

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Mastery Math Lab to boost passing rates

KATIA CANETE
Contributing Writer

Algebra may now get a bit easier. Last Wednesday, the University's President Mark Rosenberg cut the ribbon for the new Mastery Math Lab, a key component in the restructuring of math education.

Located in the Green Library, room 263, the lab brings computer-assisted instruction, which, according to Suzanna Rose, executive director for the School of Integrated Science and Humanity, has found to be useful.

"The passing rate is better... but we wanted to have our own unique features for FIU," Rose said, adding that the lab is part of a Title V grant and as a result was named the "High Tech High Touch Initiative."

Rose explained that this initiative is very important not only because of the technology component but also the "high touch" component, which includes peer-assisted learning instruction.

High touch refers to "the people," Boronat said. "That's the learning assistants in the lab, the faculty in the lab. So, it's not somebody trying to do their homework at home sitting on their bed by themselves, there's people here who can help them right away, immediately, when they have a problem."

Present at the Math Lab are peer-assistants, students who understand math and are also trained to teach it.

"I was surprised by the amount of

students re-taking college algebra, now because students have to come in...they are forced to do the work and have extra help," said Junior Pena, a peer-assistant at the Mastery Math Lab.

The lab is a requirement for MAC 1105.

A new change has also been implemented regarding College Algebra; content has been extracted to create Pre-calculus Algebra, MAC 1140.

"We know from research that students who pass college algebra on their first year are more likely to graduate in a timely way," Rose said.

The University has an average passing rate of 33 percent, a low number when compared to other state universities.

"We realized that all of the other state universities had less content in their algebra because they had a subsequent course."

The inclusion of the Mastery Math Lab will also require students taking algebra and intermediate algebra to visit the lab for a minimum of three hours a week.

According to Rose, a third of students who were taking college algebra were not able to meet or pass the basic minimum pre-test score for the Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces test, otherwise known as the ALEKS test. Student placement is determined by the results of this exam.

According to Consuelo Boronat,

director of the Office for Retention and Graduation Success, the new math sequence varies slightly, depending on what program each student is following.

The math sequence for business is: College Algebra, MAC 1105; Pre-calculus Algebra, MAC 1140; and Calculus for Business, MAC 2233.

The science student's math sequence is: College Algebra, MAC 1105; Pre-calculus Algebra, MAC 1140; Trigonometry, MAC 1114; and Calculus, MAC 2311. MAC 1140 and MAC 1105 can be taken in whatever order the student prefers after taking MAC 1105, but both must be completed before moving on to MAC 2311.

Students in the humanities or social sciences do not need to follow the math sequence.

The math sequence is for students who are going into majors that require calculus, such as engineering, business, science, technology and computing.

In addition to the course changes, there are 210 computers, new furniture and two rooms next to the Mastery Math Lab, located in the Green Library, rooms 261 and 262. These rooms are also going to be utilized to teach an additional component in the new program.

The funds for the new Mastery Math Lab came from the student technology fee.

-news@fiusm.com



PHOTOS BY: ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

President Rosenberg cut the ribbon during the Mastery Math Labs ribbon cutting event, where students enrolled in MAC 1105 will spend a minimum of three hours a week.

WELCOME TO THE RED ZONE



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Freshman Alex Sanchez, music education major, takes a mock sobriety test during the Red Zone event outside of the Graham Center last Tuesday.

RANKING

Colleges in the ranks

MIRIAM ARIAS
Staff Writer

Last month, the Washington Monthly released their annual college rankings, a list that ranks universities based on their contribution to the public good. The three categories universities are rated on are: social mobility, recruiting and graduating low-income students; research, producing cutting-edge scholarships and doctorate degrees; and service, encouraging students to give back to their country.

In the overall ranks, FIU placed 53rd out of 281 colleges and universities.

"This is a ranking that shows we are doing very well in the area we feel most important for us to do well in," University

Provost Douglas Wartzok said.

FIU placed above other Florida colleges such as NSU, FAU and UM, while only placing under the University of Florida.

During the past academic year, FIU also got a few spots in other national rankings.

"We've been increasing in rankings every year and that reflects FIU," stated Dean Acosta of the College of Law, in response to the notably high bar exam passing rate of the University's law graduates.

Opened only 10 years ago, the College of Law has risen considerably in status, particularly during the 2011-2012 academic year. The college was previously unranked, but soon went from 132 to 113 place.

SEE PUBLIC GOOD, PAGE 2



STEM

University to become STEM lab with new institute

MARIELLA ROQUE
Staff Writer

With the launch of the STEM Transformation Institute this week, science, technology, engineering and mathematics students will now tackle their fields hands-on.

The University launched the STEM Transformation Institute on Tuesday, an initiative aiming to create a premier interdisciplinary science, technology, engineering and mathematics think tank at the University and also to become a national laboratory for the STEM fields of education.

The institute will help the 7,500 undergraduate students enrolled in STEM majors get a hands-on experience in the classroom with the goals of improving the classroom environment, conducting research on changes in methods of teaching and developing different types of curriculum materials.

Associate Physics Professor Laird Kramer, founding director of the Institute, explained that the initiative began 10 years ago while the Department of Physics was conducting research projects funded by a large grant.

“We [found] that lecturing is not an effective way of learning,” Kramer said.

“The idea is we want to make classes more actively engaging. We took knowledge from what was out there and applied it to [the University].”

The institute was a response to a national imperative for more scientists and engineers.

“The idea is to get more faculty to do these practices, do more research and become a national model.”

