

TALLAHASSEE

Rosenberg: not 'enthusiastic about raising tuition'

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Editor in Chief
alexandra.camejo@fiusm.com

Financial aid, the impact of STEM degrees and tuition are some of the issues that University President Mark Rosenberg, Student Government Association and members of the University community, will address in Tallahassee on FIU Day.

Today marks the 11th year that administration, trustees, faculty and student leaders including Modesto Maidique Campus President Patrick O'Keefe and Biscayne Bay Campus President Denise Halpin gather for the event.

On Jan. 19, Rosenberg and other presidents in the state university system appeared before the State House Education Committee to address the

possibility of tuition hikes—hikes about which Rosenberg had considerable misgivings.

"I can't tell you that I'm enthusiastic about raising tuition to the national average in the next three years because that would have a significant impact upon students who matter to me," said Rosenberg in response to questions by House Committee Chairman Rep. William L. Proctor. "I'm not convinced that the financial aid would be there to reduce the difficulty and the pain."

According to the lobbying group Florida Student Association, its opposition to a tuition increase in 2012 comes "after a nearly 20 percent reduction in Bright Futures awards, decreasing state financial aid award amounts, and a 15 percent total (base and differential) tuition increase in

2011."

The FSA sponsored "Rally in Tally" is an opportunity for attendees to have one-on-one meetings, open forums, and to speak on issues relevant to students such as University funding.

O'Keefe, also serves as the external vice chair for the FSA's Board of Directors.

Each year, attendees, through one-on-one meetings, open forums and discussions, speak on issues relevant to students such as block tuition, textbook affordability and University funding.

For the video of Rosenberg's full presentation to the House Committee, go to <http://1.usa.gov/A2xCH4>.

A correction for Rosenberg's quote towards Chairman Rep. Proctor, can be found on page 2.

CHERRY POPPIN'



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Jacques Halbert, a French artist of the Eat Art movement, shot darts at his subject covered in balloons for his performance, "A Table: Life is a bowl of cherries..." during dinner at the Tour de France/Florida on January 21 at the Frost Art Museum.

LIFE!

Student on path to become priest

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

When you conjure up the image of a priest, the last things that come to mind are alcohol and sex.

"People think that because I want to be a priest I don't have sex or drink," said senior Natalie Blasco. Blasco is a religious studies student who will be attending seminary after graduating this spring.

She belongs to the Episcopal Church, the American counterpart to the Anglican Church. The theology of the church is very similar to Catholicism, but they are not led by the pope nor have anything to do with Rome as evidenced by the ability for women to join the priesthood.

Although there are similarities, there are also many distinct differences. The issue of transubstantiation (when taking communion, the body and blood of Christ is not figurative but literal), for example, is treated different from church to church.

While many Episcopal churches believe that when taking communion the body and blood of Christ is spiritually there, other churches wholly

believe in transubstantiation.

This is OK and normal under the Episcopal hierarchy because each church is governed by its own people, and followers are free to make their own beliefs.

"It's OK [to have different ideas]. You don't stop believing because you have a different belief," said Blasco.

Because of their democratic system of beliefs, Episcopal churches across the nation have made many notable decisions that would raise more than the eyebrows of other church communities.

"Our priests are allowed to get married, and we have female priests and homosexual priests and bishops," said Blasco.

She will soon hold the title of priest herself, an unlikely position for anyone, let alone a 39-year-old woman, but not unlikely if you look at her life.

Blasco grew up in the rectory—literally. The Hialeah native's father served the Episcopal Church as a priest since before she was born. Growing up, she was very close with her father. And when she was 25, she confided in him that she was considering joining the priesthood in the church.

"He thought I was going into it for the wrong reasons. Our church was going through trouble, and he was serving them while being retired. He thought I wanted to take over so he could fully retire," she said.

Blasco never brought up the subject again. Her father passed away in 2003. After his death, she took over leadership in her church. Eventually, after working closely with the diocese, her bishop asked her the question she had been asking herself for years.

"He asked me, 'Why don't you go to seminary? I feel that you have a calling.' At the time, I was not really enthusiastic about the decision, but after time, I realized it was what I was meant to do," said Blasco.

