

Pitino reportedly leaving FIU for Minnesota



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/BEACON FILE PHOTO

Richard Pitino recorded the best record in FIU basketball in 13 years with an 18-14 record. can choose which five days they can eat.

FIUSM STAFF

After just one season with FIU, basketball Head Coach Richard Pitino is expected to replace Tubby Smith as head coach at University of Minnesota.

According to CBS Sports, Minnesota athletic director Norwood Teague met with Pitino on Wednesday and the two reached a verbal agreement.

Pitino could not be reached for comment.

According to senior guard Cameron Bell, no one on the team had any idea Pitino planned on leaving.

FIU basketball staff, Athletic Director Pete Garcia, and media relations were not made available for

comment.

Pitino just finished year one of a five-year, \$1.25 million deal with the Panthers he signed in April 2012. Because he has decided to leave, in his contract it says that he must now pay one year's salary to FIU, worth \$250,000.

The specifics of the Minnesota contract were unknown at the time of press.

Pitino led the Panthers to an 18-14 record and their first winning season in 13 years before falling to Western Kentucky in the Sun Belt Conference Championship.

"It's just a shocker that he left, especially with a great recruiting class

coming in as well as some of the transfers that are going to be playing for us next year like Raymond Taylor and Rakeem Buckles," senior guard Manny Nunez said. "We had one of the best seasons in FIU history and we were going in the right direction. I'm just shocked he would leave right now."

News of Pitino's departure comes almost a year to the day after FIU fired Isiah Thomas after a dismal three years as FIU's head coach.

As of now, it is undetermined who is in charge of the team or if there is an ongoing search for a replacement.

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Changes in dual enrollment waiver handicaps budgets

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Editor-in-Chief

In spring 2013, a dual enrollment waiver is being applied in a new way, creating a ripple wave effect in student fees.

Initial projections for the activity and service fund, the total amount of money generated through the A&S fee, was about \$16.1 million.

After accounting for bad debt percentage and the dual enrollment waiver, the total amount of money fell to approximately \$14.9 million, a \$1.2 million difference and 7 percent less.

The amounts generated through the athletic and health fees and how much they are after accounting for bad debt and dual enrollment waivers were not available as of press time.

The bad debt percentage is a percent and half, which leaves the rest of the difference from the dual enrollment waiver.

The waiver is due to a Board of

Governors regulation and Florida statutes which together make the cost of taking college courses free for high school students taking dual enrollment courses in any higher education institution in the Florida College or State University systems.

The statute says dual enrollment students are exempt from paying tuition and fees, and the BoG regulation says each university's board of trustees are required to waive tuition and fees for dual enrollment students.

Dual enrollment students are charged tuition and fees but the waiver needs to be applied so the students are not held financially responsible.

"This would be no different from going into a department store where you had a gift credit for \$50 and making a purchase for \$50," Chief Financial Officer Kenneth Jessell wrote in an emailed response to Student Media. "The purchase would be recorded on the receipt so the store knows what product was



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Students cheer on remaining contestants Victoria Rudd and William Solis (center-left to right) as they carefully position themselves during Sigma Sigma Sigma's 'Twistermania' event to raise money towards their sorority's philanthropy. Through these funds, the sorority supports terminaly ill children as well as their own leadership conferences.

sold, removing the product from inventory, and then inserting the \$50 gift card as a credit or 'waiver' showing a balance due of \$0."

This method, Jessell wrote, is the appropriate way to handle accounting for the student's registration.

In previous years the amount of money waived from the three fees was taken from the education and general trust fund, money generated through tuition and state funds.

The process now is to take the waiver amount, or the total of what would have come from dual enroll-

ment students, from the associated fee.

Meaning the waiver of the activity and service fee will come from that fund instead of the E&G trust fund, and likewise for the

SEE ENROLLMENT, PAGE 2

University College oversees multiple components

AARON PABON
Staff Writer

There is much confusion among the University as to who exactly is in charge of FIU Online.

Joshua Sanchez, sophomore engineering major, always thought that FIU ran the online component to his virtual classes.

When he was told that University College is in charge of FIU Online, he responded, "does FIU run University College?"

According to professor Brian Peterson, the interim chair of the Online Review Committee, "University College is the overseer of FIU Online."

University College is the administrative body of continuing education and noncredit programs. It offers a multitude of off-campus and online credit courses and noncredit offerings.

Projects from University College, aside from FIU Online, include executive and professional

education courses, the Legal Studies Institute, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and the FIU Broward Pines Center. It is also responsible for training and specialty courses in continuing education units, customized training, scuba diving training and dual enrollment.

"FIU Online is also a part of University College. FIU Online is responsible for the design, development, delivery, and support of all online degree programs and all online non-credit programs," Dean of Univer-

sity College Joyce Elam wrote in an email to Student Media. "The Dual Enrollment Program in high schools [a program whereby high school students take college classes] is also managed by University College."

"What I think is there have been problems with FIU Online and having it separate from Academic Affairs," Peterson said.