The national need in the science and engineering fields produced an additional million STEM graduates to fill the mounting need of corporations and industries for technologically-experienced professionals.

“The idea is to get more faculty to do these practices, do more research and become a national model,” Kramer said.

The institute will have a “physical and

virtual aspect” that includes “the new Stempel building that will have an active classroom... [and] Viertes Haus is the start of it,” Kramer said.

Along with Kramer, several faculty are aiding the initiative, including Masoud Milani, associate professor of the Depart-

ment of Engineering, Maria Fernandez from the College of Education and an executive committee consisting of deans from the colleges of arts and sciences, education and engineering.

“One of our biggest supporters has been President [Mark Rosenberg],” Kramer said. “This has been a presidential initiative.”

The departments involved in the initiative include physics, chemistry, earth science, biology, mathematics and parts of the colleges of education, engineering and computer science.

The institute is funded internally by the Office of the Provost and a number of departments. Kramer also shared that the goal is to eventually have the institute sustain itself through grants and foundations.

“Our lab is the classroom space,” Kramer said. “These are experiments in what’s working and what’s not working.”

The institute has also been working with Miami-Dade County schools on several student engagement projects. Among these is the “Teach STEM Miami,” a program that provides high-quality science and mathematics teacher preparation for future elementary and secondary school teachers.

“The whole campus is a lab for us,” Kramer said. “There’s really no bounds. We want to look at what impacts students to become professionals.”

Laird Kramer
Physics, Associate Professor

-mariella.roque@fiusm.com

University now in top quartile for public good

PUBLIC GOOD, PAGE 1

Dean Acosta stated the college ranked number one in the state, averaging an 80-90 percent passing score in the bar examinations.

The College of Law is also one of the top 10 best schools for Hispanics and was ranked in the top 10 value schools in the nation.

Acosta attributes this success to both support given by the community and to the drive and determination the students show.

The College of Engineering and Computing has also found itself among the ranks.

The computer science school was ranked second in the nation for bachelor’s degrees from colleges of

engineering.

It placed third in bachelor degrees to Hispanics and tied with the University of Maryland at College Park for eighth place in bachelor degrees to African-Americans.

According to Mirmiran, continued improvement for the college could be achieved through investing in the college’s physical infrastructure and human

resources.

In his assessment, this would grant students a better learning environment and allow faculty to progress their research.

Several other departments in the University have also placed in notable ranks.

Among these is the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, which has been distinguished with holding a major culinary event known as The Food Network South Beach Wine & Food Festival.

The annual event has been active for 10 years and continues to be a renowned success.

The University has been noted for its green initiative. It has been recognized for its participation in the RecycleMania Tournament.

There are several divisions within the tournament including: the Gorilla Prize, total pounds collected; the Per Capita Classic, per person; and the Grand Champion, calculated by deciphering how much of the total waste is recyclable.

The University placed 2nd in 2012 under the Gorilla Prize Division.

Program Assistant from the Office of Sustainability Ali Dutton stated that the program wants to continue

expanding and growing. Dutton reminds everyone that they are welcome to participate.

Dean Mirmiran from the College of Engineering and Computing attributes FIU’s success to the students and faculty.

“We have some of the brightest and most motivated students here at our college. We also have some of the best faculty that I have ever seen—there are those who care deeply for students in the classroom and there are those who are world class researchers in the lab.”

-miriam.arias@fiusm.com



E-BOARD AND PRODUCTION STAFF

CONTACT INFORMATION

EDITOR IN CHIEF

PHILIPPE BUTEAU

BBC MANAGING EDITOR

NADRA MABROUK

PRODUCTION MANAGER/COPY CHIEF

LAURA ALONSO

NEWS DIRECTOR

MELHOR LEONOR

ASST. NEWS DIRECTORS

DIANE ARIAS

BARBARA CORBELLINI-DUARTE

SPORTS DIRECTOR

BRANDON WISE

ASST. SPORTS DIRECTOR

EDUARDO ALMAGUER

LIFE! EDITOR

VANESSA PAREDES

ASST. LIFE! EDITOR

ESSY DE LA MONEDA

OPINION EDITOR

JONATHAN SZYDLO

ASST. OPINION EDITOR

ALEX SORONDO

PHOTO EDITOR

ANDRES BEDOYA

ASST. PHOTO EDITOR

ALFONSO YEC

BBC PHOTO EDITOR

SANA ULLAH

COPY EDITORS

ALEXANDRA SARDI, JENNA KEFAUVER,

JULIA DUBA

RECRUITMENT DIRECTOR

JASMYN ELLIOTT

BUSINESS MANAGER

EDDITH SEVILLA

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA

ROBERT JAROSS

ASST. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA

ALFRED SOTO

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

Fax:

(305) 348-2712

Editor-in-Chief:

(305) 348-1580

philippe.buteau@fiusm.com

Advertising:

(305) 348-6994

advertising@fiusm.com

The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. *The Beacon* is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. *The Beacon* is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by student government.



Program in the Study of Spirituality

How would you feel if one moment you were living your dreams and in another, within a split, unrelenting second, you have joined millions of others devastated by a spinal cord injury? Would you be able to turn such adversity into service to others and a life of selfless giving? Come meet Marc Buoniconti, President, The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, to learn how Marc found his life’s mission and purpose in helping to find a cure for paralysis. *Courage knows no bounds...*

DATE: September 13, 2012

TIME: 6-8 pm

VENUE: Graham Center 243

SPONSOR: Program in the Study of Spirituality

CO-SPONSOR: Theta Alpha Kappa Honor Society

ELECTIONS

Rock the vote, or stop complaining

AARON PABON
Staff Writer

Your roommates are voting on what to eat for dinner tonight, and you decided not to vote. Then you learn that your dinner is Taco Bell, for the seventh night in a row.

