

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

## Budget process under scrutiny after ruling

MELISSA CACERES  
News Director  
melissa.caceres@fiusm.com

The Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus Supreme Court passed a ruling on Feb. 4 that could restructure the budget allocating process that funds over 60 student organizations and facilities.

The ruling in Ex Parte Velez SC 001 came four days before the start of University-wide Activity & Service fee budget hearings, bringing into question whether or not the events will proceed as scheduled on Feb. 8.

The legality of the process was first questioned by the Coalition of Students for Reform, a self-proclaimed student political party, through a petition that was heard by SGC-MMC's Supreme Court on Jan. 27.

The petition called for a review of the A&S budget allocation process by the Student Government's University-wide Council due to its unconstitutionality, according to Florida Statute chapter 1009.24 (10) (b). Instead it should also be the responsibility of the legislative body to allocate funds.

"We understand the current process to be unlawful and non-compliant with the intent of the state government as to how the A&S fee funds should be allocated," said William-Jose Velez, CSR president in the petition. "Not only do we believe it appropriate for the directly elected representatives of the students to have a say in the entire budget, but ultimately it is the state law."

According to the SGA Constitution, the University-wide Council is composed of each

## CAREER FAIRING



JESSICA SCHERERT/THE BEACON

[From left to right] Sidney Drake, Higher Education and Sports management grad student; Shawn Stevens, a sophomore majoring in Art Education; and Blayne Stone, a Higher Education Administration grad student, participated in the 2012 Career Fair, learning how to market themselves by mentors from FIU 30.

campus' president, vice president, speaker of the senate, comptroller from SGC-MMC and SGC at Biscayne Bay Campus and the speaker pro tempore from SGC-MMC.

The nine members of the U-wide council are responsible for allocating an estimated \$13

million of A&S fee monies.

After reviewing the petition, the SGC-MMC Supreme Court ruled in favor of the writ filed by Velez with the decision being released on Feb. 4 at 1:12 a.m.

"Because the SGA Consti-

SEE JUDICIARY, PAGE 2

HEALTH

## University Health Services diagnoses case of chickenpox on campus

LAUREN ROVIRA  
Asst. News Director  
lauren.rovira@fiusm.com

Someone at the University has an itch.

Late last week, University Health Services diagnosed a case of chickenpox, also known as varicella, at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

With an email sent out on Jan. 2, the University said it is taking measures to ensure that students and faculty are prepared, although a major outbreak is not anticipated.

"There has only been one case," said Mariela Gabaroni, assistant director of University Health Services. "The only reason we know about

it is that we diagnosed it here on campus."

The last case of varicella

people have been in contact. We don't have a high incidence of communicable

“Although, we don't anticipate major things coming from this, we had to inform the community.”

Mariela Gabaroni,  
Assistant Director  
University Health Services

diagnosed on campus was found about a year and a half ago, according to Oscar Loynaz, director of UHS.

"It is unlikely a lot of

diseases on the University, but it is important that students know," said Loynaz.

Varicella spreads through respiratory droplets and skin-

to-skin contact. Most people are exposed to the disease as children, and become immune to the virus as a result.

Symptoms include fever, general body aches, headache and a rash with individual lesions appearing as small blisters.

"Although, we don't anticipate major things coming from this, we had to inform the community," Gabaroni said.

Julie Ghazi, a junior studying engineering, said, "Many students spend the majority of their time at FIU. Many students live on campus. It's important that

SEE POX, PAGE 2

IN OUR OPINION

## Decision lacks scope of potential implications

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO  
Editor in Chief  
JONATHAN SZYDLO  
BBC Managing Editor

A recent decision of the Student Government Council at the Modesto Maidique Campus Supreme Court has called more into question than it intended to answer.

On the morning of Feb. 4, the SGC-MMC court released its decision on a petition made by the Coalition for Student Reform regarding the constitutionality of the University-wide budget allocation process for Student Activity and Service fee monies.

Keep this in mind, we aren't questioning the decision of the SGC-MMC Supreme Court, but the wording of the ruling itself and no mention being made of the possible impact and implications that the wording of

SEE RULING, PAGE 7

COMING UP | Life!

Check out Wednesday's issue for a story about male body image among students by Philippe Buteau.

ONLINE | www.fiusm.com

Follow us on:  
Twitter - @FIUSM  
Facebook - FIU Student Media: News, FIU Student Media: Sports

RADIO | Radiate FM

Tune in to Radiate FM from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Mon., Wed. and Fri. for our Opinion, Sports and News shows.



**NEWS FLASH**

**LOCAL**

**Texas judge: mental test for smoking passenger**

A judge has ordered a mental evaluation of a Florida man accused of smoking on a commercial flight and prompting an unscheduled landing in Texas.

The FBI in San Antonio says Manolin Jesus Villaverde of Miami was arrested Jan. 24 and charged with interfering with flight crew members. He faces a bail hearing Feb. 14.

The San Antonio Express-News reported Thursday that a magistrate this week approved a defense request for the psychiatric evaluation.

Investigators say Villaverde tried to smoke — twice — on Continental Flight 1287 from Houston to Ontario, Calif., and became unruly. Other passengers helped a flight attendant subdue Villaverde.

**NATIONAL**

**Second teacher pulled from S. Calif. school**

A second teacher has been removed from a classroom at a Los Angeles elementary school where a teacher this week was charged with photographing children for sexual thrills.

Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent John Deasy (DAY'-see) confirmed to KTTV-TV Friday morning that a teacher was removed from contact with children at Miramonte Elementary School after someone made some accusations against him.

Deasy won't provide details but says the teacher is under law enforcement investigation.

**WORLD**

**Poland halts copyright law after mass protests**

Poland's prime minister says he is suspending the ratification process for an international copyright treaty after widespread protests and attacks on government websites.

Donald Tusk said Friday that first a wider discussion must be held on the issue to include Internet users and privacy protection office.

The government signed the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement, or ACTA, late last month but it must still be approved. Tusk says Parliament may not do so if it conflicts with Polish law.

The U.S., Japan and others say the treaty is needed to fight trade in pirated material.