Issues between the two have involved

SEE ONLINE, PAGE 2

WORLD NEWS

Taliban attack Afghan courthouse, leaving 53 dead

A provincial governor says at least 53 people, including nine attackers, have been killed in a daylong gunbattle in western Afghanistan.

Officials say the fighting broke out Wednesday after suicide bombers disguised as Afghan soldiers stormed a courthouse in Farah province in a failed bid to free more than a dozen Taliban.

Provincial Gov. Akram Akhpewak says those killed included 34 civilians, 10 security forces and nine attackers.

Ex-ambassadors urge US, Russia to mend rift

The U.S. and Russia should overcome their cold spell by focusing on their common economic and security challenges, former diplomats to Moscow and Washington said Tuesday.

The ex-ambassadors, who gathered in Moscow to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the restoration of diplomatic ties, said the strains have been driven by emotions and misperceptions rather than fundamental differences.

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

CORRECTIONS

In Issue 80, Vol. 24, the article titled, “NKorea taps reformists premier amid nuclear tension,” the author was noted as Eric Watt Staff Writer. It should have said Foster Klug and Hyung-Jin Kim, AP Staff.

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

Communication an issue for University College and FIU Online

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communication and networking.

Peterson thinks the situation can be fixed.

“A closer relationship between the two should be strengthened in the future,” he said.

In 2009, University College partnered with Academic Partnerships – a decision that has been met with controversy.

In an article published

in The Beacon on Feb. 26, faculty were “questioning the procedure — or lack thereof — that was undergone to select the company for partnership, which was neither competitive nor voted upon.”

According to the Academic Partnerships website, the company offers services in recruitment, student retention, curriculum and faculty support, market research and analysis.

“FIU chose to partner

with Academic Partnerships to provide the marketing and recruiting for the Corporate MBA [Master’s of Business Administration] program,” Elam wrote. “At the time that this program was launched [in 2009], FIU Online did not have the capability to provide for the necessary marketing and recruiting services.”

Currently, FIU Online is responsible for all of the online graduate programs.

“Because of the significant

up front cost of marketing and recruiting, it is possible that we will partner with an outside company to provide these services for some graduate online programs in the future,” Elam wrote.

Currently, the MBA program from Academic Partnerships is the only online program that FIU Online and University College has partnered with.

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SGC-BBC president opposed to new waiver process

ENROLLMENT, PAGE 1

health and athletics fees.

Alex Duque, senior associate athletic director was not available as of press time to comment on the waiver’s effect on the athletic fee.

“This effect of the waiver is new to the activity and service fee,” said Matilde Gramling, budget director for Student Affairs who manages the budgets within the Division of Student Affairs – activity and service, and health.

The main effect of this new process of applying the waiver is seen in the approximate 7 percent less money in the activity and service fee.

And the effect of the new process is felt in student government’s annual budget hearing and deliberation process in which they decide how much to fund the various student centers and student organizations at the University.

“They had less to allocate around,”

Gramling said.

William Beesting, associate dean of Undergraduate Education, argued dual enrollment students who come to the University’s campuses to take their classes don’t participate in any student-led events.

“The vast majority of dual enrollment students do not come to make use of the activity and service fee, that’s why we don’t charge them,” Beesting said.

However that isn’t true, according to Pablo Haspel, president of the Student Government Council Biscayne Bay Campus.

“They do,” Haspel said. “Data shows dual enrollment students do attend events.”

Haspel said the University should either go back to the old way of levying the waiver, or find a better method of applying it to the activity and service fund.

“We can’t afford it,” Haspel said.

Laura Farinas, president of the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus, was not available as of press time.

“It’s like taxes, if you don’t pay them, you shouldn’t be allowed to reap the benefits,” said Alex Castro, vice president of the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus.

Lauren Ledlow, a political science major and former dual enrollment student, feels the waiver has a negative effect to the University.

“Tuition is already free for dual enrollment students so paying a few extra dollars to support student activities shouldn’t be a big deal,” said Ledlow. “It looks like the exemption is hurting the school more.”

Additional reporting by Mariella Roque.

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A year later, speech policies unchanged

ALEXANDER ROSALES
Contributing Writer

On January 12, 2012, seven students and non-students were arrested for assembling at the Deuxime Maison pit located at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

As it stands, everyone who was charged with the second-degree misdemeanor of “disrupting school functions” has been cleared of such charges—even before an official trial commenced. The days following the arrests, Occupy FIU and other supporters remained united and determined to press for the dismissal of charges and demanded an end to the university’s containment policies regarding free speech and demonstrations.

Initially, University President Mark Rosenberg promised the students that the administration would “revise” current free speech codifications. Over one year later, however, the policies have remained unchanged. In fact, according to the Board of Trustees Regulations website (regulation number 110), the policy regarding assembly and demonstrations has remained

the same since January 7, 2003.

On January 28, 2012, in what appeared to be a politically pristine, but cynical maneuver, Rosenberg and a few of the administrative staff met with a group of students to discuss certain grievances related to FIU. Chief among them was the issue of political intimidation orchestrated by university police and administration in an attempt to politically disarm and streamline supporters towards feeling guilty about criticizing the university for its purposely vague and arbitrary regulations pertaining to “free speech zones.”

