

Students start petition for dual enrollment studies

STEPHAN USECHE
Staff Writer

The Dual Enrollment program will have new limitations for the upcoming semesters, decreasing the amount of courses a student is permitted to take. On July 1, a new state law was passed, Senate Bill 1514, which now requires the school districts to pay the tuition rate of these dual enrollment students.

“This legislation stipulates that when high school students come to campus to take courses here, then

the school system has to pay the per credit hour, which is the same as when our students [non-dual enrollment students] take classes here,” said Irma Becerra-Fernandez, vice president of Engagement.

The dual enrollment program is divided into two broad categories, Academy for Advanced Academics, which is when the students take the courses in the University’s campus; and one bigger category which allows the students to take the

SEE DUAL, PAGE 2

CAP IT OFF



OSCAR LIN/THE BEACON

The University’s new telescope observatory received its dome top July 26.

University exceeds fundraising goal, raises \$43.3 million

MADISON FANTOZZI
News Director

The University surpassed its \$42 million fundraising goal by \$1.3 million for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, according to the FIU Foundation, Inc.

This is a part of University President Mark Rosenberg’s goal to raise \$750 million in 10 years, a plan that started in 2009.

The Next Horizon campaign is a part of FIU’s Worlds Ahead initiative.

Howard Lipman, senior vice president of University Advancement and president and chief executive officer of FIU Foundation, Inc., said that people are excited to give back to FIU.

“We want that student that is struggling financially to have that scholarship,” said Lipman. “We want that faculty member working on a research project to have the support they need.”

FIU Foundation is a non-profit corporation responsible for solic-

iting, receiving and administering gifts for scientific and educational purposes for the University.

Since 2009, the University has raised about \$188 million toward its overall goal, according to the Foundation.

University Advancement’s Campaign Communications Director Andra Liwag said the fundraising campaign is currently in its “quiet” phase: goals have been set, leaders are in place and infrastructure is underway.

Lipman said the first phase of the campaign is to build momentum.

“We promote the University’s vision and people get really excited,” said Lipman. “They want to be a part of ensuring FIU continues, as our vision states, ‘to be a leading urban public research university focused on student learning, innovation and collaboration.’”

Liwag said the gifts in the first phase set the foundation for the campaign.

The campaign will move into its second phase at the end of the next

fiscal year, during which, Lipman said, no gift is too small.

“There’s this level of public trust,” said Lipman. “With less state support, we are calling on the community.”

In the third phase, the Foundation will ask alumni to give back to their alma mater.

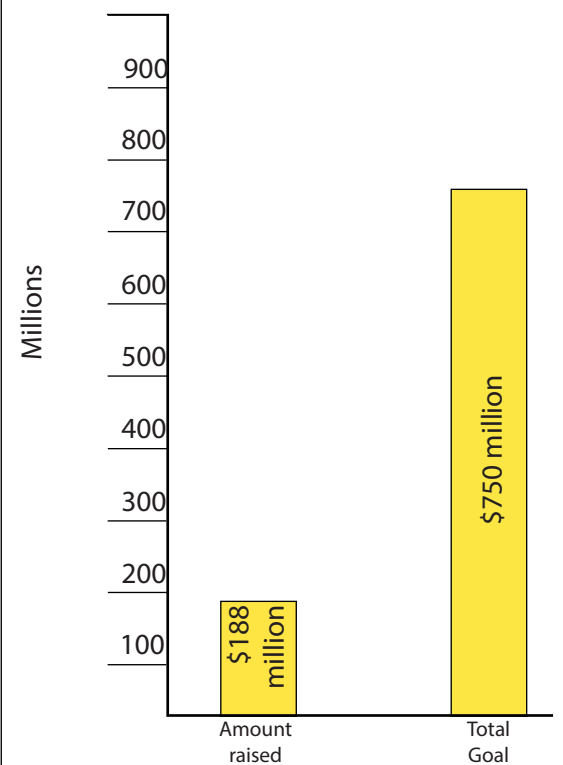
Liwag said the investment in FIU is a bigger investment into the community, with about 85 percent of FIU graduates staying in the South Florida area.

“At the core, the purpose of our campaign is to help the FIU degree continuously increase in value, making a student’s investment of time and tuition even more valuable in the future than it is on the day they graduate,” wrote Liwag in an email to Student Media.

This year’s gifts also included \$2 million for the Alumni Center, \$1 million for the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and \$900,000 in support of the Chaplin School of

SEE FUNDRAISING, PAGE 2

FIU Foundation Inc. 10 year Fundraising Goal



Administration emphasizes benefits of partnerships

CARLOS COBA
Staff Writer

Public-private partnerships are well underway at the University, regardless of critics.

Contracts with Academic Partnerships and Royal Caribbean are in the process of being finalized, while a partnership with Zoo Miami was finalized on July 16.

The increase in partnerships with private businesses has received negative feedback from some faculty. In fact, the Faculty Senate passed a formal resolution demanding faculty vote on future contracts regarding the University’s partnership with AP to launch its online program, FIU Global Learning.

FIU Global Learning will focus on expanding the online MBA partnership with AP, signed in 2009, by marketing it to Latin America and various other countries.

“I expect that those who do not see the benefits are further from the direct interaction with the partners,” said Provost and Executive Vice President Douglas Wartzok.

Wartzok said he believes that regardless of whether enrollment quotas are met or not, the university benefits from a partnership with a company that is good at marketing the program, increases enrollment and tuition revenue.

“We are an academic institution,” said Wartzok. “We hired AP as a marketing partner because they do that well.”

While FIU Global Learning focuses on online academic programs, the university’s partnership with Royal Caribbean plans to build new facilities at Biscayne Bay Campus.

Vice President of Student Affairs Larry Lunsford has a positive attitude on the partnership with Royal Caribbean and the advantages the University will gain because of it.

“The potential is for the entire university to benefit [from] expanded curriculum, internships, increased population at BBC and increased usage of current BBC facilities,” said Lunsford.

Lunsford also said that the number of career opportunities for BBC students will increase with Royal Caribbean’s presence at job fairs.

Once the contract has been signed, the cruise

line will begin the construction of a 45,000 square-foot training facility, which will be open to access certain schools within the university. Royal Caribbean staff will also reside in BBC’s Bay Vista housing, which will be renovated.

Lunsford insists that relocation of Bay Vista students to MMC will not happen.

“[Bay Vista] is in poor condition and was planned to be closed even if [Royal Caribbean] had not come into the picture,” said Lunsford. Lunsford said students that had planned to return to Bay Vista have the following choices: relocate to Modesto Maidique Campus, live at home or find an apartment in the area surrounding BBC.

SEE PARTNERS, PAGE 2

Administration approving of new partnerships

PARTNERS, PAGE 1

New BBC student housing is projected to be ready by 2015.

“In my opinion, this [partnership] is an excellent route to pursue,” said Lunsford. “We could get the BBC housing built quicker going this route.”

Whereas AP and Royal Caribbean partnerships are in negotiation, the Zoo FIU lecture series, in partnership with Zoo Miami, started in May.