Want to complain? Don't. In fact, you don't have the right to complain. Why? Because you didn't vote.

Does any of this sound familiar? It should.

I heard many people complain about how President Barack Obama has done a bad job or how if former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney were to hypothetically win, he would hurt us more.

The people who are complaining are mostly students between 18 and 25, and either didn't vote in the 2008 presidential campaign, or may not vote in the upcoming one.

I decided to ask around FIU and I was surprised to hear that they feel disenfranchised and that their voice is worth nothing.

English-American revolutionary Thomas Paine famously wrote: "Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigues of supporting it."

While at that time he meant bearing arms; this can be applied today. If we step outside of our safety bubble and voice our concern, we can be heard.

The best and most recent example of showing voices can be heard is the fate of the Stop Online Piracy Act and the Protect IP Act.

In 2011, SOPA and PIPA were a series of bills and laws designed to go against Internet piracy, but online watchdog groups, examining what else the bills and laws would do, learned that

it would severely censor the Internet. Users quickly mobilized and signed petitions, and contact their congressmen and local lawmakers to voice their concern on these bills.

According to Democratic Oregon Senator Ron Wyden, over 14 million names were collected in various petitions.

More than 10 million of those signatures were voters, and it is estimated that 6.5 million of them fell under the youth vote age range (i.e. voters within the ages of 18 to 29). If anything, SOPA and PIPA helped proved one thing: the youth vote can help in counting for something.

Unfortunately, this can hardly be said to the youth vote in Florida.

According to the 2012 precinct statistics from the Miami-Dade county elections, over 1.2 million people voted. 65,000 of those voters were in between the ages of 18 to 25.

That is almost 5 percent of the total voters, and the number may be continuing to decrease. In 2011, the number of youth voters was 6 percent, and in 2010, it was 9 percent.

This trend was also present in the 2008 presidential campaign.

According to the Pew Research Center Publications, the youth vote was at its highest since exit polling began in 1972. Pew charts have shown that the number of youth votes was steadily increasing during every major presidential campaign; with the exception of Florida which had a decrease of 3 percent.

Almost every vote in every aspect in the U.S. tends to win by a small margin. In fact, with the exception of three U.S. presidential elections in the 20th century, every result could have been changed if these people voted.

After conducting simple

internet searches and re-reading a high school United States law and government book, it shows that the great wall of government has doors that we as citizens can use.

Here is what we can do to help.

First, register to vote. Around the campus, there are volunteers trying to get people to sign up to vote and/or update their voter registration cards. FIU has programs like Turbo Vote to try to get students engaged in politics.

In addition, the Student Government Association, College Democrats and College Republicans are planning various campus events to get students to be engaged in the elections and help members of said party affiliations understand it better.

Secondly, go out and vote. Your vote actually does matter in an election. Want a larger example? If every student, faculty and staff member at

FIU were registered to vote (hypothetically speaking), and voted in a local election, we would be able to pass or overturn a vote in a local election by a large percentage.

Finally, understand and know all of the elections. Many people seem to forget that there are other elections aside from the presidential elections.

Voting in the primaries helps select who will represent your party in general elections like congressmen, senators, and governors.

Also many of the laws and bills that affect us directly come from Tallahassee and/or Miami-Dade. If we vote in the local elections, we can have a direct change in local politics.

Our voices do mean something, but unless we take action, stand up, and do something, it will mean nothing.

-aaron.pabon@fiusm.com

STUDENT LIFE

Freshmen, Kindly Get Over Yourself

ALEX SORONDO
Asst. Opinion Editor

While many of the freshmen who live on campus are exuberant and friendly, excited to be on their own and eager to make friends, there's another camp – only slightly smaller – that isn't so cute and pleasant.

High on their newfound autonomy, they try too hard to act as though this independence thing is old hat: staying up all night, setting their own hours, drinking and smoking and hooking up with such total abandon that, yeah, obviously this is just, like, what they do.

What they don't realize, however, is that, for most college students, the fact that you do these things is, paradoxically, proof that you actually don't.

Rampant transgressions with drugs, sex, and alcohol; indifference toward time-management, total

nonchalance in skipping classes and assignments, a snobbish reticence to socialize with anybody who doesn't seem exciting: college students generally don't do these things.

Careless eighteen-year-olds often do, but they usually don't end up earning the sacred parchment, the great gown, the graduation cap.

There is an illusion, glorified in high school captivity, that college is the land of the free, home of the promiscuous. The tap runs forever, and the tab is limitless; the work is optional, the girls are easy, the consequences easily dodged. So goes the dream.

But it's exactly that: a dream. For the majority of us, this will indeed be the most rambunctious, fun, reckless, promiscuous, experimental time of our lives. But there's also discipline, the importance of which ranks far above all else, and is probably the most crucial lesson you'll take from the University. An

“Careless eighteen-year-olds often do, but they usually don't end up earning the sacred parchment, the great gown, the graduation cap.”

understanding of yourself, of your limits, of how to balance fun with work.

And you'll find – if I may ride my high horse just a few meters

more – that your discipline brings with it a good and valuable dose of humility; because you'll eventually have to ask yourself, in scrambling out of bed to reach your class on time, “Why bother?” There are several answers, of course, some more utilitarian than others, but I hope you'll settle finally upon the simplest, which is that you must go to class because you are, alas, an idiot.