After her mind was made, Blasco knew she would have a tough time telling her family about her decision, especially her mother and husband.

She has been married to her husband, Antonio Buehler, for 15 years this February.

"The first day that we met we sat down and talked for hours. He asked me to marry him that day and I said yes. We're very close," said Blasco.

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HUMAN RESOURCES

Payroll switches to Panthersoft

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Staff Writer
philippe.buteau@fiusm.com

The University has chosen not to renew its five-year-old contract with Automatic Data Processing, Inc. and instead take advantage of a license it had for about 10 years.

The divisions of Human Resources and Information Technology worked together to combine the capabilities of PantherSoft with the University's Human Resources services to manage its \$13 million payroll budget.

The phasing-in of the new system, called PantherSoft HR, started in April 2010. It officially launched on Dec. 24, 2011 and caused the University small headaches when the first payday arrived about three weeks later on Jan. 13.

When the University was updating employee records, the system defaulted them to their standard hours which led

to \$53,000 in overpay being dolled out. This amounts to less than 0.5 percent in the University's total payroll and affected 217 employees, 3 percent of the University's roughly 8,500 employees.

"We found the root cause [and] it's not related to people approving hours, time and labor, or managers," said Carlos Flores, director of Operations and Systems for HR.

Jaffus Hardrick, vice president of HR was unavailable for comment as of press time.

The average amount that went out was about \$213. The amounts varied on the number of standard hours, the number of hours reported and the hourly rates for the employee's specific job.

The overpay came from the department's budget. Flores said HR will work with the departments over the next

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COMING UP | Sports

Check out Friday's issue for a preview on the upcoming weekend's games in the Sports Section.

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

State higher education spending sees big decline

State funding for higher education has declined because of a slow recovery from the recession and the end of federal stimulus money, according to a study released Monday.

Overall, spending declined by some \$6 billion, or nearly 8 percent, over the past year, according to the annual Grapevine study by the Center for the Study of Education Policy at Illinois State University. The reduction was slightly lower, at 4 percent, when money lost from the end of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act was not taken into account.

NATIONAL

Meth fills hospitals with burn patients

A crude new method of making methamphetamine poses a risk even to Americans who never get anywhere near the drug: It is filling hospitals with thousands of uninsured burn patients requiring millions of dollars in advanced treatment — a burden so costly that it's contributing to the closure of some burn units.

So-called shake-and-bake meth is produced by combining raw, unstable ingredients in a 2-liter soda bottle.

But if the person mixing the noxious brew makes the slightest error, such as removing the cap too soon or accidentally perforating the plastic, the concoction can explode, searing flesh and causing permanent disfigurement, blindness or even death.

— Compiled by Lauren Rovira

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 23, Issue 55 of *The Beacon* in the News section, the article "Rosenberg supports raise in tuition over the next 3 years," the president was misquoted. He actually said "I can't say I'm enthusiastic about raising tuition up to the national average over the next three years. I'm not convinced that the financial aid would be there to reduce the difficulty and the pain."

In Vol. 23, Issue 55 of *The Beacon* in the Sports section, Sergio Naser's name was misspelled in the photo credit for women's basketball.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOP turns to new terrain in FL

MATT SEDENSKY
AP Staff

Now it's Florida's turn. And Republican presidential rivals Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich have just 10 days to navigate a state unlike any they've competed in so far.

Florida is six times larger than New Hampshire, has almost five times more Hispanics than Iowa, and, with numerous media markets, is much more expensive for candidates than South Carolina.

That's where Gingrich trounced Romney on Saturday night, suddenly scrambling the GOP presidential race ahead of Florida's Jan. 31 primary.

"It's been fascinating spectator sport so far," Beth Schiller, 48, said inside Buddy Brew Coffee shop the next morning. "But it's coming here now. They're all coming."

Indeed, the remaining candidates in a shrunken field — Romney, Gingrich, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum and Texas Rep. Ron Paul — planned to be in the state Monday for the first of two presidential debates this week.

All eyes were certain to be on what's essentially a two-man race.

After a crushing South Carolina defeat, Romney no longer faces the prospect of wrapping up the nomination quickly and now is forced to regroup. He has spent months planning for the Florida campaign, essentially building a firewall in the state.