Executive Director of the School of Environment, Arts and Society Michael Heithaus gave one of Zoo FIU’s lectures on July 26.

“Zoo Miami and FIU share a common mission to conserve biodiversity and educate people about animals and the environment,” said Heithaus. “By working together, we can generate more resources

to outstanding educational internship opportunities for students.”

In addition, the partnership will involve students both in research and other activities at the zoo, including hospitality and tourism management.

Administrators agree that the partnerships provide the university with the opportunity to expand its resources, whether it is through internationally marketing an online curriculum, improving campus facilities or providing a better environment for research and internships.

“In the funding climate of today, partnerships are key to making an impact,” said Heithaus.

Whether the benefits are as clear to faculty, staff and the student body remains to be seen.

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FIU anticipating new 2013 Dance Marathon theme

MACKENZIE BARTELS
Contributing Writer

While 25 consecutive hours of dancing may sound like an exhausting and daunting task to many people, to students at FIU it sounds like another opportunity to give back to their community.

Dance Marathon, a daylong philanthropic event, is an effort to raise money where students pledge to remain on their feet for the event’s entire duration, participating in activities such as line dancing and games.

One hundred percent of the proceeds go to the Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals program at Miami Children’s Hospital Foundation. Last year, the dancers surpassed their \$70,000 goal. This year’s goal: \$85,000.

Although the multiplying money is a huge motivation for the dancers, it’s not the only thing that keeps these students dancing.

Students return to FIU’s Dance Marathon to enjoy the new theme that its Steering Committee votes on

each year.

“The theme provides the population with something to look forward to, energizing the event with a sense of fun and excitement,” said Christian Chavarro, director of communications for the event.

In fact, committee members say that the theme is the most important aspect of the planning process.

“It is not an easy decision because everyone has their own idea on what they want Dance Marathon to be,” said Campus Promotions Chair Marlena Bruno. “However, the committee always comes together and decides what the student body and our miracle children would want at the event.”

Chavarro said the theme sets the tone for the event’s decorations and songs, as well as all promotional material such as Dance Marathon t-shirts and videos.

Within the past five years, dancers enjoyed themes such as Disney, Dr. Seuss, Toy Story, Lion King and Looney Tunes.

The committee chooses themes

that remind Dance Marathon participants of their childhood. Chavarro said the theme helps to serve as a tie to the children students are dancing for.

“The idea behind Dance Marathon is to dance for the kids, as they are the source of inspiration to stay on one’s feet throughout the 25 hours,” said Chavarro. “The children serve as a reminder that every single minute spent planning and every dollar raised is for the kids.”

Even with an overload of excitement, the committee is keeping its lips sealed tight about the 17th annual Dance Marathon theme.

The eager FIU population will have to wait to hear the decision until the Theme Revelation, which will be held on Aug. 28, 2013 in the GC Pit between the hours of 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Until then, participators can anticipate a theme that will keep students on their feet and a smile on every child’s face.

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CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 25, Issue 4, the story titled “FIU Foundation meets 46 percent of funding goal” incorrectly attributes that FIU Foundation, Inc. had raised \$19.4 million to date to the Board of Trustees’ June 12 meeting minutes. The correct attribution is the Board of Trustees’ March 6, 2013 minutes.

The story titled “Provost critiques dining etiquette at campus events” is also incorrect. The title should read “Vice Provost.”

In Vol. 25, Issue 4, the story titled “Professor to lecture on wildlife at Zoo Miami” referred to the research camera as the Crittercam. This is incorrect. It is called the National Geographic Crittercam.

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

Laws change for dual enrollment

DUAL, PAGE 1

college level classes at the high schools.

According to Fernandez, AAA is the part of the program that will be impacted the most by SB 1514.

Previously, students who were part of the AAA program were able to take up to four college courses per semester, however, that number has decreased.

“The school district determined that they will only be able to pay up to six credits per student, so that is two classes,” said Fernandez.

Before SB 1514, the fees and tuition for dual enrollment courses were waived.

Dual Enrollment student

Michael Perez, senior at Miami Coral Park high school, expressed his discontent for the new law by signing an appealing petition created by other DE students. Last spring semester, Perez took 12 college credits along with four high school courses.

“Now I won’t be able to meet the credits I was scheduled to meet by the end of my senior year,” said Perez.

According to Fernandez, AAA has 75 dual enrollment students at the Modesto Maidique campus and 30 at the Biscayne Bay campus.

On the other hand, those students who decide to take the courses at the high school won’t be impacted

by SB 1514, according to Fernandez.

“The majority of these students won’t be impacted, they will be able to take the same credits as they were taking before, and the school district won’t be impacted by having to incur any new expenses other than the ones they were incurring before the law legislation passed,” said Fernandez.

This is so because the students are being taught under the high school’s infrastructure and by their teachers, who go through a process where they obtain credentials and trainings by FIU. “We certify teachers in the public school system that have the qualifications

that will enable them to teach here on campus according to our certification standards because they have a masters degree and 18 credits in their discipline,” said Fernandez.

FIU offers up to 127 courses in different Miami Dade high schools, 38 public schools and four private. However, each school can only teach a maximum of 19 courses, giving the students the opportunity to reach a college sophomore level by the time they graduate from high school.

This part of the program has increased from 500 to over 4,000 students every semester.

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FIU exceeds fundraising expectations

FUNDRAISING, PAGE 1

Hospitality and Tourism Management.

“These are but a few of the many examples of the outstanding generosity of our FIU family,” wrote Liwag in an email to Student Media.

The Foundation has \$562 million to raise over the next seven years to fulfill Rosenberg’s plan.

“Our university leadership is confident that we will reach this goal,” said Lipman. “Over the life of the campaign, we will get that money.”

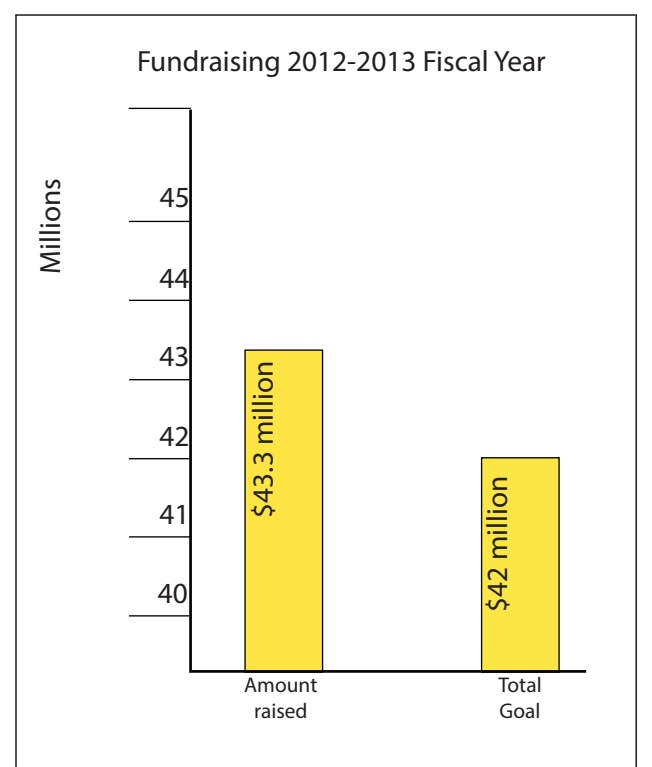
Lipman said the Foundation even received a generous donation shortly after the fiscal year’s end.