We all are, to varying degrees. The scope of our ignorance spans, literally, galaxies. And I say this with love, really, and no doubt in my mind that you may well be surpassingly bright and experienced when compared to the bulk of your peers.

But trust me, no senior looks back on their freshman self and says, “I was totally ready for the world. This was a waste of time.”

Mostly, they balk with shame at how they behaved, how they treated people, how they irrepara-

rably damaged their GPA. And, of course, they remember how much fun they had. But the mix is still pretty sordid.

The freshman ego is a nuisance, an ogre, an incarnation of a bad memory. I walk, on some evenings, through the housing quad with another senior, a smoker, who has a knack for pointing out freshman smokers and deducing, on the basis of their posture and how they hold the cigarette, “She's been smoking for a week. That one hates it, look how tense she is, how she squints.” But they do it to look cool, careless, undaunted by risks.

Freshmen, you're vessels of potential. While you might now hold the allure of charm or kindness or good looks or money, you've yet to make a dent in the world. So stay modest, be friendly, and, please, keep it down.

-alex.sorondo@fiusm.com



Gathering Opinions, Generating Discussion

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. · 95.3 FM, 88.1 FM, 96.9 FM · Online at FIUSM.com

Call in at (305)348 3575 · Join our Facebook group · Follow us on Twitter @PublicReason

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.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to jonathan.szydlo@fiusm.com.

ART

College of Architecture + the Arts invades Miami Beach

EDWIVE SEME
Staff Writer

Miami Beach is widely known for its vibrant and colorful art scene.

From jazz clubs, to exquisite restaurants, and diverse art galleries, Miami Beach has something to offer to all art-driven visitors.

In the path of being involved in their community, the University's College of Architecture + the Arts decided to join this artistic atmosphere by starting their own studio, Miami Beach Urban Studios, for students in Miami Beach.

The MBUS is a 16,400 square foot gallery, located in 420 Lincoln Road. It is two

blocks away from New World Symphony and walking distance from The Wolfsonian Museum, the Bass Museum and more cultural and art venues, putting students at the center of Miami Beach's vibrant art scene.

The new site is owned by Paul J. Cejas, former U.S. ambassador of Belgium and one of the University's strongest long-time supporters, who has a building named after him at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

Brian Schriener, Dean of the College of Architecture + the Arts sees their 15 year lease agreement with 420 Lincoln Road as a commitment to expand the college's collaboration with other cultural bodies and to get

involved with South Beach's growing art movement.

MBUS brings together all seven departments of the college through their design studio for architecture students.

There is a gallery with exhibition and performance space for graduate visual arts students and music practice rooms and an ensemble room for music students.

The studio not only provides gallery and performing space, but also hosts lectures available to the whole community throughout the year and offers courses that will help students to take advantage of Miami Beach's artistic, historical and cultural resources. Students are mentored and critiqued

by professionals, artists and performers.

The studio is both beneficial to the College of Arts + Architecture and Miami Beach due to their nonstop exhibitions and events, such as the recent "Bus, Sweat, and Tears" exhibit curated by Alexandra Molina, which featured artworks from Cuban-American artists Alvaro Labanino, Jefreid Lotti, and Miguel A. Saludes and ran from July 20 to Aug. 17.

They have more events ready for this fall, like the musical event early next week, Sunday, Sept. 9 from 4-5:30 p.m., by the FIU Chamber Players. On Sept. 21, they will host the Master of Fine Arts student exhibition from 7-9:30 p.m.

To end the month of September, they will have a reception at the launch of the fifth issue of the design magazine, eVolo, by Assistant Professor Eric Goldemberg on Sept. 28.

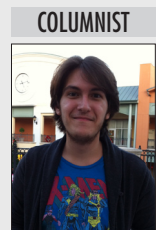
Their work doesn't stop there; they will have plenty more events for the rest of the season. Those interested in learning more about their events can come by the Fall Arts Preview on Sept. 12 at the Frost Art Museum where MBUS will participate in previewing some of their upcoming events. Students can also visit www.livethearts.com for more information.

-edwive.seme@fiusm.com

REEL TO REEL

Slow-burning *Cosmopolis* will isolate audiences

After "A Dangerous Method" — which could be considered his biggest disappointment of the 2000s — David Cronenberg is back in the spotlight with "Cosmopolis," and he's brought along "Twilight" star Robert Pattinson. This could sound like a recipe for disaster, but Pattinson sheds his bland past and clothing to help craft a damn fine drama.



JUAN BARQUIN

White stretch limos decorate the first view of Manhattan and it takes no time for Cronenberg to push us into one, as we inhabit a world that is strangely isolated yet somehow familiar.

Here we find Eric Packer, a tightly-wound billionaire setting off on an odyssey across the city to get a haircut, only to find himself in multiple interactions with off-beat delivering a never-ending barrage of dialogue, most of which only serve to give further insight to Packer's character.

David Cronenberg presents these conversations with plenty of long shots and a strong focus on faces to capture even the smallest change in expression.

Many of the scenes employ silence over sound to emphasize the dialogue, but a precious few are accompanied by a subtle yet evocative score by frequent collaborator Howard Shore, as well as a few tracks by artists Metric and K'naan.

The endless cast of supporting actors features some familiar faces in curious roles. Juliette Binoche plays a hyper-sexualized middle-aged woman who offers a stark contrast to Packer's prudish wife Sarah Gordon, who only meets with her husband for meals, but never gets to eat - a clever metaphor for their sexual relationship.