— Compiled by Lauren Rovira

# SGC-MMC Supreme Court makes ruling without SGC-BBC input

**JUDICIARY, PAGE 1**

tution defines the legislative branch as the MMC/BBC Senates, the Court finds that the University-Wide Council is not the final legislative body that should be approving the University-wide budget," according to the Supreme Court ruling.

SGC-MMC Supreme Court continues, "The final issue in this case concerns the Court's jurisdiction to hear this case. Article V Section 4 Subsection A1 reads, 'The Supreme Court shall have jurisdiction over cases or conflicts dealing with: Violations of this Constitution.' Therefore, we find this Court has jurisdiction over this case."

According to the SGA Constitution's Article V, Section 5, Subsection 2, "the Supreme Court shall have the power to create an ad hoc court to address university-wide cases, as become necessary; this court shall be composed of an odd number of justices, no less than four (4), from both SGC Courts."

However, SGC-BBC was never reached out to regarding Velez's writ.

"We weren't contacted about the hearing and they should have reached out to

SGC-BBC," said Pablo Haspel, SGC-BBC senate speaker. "What this does is it hints at the lack of communication between the councils."

Regardless of the lack of communication between the two campus specific councils, the MMC court felt a need to hear the case.

BBC] and externally [with SGA as a whole]. According to Collyer, the SGC-BBC executive board is meeting on Feb. 6 to address the SGC-MMC Supreme Court's decision. Their plan of action will be decided upon and brought up in the next U-wide meeting, which has yet to be scheduled.

"She'll be properly advised by our advisers and will be presented with similar situations dealing with the matter," said Haspel.

Though the structure of the University's student government is unique in which it is the only Florida state school that has two separate councils with their

*"We weren't contacted about the hearing and they should have reached out to SGC-BBC. What this does is it hints at the lack of communication between the councils."*

Pablo Haspel  
SGC-BBC Senate Speaker

"We felt that the [SGA] Constitution violated the state law and as such we decided that we should only address the things that are brought up before us, instead of addressing the implications and interpretations," said Octavio Mella, chief justice of the SGC-MMC Supreme Court, who wrote the ruling.

Emilio Collyer blames the ruling as a lack of communication internally [within SGC-

They will also be filing a writ with the SGC-BBC Supreme Court.

"I think [Martha Lorena Ochoa, the BBC Supreme Court justice] will lead the judiciary to the appropriate decision," said Mella.

Ochoa, a senior, was unanimously appointed to her position Feb. 1 at the SGC-BBC general meeting, making this her first involvement in student government since high school.

own respective executive, legislative and judicial branches.

Currently, the budget hearings and deliberations are scheduled to run from Feb. 8 to March 2.

"Clearly we need more advising," said Haspel.

As of press time, no comment was made by Jose Toscano, director of Campus Life and SGC-MMC adviser.

*Additional reporting by Jonathan Szydlo.*

# Free chickenpox vaccinations made available to students by UHS

**POX, PAGE 1**

a school keeps its students and faculty safe especially from diseases outbreaks."

UHS offers vaccines to

students on a regular basis upon consultation and for a nominal fee.

They have vaccines available that are required for enrollment which are measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), hepatitis B, meningitis, and other vaccines that are not required including varicella.

"All the students at FIU have to show proof of immunity with measles but the case is not the same with Varicella because we don't require it," Loynaz said.

As a response to the infection, UHS is offering the varicella vaccine to students for free.

However, there is a limited amount of vaccines available.

"We cannot overstock," Loynaz said. "We don't have room to store it as it needs specific conditions. We are trying to be responsive to the need students demonstrate."

UHS has not experienced a large influx of students requesting information or vaccines, but Loynaz had some general suggestions to the University community.

"Students should know their health history well," Loynaz said. "It is their

duty to share it with the health care provider that is attending to their needs. Students need to use general precautions, get all their information from the appropriate sources, and most importantly, students need to not freak out."

The University handles outbreaks in terms of layers.

Depending on the activity level of the infected students, the University gauges the level of response necessary.

"Someone who is very active, who has come in contact with a lot of people has potentially affected more people," said Loynaz. "For confidentiality purposes we cannot reveal who was infected, but we try to find out how much contact they have had with others."

The immunizations should be part of good preventive health care, according to Stephanie Schmidt, chief operating officer of the Healthcare Network,

UHS is handling the student side of the matter, and the Healthcare Network is handling the faculty and staff.

"We always have the

vaccine available, but hopefully people think about it before," said Schmidt, "We are seeing people same-day."

The vaccine comes in two doses that need to be spaced over four weeks. Though the group of people that can be given the vaccine is limited by the fact that it is a live virus.

"Those at greatest risk are adolescents and adults who have not had it as children," said Schmidt, "but if people keep up with preventive health they will be prepared."

Marianne Liens, a junior majoring international relations has partaken in preventive health care.

"I have never had the chicken pox," Liens said. "Luckily, I am vaccinated."

Other students have had the disease and have not been vaccinated as a result.

"Since we're adults, the University seems to assume that we already went through that," said Gabriell Zambrano, a senior political science major who had the chickenpox as a child.

"Luckily they have realized certain steps should be taken to prevent a large outbreak."



**E-BOARD AND PRODUCTION STAFF**

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**  
ALEXANDRA CAMEJO

**ASST. OPINION EDITOR**  
BROOKLYN MIDDLETON

**BBC MANAGING EDITOR**  
JONATHAN SZYDLO

**PHOTO EDITOR**  
KRISTI CAMARA

**PRODUCTION MANAGER/COPY CHIEF**  
LAURA ALONSO

**BBC PHOTO EDITOR**  
ANDRES BEDOYA

**NEWS DIRECTOR**  
MELISSA CACERES

**COPY EDITORS**  
DIANE ARIAS, JASMYN ELLIOTT,  
JONATHAN RAMOS, JOHN GIRALT,  
PATRIK SIMMONS

**ASST. NEWS DIRECTORS**  
LAUREN ROVIRA  
NADRA MABROUK

**PAGE DESIGNERS**  
CAMILA CALCINES, EISSY DE LA  
MONEDA, CRISTINA MIRALLES,  
ALEXANDRA SARDI

**SPORTS DIRECTOR**  
IGOR MELLO

**RECRUITMENT DIRECTOR**  
KYLE PINEDA

**ASST. SPORTS DIRECTORS**  
RICO ALBARRACIN  
BRANDON WISE

**BUSINESS MANAGER**  
EDDITH SEVILLA

**LIFE! EDITOR**  
ESRA ERDOGAN

**DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA**  
ROBERT JAROSS

**ASST. LIFE! EDITOR**  
VANESSA PAREDES

**ASST. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA**  
ALFRED SOTO

**OPINION EDITOR**  
NEDA GHOMESHI



**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

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

Fax:  
(305) 348-2712  
Editor-in-Chief:  
(305) 348-1580  
alexandra.camejo@fiusm.com