He has the largest organization of any candidate. And he and his allies combined have had the TV airwaves all to themselves for weeks, already spending roughly \$6 million combined.

The former Massachusetts governor's areas of strength in the diverse state may be with the transplanted Northeasterners and snowbirds along the Gold Coast.

But now there are doubts about whether he can knit together the broad cross-section of Republican voters he'd need to win in this state, much less the nomination.

"I'm looking forward to a long campaign," Romney said on "Fox News Sunday," an acknowledgment that he wouldn't sew up the nomination with a Florida victory as aides once had hoped.

Gingrich, for his part, will work to keep his momentum going despite continued division among tea party and religious activists who, to a certain degree, continue to divide their support between

him and Santorum. The state's conservative panhandle may be fertile ground for the former Georgia lawmaker who talks of his Southern roots often. His team also is working hard to court evangelicals, who vote in droves in the state's GOP primaries and who tend to look skeptically on Romney.

He dramatically trails Romney in fundraising and organization in the state, underscored by his launching of an online "money bomb" Saturday night to try to raise \$1 million to help fund his efforts in Florida.

"My job in Florida is to convince people that I am the one candidate who can clearly defeat Obama in a series of debates and the one candidate who has big enough solutions that they would really get America back on track," Gingrich told CNN's "State of the Union."

His South Carolina victory is certain to change the dynamics in a state where Romney has led in polls for weeks.

"People want to get behind a winner," said Tom Gaitens, co-founder of the Tampa Tea Party and state director for the conservative organization FreedomWorks. "People will be drawn to Newt like a magnet."

Florida's size and diver-

sity creates challenges for all the candidates. And the issues may be far different than those in the previous states.

There are 10 distinct media markets in Florida, which helps explain the tremendous cost of running a statewide campaign here.

And the voters are anything but homogenous.

Northern Florida along the panhandle is as close to the South as the state offers. It's the least populated and considered the most culturally conservative.

Southeastern Florida, including the Miami area, is traditionally not as conservative as the rest of the state, offering a large Latino population and many Northeastern transplants and Jewish voters.

The bulk of the state's Republicans, including a significant collection of evangelicals, live along central Florida's Interstate 4 corridor, including Tampa and Orlando.

Exit polling from the 2008 GOP primary shows that approximately 39 percent of voters identified themselves as born-again or evangelical Christians. That's a significant voting bloc Gingrich has been targeting. He won evangelicals soundly in South Carolina, where they constituted roughly 65 percent of the electorate.

Changes bring internal glitches

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two pay periods to get their money back. They will deduct

from the employees' pay for the next two pay periods.

"We'd only try to get that money back right now if the employee was terminated," Flores said.

The University has been working to get the system up and running for the past four months.

"We were faced with a compelling event when the ADP contract ended," Flores said.

The end of the contract, which was \$10 million over five years, left the University with three options: renew with ADP, start using what it already has or find a new solution.

The second option made the most sense, according to Flores.

After the state ordered all of its public universities to manage their own payroll about five years ago, the University chose ADP because it's a known vendor of payroll services. Flores, a 1996 alumnus of the University, returned around that time and was tasked with implementing ADP.

"[They] committed to a lot of things they were not able to deliver," Flores said of the

company.

He said they are more geared towards cutting payroll checks than supporting research. Other issues the University had with ADP include its managing of contracts of people such as overload faculty, graduate assistants, adjuncts, etc. and it was not able to support the switching of semesters.

On the other hand, the benefits of PantherSoft HR are its single sign-on system with MyAccount credentials, it "significantly improves" HR's ability to respond — from months to weeks — and it allows the division to process open enrollment changes.

The single sign-on system eliminated the number one reason HR received 1,000 calls per month: resetting passwords.

"That went away day one," Flores said.

Another benefit to the University is having access to its own data center, which is on the Modesto Maidique Campus, compared to ADP's center in Georgia.

The University has been using HR liaisons to pass on information of the new system to its employees, 4,000 of

which are temporary.

"Instead of having 8,000 people coming to us, we only have 125," Flores said on why liaisons are used.

The liaisons also make sure hours are approved and HR has submitted hours for people who failed to do so.

