Miami, FL 33199

CASA DE HA-HA'S FOUR-YEAR ANNIVERSARY
WHEN: 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Sweat Records

ONCE UPON A TIME IN LITHUANIA AND THE FLORIDA COLLECTION
WHEN: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Jewish Museum of Florida - FIU @ 301 Washington Avenue • Miami Beach • Florida 33139

ROCKIE FRESH
WHEN: 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10
WHERE: Grand Central

PHOTOSHOP: SELECTIONS & LAYERS
WHEN: 12:30-1:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC AC1-393

"DESIGN FOR A LIVING WORLD"
WHEN: Daily
HOW MUCH: \$25 - \$30
WHERE: Coral Gables Museum

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- Updates on the FIU homepage www.fiu.edu and <http://news.fiu.edu>
- Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/floridainternational>
- Twitter, <http://twitter.com/FIUnews>
- FIU Help Line: 305-FIU-HELP (305-348-4357)
- Email messages to your FIU account
- FIU Alerts (cell phone text messages)*
- InformaCast (phones in classrooms, offices and outdoor speakers)*
- Local news media (TV, radio)

*Only used for emergency situations in which there is an imminent threat or ongoing threat to life and safety.

MAKE A PLAN

Preventative actions you should take now include:

- Speak with loved ones about a communications plan or a meet up plan. Cell phones are not always reliable in times of emergency.
- If you live in a hurricane evacuation zone, have a plan on where you will go.
- FIU residence hall students should plan on going home or staying with a friend if a hurricane threatens. Student shelter will be available, however it will be a last resort and amenities will be limited.

GET A KIT

At minimum, a kit should contain enough food and water for 3 days. Other items include:



South Florida is entering the most active part of the hurricane season with September 10 marking the peak of the season. Are you ready? Go to <http://dem.fiu.edu> or scan the QR code for more preparedness information. Be informed, make a plan, get a kit!

FIU Department of Emergency Management 305-348-0670

**DISASTER
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MMA

Club gains experience in tournaments

LUIS D. GUTIERREZ
Staff Writer

Twenty years of blood, sweat and overcoming stereotypes have finally put Mixed Martial Arts on the map.

One of America's fastest-growing sports has captivated audiences by combining aggression with artistry to create a spectacle performance.

Now Daniel Perez, lead instructor of FIU's MMA club, hopes his program can create a spectacle of their own.

"Every day I'd love to watch this club continue to grow," he said. "The mixed martial arts have been a huge part of my life for the last ten years and I hope to pass my passion on to other people in order to make this club one of the best."

Founded in 2009 by student David Cano, the club has already competed in various tournaments during their young history. Among those is the North American Grappling Association's tournament held annually across various U.S. states.

This year, all five members chosen to represent FIU at NAGA's tournament in West Palm Beach placed in competition with third-year student Yannick Saez coming in first. Despite being on a steady rise however, Saez sees his club as a piece of art — an ongoing process.

"Every time we step on the mat, I want my teammates and I to reach a certain level we had not reached before," Saez said. "For me, it's like taking a piece of clay, molding it, and creating a sculpture out of it. We're all trying to create that sculpture, both physically and mentally."

A solid piece of the sculpture is Perez's own mixed martial arts academy, located in the Miami area. Sunset MMA first opened its doors last March and Perez believes his newly inaugurated academy will mold FIU's squad.

"Our academy gives us as a club, more time to train," Perez said. "It allows us to practice above and beyond school confines and I truly believe that will make our competitive team better."

The opening of the academy was a personal accomplishment for Perez, however, it was also a measurement of how far he had come as a teacher.

Perez stepped aside from competitive combat four years ago to take care of his father, who was suffering at the time from pancreatic cancer. Upon his father's passing, it was up to him to take care of his mother, which in the process, created an enthusiasm for teaching.

"When I began taking care of my dad, I didn't have much time to step into competition," Perez said.