The GC lawn (north side) and the fountain are the recognized zones.

This event is still important because since January of last year, the administration has been largely silent in responding to the concerns about its vague free speech policies.

They cannot continue to pick and choose what type of student assemblies they allow, that would be equivalent to repressive favoritism. Students should be able to come into accordance with a sensible

policy that not only preserves the integrity of the academic learning environment, but enhances it by fostering a landscape of idea-sharing.

If there is an issue between students and the functions of the school environment, no one should be approached by armed police either.

The test of democracy is the freedom of criticism.

Bobby Joe Bracy, a first-year law student, sympathizes with the notion that FIU students are sensible, responsible adults capable of exercising their democratic freedoms without being relegated to “neat little spaces” under the watchful eye of armed campus police.

“A reasonable middle ground can be reached between student demonstrators and respect for the learning environment. There are plenty of spaces in this university,” he said.

Plenty of spaces indeed. If students want to decry animal vivisection in front of the Campus Support Complex, they should be able to. If students want to condemn the disproportionate funneling of

funds towards administrative staff salaries versus those of teachers, they should be able to in front of the Board of Trustees building.

There is absolutely no excuse why a university should be exercising codified repression against any student group whatsoever.

The policies in place preemptively strike at marginalized groups, says Eric Rojo-Dotel, a junior majoring in Political Science and International Relations.

“The university endorses free speech that is in line with the policy of the university contradicting the principles of democracy and freedom,” he said.

To suggest that providing a clear framework to allow for the facilitation of greater engagement among the student community in respect to the school they pay to attend is irresponsible would be extremely dishonest.

It is high time to have a university-wide discussion about the expansion of student rights.

-*opinion@fiusm.com*

Can we learn unity from our politicians?

REBECCA STERLING
Contributing Writer

In a time when political grandstanding, harsh rhetoric and partisan aggression all characterize our political process, it is easy to lose faith in the possibility of bipartisan compromise and progress over our country’s future political challenges.

However, there appears to be at least one issue over which even the most bitterly opposed U.S. politicians do unite. It’s so apparent that the whole world can see it. For what issue have President Barack Obama and House Speaker John Boehner both pledged full support, cutting past their heavy political differences? What is it that our often-at-odds South Florida representatives have worked so hard together to strengthen?

Members of the student organizations, College Democrats and College Republicans, know that the answer to these questions is the U.S.-Israel relationship.

They recognize that Americans, Israelis and the rest of the free world need to work together to stop the threats posed by rogue dictators, fundamentalist terrorist groups and those who violently oppose free and open societies. They understand that the U.S. position on this issue is united, with the clear example of the House of Representative’s impressive bipartisan action to sanction Iran with H.R. 1905, and the Senate’s unanimous vote for the bill, which Obama signed into law.

That is why the students of the College Democrats and College Republicans have come together in a statement of support. This unity demonstrates that it is possible to reach across the aisle in a bipartisan effort to accomplish what is good for our country, our friends around the world, and for those who seek free democratic governments.

FIU’s Student Government Council recognizes Israel as a country that shares our values of democracy, women’s rights and freedom of religion. They rose to the occasion by passing student resolution 1343 affirming their recognition. Well Done!

At FIU, we have a community of student leaders who care enough about these shared values to stand with Israel. They are constantly seeking to enhance their knowledge about our ally and the region in order to make a positive difference when the opportunity arises. I can say with confidence that there is a diverse nationwide community of student leaders, representing every campus in the country, which embraces this positive and proactive outlook.

With events on campus like Israel Peace Week and with Obama’s momentous trip to Israel, there are plenty of opportunities to learn more. All my friends across the political spectrum have come together to understand the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Despite vast possible differences, there is hope that our future political concerns will be met with the same model of progress which students are employing to reach this common understanding today.

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Cautious encounters with a crush

JENNIFER SANS
Contributing Writer

As you’re walking to class, carrying all your books, worrying about tests and grades, you look up and you are caught in an elongated awkward glance with a cute stranger.

The next day, you’re walking to the cafeteria to go grab lunch. You look up, and again, your eyes are locked with this same stranger’s.

Do you make a move? Or do your eyes find this stranger’s eyes semester after semester and neither party makes a move?

Why are people so extremely intimidated to approach whomever they’re interested in? I’m terrified and I’ve never even tried it, but how do I know it’s so awful? It’s like there’s this stigma that if I do approach the guy, I’ll get rejected. My whole body will just cave in on itself. I’ll get a nosebleed, and I’ll throw up, all simultaneously, you know, common phobias.

Yes, there are the days I fear my future is the life of a lonely spinster, but it will be the modern day spinster. The spinster that owns a company, looks like Tina Fey, enjoys night cheese, and has 15 cats, by choice.

Some of us are extremely shy. And to the guy I keep making eye contact with, you’re beautiful, but this staring “thing” has been going on way too long. I’m debating approaching you, but again, the common

phobias come up. Please refer to the list of common phobias.