For the first three pay periods under the new system, HR is working with the University community to make sure it's learned.

Flores said HR invited the University's Office of Internal Audit to have an objective set of eyes to look at the results of their comparisons of the new and old system.

So far HR has had 99.7 percent accuracy when comparing the two systems.

Another part of the new system, according to Flores, is improving how the hours of hourly employees are approved.

The University wants to make direct supervisors, people who should have direct knowledge of the number of hours employees work, more involved and be the ones who approve hours.

"We're trying to change the culture of FIU," Flores said.



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- ASST. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA**
ALFRED SOTO



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

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BASEBALL

Panthers to play Miami Marlins in new ballpark

EDUARDO ALMAGUER
Staff Writer
sports@fiusm.com

There is a very long and tedious, albeit metaphorical, line that college baseball players have to make if they ever want to have the chance to compete against athletes from the major leagues on a regular basis.

For some, that line takes years to complete. For the FIU baseball team, it is going to take all but two months.

On March 7 at 7:05 p.m., the Golden Panthers are going to play an exhibition game against the Miami Marlins in Miami's new, state-of-the-art stadium.

It is the first time in FIU baseball's 39-year history that the baseball team will get a chance to play against a major league squad.

TICKETS

The Marlins will be selling 15,000 tickets to the game, each one selling for \$10.

"There will be no student



BEACON FILE PHOTO

March 7, against the Miami Marlins, will mark the first time the Panthers face-off against a Major League Baseball team.

discounts," confirmed Carolina Perrina, Director of Business Communications for the Marlins.

Individual tickets will go on sale on Jan. 27 at 10 a.m. at marlins.com or by dialing 1-877-MARLINS.

Currently, fans can buy

group tickets, though they must have a minimum of 20 people at the time of purchase. The \$10 price tag remains the same for group tickets.

The Marlins have been planning to have a soft opening for their new, yet-

to-be-named ballpark since April of last year. The \$515 million stadium in Little Havana will play host to two games before FIU gets a chance to step onto the field.

Christopher Columbus High School will play

against Belen Jesuit Preparatory School on March 5, followed by the Marlins and University of Miami on March 6.

Though this marks the first time UM has played the Marlins in a major league ballpark, they have tradi-

tionally played the Marlins in spring training. UM has only managed to beat the major league squad twice in the past decade.

For FIU, the exhibition game is just another boost to a program that has enjoyed success in the past two years.