"After he passed away, my focus shifted to taking care of my mom, where I started teaching more. My love affair with teaching the martial arts grew by day and soon enough, I knew it was what I really wanted to do."

Perez also matured as a competitor, instructor, and person through his father's battle with cancer, but emphasized having the martial arts in his life during the time period.

"Having jiu-jitsu and the martial arts in my life was instrumental in getting the strength to cope with my dad's battle with cancer," Perez said. "If I didn't have the sport in my life during that time, I don't know where I would be now, because it was something I could always turn to for strength and camaraderie with my fellow students. It gave me a strength that I now try to pass on to others."

The rise of MMA has everyone talking and Perez hopes his club can garner a similar type of attention. The doors of Sunset MMA are open with an interest to broaden FIU's martial arts club and to build what he calls the sculpture.

"In direct contrast to the stereotype, we're not a bunch of tough dudes," Perez said.

"We want people with an interest in the martial arts to come out and join us. We help them become better at the martial arts and they help us become better as a squad."

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SWIMMING

New diving coach brings championship pedigree

STEVEN ROWELL
Contributing Writer

In late August, the swimming and diving team announced the addition of new diving coach Rio Ramirez.

Ramirez comes into FIU with a lot of success under his belt. (While at the University of Miami, Ramirez won four national championships.)

He won the one-meter event in 1997, 1998, and 1999. In addition to winning championships in the three-meter, in 1999 he won the platform event as well.

Additionally, Ramirez has a good resume in international competition. He won a Pan American Championship in 1991, was a USA National Champion in the

synchronized three meter dive in 2000, first in the Federation Internationale de Natation Grand Prix for the one-meter in 2000 and also finished third place in the Olympic Trials the same year.

"It was always thrilling for me and a very exciting time of my life. It was generally exciting to be coached by one of the best coaches in the world [University of Miami diving coach Randy Ableman]," Ramirez said. "Always going to practice and seeing so many talented divers kept me always wanting to be better."

This will be Ramirez's first time coaching for an NCAA swimming and diving program. For Ramirez, it was without question that he wanted to coach

at FIU.

"At first, I definitely knew I wanted the job, I saw a great opportunity here because there is so much potential. Just meeting with [Swimming coach Randy Horner] and knowing his coaching style and his philosophy," Ramirez said. "It really resonated with me. Also always finding moments to teach [swimmer] not only to swim and dive but life lessons which I love to do that."

Ramirez said that under Ableman, he learned countless intangibles in the art of being a coach.

"He always encouraged people to bring a positive attitude. He was always coaching in a good positive light, very supportive,"

Ramirez said. "He was always believing in the athletes and seeing the good in them. I feel like that is something I can bring not only here but everywhere I go."

So far Ramirez has had one week of practices with his new squad and is pleased with what he has seen especially from junior Sabrina Beaupre, and incoming freshman Madalyn Golightly.

"Sabrina, she is very talented and has an amazing training background. I know her coaches from before and their coaching style which is very high level. The other diver recruited this year, Madalyn Golightly is a very strong diver, she doesn't have much experience in diving yet, but I can see she is hungry

for taking more information, experimenting new things and improving her diving," said Ramirez.

With Beaupre, who is already becoming one of the top divers in the NCAA, and with another promising incoming freshman in Golightly.

It is clear that excitement is brewing for the swimming and diving team and for coach Rio Ramirez as he begins a new chapter in his life as the new diving coach here at FIU.

"I'm looking forward to recruiting more divers for this program, making a bigger, something that can transcend. That's my goal."







-sports@fiusm.com

WEEKEND GAMES



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Tourek Williams chases down Akron running back Juwan Chisholm in FIU's win.