“It’s not just about meeting a deadline to meet our fiscal year goal,” said Lipman. “We don’t want to rush our supporters, we want them to be excited to invest in FIU.”

Lipman said he wants people to care about building the future of the university and ultimately of the community.

“It’s all about relationship building,” said Liwag.

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‘Stand your ground’ needs change

CARLOS COBA
Staff Writer

It worries me to hear members of Congress say that the effects of a law they passed are not the outcomes they intended. The law in this case being the controversial Stand Your Ground law that has been associated with the shooting of Trayvon Martin.

In a letter written to The Miami Herald during the aftermath of Martin’s shooting, Rep. Frederica S. Wilson, a Democrat, stated that Stand Your Ground cannot be used as a defense when one is the aggressor.

“None of us ever dreamed that a bill we voted for would cause a child to be profiled, stalked and murdered,” wrote Wilson. “And that the murderer would not be arrested by

claiming self-defense because he was standing his ground.”

After Zimmerman’s verdict, Sen. John McCain joined the public call for states to review their infamous stand-your-ground laws. Former Sen. Durell Peaden, a Republican, also joined, saying, “the law was never intended for people who put themselves in harm’s way before they started firing.”

Legislators from all over the political spectrum are calling for reviews in their respective states, and that speaks volumes. If both Democratic and Republican legislators agree on the severity of the issue, then everyone should scrutinize these laws.

Before former Gov. Jeb Bush signed Stand Your Ground into effect in 2005, the law required for a citizen to retreat, if possible, before using deadly force. After the signing of the law, one no

longer had the responsibility to reasonably retreat; he or she now had the right to use deadly force, regardless of whether retreating was an option.

States like Florida, with stand-your-ground laws, have to reconsider the effects of expanding self-defense. It has heightened gun use in a state where concealed gun ownership has increased threefold.

There are about 1.1 million concealed weapon owners in Florida.

With that many people carrying guns out in public alongside a very emboldening Stand Your Ground law, how can gun-related violence be decreased?

The government should pass laws that lessen violence and increase public safety, not the opposite. Anyone can claim self-defense, and once they kill

someone else, with contrary evidence missing, stand-your-ground protection prevails. Even an aggressor who does not reasonably retreat because they are legally justified to continue following the victim can claim “self-defense,” just like Zimmerman did.

The nation is confused by stand-your-ground laws, and it should be, because most states are moving towards fewer gun-regulating policies. Those legislators that are concerned over the unexpected outcome of this law should try to imagine how the citizens, who elected them, feel. If someone has the chance to retreat and peacefully avoid a fight, our laws shouldn’t empower that person to disregard the chance of fleeing to instead kill at gunpoint.

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THE BEACON | Editorial

Granting disabled students exception speaks highly of FIU

FIU is giving its applicants fair review, and even second chances, with the Board of Governors’ alternative admission that allows the University to view its applicants as more than just numbers.

Undergraduate admissions for fall 2012 was characterized by a 1630-1820 range of SAT scores, 23-26 ACT scores and an FIU weighted GPA between 3.5 and 4.1.

Below this profile on FIU’s admissions site, however, is a memo encouraging all students to apply for consideration. Students are admitted with scores below this range, and students with higher scores are not guaranteed admission either.

While high grade point averages and standardized test scores play an important role in University admissions, FIU may consider other factors that indicate success, like graduation from an International Baccalaureate program, or even an improvement in one’s high school record over time.

Why should a student eager to attend the University be punished for their poor performance in, let’s say, their freshman and sophomore years in high school?

If the University can see the student’s improvement and achievements in their latter half of high school, then that effort is a clear factor to consider.

The University can also take outside factors into consideration. Applicants that come from a low-performing high school or a house with poor socioeconomic status can be given the benefit of the doubt.

The University is essentially offering the opportunity of a better education to those students that may have been disadvantaged in high school.

And The Beacon does not consider alternative admission any form of “cutting slack.” Instead, this is a better way to gauge the potential of applicants and admit students that will be successful Panthers.

It makes sense to do this because everyone is not a 4.0 student and an A+ test-taker. Some students struggle to meet the minimum, but they should not be denied a place in higher education without some sort of consideration.

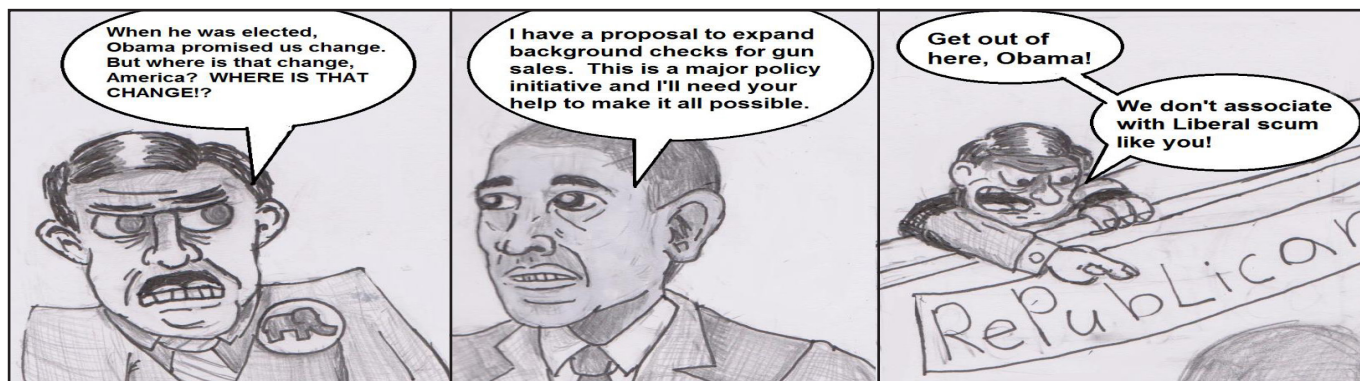
We commend FIU for viewing its applicants as more than just these numbers. It gives a sense of identity back to each and every applicant.

It wouldn’t be practical to deny anyone admission because they could not score a 1630 on their SAT or their GPA fell .01 too short. A university should not have to put blinders on during the admissions process.

Students offer more than their GPAs and test scores to their University’s profile. They offer talent and diversity.

It’s reassuring to know that the University will essentially hear its applicants out. It’s all about second chances.

Republicans against Obama



CHRISTIAN SPENCER/THE BEACON

Undaunted by bleak job prospects

ASHLEY VALENTIN
Contributing Writer

The Associated Press conducted a study in 2011 on post-grad employment rates, finding that 53.6 percent of those with bachelor’s degrees who were under 25 were either underemployed or jobless.

That statistic is terrifying.

My mom told me my whole life that if I stay in school and get a good education, I’d have a nice job and never have to worry about money. However, like many other students in the Millennial Generation, I quickly learned that graduating with a degree from a good university didn’t equate to a job.