Every worst-case scenario comes to mind when I think about approaching a cute stranger. I don’t just think of one scenario happening at one time, I think of every single horrible thing that ever happened in history repeating itself in that one moment as soon as I approach him; Pearl Harbor, genocide, gulags, World War II!

Some people are just gifted aren’t they? They approach someone with ease and all of a sudden Barry White comes out of the woodwork singing “Can’t Get Enough of Your Love, Babe,” and birds suddenly appear, indoors.

Then you try to approach someone and you all of a sudden develop this combination of a lisp and a stutter that you didn’t previously have.

“Why are people so extremely intimidated to approach whomever they’re interested in?”

How does a person prepare himself or herself to approach a cute guy or girl? What do they say?

Well, after talking to students in the Wolfe University Center at Biscayne Bay Campus and making them feel extremely uncomfortable with my personal questions, it seems everyone has a different approach, or no approach whatsoever.

“I approached my current boyfriend when I met him. I thought he was beautiful!” said Gianni Barcos, freshman art major. “I was a friend of his sister and I would just insert myself in his conversations. He told his sister he thought I was annoying, so I thought I had come on too strong, but eventually, he was mine.”

Other students encounter strange eye contact.

“I would see him everywhere, even see him at the south campus,” said freshman biomedical engineer Celine Wassaf. “But I just didn’t have the courage to go up to him. I could tell how nervous he was around me too and I didn’t want to deal with an awkward situation.”

The best recommendation I have is to just do it. If you’re interested in someone, just go up to him or her like you own FIU and say “Hey.” Chances are you won’t simultaneously get a nosebleed and throw up.

You’ll live through it.

-*opinion@fiusm.com*

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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University mascot is also an endangered species



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Outside of FIU, the school's mascot is a lot harder to come by as they have been listed as an endangered species since the 1970s.

DANIEL URIA
Staff Writer

The Florida panther can be found all over FIU, on sweat-shirts, hats, backpacks and more. It even lends its name to the University's ID system.

But outside of FIU, the school's mascot is a lot harder to come by as they have been listed as an endangered species since the 1970's.

The Florida panther is the only subspecies of Puma that currently exists in the Eastern United States.

In 1973 their numbers dwindled into the 20s, causing them to become one of the first animals placed on the endangered species list.

While hunting served to wipe out a great deal of panthers, Joel Heinen, a professor in the University's Department of Earth and

Environment with research in conservation, says that the largest cause of their endangerment comes from another source: Loss of upland habitat.

"While very large, the Everglades and Big Cypress are mostly wetland, and thus not prime habitat," he explains. "Much of the remaining habitat is on private lands or smaller upland reserves, and some of those are risk to more development."

The loss of Florida panthers means more than just one less species of big cat in the United States. Like all other plant and animal species they provide valuable services to their native ecosystem.

"The main service is keeping down populations of species such as deer and medium sized predators," said Heinen. With the elimination of top-level predators like

the panther across the United States, deer populations have grown out of control causing danger to various plant and animal species.

"The bottom line, is that all ecosystems need their large predators to exert top-down control, and the fate of many other species is dependent on them, via their predation on, and other indirect influence on, large herbivores and meso-predators," said Heinen.

While in the past, Florida panthers were very near extinction, various efforts to conserve the species have helped them bounce back. Organizations, such as the Florida Panther Protection Program, are working to designate more land for panther habitats.

Also, projects involving breeding Florida panthers with other species has helped

increase their numbers. "The addition of East Texas cougars helped a great deal," Heinen said. "But now the population seems to be at its maximum (about 100 adults) in the remaining habitat."

But perhaps the greatest aid to FIU's mascot and Florida's state animal is its distinction as an endangered species. "As a federally listed species, the statute requires a recovery plan and active management to increase population sizes," explains Heinen. "The federal statute also provides annual funding to recover species that are listed, and Florida has additional sources of funding, for example, the 'Panther Plate.' All those custom license plates generate additional funding for a number of causes."

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FIU Magazine wins annual district award

DUFFY DUFRESNE
Contributing Writer

This year, FIU Magazine won the Grand Award in the Council for Advancement and Support of Education's annual district awards.

CASE, an international association of educational institutions, is divided up into eight districts.

FIU is a part of District III along with institutions in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia that total to over 3,500 institutions.

According to their website, CASE aims to "be the primary

resource for professional development and information and the leading advocate for professional standards and ethics."

Through CASE's district awards programs, the best practices in advancement and people who contribute to the success of these practices are able to be recognized.

The magazine was judged based on writing and editing, art direction and design, professional execution, and technical quality and creativity. FIU Magazine competed against about 32 other entries that made up a category of publications that had a circulation of 75,000 and higher, and

earned the highest award. The magazine also received a Grand Award for illustration with their fold out spread "Thirsty Planet," as well as an Award of Excellence for their Winter 2011-2012 cover design.