FOOTBALL	WOMEN'S SOCCER	MEN'S SOCCER
 Akron 38  FIU 41	 FIU 0  LSU 0	 FIU 3  Wisc. 1
Team Records		
Akron (0-2) FIU (1-1)	FIU (2-2-1) LSU (3-1-2)	FIU (4-0-0) Wisc. (1-2-1)

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wade entering busiest offseason of career

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Staff

Dwyane Wade's offseason is now pretty much over.

The Miami Heat still have more than three weeks before assembling for training camp and starting the defense of their NBA title, but for Wade, summer vacation is essentially complete.

He's been cleared to return to the court and rehab from offseason knee surgery, a process he's already started.

And he'll spend the next couple weeks bouncing from coast to coast on a tour for his book on fatherhood that was released Tuesday.

It means long, not-exactly-relaxing days will be the norm for Wade until training camp. Case in point: He was out of his hotel room in New York before 8 a.m. Tuesday, and didn't return until after midnight, at least a half-dozen events jamming his calendar.

He calls the people around him Team No Sleep, and for the next couple weeks, that'll be accurate.

"I think when it's hard to find the energy, I think about all the things I want to do," Wade said. "Whenever I feel like I don't have the energy, I have to go back and think about where I've come.

This is what I wanted so let's keep going, let's keep pushing, let's keep doing."

That's his business mantra. It also applies to basketball.

Miami's first game against the Boston Celtics isn't until Oct. 30, so there's plenty of time to get sharp.

But Wade's process of getting ready for his 10th NBA season, physically and mentally, is under way.

He had a couple slices of pizza for lunch Tuesday, meaning that when he got to the taping of CBS' "Late Show with David Letterman," Wade had to pass on cookies left in his dressing room.

Such is life for those who want more NBA titles.

"It's about now I start thinking about certain things," Wade said. "The season, it's still back here, in the back of my mind. It's not right here yet, not all the way in the front of my mind yet. But we're getting closer."

Wade said his rehab is ahead of schedule. He was on the court for workouts last week.

Clearly, though, he's not going to maniacally test his knee for a while. With his itinerary of promoting "A Father First: How My Life Became Bigger Than Basketball" in New York jam-packed through the rest of this week, before the tour moves



LYNNE SLADKY/AP IMAGES

on to other cities, Wade is taking a few days off from court work.

And when eyebrows rise when he says that, Wade quickly points out that going a bit easy at first not only was the plan, but is the smart plan as well.

"Coming off knee surgery, I

couldn't possibly work out every day anyway," Wade said. "I have to work my way into things. I just left Los Angeles. I worked out for the whole week I was there. And now I needed a few days off. So when I leave here, I go to Miami and I'll work out again there. It's

the way we mapped it out. It's no good for my knee right now to put that much pressure on it."

His shoulder, that's getting a workout now.

Wade signed 575 copies of his book at two events on Tuesday, both of which had people lining up hours before the doors opened. One man told him he flew in from China just to get an autograph.

A woman told him she missed her first day of classes at Penn State to make the trip to New York and stand in line to spend a few seconds with him instead.

When the Heat visit the Knicks this winter, Wade will be booed. Apparently, New York loves him the rest of the time, as evidenced by people standing outside his hotel for 12 hours to catch a glimpse, or others somehow who figured out his traffic pattern and ran up to his vehicle at red lights, unsuccessfully begging for autographs.

"Everybody wants to be associated with winners," Wade said. "Phones get picked up a lot easier when you're a champion. I understand some people might want to see my book, some people might want to see me, some people might want to be there because you're a champion. I see all sides of it. I appreciate it. When someone says 'Hey, Champ,' it never gets old."

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Ballot by Ballot, the polls fill up

Organizing for America registers voters on campus

STEPHAN USECHE
Staff Writer

Are you registered to vote? Presidential elections are approaching and Organizing for America is making sure everyone at the University is registered to vote.

The project has been initiated by a group of volunteers that promotes and supports the democratic campaign, but don't advertise for President Barack Obama when they register students.

Organizing for America also tabled at involvement fairs during freshman orientations, and according to Leonardo Curiel, president of College Democrats at MMC, they register 30 new students coming

into campus every day.