I have witnessed students of all majors graduate and stay unemployed for years. Most of the ones who were employed

stayed working at low-paying jobs in restaurants and department stores.

The reality is that the job market is very bleak for graduates in 2013. There aren’t enough college-level jobs being created to meet the demands of an ever-growing graduate population. And many employers steer clear of recent graduates no matter how well their interviews go, opting for more experienced employees to fill the job.

With job prospects so low for students, many graduates are looking for more creative methods to start a career.

The New York Times reported about one creative method on May 8, highlighting graduate students who buy franchises with their parents. Often times, the people who buy into these franchises are older adults

who have been laid off from their jobs and their young graduate children who are unable to find work related to their majors.

Paige Palmer, one student featured in the article, said that after graduating, she found that neither she nor any of her friends were finding work. She called her stepfather, who had recently been dismissed from his job, and they decided to open up a franchise.

Why is this significant? Because so many of us spend our lives with a very strict plan for our futures. We believe that staying in school will secure us a future, but the reality is that it doesn’t always. And when we spend our lives set with the idea that everything is going to go exactly as planned, we’re completely blindsided when life doesn’t work out as expected.

I’m majoring in communica-

tions and as much as I believe that hard work will get me far, I’m also realistic. Majors that show higher percentages of employment include those involved with engineering, mathematics, sciences and business management. I’m statistically less likely to get a job because of my major. And I’m okay with that because there’s always a solution and, most importantly, always other opportunities to be successful.

My success is not determined by whether or not I land a job in my field after I earn my diploma. Instead, it is determined by my dedication to always better my life and the lives around me.

We shouldn’t get dismayed at the turn of the job market, but instead embrace it as an opportunity for growth.

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

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Frost Museum launches its first online exhibition

DANIEL URIA
Staff Writer

The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum opened its first ever online exhibit entitled, "The Drawing Project". The exhibit explores the concept of drawing through a series of online residencies as well as a project space that is open to submissions. The site also displays a number of works included in the museum's collection.

"The Drawing Project" began as the brainchild of curator and FIU graduate, Emmy Mathis.

"Emmy had an idea. The museum had never done an online exhibition and she had never done one either," said Sherry Zambrano, the Frost's Assistant Curator who worked as a coordinator for "The Drawing Project". "She researched our database and based on her idea, picked out the artwork."

Mathis said that rather than being an art exhibit that happens to be online, "The Drawing Project" was specifically catered to the Internet. "The medium itself is the Internet, so to try to work with the medium as

opposed to against it," she said. "It was curated around the idea of alternative spaces and considering the Internet an alternative space."

The most recent residency featured a collaborative project between artists Greg Burgoyne and Yumino Seki that explores drawing as a noun in the form of an idea as well as a verb.

"It's a more academic approach to understanding the term drawing as a noun," Mathis said.

The next residency will begin in mid-August and will feature Miami artist, Claudia Scalice, whose focus is largely centered on drawings and small paintings.

"We're trying to kind of flip-flop it, have someone who makes more object based work and then port it to people who are a little more performance oriented or have a little more conceptual approach to the idea of drawing," Mathis said.

The exhibit's project space is home to a collection of works that follow the concept of lines.

"I like for the project space to be really conceptual, this idea of implied lines," Mathis said. "A couple of the artists were invited

COLOR PARTY



OSCAR LIN/THE BEACON

After the countdown to begin the event, FIU students throw colors in the air at Summer Fest Color Party on July 24.

and a couple applied."

One such project is "Then Again" by Crystal Pearl Molinary, in which she recreates various photographs of her mother who was a Vedette, model, singer, actress and dancer in Cuba.

This particular project explores various types of lines, Mathis said. "For me it's this idea of when you're travelling you're making lines; there's family lines and family ties and a timeline and a history."

The museum's first venture into online exhibits has been fairly successful and the format provides certain advantages.

"With the online exhibit, anyone from around the world can see it," said Zambrano. "Even the artists that are participating from different countries can showcase it to their audience."

"You gain access," Mathis said. "The fact that someone, namely project space artist,

Gagan Singh, in New Dehli, India can be looking at the same thing that I'm looking at, at the same time."

Zambrano hopes that The Drawing Project can inspire similar exhibitions in the future.

"It's something we've never done before," she said. "And I'm hoping other graduate students come to the museum with these ideas so we can continue with online exhibitions."

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Pedro Almodóvar's latest film is not so exciting

COLUMNIST



JUAN BARQUIN

Few directors of Spanish cinema hold the hearts of American audiences quite like Pedro Almodóvar does. His films, always overflowing with color and sexuality, are nearly always a pleasure to watch, delivering melodrama, romance, comedy and even horror on occasion.

When it comes to his latest, however, there's little to be excited about.

"Los Amantes Pasajeros," better known by its English language title "I'm So Excited," is arguably one of Almodóvar's weakest films to date.

No one can blame the writer/director for wanting to have some fun after delivering the bleak but fascinating horror film, "The Skin I Live In," but the film leaves a lot to be desired.

To sum it up, "Los

Amantes Pasajeros" is what happens when one takes an ounce of "Airplane!" and drops in a Spanish director who loves sex almost too much for his own good.

Trapped aboard an airplane that can't land, the film features a collection of kooky characters, including but not limited to a virgin psychic, a dominatrix and a trio of gay flight attendants.

The flight attendants and pilots, along with the absurd first-classers, are the only ones awake on the plane, due to the planned drugging of the entire coach class to control panic.

Unfortunately, they're not very interesting people.

Each one comes with their own baggage, and while certain wacky situations are enjoyable enough to watch, others veer too far into drama and out of the humorous mood for viewers to want to deal with.

Each dramatic insert is

more frustrating than the next, but none is as unnecessary as the entire scene that takes place off the plane.

Had Almodóvar cut a few characters and everything off-plane, "Los Amantes Pasajeros" could have made for a thoroughly entertaining short film, but instead it feels bloated even with its hour and a half length.

A good case could be made for a drinking game along with it though, as there's a good chance that it might be funnier after ingesting as much alcohol as its characters.

While there's plenty to dislike, Almodóvar still does a fine job at showing off his way with words.

Some of the delightful Spanish wordplay and comedy may not come through in translation, but there's no shortage of ridiculous sex talk to keep audiences entertained.

That abundance of sex is unfortunately a double-edged sword, though, as bringing in too much of it



PHOTO COURTESY OF FELGTB/CREATIVE COMMONS

Pedro Almodovar directed "Los Amantes Pasajeros" which was recently released.

gets relatively tiresome.

All the sex, alcohol, potential death and over the top performances in the world can't save "Los Pasajeros Amantes" from all its faults, but at

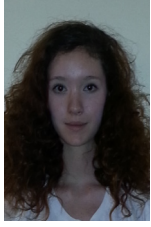
its center lies one scene that's just plain riveting. However boring the rest of the movie is, there's nothing like watching the three flight attendants perform a lip-sync

number to The Pointer Sisters' "I'm So Excited" that makes it almost worth watching.