Advertising:  
(305) 348-6994  
advertising@fiusm.com

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



## SOFTBALL

# New additions hope to be ready as season approaches

**ANTHONY GUIVAS**  
Staff Writer  
sports@fiusm.com

With the season less than a week away, the Panthers are getting ready to start the new campaign with new Head Coach Jake Schumann at the helm.

The girls hit the field on Feb. 2 as Schumann sat in the stands while the girls played a quick scrimmage. Schumann paid close attention.

"We are trying to get to game speed... and since we are eight days away from opening up, we are trying to get as close to game reality as possible," Schumann said.

Throughout the scrimmage, FIU displayed their two best starting pitchers in Jenn Gniadek and Mariah Dawson. Gniadek showed tremendous presence with her six foot frame, and Dawson constantly continued to hit her spots with ferocious speed.

Now, while the team

is set with their pitching, they still have some holes to fill as opening day approaches.

The Panthers still have open spots at catcher and left field and are grooming former outfielder Shelby Graves to first base.

With Graves, the Panthers are fortunate that she isn't too foreign with first base, as she has played the position before sporadically in high school over in her hometown of California.

"Shelby played first base and pitched in high school... and I think she's just a little more comfortable at first base, but time will tell to see if she can handle it over there. But she's one of our better hitters so we have to have her in our lineup," Schumann said.

Now, while first base seems to be resolved, the same cannot be said about catcher and left field.

While the position is still up for grabs, the team is still assessing players

such as Sophomore Rachel Slowik and Sophomore Megan Horne to fill left field and catcher, respectively.

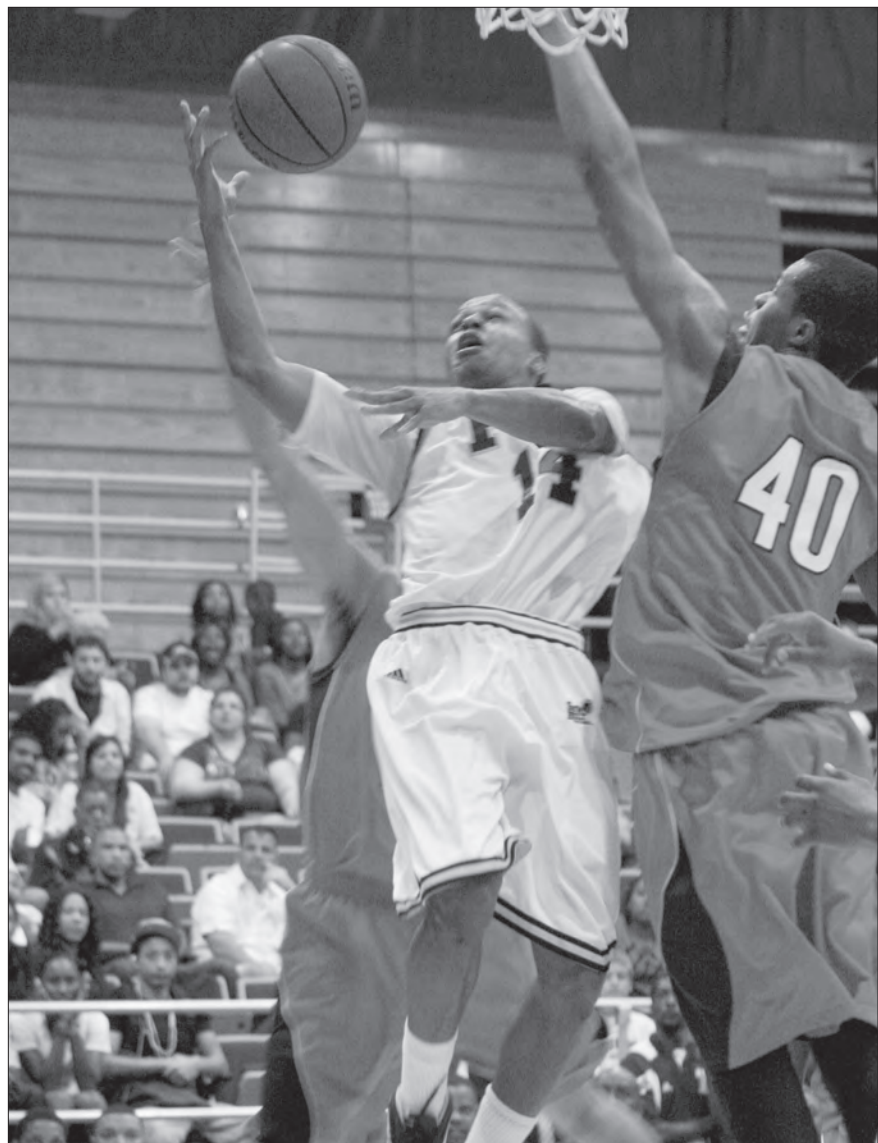
"They are still up for grabs. I think if the season started today we would probably have Rachel Slowik in the LF and go with Megan Horne behind the plate. But obviously that can change next week," Schumann said.

Last season Slowik appeared in 58 games last season, 54 of which she started and posted a .216 average driving in 15, while Horne carries a much smaller sample size as she saw limited action last season starting in only nine games and recording only six at bats in 2011.