Samantha Morton's chief of theory is one of the most interesting people to enter the limo, especially during one of many amusing and important bits in the film in which Packer has his asymmet-



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB

Robert Pattinson plays tightly-wound, 28 year-old billionaire Eric Packer in this drama where his world is turned upside down.

rical prostate. Paul Giamatti's appearance as a former employee adds one of the most impressive supporting performances in "Cosmopolis," providing some of the film's most engaging and intense scenes.

Author Don DeLillo's musings are ever-present throughout the script, as our writer-director does not shy away from the intended social commentary nor the inclusion of his own personal style.

There's been an awfully relevant bit of chanting from the film's protesters, what with the sheer amount of demonstrations — on wall street and many parts of the globe — that have come up over the past year.

Much like "Videodrome" and

"eXistenZ," "Cosmopolis" explores the concept of technology overtaking humanity, isolating the human psyche and creating a world entirely separate from the outside world.

The exposure to the larger world only happens in small doses: a riot here, a pie in the face there, with a few gunshots to top it all off. Within the sanctuary of the limo however, which Cronenberg makes out to be endless rather than constricted with his camerawork, we only have Packer's cold and limited line of sight.

Through Robert Pattinson's most notable performance yet, we come to understand Packer's character and his self-destructive nature, if only for a few precious minutes. "I could tell you my

situation has changed in the course of a day," he says, and it shows in the way he unravels from a disillusioned, upper-class businessman to a desperate mess of a human being in the final moments of "Cosmopolis."

The indifferent nature of "Cosmopolis" will be sure to turn off many of the people who choose to watch this, may it be "Twilight" fans or those with impossible expectations for Cronenberg's return to form. However, the film echoes so much of the director's past that it's hard not to find yourself entranced by this dark exploration of one man's spontaneity leading him to ruin.

-juan.barquin@fiusm.com

CAMPUS LIFE!

Latino organization to unite Hispanic students

ASHLEY SOLAGE
Contributing Writer

The University's very own Latino Student Union strives to unite golden panthers of Latin descent by creating an environment in which they can bond and share ideas.

LSU's has many goals, one of the main ones being to unite all Hispanic cultures.

"[The goal is to] Bridge the gap between cultures and establish not only a true understanding of diversity, but also an appreciation and respect for people and our differences," said Elaine Peralta, vice president of public relations of the Latino Student Union.

LSU was created to provide different programs that would help educate University students about the cultures around them.

Being an international school, University students and faculty would be provided with the opportunity of being able to learn about many Hispanic countries around the world, further advocating the voices of many Latino students at the University.

Being a part of a community that inhibits many Hispanic cultures, Peralta and fellow union members feel that the LSU would help bring awareness and tolerance for many cultures, rather than judgment and segregation amongst different social groups. It will unite Hispanic groups instead of separating one country or cultivation.

"I personally think this organization will be a success on campus because although we have separate cultural groups

available to students, we did not have anything that united Latinos. Latinos are all around and the culture is really predominant here in Miami," expressed Peralta.

LSU is a way for students of all Hispanic origins to come together and illuminate the positive aspects of each and every one of their cultures, as well as work together to change the negative aspects.

Although it is called the "Latino" Student Union, it is not only exclusive to those of Latin descent. This union is for anybody who is curious about Latin environments, or just anyone who wants to help spread the voice of Latinos.

It is also for people who have dealt with and can relate to issues in any Hispanic community.

Students may apply for

BEAUTY QUEEN



JUNIOR Kayla McCarthy [right] gets a Cover Girl sponsored make-over in Recharge-U.

JORGE MENDEZ/THE BEACON

some available positions, which are: vice president of community service, vice president of finance, secretary, and assistant to the vice president of recruitment and retention.

The Latino Student Union has planned many events in hopes of further enlightening the students and faculty of the University about its cultural

diversity, most of which will happen in October, which is Hispanic Heritage Month.

These events include a Tango Night on Sept. 17, an FIU Football Tailgate on Oct. 4, Dia De La Raza Food Festival on Oct. 12, Hispanic X Latino Lecture on Oct. 15 and Latin American Housing Lecture on Oct. 17.

It is anticipated that LSU

will collaborate with the Brazilian Community Center for a Brazilian Independence Day event and possibly the Caribbean Student Association for other events as well. The first meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 13 for any students who are interested.

-life@fiusm.com



WANT TO BE A REPORTER?

JOIN THE BEACON TODAY!

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE IN

GC 210 305.348.2709

WHC 124 305.919.4722

CALENDAR FALL 2012 EVENTS	FRIDAY, SEPT. 7	SATURDAY, SEPT. 8	SUNDAY, SEPT. 9
	<p>ONCE UPON A TIME IN LITHUANIA AND THE FLORIDA COLLECTION</p> <p>WHEN: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.</p> <p>HOW MUCH: Free</p> <p>WHERE: Jewish Museum of Florida - FIU @ 301 Washington Avenue • Miami Beach • Florida 33139</p>	<p>GAME DAY RECYCLING</p> <p>WHEN: 2-8 p.m.</p> <p>HOW MUCH: Free</p> <p>WHERE: MMC FIU Tailgate - Lot 6</p> <p>FIU FOOTBALL VS. AKRON</p> <p>WHEN: 6-10 p.m.</p> <p>HOW MUCH: Free</p> <p>WHERE: MMC Alfonso Field at FIU Stadium</p>	<p>THE FIU CHAMBER PLAYERS AT FIU CARTA MIAMI BEACH URBAN STUDIOS</p> <p>WHEN: 4-5:30 p.m.</p> <p>WHERE: College of Architecture + The Arts Miami Beach Urban Studios 420 Lincoln Road, Suite 440, Miami Beach, 33139</p>

MEN'S SOCCER

Panthers set to hit the road for two games

FRANCISCO RIVERO
Contributing Writer

FIU is off to their best start in 12 years with much of the success coming from head coach Kenny Arena's finesse European style of soccer.