"Receiving the Grand Award is confirmation that we are doing something right," said Alexandra Pecharich, managing editor of the FIU Magazine. "Being recognized by our peers is a high honor indeed. Furthermore, it validates that each member of our team is contributing his or her best. We are very grateful for the recognition."

The FIU Magazine staff

is comprised of mostly FIU students, but also includes freelance writers and artists. "We have access to some freelance writers, although primarily the stories are written by people associated with the University," said Pecharich.

FIU Magazine utilizes an advisory board that serves as the eyes and ears of the magazine, letting the staff know what is going on in their respective departments or divisions.

"This, coupled with our own activities on campus, gives us a great view of the excellent work and wonderful stories related to our faculty, students and alumni,"

said Pecharich.

The information is relayed to the magazines writers, photographers, and artists who, along with the magazine's editor Deborah O'Neil, help put out the FIU Magazine.

The FIU Magazine reaches about 115,000 alumni, faculty and donors, and puts out four issues a year, three print issues and one online issue.

"Everyone else is invited to read us online. Digital Editor Angeline Evans has created a dynamic site at magazine.fiu.edu," said Pecharich.

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GLOWS workshop discusses climate change and adaptation

JESSICA VALERIA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

In the United States and other industrialized countries, access to clean water is taken for granted. The Global Water for Sustainability Program is an association led by the University and financed by the United States Agency for International Development.

GLOWS works on the ground to implement water supply, sanitation and hygiene services. It also works to improve water management practices and build local capacity.

And thanks to International programs like GLOWS, there has already been an improvement in

water access and sanitation for more than a billion people.

"We also aim for our FIU family to become engaged in subsequent decisions and events related to water management in developing countries," said Maria C. Donoso, Director of GLOWS.

GLOWS recently hosted a workshop in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso regarding the effects of climate change and how communities can adapt. The four-day event called, "Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis," brought together representatives of academic, government and non-government institutions, such as professors, graduate students, politicians and

other community leaders. This event revolved around working in the sectors of meteorology, water, public health and animal resources.

It wouldn't have been possible without the collaboration of both these organizations, GLOWS and West Africa Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene Program.

The WA-WASH Program was launched in 2011 in Ghana, Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso because these countries in Africa have shown to be behind in achieving global standards for safe water and decent hygiene.

The organization's primary goal is to increase access to safe water and improve hygiene in West

Africa.

They hope to reach this goal is by introducing innovative and low-cost water, sanitation technologies and promoting adequate hygienic behaviors in a way everyone in the community can participate.

The 22 participants from FIU that traveled to Africa were trained to master concepts and use tools of climate change exposure and adaptation.

And later applied their knowledge through hands-on fieldwork in the villages of Oueglega and Tama.

The activities emphasized participation and were designed so that the communities could do their own risk analysis.



We're lucky to live in an advanced country and we need to do our part to help the rest of the world.

Christopher Perez
Freshman
Business Major

Seeing the risks of climate change would show them the need to plan for risk reduction.

When told about this environmental movement and effort to help another country advance freshman business major Christopher Perez agrees that

"people overlook these things everyday, we need to focus on more causes like these. We're lucky to live in an advanced country and we need to do our part to help the rest of the world."

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Clothing is more than it seams: students dress to express

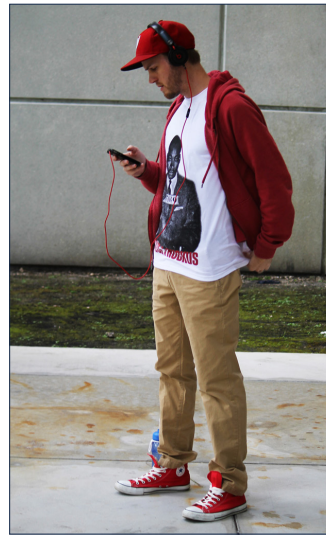
“I dress how I feel, and I feel deeply and often.”

This is a quote that I’ve held very close to my heart ever since discovering it on Tumblr by an unknown author. For me, clothing has never been something that I just had to put on to meet society’s standards, but something that was an outlet of artistic expression.

Through clothing, I was suddenly able to find empowerment, fantasy, escapism and realism all at the same time. My passion for clothing goes deeper than frivolous and trivial materialism, it is a way for me to discover and express myself; it is a way for me to give a tangible representation to intangible things.

As I have been continuing this street style project at FIU, I have become fascinated with the students that really seem to be using clothing not as a way to look “fashionable” or “cool,” but to genuinely express their unique identity.

When I asked liberal studies student Nicholas Hoffman how his outfit made him feel, he paused for a moment before responding, “I feel confident in my own convictions. I finally got this shirt because it reflects my social values.”



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY GARNER/THE BEACON

Another student who used their clothing to express their political and social beliefs is senior Remmy Rivera who was spotted wearing a camo printed snapback with an American flag patch on the front of it exclaiming “SCREW IT!”

When I questioned him on why he was wearing such an unapologetic clothing piece, he quickly rebutted saying it was his way to express his issues with politics and create his

own political warfare.