One player in particular who has caught Schumann's attention is FIU's returning star outfielder Ashley McClain. McClain is returning to FIU after a season which saw her

**SEE SOFTBALL, PAGE 4**

## SWEET REVENGE



BEACON FILE PHOTO

DeJuan Wright scored nine points and had a team high of 11 rebounds in the Panthers 76-56 victory over the Owls on Feb. 4. This marks the first time since 2009 that the Panthers have defeated the Owls.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Panthers miss last-second shot again, fall to FAU

**BRANDON WISE**  
Asst. Sports Director  
brandon.wise@fiusm.com

Eight seconds to go in the game, Head Coach Cindy Russo calls a timeout. The Panthers are down one point, trying to pull off the win on the road at FAU in Boca Raton. Everybody in the arena knows where the ball is going, especially the Owls. Jerica Coley is getting that shot.

"It was a screen at the elbow," Coley said. "We knew they were going to double, so we just went with a screen and roll, and it just didn't go."

In a fashion much similar to the one at U.S. Century Bank Arena on Jan. 21, the Panthers had the ball with a chance to win the game at the end. In fact, it was the exact same score, 50-49.

After Coley put up the shot, it rimmed out but Sasha Melnikova was there for the rebound. Five seconds to go, she threw the ball to the top of the key, where Finda Mansare was there for one more chance.

Her shot was off the mark. Latavia Dempsey got the



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Head Coach Cindy Russo (left) tries to encourage her team, but to no avail as the Panthers lost 51-49 to FAU.

rebound for the Owls and Coley was forced to foul as the Panthers lost to the Owls 51-49.

After the game, Coley was seen very frustrated, nearly in tears after her performance on Feb. 4. The second leading scorer in the nation was

begging for the lid to come off of the rim in the first half, going 0-10 from the field, held to 0 points by the Owls stingy defense.

The second half didn't start off much better. It wasn't until the 12:10 mark that she made her first basket.

Afterwards, there was a huge sigh of relief on her face. Coley finished the night with 12 points though on 4-19 shooting, still reaching double digits as she has done in every game this season for the Panthers.

Even though Coley strug-

gled throughout the game to find her rhythm, the rest of the Panthers found a way to keep themselves in the game, never down more than seven at any point in the game.

Fanni Hutlassa played a big factor in that, scoring a team-high 17 points in the Panthers

two point loss at FAU.

"We still lost. It didn't really matter," Hutlassa said. "I was trying to hustle and do what the coaches asked, but apparently it still wasn't good enough."

Hutlassa went 7-14 shooting from the field and 3-6 from three point range.

She played much of the second half with four fouls though, not allowing her to be as physical on the defensive side.

With 1:09 to go in the game, Hutlassa committed her final foul meaning the Panthers would have to rely more on Finda Mansare, who also had four fouls, and Tynia McKinzie, who had not seen substantial minutes all season.

Hutlassa was forced to watch the final play from the bench, but she thinks that the play could have been run a bit slower.

"We started that play too fast," Hutlassa said. "It was supposed to start at 10 seconds, but we started a bit earlier. I thought it was going in and plus we got a rebound that could have gone in too."





**PANTHER POINTS 80**  
PRESENTED BY BRICKELL MOTORS

**FIU**

**VS NORTH TEXAS**      **VS DENVER**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH**      **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH**

SUSTAINABILITY NIGHT - GIVEAWAYS WHEN YOU RECYCLE DURING THE GAMES

FIRST 100 STUDENTS RECEIVE A FREE T-SHIRT AND CHEERSTICK

**WOMEN AT 4:30PM**      **WOMEN AT 5:30PM**

**MEN AT 7:00PM**      **MEN AT 7:30PM**

**U.S. CENTURY BANK ARENA**

**305.FIU.GAME**  
**FIUSPORTS.COM**

 **U.S. CENTURY BANK**  
*More than just a bank, family...*

# McClain and the Panthers ready for upcoming season



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Mariah Dawson (above) along with Jenn Gniadek pitched for the Panthers in a scrimmage.

### SOFTBALL, PAGE 3

receive her second-consecutive NFCA All-South Region First Team honor.

"I think Ashley McClain, her offensive output and just the way she goes about her business is above and beyond what I've worked with before," Schumann said.

Now with the team having to fill two positions in eight days, they've been showing that their pitching is ready to go.

One thing stood out more than

anything else was the fact that the team has seemed to make a seamless transition into Schumann's coaching style.

None of the players have seemed to be pressing as they all looked relaxed and looking forward for the upcoming season.

"From my point of view, I think they have done a great job. We haven't had much problem doing it," Schumann said.

So with FIU opening up the season on Feb. 10 against Michigan State, they appear to be set to make 2012 a success.

**SOFTBALL**  
**UPCOMING GAMES**

	FEB. 10 MICHIGAN STATE 7 p.m. FRI		FEB. 11 LOUISVILLE 11 a.m. SAT
	FEB. 11 UMASS 1 p.m. SAT		FEB. 12 ILLINOIS 1:30 p.m. SUN



## GIVING BACK

# Medical professors create non-profit to help Haiti

**SANDY ZAPATA**  
Staff Writer  
sandy.zapata@fiusm.com

Before the disastrous earthquake that crippled Haiti in 2010, before the worldwide attention and before the millions of U.S. professionals who heeded to aid Haiti, Dr. Pilar Martin, M.D., M.P.H. and fellow colleagues and students of the International Health Connection had already beat them to the punch.

Michael Melchior, M.P.H., 2008, Ph.D in Health Promotion, April 2012, and Brian Kunkle, M.P.H., 2005, Ph.D. in Environmental Health, 2011, were the first students who took notice of Martin's trips to Rose-Mina de Diegue Orphanage in Port-au-Prince.

Melchior recalled his first trip to Haiti and his unawareness of the conditions in a developing nation.

"When you see the people in the tent camps and in the shanty towns, it really affects you emotionally because [they are] so close to the U.S. and it's just poverty everywhere."

Similarly, Kunkle described his first trip and

pointed out the basic environmental advantages in the U.S. that the people of Haiti don't have access to.

"Just getting clean water is one of the main things you want to have," said Kunkle.