Two players have stood out so far in Arena's European style: goalie Robin Spiegel and forward Quentin Albrecht.

Albrecht and Spiegel's strong start is surprising because of how young they are. Albrecht is a sophomore who scored only five goals last season. This season, he already has four goals in three games this year.

"I like the way he plays. He brings that European style of soccer where he wants to keep the ball a lot and create a lot of scoring opportunities," said Albrecht. "That's good for me because I'm a forward and I like to get the passes from my midfielders and defenders."

Meanwhile, Spiegel is an incoming freshman from Germany who already has 2 shutouts this season while allowing only one goal in three games. The young goalie has earned a starting spot over sophomore Rodney Greiling and junior Eric Reyes. Arena's European style is one of the main reasons for Spiegel's early success.

"The soccer in the U.S. is so different than the soccer in Europe; he taught me about choosing the right spot and catching the crosses," Spiegel said.

However, when it comes to their personal goals for the rest of the season, they can both agree on one thing.

"I would like to reach the national championships and play against the top universities like University of California Los Angeles and University of North Carolina,

the champions from last year," Spiegel said.

"My goal is definitely to make it to the tournament and win the tournament," added Albrecht.

LOCKDOWN DEFENSE

A large part of the Panthers early success this season has been their much-improved defense. FIU has only allowed one goal in three games this year while also holding their opponents to a .033 shot percentage. It's a stark contrast when compared to last year's .140 shot percentage.

The Panthers have also improved their shots on goal defense by only allowing eight successful shot on goals this year, which adds up to a total of a .267 shot on goal percentage. Last year, the team had allowed a .464 clip.

While FIU's defense has vastly improved, their offense has reaped the benefits, producing 20 shots on goal themselves, bringing their total shot on goal percentage to .417 and their shot percentage to .104.

BADGER BRAWL

FIU (3-0) now heads north to take on Wisconsin (1-2-2) on Sept. 7 at 8 p.m. The Badgers come into play with 15 shots on goal and a percentage of .556. In addition, Wisconsin has also held their opponents to 15 shots on goal.

The Panthers will have to contain Wisconsin's forward Chris Prince, who has two goals on five attempts. FIU will also have to get through the defense of goalkeeper Chase Rau who has six saves this season.

The Badgers have scored seven goals this season, most of which came on a four-goal performance against Memphis, Tenn.



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Quentin Albrecht (right) has scored four goals in the first three games of the season. Last season, Albrecht scored a total of five goals on all year.

This is a team that Spiegel knows he has to defend well.

"I will try to play my style by being aggressive, being offensive and I hope I can get the next shutout," Spiegel said.

For Arena, Wisconsin is a team that he takes seriously.

"We've watched them, they're a good team and well coached. They'll be competitive and we're looking forward to a good game," explained Arena.

After Wisconsin, FIU will head to

University of Illinois Chicago (2-2-1) on Sept. 9 at 1 p.m. The Flames as a whole are a strong offensive team with three team goals coming from 38 shots on goal. UIC's goalkeeper, Piotr Kikolski, has a total of 10 saves under his belt but has also allowed three goals.

Arena's philosophy for winning these next two games is simple:

"Score more goals than them."

-sports@fiusm.com

FOOTBALL

FIU correcting small mistakes in prep for Akron



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Wayne Times (above) had nine catches for 114 yards in FIU's 46-26 loss to Duke.

MARIO BUSTO
Contributing Writer

While one school in South Florida celebrates a player named Duke this week, FIU looks to erase the name from its recent memory.

The Panthers were on the losing end of a 46-26 shoot-out on Aug. 31 that saw Duke score 30 points in the second quarter. It was the first time since 1999 that the Blue Devils scored that many points in one quarter.

Part of this on-field debacle was the result of three FIU turnovers, including a blocked field goal that was returned for a Duke touchdown. Head coach Mario Cristobal has emphasized ball control leading up to this Saturday's game against Akron.

"First it was turnovers, you could say the defense forced turnovers, [but] you can prevent them," Cristobal said. "You can hang onto the ball tighter, secure the football better, and obviously that led to the initial issues of the football game."

After dealing with the turnover bug on offense, FIU failed to execute as well as they had prepared on the defensive side of the ball, including special teams.

"Routine snaps and holds—those things created a 10-13 point swing. And

then whether it was man, zone pressure, or combo coverage, we got beat on a couple plays," Cristobal said. "[These are] things that are correctable but you work on all the time, especially now starting with Akron."

Facing Akron this week, Cristobal and the Panthers hopes to bounce back against Terry Bowden, son of coaching legend Bobby Bowden.

Terry saw great success early on in his coaching career when he led Auburn to an undefeated season in 1993. He became the first coach to go undefeated in his debut season at a Division I school.

Now, Bowden faces possibly the biggest challenge of his coaching career: reviving an Akron program that has only won two games in the last 2 years.

Despite being in the bottom ten of every statistical category in the last two years, Cristobal sees improvement in this year's Akron team.