"They make a big part of the population that votes, so we just need to make sure they vote," said volunteer Alexandria Salvo, public relations major.

This movement has so far focused on Modesto Maidique Campus, but with its three new acquired Biscayne Bay Campus members, they hope to expand to BBC as well.

"I really think we should get more people to vote," said Marisol Medina, journalism major. "I personally can't vote, but if I could I would like that they come to me so I don't have to go somewhere else."

On the other hand students like Daniel Pallares, architecture major, finds it really annoying when they approach him since

“

[Students] make a big part of the population that votes, so we just need to make sure they vote.

Alexandria Salvo
Volunteer
Public Relations major

”

he's already registered.

Even though this group supports the Democratic Party, they're also receptive to register republican students.

"Even if you're a Republican, we're not going to take

your registration and just throw it away," said Salvo. "All we're trying to do is make sure that every vote counts."

According to Salvo, the Republicans' strategy is voter suppression. Instead of trying

to educate young people on the importance of voting, they would rather not and have the least amount of people involved.

The College Republicans at MMC did not register as many students as Organizing for America, but they have been promoting and encouraging the republican campaign.

Organizing for America has also been updating voter's information, so when election day comes along, there are no problems at the polls.

"We not only want people to see our side; we want people to notice what each party is for," said Curiel. "And that they decide on their own on which party to vote for."

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OFFICE OF CAMPUS LIFE

Four impacts—thousands of memories

SKYLAR SIEGEL
Contributing Writer

Eleven years have passed, but the memories haven't.

Sept. 11, 2001 marks the day the nation was scarred—close to 3,000 people died and this in turn, robbed the nation of its sense of security.

To remember those who lost their lives, the Office of Campus Life at Biscayne Bay Campus is holding a commencement event on Tuesday, Sept. 11 in Panther Square from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

"It has been held in different magnitudes, from religious/interfaith services, to displays and candle vigils," said Gary Santos Mendoza graduate student assistant in the Office of Campus Life.

Between 100 to 150 students and University employees are expected to attend the commencement event.

"This ceremony is a little bit more solemn," said Mendoza who is also a co-organizer of the event.

Sanjeev Udhani, a senior finance and international business major, was in band class when it happened.

"It was pretty traumatizing, no one knew what was going on in school and parents kept pulling my

classmates out of class," Udhani said. "Everyone was worried and scared that Miami would be the next target."

For Natalie M. Lopez-Rivera, senior majoring in english, 9/11 helped her appreciate those around her more.

"I was one of the fortunate ones whose family members were unharmed by the tragedy but this event really made me appreciate my family even more and taught me to learn to appreciate the people in my life," she said.

Most students were in school when the attacks happened, but Daniel Usma, vice president of programming for Student Programming Council at BBC had a closer experience.

He was in La Guardia airport in New York waiting for a flight to return to his home country, Colombia.

"Because I was traveling alone and didn't speak English, I had no idea what was going on," he said. "Once someone finally told me why my flight had been cancelled, I was in shock thinking how lucky I was not to have had an earlier flight."

At the event, students can speak to one another about 9/11 and reflect upon how it has changed

them.

"A year after 9/11, I moved to New York from Colombia. Because of 9/11 it was very difficult being an immigrant in that time, not only because of the color of my skin, but

also because the government's increase in security measures, making it very difficult for immigrant to obtain a legal status," said Usma.

For the students who may have lost a loved one,

the commencement event will give a chance for everyone to open up.

After his experience in the airport, Usma changed his view on life.

"9/11 made me value life so much more, it made

me aware that life can be taken away in seconds when you least expect it, therefore we must not regret any moment we are alive."

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PANTHER SQUARE SIZZLES



SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

The Heat dancers, Sophie and Alex, visited Panther Square to promote the Miami Heat and interact with students during the Vendor Fair.