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Back to the basics: dress to impress for school

COLUMNIST



ASHLEY GARNER

Sometimes, coming up with an interesting outfit can be as difficult as coming up with a thesis statement. Trust me, I've been there and done that.

During these sweltering summer months, it can be even more challenging when our options are limited to only one layer of clothing and that layer consists of the shortest length you can get away with. As I have been strolling around campus I have noticed a trend of sorts coming around and that is getting back to the basics.

One of these basics are those Converse sneakers you always

saw your parents wearing and thought were so old school but now they are old school enough to be retro thus making them cool again, especially for school. This point was proven by freshman Liane King, who paired her low-top Converse with a simple gray jersey dress and styled it up with some major gold hoop earrings and a vibrant orange purse. When asked what made her decide to wear that outfit she said, "It's hot and I wanted to be comfortable."

The second basic that I have been seeing over and over again on campus this summer is the return of denim. Not that denim ever really left but with the increase in spandex and American Apparel's popularity you certainly have not been seeing

too much of denim in Miami these days. Statistics major Grace Frawley made denim her go-to item this summer and was caught rocking, as she so eloquently put it, "Canadian cocktail attire" with high-waisted denim shorts and her dad's oversized denim shirt.

Easy and breezy: exactly the two qualities we should all be looking for in our outfits as we continue to suffer through Miami's unpredictable weather conditions. So take a note from these two lovely ladies and remember that getting dressed doesn't have to be rocket science; all you need is some fresh or, better yet, vintage denim and a pair of Converse sneakers and you'll be good to go.

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ASHLEY GARNER/THE BEACON

Liane King paired her bright orange bag with low-top Converse shoes.

Council preparing, excited for Homecoming events

JESSICA VALERIA RODRIGUEZ Staff Writer

With less than 100 days until Homecoming, the Homecoming Committee and students are already pumped and preparing for all its events.

Assistant of communications of the HC Committee, Sofia Sanchez said they have been preparing since before April for everything.

"We have one pre-event that is 50 days before Homecoming to get students excited and aware

that HC week is coming up," said Sanchez.

This event is hosted along with FIU Splash, which takes place the last weekend of summer while students move into their dorms. Last year, FIU Splash was a pool party and movie night.

This year's event is still a mystery.

"To find out what it will be this year you have to come find out! More details will be disclosed through our social media," Sanchez said.

Other than the much-antici-

pated Panthermonium Concert, set to be October 6, which J. Cole and Zedd will be headlining, there is a Homecoming event every day after until the Homecoming game.

These events will be what most students have seen in the past: a comedy show, "Panther Prowl", a step show hosted partly by the Black Student Union, "Panthers Got Talent" and other events like a Homecoming dance, parade and more.

There is a way for anyone to participate; students can also be part of the Homecoming court.

Senior and Homecoming Queen Fernanda Gonzalez is extremely excited for Homecoming because this year she will be seeing all the events from a different point of view.

"This year as queen, I feel like I can play an important role in all of the events," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez showed her eagerness for working with the entire court to help promote all the events and show FIU school spirit. She will be attending the concert as it is her last year and her favorite DJ is performing.

Gonzalez also said that being Homecoming Queen was an amazing experience where she got to meet President Rosenberg and be a bigger part of the FIU community.

"This year the Homecoming Council has really made a great effort engage the students into Homecoming. They really are pumping us all up. The events give students an opportunity to enjoy something together to create that Panther pride," Gonzalez said.

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Celebrating calls for champagne and sparkling wine

WINE, PAGE 8

The first wine of the night was a Brut Premier, consisting of 56 percent Pinot Noir, 33 percent Chardonnay and 10 percent Pinot Meunier, from the prestigious producer Louis Roederer, most famous for creating the Champagne called Cristal for Alexander II of Russia in 1876. The Champagne tasted had a pale gold color: off-white being almost creamy. Its nose (aroma) had hints of pear and green apple with a tangy scent. Its taste presented high acidity with tones of lemon and orange

zest. It had a very buttery texture making it very smooth on the palate. Its finish was medium-long: flavor lasted more than five seconds on the mouth. The average price is \$49.

The second wine of the night was a Brut Rosé 2008, from the same producer and region as mentioned previously: Louis Roederer in Champagne, France. It was definitely my favorite wine from the night. It had a very intriguing color: a mixture of tones of gold dancing in the middle of a peachy sea. If compared to a regular Champagne, the year is relatively young since most of the maisons (houses) started releasing its 2003 vintage this

year; however, I could already pick a maturity in its nose giving me a very ripen fruit fragrance of roses and herbs. The taste was an evolution experience, starting with raspberry and finishing with white chocolate. Overall it had an outstanding balance with a striking velvet coat. The finish was medium-long. Its average price is \$89 and, in my opinion, the best value of the night.

The third wine of the night was a L'ermitage Brut 2003 from the same "Champagne House" producer as the two above: Roederer. However, the State of this wine is in Anderson Valley, California. The color of this sparkling

wine was a fair yellow, almost translucent. Its nose had earthy tones of asparagus and mushrooms. On the palate, I was able to pick spices and green apple with a high acidity level and a long finish. Overall, it was a pleasant wine but there was no element of surprise. The average price of this wine is \$48.

- Daniela Walter is a Teaching Assistant to professors Chip Cassidy and Bill Hebrank of the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management.

Students can follow her on Twitter: @ellavwalter

Trayvon Martin's mother: Repeal stand-ground law

CURT ANDERSON AP Writer

The mother of slain Florida teenager Trayvon Martin joined a prominent African-American lawyers organization in vowing Monday to keep the pressure on legislators to repeal or overhaul "stand your ground" self-defense laws.

Sybrina Fulton repeated her assertion that neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman "got away with murder" in the 2012 killing of her son largely because of Florida's self-defense law, which generally removed a person's duty to retreat if possible in the face of danger. It was the first of its kind in the nation when passed in 2005. Now, about two dozen states have similar laws, but the focus of repeal efforts is squarely on Florida.

"We have to change the law so that this doesn't happen to someone else's child," Fulton told reporters at the National Bar Association's annual meeting. "My son wasn't doing anything wrong. He was simply walking home. He wasn't a suspect."

Florida Gov. Rick Scott, a Republican, has rejected calls

for a special legislative session on "stand your ground" from protesters who have been occupying part of the Capitol in Tallahassee since Zimmerman was acquitted earlier this month by a jury in Sanford. Zimmerman claimed self-defense in shooting the 17-year-old Martin during a fight; Martin's supporters say Zimmerman profiled and followed him because Martin was black.

Senate President Don Gaetz, also a Republican, said Monday he agrees with Scott that there is no need for a special session. Gaetz said there is little agreement on whether change is needed to the "stand your ground" law and that voters have a chance in the 2014 elections to make their views known.

"If people want to change the policymakers, if they want to change the policies, that's why we have elections," he said.

Part of the message of Monday's event was just that: urging people to register to vote and contribute to sympathetic politicians if they want such laws repealed. The organization's president, John Page, also said the legal system needs to do more to ensure that racially balanced juries are chosen.

"We need to raise our voices together and say, 'Enough,'" Page said. "This should be the first state where 'stand your ground' falls. And it will fall."