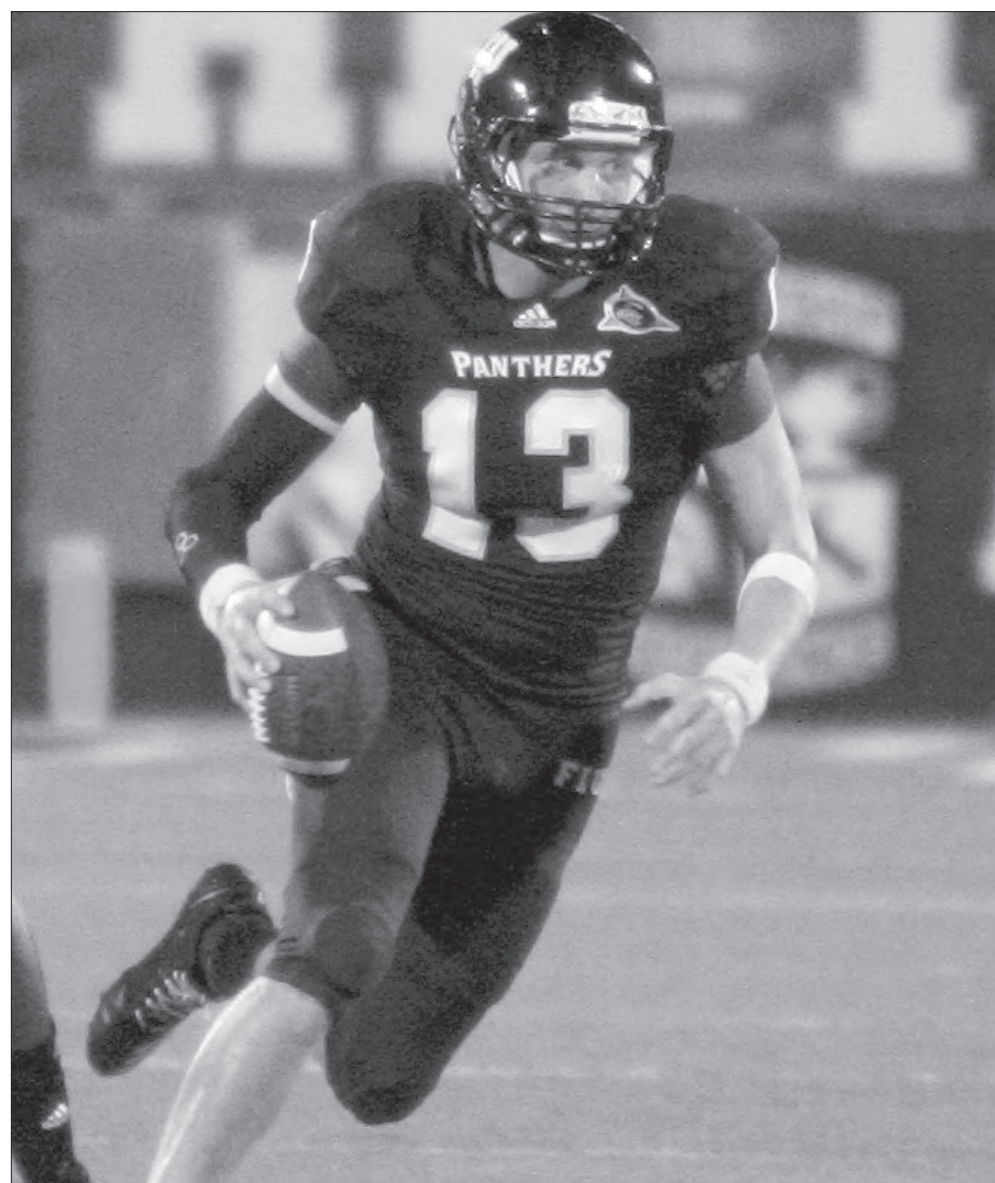
The Panthers have compiled a 73-45 record since the beginning of 2010, claimed a Sun Belt Conference Championship the same year and have made it to the Coral Gables Regional as well as the Chapel Hill Regional in the same timespan.

UPSWING

Perfectgame.org recently named FIU's baseball program one of the top 10 teams that are primed for an upswing. The website cited senior outfielder Pablo Bermudez, senior infielder Mike Martinez, junior outfielder Jabari Henry and redshirt junior left-hander Mason McVay as a few of the reasons for success in 2012.

FOOTBALL

Panthers represented in Battle of Florida all-star game



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer
jackson.wolek@fiusm.com

In the first ever Battle of Florida, held at FAU stadium, two FIU Panthers, seniors Wesley Carroll and Jonathan Faucher, got to show for the last time in their collegiate careers what they had to offer in front of 140 scouts at the game and many others watching on television.

Carroll was made captain for the South team and also started at quarterback. However, in the three drives that Carroll played, he totaled negative two yards on 1-6 passing and earned a net yardage of -9 on the ground, as the North side blew out the South side 51-3 and even went to a running clock in the fourth quarter.

"It was tough to watch, thank goodness I was able to allow the time keepers to let the clock run there at the end," said former FAU head coach Howard Schenellenberger.

Faucher, a tight end who caught eight passes for 92 yards and two touchdowns this season, did not receive much playing time and ended the game with zero catches. Both Carroll and Faucher's team, the South side, were being coached by Schnellenberger.

"It was great, it was great for him to be out there, it was really a lot of fun and he's a good guy," said Carroll.

Although Carroll did not put up great numbers, he said the practices were a really great experience for the, now, former Panther.

"The game is set up to try and eliminate guys getting hurt," said Carroll. "There's not a lot of blitzing, not a lot of checks, it's really just all about speed, a lot of one-on-one matchups. The week of practice was really the most crucial part of this whole week."

In the practices leading up to the game, Carroll said that he got opportunities to try different offenses such as pro style and being under center, sets he didn't run at FIU, which used a spread offense. He also said that he had a great week of practice and could not be more thankful for the chance to show the scouts what he had.