Kunkle, having previous experience in places like Mexico and Mexico City, described Haiti's poverty level as being on "a different level."

Though the trips are five to six days long, the amount of work exerted by the students, professors and volunteers is relentless.

Karlyn Guirand-Emile, M.P.H., recent graduate of

rery clinic for four to five days and usually see an average of 400 to 500 patients. They provide the patients with medicine, vitamins, education in health prevention, dietary assessments and primary care consultations.

Guirand-Emile said the team's main focus is to treat children with stomach problems that are caused by the lack of clean water and, in turn, cause acid reflux disease and heartworms among the majority of the population.

"Something we commonly see is people with stomach problems because they don't eat—they can't," stated

“It really affects you emotionally because [they are] so close to the U.S. and it's poverty just everywhere.”

Michael Melchior, M.P.H.

the University and editorial board member of IHC, has been visiting Haiti since 2010 with Martin, Kunkle and Melchior.

Once the team arrives in Haiti, they establish a tempo-

Martin.

The last trip to Haiti was made in November 2011. The group is planning to return this summer. Despite their short trips and dedication, each and every member



of this project has paid out of pocket in order to assist in the relief of Haiti.

IHC was founded in 2010 and just received its 501(c)(3) status. The editorial board members are currently working on grant writing and hope to gain donations in the near future to assist with the development of their organization.

The current plan is to develop a permanent location site in Haiti to continue their work.

"When you leave there, you don't feel that you did enough," stated Kunkle.

IHC is a socially responsible organization. Along with Haiti, there are developing sites in Peru and Bolivia.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRIAN KUNKLE

Top: Darinka Aragon [right] and bottom: Rebecca Cole [left] and Brittany Cooke [right] are students that volunteer for the International Health Connection in Haiti.

Martin, Kunkle, Melchoir and Guirand-Emile all emphasize the intake of interest among all students of every major to get involved. "This is not charity, it is social justice and everybody is responsible to give back."

## BLOG LOVING

# Blog offers fresh perspectives



www.dearmiamigirl.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.DEARMIAMIGIRL.COM

Nikki Poey [left] and Cristina Russell [right] started the blog "dear miami girl" for and about girls in the greater Miami Area.

**ESRA ERDOGAN**  
Life! Editor  
esra.erdogan@fiusm.com

With literally thousands to choose from, it is easy to get lost in the blogosphere. Recent graduates Nikki Poey and Cristina Russell felt the same way until they created their own blog called Dear Miami girl.

"We wanted a space where we could start a dialogue with the girls in our community, where we could share ideas, doodles, music, events and highlight girls doing interesting

and innovative things in our city," said Poey.

On the blog, the creators share playlists and articles they have written, along with features on fashion, music, art and books. Posts range from sharing an opportunity to be in a music video by a local artist and a flyer for a local craft fair, to how to make the most of Art Basel without an art collector's budget.

The blog channels the collective thoughts and interests of young women, which makes Dear Miami girl interesting for many readers, even if they are not naturally attuned to an indie lifestyle.

The idea for the blog stemmed from Russell and Poey noticing there was no Miami-based blog they could read themselves because they were either too clean or too gritty.

After graduating, they took up the task of filling that void with Dear Miami girl.

"We were in need for a creative and fun outlet," said Poey. Since its creation, Dear Miami girl has gained contributing writers, and the bloggers have attended events as well. "It's kind of still getting started; we have lots of ideas and plans for this new year."





# FY 2012-2013 General Budget Calendar Activity and Service Fee

- Feb 8** Hearings @ MMC: University Wide  
9 am - 5 pm, GC 1235
- Feb 10** Hearings @ BBC: University Wide  
9 pm - 5 pm, WUC 221
- Feb 15** Deliberations @ BBC: University Wide  
12 pm - 10 pm, WUC 245
- Feb 18** Deliberations @ MMC: University Wide  
9 pm - 5 pm, GC 1235
- Feb 21** Hearings: MMC Campus specific  
9 pm - 5 pm, Panther Suite GC 325
- Feb 24** Hearings: BBC campus specific  
9 pm - 5 pm, WUC 155
- Feb 29** Deliberations: MMC Campus specific  
9 pm - 5 pm, GC 1235
- Mar 2** Deliberations: BBC campus specific  
9 pm - 5 pm, WUC 155

## Study abroad cost worth it

**AKIEL GRIFFITH**  
Contributing Writer  
life@fiusm.com

Last year, the University's study abroad program sent about 650 students overseas. For the executive director of the program, Magnolia Hernandez, accomplishing this feat was exciting. She stated, "You have to get that international experience," and further stressed, "It's a must!"

However, much work goes on behind the doors of Primera Casa, room 113. Individual student applicants are catered to according to their needs. The program is rather exten-

sive and it operates in over 20 different countries.

“After my experience, I have learned to appreciate diversity and spontaneity. I have a passion for international education and foreign culture.”

Belkys Yzquierdo,  
Criminal Justice, English  
Senior

sive and it operates in over 20 different countries.

Belkys Yzquierdo, a current senior double majoring in criminal justice and English, described her experience while visiting the Piazza di San Pietro in Italy during the summer of 2011 as "truly breathtaking."

When asked why she chose this destination, she replied, "I chose Italy because of the book 'Eat, Pray, Love.' Gilbert's book encouraged me to go on an adventure of my own to explore Italy's culture, historical background and beauty."

Participating in the University's study abroad program enables students to not only

have the ability to explore the world beyond the University, but they also have the ability to complete major course work or pursue studies of interest. By studying in a program sponsored by the University, students can take classes with University professors, thus eliminating any problems associated with credits. Alternatively, students can choose to go overseas by either partaking on an exchange program that FIU has with another university or enroll in an independent program overseas.

If the program doesn't offer something within a student's interest, for example, studying

medicine in Kiev, Russia, the crew at PC 113 will work to find something outside the program for the student.

In fact, Hernandez discussed how she and her team were able to find a university in Germany where there was no prior exchange or agreement between them and the University for a student wanting to study in Germany. "We are really here for the students," said Hernandez.