"He really changed the roster quickly. That is not the same Akron team that we played against last year," said Cristobal. "There are a lot of athletes on that field, a good chunk of them from the state of Florida."

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 7

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Goalie play shining despite lackluster play on offense

MICHAEL ORTEGA
Contributing Writer

The Panthers season hasn't exactly gone according to plan so far. The team is now 2-2-0, with both wins coming at home to Stetson and Jacksonville. The two losses came from both away games, one against Florida Gulf Coast and the number 24 ranked team in the nation, University of Florida.

"We started the season very strong but we lost some of that spark on Friday," said Coach Thomas Chestnutt.

The team now heads into

next weekend facing two tough match ups. On Friday Sept. 7 they head down to Louisiana to face Louisiana State University.

The Tigers are 3-1-1 on the year and have only left home once this season. LSU actually starts the season with 10 of 11 games on the season at home.

"LSU is tough but if the girls play hard we know we can win," said Chestnutt.

The Panthers then return home on Sept. 9 to face Idaho, this being the last non conference home game of the season. The Vandals

come into this match with a 2-4 record, having lost two straight matches. This will be a quick stop back home before heading on the road again to take part in the Cats Classic against two Pac-12 teams.

"Playing the non conference games right now are very important," Chestnutt said. "We can't achieve what we want without coming out on top."

LEADING THE CHARGE

During the last two games against Stetson and Jacksonville, three players really

shined. Some as leaders and some showing their coach the right effort.

Goalkeeper Kaitlyn Savage played this weekend with much enthusiasm. Against FGCU on Friday, she recorded nine saves in just one half. She only had eight saves in the previous two games combined.

"Kaitlyn played very well; she has been playing for us for four years she is able to lead on the field because of her experience. With having such a young team it's always great to have that experience in the net to calm things

down," said Chestnutt. "She wasn't called on too much in the first two games but she did what she had to do, showing that composure in the net."

Defender, Nikki Rios and midfielder, Johanna Volz both showed coach Chestnutt this weekend the right enthusiasm. They both played all 90 minutes on Friday game against FGCU and Sunday against UF.

"On Sunday the whole team played hard but really those two stood out," said Chestnutt. "They bring it every day to training; they

try to lift the group with their work ethics."

The Panthers have their work cut out for them to return to the top of the Sun Belt Conference. Chestnutt does not feel like this is adding any extra pressure on to the team.

"At the start of this season we don't have that title in our hands anymore, we are focusing on what is happening now and what we will have in the future," said Chestnutt. "There is no pressure."

-sports@fiusm.com



JONATHAN SEGAL/ THE BEACON

The Panthers failed to score a goal on their recent roadtrip, getting outscored 5-0 against FGCU and UF.

New, fast-paced Akron offense similar to FIU

FOOTBALL PAGE 6

With those athletes, Akron has been implementing a lot of man coverage on defense. As to how to counter their defensive style of play on offense, Cristobal put it simply: "Offensively, we have to get better catching contested balls."

Another key part of the offense that FIU will need to focus on this week will be the running game. Akron gave up 206 rushing yards in a 56-14 loss to the University of Central Florida. Similar to UCF, FIU's running game and offensive line are some of the biggest strengths of this year's team.

Kedrick Rhodes became the first Panther to have both 100-yards rushing and 100-yards receiving in a game last week against Duke. Last season, Rhodes ran for 116 yards against the Zips, averaging five yards per carry.

As for the defensive side of the ball, FIU will try to contain Akron's pass-happy offense. The Zips threw the ball 50 times in their game against UCF. However, the Panther's stellar 2011 defense, one that remains largely unchanged this season, held Akron to 157 yards.

Winston Fraser, a preseason All-Sun Belt Conference pick, knows what the team's biggest concern is against the Zips.

"This being a home game, it's going to be loud," Fraser said. "We need to communicate so we can execute the plays. We had a couple mistakes last game so we have to make sure that every player is wrapping up and swarming towards the ball carrier."

The linebacker also knows that because it is his last year in an FIU uniform, every game is a must-win.

"I hold myself to a higher standard. In practice I make sure everyone's on point. And with this year being my last, every week we have to go hard."

-sports@fiusm.com



It's time!

Open Enrollment for the
FIU-Sponsored Student Health
Insurance Program has begun.

Visit <http://www.gallagherkoster.com/FloridaUSystem>
or call 877.498.5468 for more information.

**ENROLL BY
SEPTEMBER 21st**

Plan features:

- Enroll annually or by semester
- Online Payment Plan Available for Annual Coverage
- \$250,000 annual maximum per condition with low deductibles & low copays
 - Prescription Drug Coverage
 - National network of providers
 - Worldwide Coverage
 - Preventive care & Wellness services
- Also available: Dependent Medical Insurance and Dental Insurance
- Student Personal Property Insurance also available

Medical Insurance underwritten by UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company



CLASSIFIED AD

ROOM FOR RENT IN MY HOME,
TO A NO-SMOKING AND CLEAN
PERSON, A FEMALE PREFERABLE;
GATED COMMUNITY, NEAR FIU; NO
PETS, UTILITIES INCLUDED. \$400.00
MONTHLY, A MONTH IN ADVANCE,
FOR MORE INFORMATION,
305-229-8992; ocgavi@yahoo.com

To beard or not to beard?

Students debate the meaning behind facial hair

SELIMA HUSSEIN
Contributing Writer

Animals aren't the only ones with whiskers.

While some students choose to maintain their long beards for style or out of laziness, others prefer to keep their facial hair out of personal taste or religious purposes. Some choose to shave, others like to let their beards and mustaches flourish. These students insist on leaving their facial hair as it is—even if their girlfriends or crushes find it unattractive.