Although he was not part of the event, the Rev. Jesse Jackson appeared as a spectator and later told reporters that the "stand your ground" law reminded him of past laws that prevented blacks from sitting at the front of buses. Such an ordinance sparked the bus boycott in Montgomery, Ala., in 1955 that was key to the civil rights movement — which did not focus just on the bus drivers, but on ending the law itself, he said.

Because Zimmerman's trial was not focused on race, Jackson added, it "did not have a foundation based on reality. We're not looking for a fight. We're looking for a solution."

The Justice Department is investigating whether Zimmerman, who identifies as Hispanic, may have committed a hate crime in killing Martin. Legal experts say it would be a difficult charge to bring because no evidence has surfaced indicating Zimmerman singled out Martin because he was black or that he harbored racial bias.

Turner discusses challenges for new year

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

On the morning of July 24, Head Coach Ron Turner and Quarterback Jake Medlock were in Dallas, Texas for the program's first media day as a member of Conference USA.

In their interview with Ron Thulin of the Fox Sports Network, the pair spoke on spring practice, the upcoming fall and some of the controversy that has occurred this offseason.

"I had nine years as a college head coach and about 15 as an assistant," Turner said on his experience. "College is where I really started what I enjoy doing. I am excited to be back in the college game working with these young guys and helping them develop."

Turner and his staff have implemented the Pro-style offense in their time at FIU. Medlock is looking to take advantage of that move since he ran that offense dating back to his high school days.

"The transition to the new offense has been unbelievable. Working with coach (Turner) and his staff in bringing in the new offense has been an awesome experience. Learning all the new things including the drop backs and reads its just been amazing," Medlock said. "In my high school we ran the pro-style offense and were under center, and it is basically the same style as what I ran before."

"The pro-style offense is what I know, what I am used to and what I believe in," Turner said.

"I think you can have a lot of success doing it. There was a time where the Spread was just coming out and not a lot of people knew how to defend it. It has now gone the other way. Everyone runs the spread and everyone knows how to defend it. Now you bring another style in with mixing in a good solid running game with the play action passing game giving us a vertical attack and a high percentage drop back game."

Turner is extremely confident in what the Pro-style approach can do for his offense.

On the defensive side, though, Turner is looking at the defensive line to anchor his defense.

"We have depth there. We have some young players, we have got some athletic players and that adds to the depth. We are a very inexperienced team all along the board, yet we have a pretty good mix all across the line," Turner said.

"We have Isame Faciane and Greg Hickman who are great players, and you have Giovanni Francois who has played quite a bit of football. Then you have some young, upcoming guys who can step in like Darrian Dyson who is a very exciting talent, so hopefully he can put it together."

Later on during the media craze, Medlock addressed the inexperience of his offense, which only

includes three members of the offense line who saw playing time last year and an overall three letterman who started last year, not to mention the recent loss of starting runningback Kedrick Rhodes due to his arrest.

"We had to come together quickly, having only three offensive lineman with playing experience I needed to work with the younger guys saying, 'This is how we have to do it' and going from there. They have bought into it and they are following us older guys," Medlock said. "Then with the receivers like Glenn Coleman and Willis Wright showing the younger guys how to run their routes and teaching how to do the things they need to do to be successful."

The team was picked last in Conference USA in part because of the lack of experience.

Turner wrapped up the media day by announcing what the foundation of the football program will be built on.

"The three things that we'll be building this program on are accountability, real and mental

toughness, and discipline."

conferenceusa.com.

All quotes for this story were taken from the live stream on

-sports@fiusm.com



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Jake Medlock, above, and Head Coach Ron Turner, said they think the new pro-style offense will be an improvement over last season.

Charges dropped in murder case of Kendall Berry, expected to refile

FRANCISCO RIVERO
Sports Director

On Wednesday July 24, prosecutors unexpectedly dropped a murder charge against ex-FIU student Quentin Wyche. Wyche was charged with second-degree murder after he fatally stabbed former running back Kendall Berry during an on-campus brawl in March 2010.

Prosecutors were forced to drop the charges on Wyche Wednesday when key witnesses were not available and a Miami-Dade judge refused to delay the trial. However, the prosecution is going to look into refileing the second-degree murder charge against Wyche.

During the case, Wyche had claimed self-defense and asked a judge to throw out the case under Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law. However, the request was denied and the case was set to go to a jury trial.

In an official statement released Wednesday from the State's Attorney's Office the prosecution explains its disappointment and intense goal to refiling the charges against Wyche.

"The Quentin Wyche case (accused of killing FIU Football star Kendall Berry) was set for trial July 29th but we are unable to proceed due to the unavailability of certain Witnesses. The court denied our request for a continuance today. We announced a nolle prosequere but we have not abandoned the prosecution of this case. The case has been refiled and a new arrest warrant has already been signed and filed and the defendant has agreed to arrange his surrender. So the case is being refiled."

The Beacon tried contacting the college of law and was redirected to the Law faculty however, no one was available for comment.

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Turner hires new Director of Football Operations

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Going into the 2013 football season at FIU, the program had a number of men in the position of Director of Football Operations. The first two only held the office for about a month apiece before resigning.

In comes Sean Todd, who previously worked at Florida Atlantic University in their football operations office. Working his way up the ladder there from Coordinator of Football Operations starting June 2001, then Assistant Director in early 2005 and finally Assistant Athletics Director for Football Operations in the offseason prior to the 2010 season, he has shown that he has learned from experience.

Todd also worked in the Dolphins organization under the likes of Don Shula and Jimmy Johnson. During his tenure in Miami, he was in charge of training camp, facilities and travel. He was also one of the architects of the Travel Coordinator's Group which meets annually.

"The previous men leaving did not weigh in on my decision to come and work

here. To my understanding, both of the first two incumbents of this position left due to lack of understanding of the position and lack of experience for the job," Todd said.

Earlier on in the offseason, the Miami Herald incorrectly reported the Todd was hired to handle the incidents that had occurred.

"All of the incidents that happened can be addressed by Coach (Turner) and I was not here for the earliest of those incidents," Todd said.

He was referring there to the incident in late January in which several players misused money given to them by the university to entertain incoming recruits on official visits by taking them to a strip club.

"It will definitely be addressed," Todd said. "The athletes must sign a contract stating what they can or cannot do with the money provided and that was definitely a misuse of the funds."

"Part of the lessons that we hope to teach them are that poor decisions are unacceptable," Todd said. "Others are prepa-

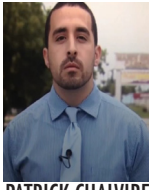
SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 7

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Kicking it into Conference USA with women's soccer

COMMENTARY



PATRICK CHALVIRE

With so much attention being on the football team, though it may not be the type of press they would like to see this summer, it's easy to oversee another Panther team crawling under the radar.

Not only is the women's soccer team spending their off-time serving the community and winning the 2013 Dr. Paul Gallagher Community Service Award, the ladies have to be one of the most successful yet unnoticed teams on campus and if you begin to look ahead to the 2013 season, this is a team you may not want to sleep on.