When asked about which program she thinks would be her favorite, the assistant director, Suzie Gomez, replied, "I couldn't pick one or two or three."

However, she did note that one of the programs enlisted for 2012 was a trip to Brazil under the lead of Augusta Vono.

Cost is usually a big concern for students. Hernandez, said that it is "rather expensive... our most expensive is \$20,000."

Nonetheless, there is no need to be alarmed. Hernandez said that it can be affordable if one plans in advance. That is why one of her strategies is to target freshmen because they are in a position where they have time to save while advancing in their academic careers and are able to reach the needed amount when they are ready to travel abroad.

Most of the study abroad packages are minuscule to the \$20,000 price tag; the majority of the packages fall between \$1,500 to \$7,000.

"Studying abroad enabled me to engage in Dr. [Mark] Rosenberg's strategic plan for FIU by obtaining an education that is 'Worlds Ahead.' After my experience, I have learned to appreciate diversity and spontaneity. I have a passion for international education and foreign cultures ever since I participated in a study abroad program. My experience has led me to leadership opportunities and to broaden my career options," said Yzquierdo, after being asked how her experience of studying abroad has changed her as a person.

However, before getting excited about studying in distant lands, Yzquierdo also earnestly suggested, "Consider how your program can be tied into your major or foreign language requirements, financial matters and purchase traveler guides to plan adventures ahead of time."

## UPCOMING EVENTS

6

MONDAY

**2012-2013 COUNCIL LEADERSHIP**  
Applications Available

**INFORMATION SESSION "I STAND FOR INTEGRITY" RUSH WEEK**  
WHEN: 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
WHERE: MMC GC 305

**INTERNSHIPS WORKSHOP FOR BUSINESS STUDENTS**  
WHEN: 10-11 a.m.  
WHERE: CBC 121

**EMERGENCY MEDICINE INTEREST GROUP**  
HOST DR. LOU ROMIG  
WHEN: 12-1 p.m.  
WHERE: MMC AHC2-170

**WRITING, EXILE, AND THE LATIN AMERICAN IMAGINATION**  
WHEN: 7-9 p.m.  
WHERE: MMC GC 246

**RN TO BSN INFORMATION SESSION**  
WHEN: 1-3 p.m.  
WHERE: MMC AHC3 Room 213

7

TUESDAY

**INTEGRITY DISCUSSION "I STAND FOR INTEGRITY" RUSH WEEK**  
WHEN: 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
WHERE: MMC GC 305

**DRESSING FOR SUCCESS: WHAT TO WEAR IN THE LEGAL/BUSINESS WORLD**  
WHEN: 12:30-1:30 p.m.  
WHERE: MMC RBD 2008

**FACULTY RE-CITAL SERIES: ANNUAL STRING SEMINAR**  
WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$15.00 General Admission, \$10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, \$5.00 FIU Students and Alumni Association Members  
WHERE: Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center

**TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED EMAIL: CALENDAR@FIUSM.COM**



NATIONAL

## Susan G. Komen Foundation forgets mission

The Susan G. Komen For the Cure Foundation's short-lived decision to end its partnership with Planned Parenthood is illustrative of the common American phenomenon of politicizing women's health in the name of ideology.

COLUMNIST



BROOKLYN MIDDLETON

Despite the fact that several days following a social media lambasting of the organization, Komen issued a press release stating it would reverse its new policy so that it would continue to fund Planned Parenthood.

The original move is unforgivable, and its reversal is insufficient without the immediate firing of the woman who created this controversy.

The totally unnecessary move to cut funding to Planned Parenthood would have resulted in an annual loss of approximately \$600,000 to the organization.

It should be clearly noted that the Komen grant money never paid for abortion services or even contraceptive services; the money was solely used for cancer prevention.

Not only was this move wholly incompatible with Komen's commitment to comprehensive breast care for women of all demographics, but it could have directly affected a particularly vulnerable minority of women who rely on the hundreds of Planned Parenthood clinics across the United States.

As with the cutting of almost all social

services, young women, college students, and older women who do not have health insurance would have been most affected by the cuts.

Despite the move being camouflaged in jargon that made for better press releases, and despite the fact Komen maintains the decision was inherently non-political, all facts prove the move was indeed ideological.

The woman behind the attack on Planned Parenthood is Karen Handel, Komen's new senior vice president for public policy.

In what was a gross capitalization on a health initiative for political momentum and personal beliefs, the anti-choice, anti-Planned Parenthood former gubernatorial candidate from Georgia introduced a new company rule that singled out the organization.

Handel and her board introduced a new "no-investigations" rule for organizations that Komen funds, meaning that if an organization was being investigated by authorities, it was barred from receiving Komen money.

In what is a hijacking of health care for political purposes, Planned Parenthood is being investigated by Florida Representative Cliff Stearns, whose inquiry's stated focus is to ensure no public funds were used for abortion services.

The move was intelligent, strategic, and effective. Under a vague rule, a political agenda could be hidden.

Knowing Planned Parenthood is regularly investigated by political adversaries, Handel and associates knew the enactment of the new rule would exclude Planned Parenthood from crucial

*"The thing about turning your back on someone is that it's nearly impossible to ever get them to see eye to eye with you again."*

dollars.

Handel herself has not given a comment on the ordeal.

She did, however, retweet and quickly delete this: "Just like a pro-abortion group to turn a cancer orgs decision into a political bomb to throw. Cry me a freaking river."

Unprofessional and insensitive, Handel just outed herself as being wholly guilty of putting her own politics first and women's health and Komen's mission second.

If not for the public relations nightmare Handel created, obviously forgetting screen shots live on infinitely, Handel should be fired for her incapability of separating her own ideological agenda from her work.

In short, Handel cares more about politicking than about preventing breast cancer.

In a video press release to try to quell the controversy and, as she called them, "scurrilous accusations," the company's CEO Nancy Brinker stated that the foundation "will never turn our backs on the women who need us the most."

She is talking in the future tense, but Komen already did turn their backs on the women who

needed them the most the second they even considered defunding Planned Parenthood, and the thing about turning your back on someone is that it's nearly impossible to ever get them to see eye to eye with you again.