Although clothing can be used as a way to express the unique and individual “you,” it can also be used to do the complete opposite. Last week, I ran into fine arts student Stephanie Farokhnia after her final photography critique for the year. She was dressed in a delightful floor length vintage polka dot dress with a vibrant green cardigan layered on top of it. As I sat down to join her outside, I inquired as to why she

chose to wear that particular outfit that day.

“I wanted to wear something new that would go with my new hair. I’ve been wearing more dresses to go with my short hair; I guess it’s sort of like compensation for my femininity. I don’t remember how I felt earlier today but now I feel [bad] after my critique,” said Farokhnia.



Upon first glance I would have never predicted her response to be anything like that. It really surprised

me that what I was seeing didn’t match up to how she was feeling, thus making the power of clothing all the more complex of a subject. We dress how we

feel, and sometimes, we dress to make ourselves feel a certain way.

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PIKE and SigEp rivalry put on display

JOLSON DIAZ AND
JONATHAN JACOBSSKIND
FIUSM Staff

They're the Yankees versus the Red Sox, Miami Heat against the Boston Celtics or the Miami Dolphins versus the New York Jets. The intramural sports rivalry that Pi Kappa Alpha and Sigma Phi Epsilon share is similar to the greatest rivalries in pro sports.

"Every single game is just pandemonium," SigEp soccer captain Jeffrey Hernandez said. "It's always going to be a close, back and forth game, and the fans are going to be in each other's faces. There have even been some fights in the past."

Last semester, PIKE defeated SigEp in the championship football game during the last seconds of play. SigEp, a week later, defeated them in the softball championship game to get their revenge.

SigEp and PIKE are also considered rivals when it comes to recruitment. They live by

similar philosophies when it comes to finding the right guy to recruit. PIKE uses the motto of finding scholars, leaders, athletes and gentlemen, also known as SLAG.

"They're competitive just like us," said PIKE's vice president of recruitment Javi Morales. "Even when it comes to the guys that we recruit, we both want to make sure we get the best guys and they have to fit the standards of our motto."

PIKE's on campus house proves to be more attractive for recruitment, as well. With that, they are able to throw parties and localize their recruitment. SigEp, on the other hand, does not have a house which makes them more of a social outlet since they have to go out looking for guys to recruit.

While both fraternities have enjoyed much success in sports, PIKE was able to bring home the 2012-2013 Sports Cup after their win in the soccer championships over Tau Kappa Epsilon.

The winner of Sports Cup is

based on a points system where fraternities receive more points the further they advance in each

for PIKE as they were suspended for an entire year, which eliminated them from Sports Cup for

tion which then led to suspension for an entire year," Morales said. "That's why it feels gratifying to win Sports Cup in our first year back on campus. The Sports Cup is a stepping-stone to what our full potential could be."

According to Hernandez, while PIKE was sidelined with sanctions, SigEp felt like it had lost its toughest competition.

Even though PIKE and SigEp have had their share of Sports Cup victories, Morales believes this most recent Sports Cup win gives the edge to PIKE as to who has fared better in the rivalry.

"I think PIKE winning the Sports Cup puts us one step ahead of SigEp in the sense that one of the external criterias in being the best fraternity on campus is winning Sports Cup. Morales said. "Although, I don't think Sports Cup determines the best fraternity on campus, usually the best fraternity on campus wins the Sports Cup."

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“Every single game is just pandemonium. It's always going to be a close, back and forth game, and the fans are going to be in each other's faces. There have even been some fights in the past.”

Jeffrey Hernandez
Soccer Captain
Sigma Phi Epsilon

sport. PIKE was able to edge past SigEp as they were tied with 55 points apiece before PIKE won the Soccer Championship.

It's been a long time coming

two years.

"Before I got to FIU, Pike wasn't even allowed to compete in the Greek League for a couple of years since we were in proba-

Fresh start for special teams coming this fall

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Placekicker Jack Griffin, punter Josh Brisk and long-snapper Mitch MacClugage are all gone from the football roster due to graduation, which means that the gate is open wide for young players to step in and take hold of their positions this fall.

Freshman punter Chris Ayers, the only scholarship player at his position, is the clear frontrunner to be punting in the fall. The work that he is putting in this spring has only been giving this new coaching staff promise to keep that job come this fall.

The punting for last season under former head coach Mario Cristobal was something of a group effort with Brisk, Griffin, and even quarterback Jake Medlock each booting it off on fourth down for at least one attempt a piece, with Brisk having the most at 47 attempts for 1882 yards.

"Going out on a Friday night under the lights felt like a game," said Ayers of the March 29 scrimmage. "It basically was a game for me having it as the first live-action I have faced since



RHYS WILLIAMS/THE BEACON

Back-up punter Ryan Halter boots a punt down to the three yard line in warm-ups on March 29. He had no attempts for place-kicking, extra points, or punting during the scrimmage.

coming here after redshirting under Josh [Brisk] last year."

Sergio Sroka, who backed up Griffin last year, is also excited about his role in this new football era at FIU. He is looking to fill in as Griffin went 9 for 16 in field goals and had a kickoff length

average of 62.5 yards per kick.