We all know Miami gets a bad reputation for the lack of fans, or fans who show up late to games and leave just before a three-pointer helps lead a team to a Game seven in the NBA Finals. But last season, the soccer team only lost one game at home. Losing one game out of eight at home personally makes me want to go check this squad out for myself and I'm not one even to watch a soccer match.

The Panthers finished the 2012 season with 13-6, and I'm sure only a handful of people knew that. Led by star goalkeeper Kaitilyn Savage, only allowing 19 goals all season, the Panthers made it to the Sun Belt Conference Championship match before falling to the top team, North Texas. But I'm sure you all knew this...oh wait.

To those who may feel that success was just a strike of luck, the Panther's have won Sun Belt Conference titles three out of the last four years. Savage also became the first goalkeeper in program history to record 10 or more wins for three-consecutive seasons.

Another young lady to look out for is Chelsea Leiva. She was selected to the second team of the 2012 NCAA Division I Women All-South Region Team. Savage made it to the third team. Oh, and Leiva is a three-time All-Conference selection, so she clearly knows what she's doing.

Now it isn't all roses for this team. The Panthers will enter the 2013 year without their top goalkeeper. Savage moved to the land down under and joined the Perth Glory of Australia's Westfield W-League.

Kelley Struyf and newcomer Vanessa Plasencia will now take the reigns at protecting the net. A lot to ask for when you're following up the success of Savage, with Struyf having only played in three games all of last year.

The success and failures of any team always falls on the coach. Thankfully for Thomas Chestnutt, the two-time Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year, hasn't had to face the turmoil some other programs have gone through. With Chestnutt leading the way, the Panthers have earned various awards and honors from the Sun Belt Conference and National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

The Panthers will now start a new journey as they enter Conference USA. With the loss of Savage and being the rookies in a new playing field, Chestnutt will need to put together a group of women who will be ready to take on a new



BEACON FILE PHOTO

The women's soccer team will try to continue its dominance into C-USA this year after winning three of the last four

vigor of opponents.

Luckily for the Panthers, they won't be facing in-state rival and last seasons C-USA champion UCF, as the Knights moved out of conference and became a new member of the American Athletic Conference.

I'm not one to say 'Let's wait and see' when it comes to the future of a team, but all I can say is if the past has anything to say for itself, this may be a team you'd want to fill the stadium for.

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New director worried about depth on roster

FOOTBALL, PAGE 6

ration for life after football, and helping each of them to become great citizens. In that being great men, great fathers, great husbands, and overall just great people in general."

Some incidents, that Todd decided not to comment on that have happened during his short tenure at the University are two of the biggest this offseason.

The first being the arrest of star

runningback Kedrick Rhodes, who discharged a firearm multiple times on the MMC campus in early July while intoxicated. The second was the nudity incident at Crandon State Park after the annual beach workout in which several players decided to shower in a public area completely nude.

"For every negative incident that is reported by the media today there are at least 12 positive incidents that go unreported," Todd said. "An example of something that has gone unreported is that the

Orange Bowl is going to bring between 300 and 400 children for a free camp to learn about football."

Todd also spoke on the preseason ranking of last place in the new Conference USA.

"In 2007 when I was a part of FAU's program they entered the season ranked to finish last in the Sun-Belt. That really took pressure off so the athletes had nothing to lose each and every week," Todd said. "The team ended up winning the conference and going to a bowl game that year

and I am not saying that always happens but it does take a lot of pressure off."

Todd, who does not deal with on the field play directly, does have an opinion on the team.

"The guys that are left from last season have to be hungry for something this season after going a dismal 3-9," Todd added. "However, I am not comfortable with the depth that is out there on the field at some of the key positions."

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Ricky Williams eager to mold young minds

KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Writer

Ricky Williams can't change the past and wouldn't want to even if he could.

He has decided to be a coach and dares anyone to tell him why his prior transgressions should preclude him from molding the next generation of football talent.

"If you took slices of my life and you pushed pause, yeah, it would look bad," Williams said in an interview with The Associated Press. "But if you push play and see my whole movie, it's actually a very inspiring story."

The 1998 Heisman Trophy winner and NFL All-Pro who led the league in rushing in 2002 is set to take a job coaching running backs at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio. The small Catholic school, which is moving to Division I this season, is in the process of finalizing the hire.

His football skills and knowledge are undeniable. But a past that includes failed drug tests and an

abrupt retirement from the Miami Dolphins cast a pall on the stellar career of a hard-running player who piled up more than 10,000 yards rushing in his NFL career.

Williams has always refused to be what people expect him to be or conform to societal norms. His constant search for fulfillment has led him to travel the world studying and teaching yoga and to seek solace in those who appreciate him for more than just his football prowess.

"If your idea for young people or kids is to show them a pretend ideal of what perfection is supposed to be, to me that's not a good role model," he said. "A good role model is someone who keeps on moving and keeps on creating their lives no matter what happens."

The 36-year-old Williams retired for good from the NFL after the 2011 season. He believes a past of incomparable success followed by a very public downfall and subsequent redemption make him more than qualified to guide young people searching for their paths. He's maintained the

youthful exuberance of someone half his age, and his words spill out quickly, as if he's worried a thought might disappear if he doesn't rush to share it.

"Everyone deals with some kind of adversity and some kind of difficulty whether it's self-imposed or not," he said. "To me, the mark of a role model or a good influence is someone who can make it through anything. And not just make it through anything but who can thrive in any situation, and that's one thing that I think I have shown to the world is that nothing I do or was done is ever going to stop me. I'm always going to keep going."

The idea sprang from his work as a life coach and spurred the former University of Texas star to become curious if the profession could be a natural fit for him. But it wasn't a completely new idea. During his retirement from the Dolphins in 2004, he realized he could have a more profound impact on people in ways other than as a football player.

"Looking at my skill set and

what I was good at, one of them was football obviously and the other one was that anytime I was around people, people's lives usually got better and that I usually gave them a different way to look at things," he said. "So I applied those two things and it naturally came out to coach."

Incarnate Word is thrilled.

"I think it is a good fit," Incarnate Word coach Larry Kennan said in a release. "His experience will be a big help to our staff and players and I think he will have a positive effect on our recruiting efforts."

The campus is a short 80-mile drive down Interstate 35 from Royal-Memorial Stadium in Austin. It was there that Williams solidified his legacy as one of the best running backs to play in the Lone Star State by setting an NCAA record with 6,279 career yards rushing.

In an odd twist, Williams will help coach a team which plays in Gayle and Tom Benson Stadium. Tom Benson, who owns the New Orleans Saints — where Williams

began his NFL career after he was drafted fifth overall in 1999 — is a major benefactor of the university.

What kind of coach will Williams be? He points to former Texas coach John Mackovic, who recruited him to play for the Longhorns.

"He genuinely cared about his players as men and as people," Williams said. "He didn't just teach us football but he also shared life lessons with us. He shared himself with us and he also encouraged me to be me, which was a huge gift and really allowed me to develop."

Williams also enjoyed his time playing for Nick Saban because "he demanded a lot of us, but he didn't demand us to be what he wanted us to be, he just demanded us to be more of what we were."