It is obviously unfortunate that women's health organizations in the U.S. constantly have to be on the defensive against calculating politicians and anti-choice fanatics.

But, its particularly egregious that an organization would enact a policy that, in practice, is quite possibly the exact antithesis of its own mission statement.

It is victorious that social media and public outcry proved brilliant and caused Komen to reverse its new rule; however, the mere fact that the organization allowed partisanship to overshadow its core mission, even for a fleeting moment, is reprehensible.

The reversal should only be viewed as a partial victory; the public must demand, for the sake of competency and restoration of the credibility and non-partisanship Komen claims to have, that Handel is fired immediately.

Email at [brooklyn.middleton@fiusm.com](mailto:brooklyn.middleton@fiusm.com)

## Ramifications of decision unaddressed by Court

RULING, PAGE 1

the ruling may have.

When a petitioner has a grievance or petition that they wish to file, they must submit a writ of certiorari with the respective supreme court for which the issue is relevant to.

When an issue pertains to a University matter, and not a specific campus, the Student Government Association Constitution calls for the creation of an ad hoc court for U-wide cases with this court being composed of an odd number of justices, no less than four, from both SGC Courts.

Although Ex Parte Velez SC001 was filed under the MMC branch, it should have been handled by the mentioned ad hoc court. By presiding and ruling over a U-wide issue, the Supreme Court at MMC appointed itself (as explicitly stated in the ruling) to single handedly review an issue that clearly affects the power and positions of SGC at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

This ruling sets the precedence that SGC-MMC has jurisdiction over all student government matters at the University.

Thus, SGC-MMC's Supreme Court ruling on Ex Parte Velez, is in violation of its own

constitution.

According to Article II, Section 2, Subsection B, "persons belonging to SGC-MMC shall not exercise any powers appertaining to SGC-BBC and vice versa."

Even if the decision of the court were found to be constitutional, its wording would negate the current structure of our Student Government.

As it stands, the ruling does not delve into the implications or interpretations of the Supreme Court's decision - a point emphasized and regarded by the presiding Chief Justice Octavio Mella.

According to Mella, the MMC judiciary should only address things brought before them and not the consequences of its decision. By doing so, we believe that this ruling dangerously allows for open interpretation whose ramifications can affect the entire structure of the University's SGA, which is unique in comparison to all other universities in Florida.

In effect, the ruling was left so open-ended that interpretation of Ex Parte Velez, grants SGC-MMC the power to not only hear judicial matters, but also legislate on U-wide affairs including BBC specific items.

Because the ruling grants the power of BBC

judicial review and legislation to SGC-MMC, it can be argued that SGC-MMC is now SGA, doing away with the campus specific council at BBC.

However, the dissolution of SGC-BBC, although it affects the more than 7,000 students who attend BBC, isn't what will have the most immediate impact. The more pressing issue at hand is the impact that this ruling will have on the Activities and Service Fee Budget Hearings and Deliberations that are currently scheduled to commence on Feb. 8.

The A&S Fee Budget Hearings and Deliberations decide on the allocation of \$13 million for over 60 student facilities and organizations.

Prior to this ruling, the University Wide Council that presided over said hearings and deliberations consisted of each campus' president, vice president, speaker of the senate, comptroller and the speaker pro tempore from SGC-MMC.

Yet the ruling can be interpreted to be saying that since there is no more SGC-BBC, the U-wide council can only be made up of members from SGC-MMC, since BBC no longer has any active governing bodies. This will leave BBC under represented, or misrepresented, come

budget hearings and deliberations.

Bearing the weight of this decision, we believe that the A&S budgeting process should be postponed due to the lackluster effort the SGC-MMC Supreme Court put forth in their ruling of Ex Parte Velez, until a reasonable solution to the matter at hand is found.

Although this ruling is in violation of the SGA Constitution, it stands as law until it is contested in the only remaining supreme court at the University, SGC-MMC's.

By MMC's Chief Justice going on the record as saying that the SGC-MMC Supreme Court should not delve into the implications of the case, the Supreme Court at MMC is contradicting the very nature of the federal judiciary system.

By simply googling a Federal Supreme Court decision, say Roe v. Wade, Mella and his associate justices would have realized that when making a ruling all angles should be covered to leave as little room for interpretation as possible.

Ex Parte Velez is a clear example of not only SGC-MMC's Supreme Court not being familiar with their own Constitution, but also not understanding the function that a Judicial Branch of a governing council serves.



Gathering Opinions, Generating Discussion

Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m.  
95.3 FM, 88.1 FM, 96.9 FM and online at FIUSM.com  
Call in at (305)348-3575  
"Like" us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @PublicReason

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (500 words maximum) to [neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com](mailto:neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com) or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year. *The Beacon* reserves the right to edit for space, content and clarity.

DISCLAIMER

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to [neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com](mailto:neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com).



## A DAY IN THE LIFE

# Student in the dark works hard and believes in self

**KATHERINE MAS**  
Contributing Writer  
bbc@fiusm.com

Waking up in the morning, picking out clothes, choosing a seat in class, buying chips from a vending machine or walking with friends to classes are simple tasks that require little thought for the average college student.

For Rayvn Richards, they aren't that simple.

Walking in the dark is definitely a challenge for current senior and sociology major, Richards, who is blind.

Richards was born a healthy boy with his sight in tact until the day he was shot at the age of 17. His other senses were partially impaired. His taste diminished and his hearing is not enhanced as other people and myths assume.

This disability hasn't stopped him from pursuing his dreams. He is currently taking classes this spring with help from the Disability Resource Center, Public Safety, and friendly classmates such as Santiago Deprez, who met him this semester and accompanied Richards after just finishing a class one late afternoon to catch his special transportation.

He described his experience as a student as "okay," considering his impairment. He uses a long walking

stick to help him feel around the area where he walks and assistance from friends and classmates are essential to get around campus.

When in class, Richards uses a voice recorder to document lectures. At home he scans his papers using JAWS, a Microsoft Windows program that reads information on your screen using synthesized speech.