"My mustache makes me, me," said Daniel Smart, a freshman and marine biology major. "I would never shave it off because it's a part of who I am."

Smart had his mustache since he was 13 and doesn't plan on engaging in a new look anytime soon. Alex Miles, freshman and business administration student, also carries a mustache and beard.

"My girlfriend is in New York, so I'm growing it out. But honestly, I'm too lazy to shave it off."

Jayson Esdaille, a sophomore biology major, thinks that his beard adds a "certain edge to his face."

"It makes me look unique," said Esdaille. "My girlfriend would have to love me with my beard, or not at all."

A fully grown beard or



SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

mustache on a man can incite many different reactions from the female population.

Diana Deonanan, a junior who is double majoring in biology and psychology, finds beards and mustaches extremely unappealing.

"It's disgusting. I don't think facial hair is professional, like a clean cut. I would never date someone with a huge beard like James Harden."

For Jennifer Lobo, a junior nursing and psychology major, deciding whether or not facial hair is attractive depends on how

it's styled.

"If it's neat and well kept, it's attractive. But kissing can be uncomfortable when your partner has a lot of facial hair," Lobo said.

Maria Reid, a social psychology expert and member of the department of psychology, believes that men sport beards and mustaches for aesthetic reasons-- not just to appear masculine to women.

"Some men might have a beard to give their face a different shape, or to make them look older-- especially if they have a boyish face. But I think it's more

of a personal preference than anything else," she said. "There is a linkage between testosterone and facial hair growth, but it isn't very strong."

Biology Instructor Maureen Walter does not believe biology is the reason women might or might not be attracted to beards.

"I know that facial symmetry has a definite role in the attractiveness of a person, but as far as facial hair is concerned, I'm not too sure," she said. "I think it may have more cultural implications than biological."

Sholom Neistein, a Jewish

alum who holds a degree in psychology, said that shaving isn't allowed in Orthodox Judaism.

"The Torah states that a blade should not touch the face," he said. "I still shave, but I use an electrical razor that has no blades. My dad has a very long beard, but he has to keep it kempt while he's at work."

Islam is another religion in which having a beard has cultural implications.

"A lot of Muslim men have beards because that was the way of Prophet Mohammed — peace be upon him — which is also known as the Sunnah," said Mohamed Ghumrawi, a Muslim alum with a degree in criminal justice.

"The Prophet believed that having a beard was a symbolic identity of Muslims, and was a way to differentiate between believers and nonbelievers."

The decision to grow a beard can range from sheer personal preference to the holy word of a very important Prophet. Whether or not a woman finds facial hair striking varies.

"I love men with beards," said Reid. "My first crush was on my French teacher, and I remember he had this thick, luxurious beard. It was fantastic."

There may still be hope for men who take fashion advice from James Harden.

-bbc@fiusm.com

STUDENT PROFILE

Lights, camera, books and action

CRISTINA MIRALLES
Staff Writer

Taking risks and imitating Jim Carrey in "The Mask" were two of the many things that helped Alex Hernandez develop his career as an actor.

Hernandez, a senior who studies journalism at the University, plays the role of Sebastian Aragon in the Spanish soap opera, "Relaciones Peligrosas" which plays on the Telemundo channel.

From the initial 600 applicants, only 120 were selected. Then the eliminations went from 120 to 40 to 23, and then to the final 11.

"It was two months of intense preparation. Monday through Friday four hours non-stop. It was all worth it," said Hernandez.

The most difficult challenge for Hernandez to be part of the soap opera was to get used to the cameras, the lighting and to get

over his nerves.

"As time went on, I got used to it and I was able to surpass that," he said.

School is the number one priority for Hernandez, but he does not lose his focus on his career.

Before he got the role in "Relaciones Peligrosas," he was working on two independent projects playing the role of David in the hip-hop soap opera "Da Block" and the role of Erik in another Spanish show titled "La Cima del Cielo." He was also in two commercials for the Spanish award show "Premios Juventud," another for the company Callaway Golf and two for the World Cup in Spanish.

He wants to remain in the Spanish market in Miami for right now because there are more opportunities. Eventually, he wants to crossover to the English market.

"In this industry you never know when an opportunity will come that's why having a degree is very important because no matter what, you'll always have something to fall back to."

Alex Hernandez
Senior
Journalism major

"I first realized I wanted to act when I was a kid, but I did not pursue it at a young age because I was too shy I and worried about what everyone would think of me," said Hernandez. "I started taking classes and preparing myself when I was 21 years old."

When Hernandez is not in class or acting, he works as a trainer at a gym and prepares himself for

the music industry.

His final goal is to become an actor in Hollywood, so he wants to take vocal lessons and learn how to play the piano, acoustic guitar and refine his dancing skills.

"Things don't come overnight, got to work hard," he said. "Prepare yourselves as much as possible, find yourselves a good agency/manager and when your

number gets called, be ready."

Hernandez took the advice from one of his journalism professors, Allan Richards who is also the associate dean for the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, to always take risks, since opportunities don't come around too often.

"When one door closes, don't give up. Others will open up and eventually your opportunity will arrive," he said. "It's a dream of many, but not all make it because most people give up."

His dream is to become an actor, but he wants to be able to fulfill his dreams while going to school.

"In this industry you never know when an opportunity will come that's why having a degree is very important because no matter what, you'll always have something to fall back to."

-cristina.miralles@fiusm.com