"Last season, I would really only get one or two reps a day, mostly when Jack [Griffin] was tired," Sroka said. "Now I am taking every rep with the first team on kickoff, field goals, and extra

points which is a big change from last year, where all I did was stand on the sideline most of the time. I hope to be a main factor for this team and help us win if I can."

Two of the walk-ons from this spring's tryouts are kicker/punters and as of

the scrimmage on March 29, they are both back-ups on the team. One is a sophomore transfer from Ave Maria University in Naples, Fla. The other, as of the date of publication, has quit the squad.

Ryan Halter, a sophomore transfer, has been out on the field more in a punting aspect, even though while he was at AMU he handled the placekicking and field goals as more of a focus. He has the best chance of backing up both Ayers and Sroka in the fall if he is on the squad.

"I am willing to do whatever I can to help the team win this fall," Halter said. "Whether it is place kicking, punting, or just supporting my teammates all to help out the team. I know I will be able to do something productive for this squad."

Brandon Taylor, the main long-snapper this spring, is the only one on scholarship for his position and he is taking all of the reps with the first team for both punts and field goals. The starting spot is his to lose with this team before the trip up to play the Terps at the University of Maryland on Aug. 31.

Taylor's backup is newly converted, former wideout,

Chris Sullivan who medical-redshirted this past fall with a broken hand. The freshman from Cocoa Beach High School in Cocoa Beach, Fla. last long-snapped in high school, along with playing wideout, some quarterback, and some safety on the defensive side of the ball.

There is room for questioning though as during the live scrimmage on March 29 three out of four field goal attempts were blocked with a fourth barely making it through the uprights after being tipped by the interior of the defensive line.

The strongest part of special teams is definitely the kick and punt return game. With 843 total return yards in the 2012 season, cornerback Richard Leonard is the leader of the group and only on the way to improving those numbers this coming fall.

Along with fellow cornerback Sam Miller, wideout De'Andre Jasper, who put up the second largest number of return yards with 360, and transfer from Louisiana State University, running-back Jakhari Gore, look for the return game to be explosive come the season this fall.

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Pitching key to Panthers' recent success



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Left-hander Tyler Alexander won the Sun Belt Conference pitcher of the week award after pitching his first career shutout against Arkansas State. He struck out 10 batters and now leads the pitching staff with a 2.84 ERA.

FRANCISCO RIVERO
Staff Writer

Before winning five in a row through April 2, the baseball team ranked near the bottom of every pitching statistic category in the Sun Belt Conference.

However, over the last five games, the Panthers' starting pitching has only allowed six earned runs topped by Tyler Alexander's complete game shutout that earned him SBC pitcher of the week.

"I just think our starters are coming totally focused, and that's something that they haven't done the last couple of weeks," said catcher Aramis Garcia. "It's taken them awhile for them to get going but once they do, they are on."

From March 24 to April 2, starting pitching racked up 30 strikeouts with most of the lift coming from pitchers Mike Franco and Alexander. Their combined numbers come out to a record of six wins and four losses while collecting 65 strikeouts and generating an earned run average of 3.16.

"We're always here about an hour or two hours earlier before a game, but yes, my last two starts they said that I didn't have that focus," Alexander said. "I felt I did have it and I wanted to prove them wrong, so I came out with as much intensity as I could."

This increased need in focusing and preparing hours before the first pitch is something that even caught Head Coach Henry Thomas off guard.

"Honestly, I didn't know that [Alexander] was here two hours early," Thomas said. "That just shows how much of a

competitor he is and just how much he wants to win."

It seems that this rebirth of the starting rotation has also given spark to the Panthers' offense that scored 30 runs through April 2. Players such as short-stop Edwin Rios have taken notice of this and now look to take advantage of this new spark.

"This game is a game of concentration and focus. I just try and tell my teammates to take a deep breath and everything is going to be OK," Rios said. "I try to tell them not to overthink things and just go out there and do what you do best."

Veteran players such as second baseman T.J. Shantz can also start to feel the change in the air.

"We have just been working really hard on our off days and practice," Shantz said. "We've been focused on offensive, defense and fundamentals and now that we have some confidence, people are just gaining off one another."

Shantz also understands just how important it is for the team to get consistent starting pitching day in and day out.

"If we pound the zone and we get ahead of hitters, that's when we start to pitch with confidence," Shantz said. "These last couple of weekends, all our guys really attacked hitters and gotten ahead in counts with that big thing getting the first out in the inning."

FIU looks to extend its great pitching performances tonight at 7:30 p.m. against South Alabama (22-8).

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FIU could be cruising with Royal Caribbean

STEPHANIE MASON
Staff Writer

The University could be setting sail with Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.

The University and RCCL are currently in the negotiation process of whether a facility for the company will be built at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

After the University sent out a competitive solicitation for partnership with a performing arts company, RCCL was the only company to respond.

According to Chief Financial Officer, Kenneth Jessell, first and foremost in this plan was the tie that the chosen company would have to the academic mission of the University.