It makes it easier to use programs, edit documents, and read Web pages. It can also provide braille output in addition to, or instead of, speech. These tools make studying easier for students who have lost their vision and have limited resources.

For Richards, it is difficult to use braille since he has thick fingers and when brushing over each symbol alone or combined with others can mean a wide variety of things. Braille is a system of reading and writing designed for use by blind which consists of tangible dots and points to represent letters and characters.

Although some might consider these obstacles, Richards shows no signs of backing away from reaching his goals.

In regards to other students who share the same impairment or disability, Richards said, "You can complain and moan about your problems but it won't change the fact that

you have them. Instead work hard and believe in yourself."

Richards is just one of the many brave students that strive to better themselves. According to statistics obtained through the Little Rock Foundation, 93,600 U.S. students are visually impaired or blind.

According to Gabriela Alvarez, Coordinator of the Disability Resource Center, as of 2010-2011 school year, there were 47 students attending FIU with visual impairment. The help that the Disability Resource Center provides depends upon the student and the level of impairment.

For students with low vision, a Closed Caption Television (CCTV) is used to enlarge hard copy documents or textbooks. This aids the student in accessing any of their necessary tools for reading.

For blind students, the center works with publishing companies to provide them with audio or digital versions with audio. If the student can read braille, they have the technology available.

"Students who are blind have an impressive ability to approach each situation with optimism and determination," said Joanna Lindsey, Disability Specialist, "Everyday I am inspired and challenged to assistance through their academic journey."



KATHERINE MAS/THE BEACON

Rayvn Richards, senior sociology major, sits in thought in front of the Hubert Library as he waits for class to begin.

## CAMPUS LIFE

# Students can't help but rant about the lack of reception

**LIZSANDRA TRASTOY**  
Contributing Writer  
bbc@fiusm.com

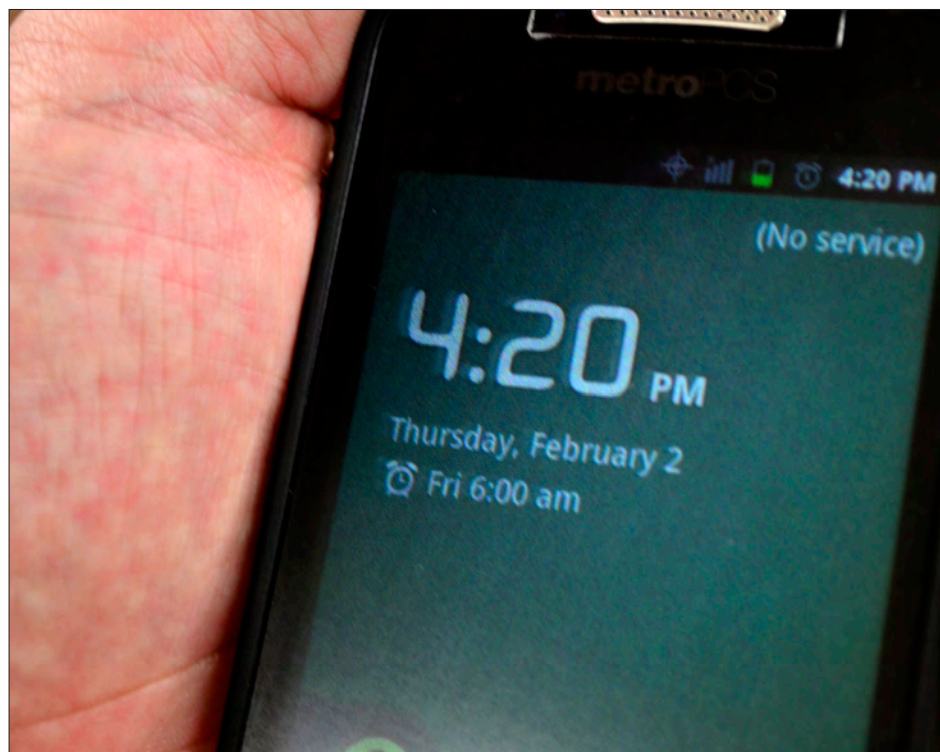
The battle for cell phone reception at Biscayne Bay Campus remains a day to day struggle for some students at Biscayne Bay Campus. Students demand cell phone reception for daily social interaction. Usage may also pertain to access to Internet and email while on campus.

Goldie James, sophomore Hospitality and Tourism Management major recently changed cell phone carriers from T-mobile to Sprint because she believes T-mobile delivers poor service on campus.

"Cell phone reception is very limited here at Biscayne Bay Campus. If I had no reception, I would go to any office and ask a clerk for a phone," James said.

In emergency situations, students would need to step outside and further away from the building. Yet, at the Modesto Maidique Campus, cell phone reception problems are virtually non-existent.

"I sometimes find missed calls and emails at the library and in every corner because of poor reception," Carold Casimyr, a senior in the civil engineering program said. "I would [need to] find a computer and I would use email as a way of communicating."



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Biscayne Bay Campus' problem with cell phone signal may stem from building structure.

The problem, however, does not apply to all students with different cell phone carriers.

Some students like Christina Yidi, a sophomore student majoring in Biology,

has no issues with the cell phone reception at BBC.

"I've heard Verizon is the best, yet my family has AT&T and it's really good in reception."

Madison Moreno, a sophomore student majoring in public relations, believes the lack of cell phone reception is on purpose.

"I've heard that most schools do it on purpose. It's a cell phone block in reception in order to prevent students from using their cell phones in class," Moreno said.

According to the Chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Dr. Shekhar Bhansali, the reason BBC may have an issue providing decent cell phone reception relates to the building's physical structure.

"The problem with cell phone signal at the campus is due to the iron and metal in the buildings, and that's when shielding happens," said Bhansali. "No one likes to put antennas inside of a building."

"Shielding" refers to a barrier that blocks the signal.

"The middle of the building is called a dead zone. A dead zone means there is no signal," Bhansali said, "I would doubt it's a problem with cell phone companies."

Although some phone companies may be superior to others in signal, if the problem with reception persists, students can find reception by leaving the Academic One and Two for the Hubert Library and other areas around the main buildings.