His coaching gig will be more like a part-time job; he had already accepted a position working for the Longhorn Network during the football season. They haven't worked out all the details yet, but he's been told he could handle his coaching duties on his days off from broadcasting.

MAST Academy at BBC begins in fall semester

MARISOL MEDINA
Contributing Writer

This August, students at the Maritime and Science Technology Academy High School in Virginia Key, Fla., will have a good reason to celebrate going back to school: MAST Academy opens at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The MAST Academy is an award-winning magnet school, with an emphasis on science and marine biology. Nationally recognized, MAST has been rated 11th in all of Florida by U.S. News and featured as one of “America’s 10 Most Amazing Schools” in Ladies’ Home Journal.

Students at MAST Academy come from all corners of Miami-Dade County, some even enduring long commutes of three hours or more every day.

In order to better accommodate the students living in the southern part of the county, MAST has opened a Homestead campus, focusing on the medical sciences.

Up until now, the students living in the northern part of the campus had to commute to Virginia Key.

MAST at BBC will solve that problem by allowing students in north Miami-Dade the possibility of taking classes there.

“I think it will be good for

FIU and our community. Having MAST here allows FIU’s faculty and students who have children who are eligible to go to MAST to avoid going through a lottery to get into MAST,” said Steven Moll, the Vice Provost of BBC.

According to Moll, currently, only one out three students meeting the requirements for admission are admitted into the school.

Moll explained that by FIU allowing MAST to occupy its facilities to host their program, the University was able to negotiate guaranteed admissions for children of FIU’s current students, faculty and staff.

“This is a win, win, win, win situation: a super win,” said Moll.

Initially, the University will host only 9th graders, but will add a grade per year for the next three years. 88 of MAST’s incoming students, based in the north part of the county, will be spared the three hours of commuting it took to travel to the school’s main campus.

Moll explained that as far as the facilities these students will occupy, for the first year, FIU has designated four rarely-used classrooms in the Academic I building.

The following year, the students will be housed in portable classrooms located between AC II and the Kovens Conference Center.

NO ENTRY



STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

As the end of summer classes nears, Panther Square remains closed off and under construction for renovations.

A dedicated facility, paid for by Miami-Dade County Public Schools, will then be built for permanent use.

Students will also be given the option of enrolling in college their high school degree on FIU’s grounds. Additionally, Moll said that taking dual enrollment courses while attending the MAST Academy at FIU will remove 38 percent of the total cost of college.

“Students will be given the opportunity to do dual enrollment without having to commute at all from where they already are. If students do this, by the time they graduate high school, they are already in the middle of their sophomore year in college. That is 45 credits of college work that Miami-Dade County Public Schools paid

for,” said Moll.

Gloria Arazoza, District Director in School Choice and Parental Options at Miami-Dade County Public Schools, explains that the students will be engaging in a challenging curriculum and advanced dual enrollment at FIU, with a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) focus.

“We are very excited about this program. We will be opening up this fall with 9th grade as our initial target,” said Arazoza.

Arazoza explained that as opposed to the MAST at Homestead and the MAST at Hialeah, MAST at FIU BBC will be focusing on earth environmental and marine sciences, the same strand as the MAST at Virginia Key.

“MAST at BBC will be a duplication of the Maritime and Sciences program at Key Biscayne, taking advantage of the University’s location on the bay,” said Arazoza.

Estefania Jaramillo, a senior journalism student, says she is glad to hear that FIU will be serving the community by allowing further access to a prestigious program to students.

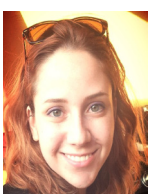
“I am very happy to know that FIU is contributing to impact these young kids’ lives.

Not only will their commute time be less, but they will have the opportunity to get a head start on college, something many of us wish we could have done,” said Jaramillo.

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Celebrating calls for champagne and sparkling wine

COLUMNIST



DANIELA WALTER

On July 19, the venue of the tasting was the prestigious Four Seasons Miami, and the host of the night was Barry Alberts. He is considered one of Miami’s “wine gurus,” always fascinating crowds in his tastings that are held on a regular basis at The Forge as well as The Four Seasons. The night started with six white wines and finished with six red wines to a group of 34 people.

In order to continue our summer theme from last week’s tasting about rose wines, and in the mood of celebration since another graduation is almost around the corner, I have decided to review two

Champagnes and a sparkling wine.

You must be asking yourself, “Aren’t they all the same with bubbles and sparkle?” For most people, the answer would be “yes.” But you, as a dedicated and clever reader, will now be able to distinguish between both in your next purchase. Champagne can only be called “Champagne” if it comes from the Champagne region, around 90 miles north of Paris, France.

For all the other carbonated wines that do not come from this specific area, the correct name would be simply sparkling wine.

True to be told, Champagne and sparkling wine are not my favorite choices of beverage; nonetheless it is the most fascinating one to me. Its production is so

complex that it is an art itself to produce one of quality. The high price not only reflects excellence, but also a very demanding and arduous process.

The “Méthode Champenoise” involves several methods, but to start, you need to know that this type of wine is a blend of three grape varieties – Chardonnay (a white variety), Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier (both red varieties) – as well the blend of vintages, villages and vineyards. It requires talent more than technique to create this unique beverage.

As legend goes for the creation of Champagne, it is said that Dom Pérignon bottled and sealed his wines before fermentation was completed, leaving carbon dioxide imprisoned inside of it. Due to the area’s

cold climate, fermentation stopped until the warmer spring, making several bottles explode.

With a few bottles remaining, he tasted them and said he “was tasting stars,” a touch of heaven on earth. On a history note, you might have been familiar with the name Dom Pérignon as a Champagne House brand, but in fact Dom Pérignon was the monk responsible for the wine production at the Abbey of Hautvillers near the city of Reims, France. Nowadays the information that we have is that he did not create “Champagne” but he was merely responsible for enhancing and improving the wine.

SEE WINE, PAGE 5

Fla. apartment gunman described as lonely, angry

CHRISTINE ARMARIO
AP Writer

The gunman who went on a shooting rampage at his South Florida apartment building, killing six people, was a lonely man who spoke about having pent up anger, those who knew him said Sunday.

Pedro Vargas, 42, lived on the fourth floor of a barren, concrete apartment complex in the Miami suburb of Hialeah with his elderly mother. He rarely spoke with others there, and confided to a man who worked out at the same gym that he liked to work out his anger by lifting weights and trying to get

big.

“He’d just say this was the only thing that would keep him normal, pulling out all the anger in the gym,” Jorge Bagos told The Associated Press.

Bagos said the gunman expressed frustration over bad experiences with women and losing

all his hair from using steroids.

On Friday night, Vargas set a combustible liquid on fire in his apartment, sending the unit into flames, police said. Building manager Italo Piscioti and his wife went running toward the smoke. Vargas opened his door and shot and killed both of them, Lt.

Carl Zogby, a spokesman with the Hialeah Police Department said.

Vargas then went back into his apartment and began firing from his balcony. One of the shots struck and killed Carlos Javier Gavilanes, 33, who neighbors said was returning home from his son’s boxing practice.