Even though, as of now, nothing is official, if the University is to accept the

proposal, RCCL would build a performance facility for its on-board entertainers. RCCL currently has such a facility in Hollywood, Fla. but if the plan to build is a go, it would then be transferred to the facility at the University once built.

If built, Jessell stated that the facility would be approximately 80,000 square feet and the project would cost approximately \$25 million total.

Vice Provost of BBC Steven Moll stated that this center would most likely be built in the northern region of BBC near the campus' Bay Vista housing. Reasoning for the facility being built in that area is due to another component of the possible plan.

This second component would entail renovation of the current Bay Vista

housing in order to provide housing for future RCCL employees.

Jessell stated that the University had previously conceived a plan to demolish the Bay Vista Housing in 2015 and build new housing as Jessell said, "It's seen better days."

If the plan goes through with Royal Caribbean, however, demolishing Bay Vista will be unnecessary as RCCL will not only cover costs to their facility being built but also of the renovations for the housing as well, according to Jessell.

During possible renovations, housing would not be available for students at BBC; however, once finished, there would still be adequate housing available. Jessell stated that current housing at BBC

hasn't had the critical mass of students needed to be cost-effective so with the entertainers from RCCL living there, the efficiency of the building would be improved.

Emerald Nesbitt, junior in psychology, is currently a resident at the Bay Vista housing and said she likes living there due to convenience and closer community.

Nesbitt said she feels renovations to the housing are necessary as the building has enough problems as it is.

"Most people don't stay on this campus anyways; we usually have a lot of rooms open so it's not like we'd be losing space necessarily," Nesbitt said. "But I just think that they'd have to take that into consideration if they do decide

to do that, because some students, if it fills up too quickly on [Modesto Maidique Campus], they have to move here. So as long as they take the space into consideration and remember that this is a dorm and things kind of do get rowdy, it's fine."

Another student currently living at the Bay Vista housing, sophomore business major David Gagne, said he enjoys the convenience of living there as well and does also feel that renovations are necessary.

As far as the RCCL facility being built, Gagne said, "They're not really the greatest company but I mean they're bringing money to the campus and it really needs it so there's that. It's a good thing I guess."

Moll stated that the facility would provide many opportunities for students, particularly those in the College of Architecture and the Arts, such as scholarships, internships and possibly even classes for students in the College of Architecture and the Arts at BBC.

"There could be partnerships with the professional entertainment people and students who want to be singers, dancers, actors," said Moll.

"Having that real world, experiential type of learning is invaluable for our students, so that was the real driver [of the plan]; it wasn't a real estate decision, it wasn't a financial decision," said Jessell.

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Housing and food troubles brought up in elections forum



SANA ULAH/THE BEACON

Ethan Roberts, a junior studying international relations, asked the unopposed Student Government Council-Biscayne Bay Campus presidential candidate, FuZhou Wu, where she sees BBC going in terms of whether the campus was heading for a more graduate school or if it would begin to offer more classes to different majors like the Modesto Maidique Campus.

JENNIFER SANS
Contributing Writer

Students at Biscayne Bay Campus came to the student government elections forum to enjoy food and listen to their fellow students voice their questions to the candidates running for Student Government Council at BBC.

The student government candidates that were present were Fuzhou Wu, running for SGC-BBC president, Ishmail Hassan running for Arts and Sciences senator, and Emerald Nesbitt, running for Housing senator.

The candidates all have different plans on how to make the atmosphere at BBC more vibrant and tried to offer different solutions for the problems that were expressed by students at the forum.

Nesbitt is advocating for better programs at Bay Vista Housing.

"I want to find a way to have more programs for the students at BVH because it's a small campus and there isn't much to do here right now. I want to make the programs available to the students who don't live on campus, as well."

Students who live in BVH who don't have access to a car rely on either public transportation, the housing shuttle that runs on Wednesdays and Saturdays, or rides from friends.

Wu wants to find a way to have longer hours of operation for food options on campus for students and said, "BBC could be the next MMC."

There are students who disagree because "there is a benefit to having two different campuses with two different atmospheres," said junior psychology major, Kathlene Torres.

Several students expressed their

concern about the food options at BBC during this forum because there are no food options on campus during weekends besides food from the vending machines.

According to Wu, the hours of operation could be improved for the bookstore and on campus restaurants, and there should be food options in the library other than the vending machines already located in various places on campus.

"Students should be able to eat or have a coffee while they are studying, the way the students at MMC can. There should be food options on weekends, too," said Wu.

The candidates ended the forum by discussing their main reasons for running.

"I am really passionate about helping students. This is such a large school and we all need to be heard," said Wu. "There needs to be a person who's going to speak for the students."

Nesbitt has lived in BVH for the past three years and feels attached to the students residing there and their issues.

"I honestly didn't even know about this position until a friend told me about it. I know what the students in BVH want because I've lived there for the past three years," said Nesbitt. "I know that a lot of students don't live on campus here at BBC, but if I'm elected, I'll make the programs at BVH available to not just the students who live on campus, but the students who commute here and have to stay late."

"I'll do my best to make sure I am the best in my position," said Hassan.

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