Out of the 140 scouts, 29 NFL teams were in attendance as well as four CFL teams and one AFL team.

"It's good for the boys because it gives them an opportunity to show what they've got, maybe something the pros have not seen today," said former FSU head coach Bobby Bowden. "I'm sure some of those guys out there attracted some attention."

Even though his team lost, Carroll knows that this game ultimately is about having fun and getting one more chance in practices and in the game to show the scouts he can play.

"A lot of these guys had a great week of practice, a lot of scouts were out there and that's really what this week was about," said Carroll. "This game, it's competitive but at the same time it's really meant to be fun and a good atmosphere."

His next step is to keep on working and preparing for his pro day.

Wesley Carroll, captain for the South team, threw for -2 yards in a 51-3 loss to the North.

SOFTBALL

Schumann hopes to fill holes by opening day

ANTHONY GUIVAS
Staff Writer
sports@fiusm.com

After a season that saw the Panthers go 31-27 finishing third in the Sun Belt Conference, FIU leads into a third consecutive Conference tournament appearance. After finishing third in the Sun Belt Conference, the Panthers' softball team enters the 2012 season with a bit of a new look as this season marks the start for new head coach Jake Schumann.

Jake Schumann takes over as the skipper, inheriting a team that went 31-27 in 2011. Schumann is in charge of a program that has developed into a legitimate contender under the tenure of Beth Torina for the past four seasons. While Torina has left some big shoes to fill, Schumann's track record may show that he seems willing and able to continue FIU's recent success.

Schumann previously coached at Texas A&M Corpus-Christi for the past four seasons, where he amassed a total record of 120-104. Just last season

Schumann guided the Islanders to an overall record of 41-19, good enough to earn the Southland Conference regular season crown and the conference Coach of the Year award.

"I loved everything about [Texas A&M Corpus-Christi], it's just that it's not a priority [athletics] and I've always wanted to climb the ladder," Schumann said.

Now with a new skipper comes new recruits in Marisa McGregor, Aleima Lopez and Corinne Jenkins. McGregor, an outfielder, seems to fit the mold of a lead-off hitter for FIU and will compete for a starting spot in the outfield.

Lopez is a versatile catcher that can be utilized in the infield if necessary. She will be looked upon this year to stop opposing runners.

Although these players signed their letter of intent, they will not be available to play until the Fall semester.

Jenkins, the sole pitcher of the group, has been clocked constantly in the low 60's (miles per hour) with great movement and looks to give a boost to an already strong rotation.



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Brie Rojas, a South Florida native, will be one of 10 upperclassmen that Schumann will rely on for the upcoming season.

Along with the new faces come many players that made last season a success. Key players included Mariah Dawson, Jenn Gniadek, Brie Rojas and Kayla Burri.

"There are a couple of holes that we have but for the most part we know who's going to start at third, short-stop, second, center and right field," Schumann said.

But as the season nears there are some positions that are still for the taking.

"At catcher we are looking at a couple of kids, left field is still a tossup and first base we are trying to groom a freshman from California, Shelby Graves," Schumann said. But the one player who became the team's catalyst for the past three seasons

is Ashley McClain, who batted an astounding .409 average to go along with 12 homers and 44 runs batted in this past season. McClain, a senior, will return for one more go-around with hopes of FIU finally becoming Sun Belt Champions.

"Ashley is a special player without a doubt," Schumann said. "Ashley [McClain]

is going to be a mainstay, a spark plug for us. She is a special player and I am ecstatic to have her and get to coach her for one year."

With fresh new faces joining an already talented group of experienced starters, the club seems prone to make some noise in 2012 and prove that the program's recent success is no fluke.

What Would You Do?

STUDENTS, STAFF AND FACULTY:

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN AN OPEN DISCUSSION TEACH-IN

The Trouble at Hamilton State: A Case Study in Leadership, Ethics, and Values (A fictional case based on the incidents at Penn State)

Moderated by:

Professors Mitch Maidique and Jose Gabilondo

Thursday, January 26, 2012

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Graham Center Auditorium, Room 140

Registration is required. Please visit: LEAD.FIU.EDU to RSVP.

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SPOTLIGHT ON...

Fiction and poetry, a form of therapy for professor

KATHRYN HANSARD
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

“This is a story that took me a few years to write,” David Gonzalez said to his students while passing out a stack of papers, “but I’d like you all to analyze it and look for recurring themes and symbolism.”

The 34-year-old adjunct professor explains that the story he is handing out, titled “The Gift,” is about a woman who sends her ex-lover a package in the mail, but the ex-lover avoids opening it, and instead spends a week guessing the contents.

The inspiration for the seven-page story came from personal experience—one that Gonzalez fondly remembers. He said it may have been the first boy-meets-girl story he had ever experienced.

“I was in the fifth grade, and a group of my friends told me that a girl much younger than me had a crush on me. She was going to give me a present after school,” Gonzalez said.

“I remember waiting in the rain for my mother to come pick me up and just praying that this little girl wouldn’t show up with a present for me.”

But she did. A little girl with blond curls cascading down her uniform ran quickly toward Gonzalez in the pouring rain, tripped and fell flat on her face. She got up and handed Gonzalez a gold necklace with her name on it, asking him to wear it from then on.

“It was extremely brave,” Gonzalez said, “but I returned it the very next day and apologized to her.”

He was on the verge of entering middle school,



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHRYN HANSARD

David Gonzalez, an adjunct professor, once used writing as a form of therapy to help with his stuttering.

and did not want to be seen dating a younger girl; it was not “cool.”

However ‘uncool’ it may have been 23 years ago, the anecdote still influences his writings of short fiction and poetry.

“Similar to my experience as a fifth grader who was unmindful of love, in my story ‘The Gift,’ the male character treats his fiancée somewhat flippantly,” Gonzalez said.

Campbell McGrath, a University creative writing professor, has read Gonzalez’s works of poetry.

“David Gonzalez is a terrific writer and a great guy. While formally a prose fiction writer, I can attest that he is a very good poet. He has also served as an editor of *Hinchas de Poesia*, a very cool online lit mag, and a member of the Miami Poetry Collective,” McGrath said.

Gonzalez writes about life experiences and the sentiments that go with them.

“I like to write about characters that present a certain set of emotions, be

SEE FICTION, PAGE 6

HAUTE TOPIC

Transition from teen to adult with style



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.PUTTHISON.COM

COLUMNIST



JUAN SATZIBAL

Guys, we are not teenagers anymore.

Yes, that’s right, it is time to hand down your super skinny jeans to a 12-year-old girl, give your extra-ripped jeans back to the bear who ripped them, build a time machine and leave the Hollister sex humor T-shirts back in 2005, leave sandals for the beach and stop your hair from looking like a mop.

Changing the way you dress should not be a drag—or difficult. If it is, maybe you are not ready for the change.

You probably know you need to stop wearing the same faded black hoodie five times a week. Attiring yourself properly is an improvement to your character.

Honestly, we all know having a good appearance can only make you better. Dressing like an adult really means to stop dressing like a 16-year-old.

We have passed the time when it is all right to have teenage angst, as well as to wear neon tees, super baggy pants, or beat-up shoes. It is all about dressing to look presentable, feel comfortable, and look appropriate for your age.

When building a new wardrobe, remember a few things: variety, versatility and quality. If you happen to like blazers, do not just limit yourself to them; you will end up being remembered as the

“blazer guy” (talking from personal experience).

There are so many jackets in different styles, such as army jackets or varsity jackets. The same applies to bottoms: do not be limited to jeans. Instead, you can purchase chinos in khaki, blue or black. Please remember, leave the zip-off pants for hiking.

The point in achieving a wardrobe with variety is to accomplish versatility. The most versatile item ever is probably a white button-down; it matches with most color bottoms, and can be worn to a formal event or to class (styled differently, of course). Make sure that with each clothing item you have, you can at least wear it in three or more different outfits or ways.

Lastly, quality over quantity. Spend the extra \$30 on a regular T-shirt; it will last longer and probably look better. Yes, designer clothing may hurt your wallet now, but in the long run, it is worth it because designer items are made from high-quality fabrics that will stay in your wardrobe for years.

Chances are you will probably end up wasting the same amount of money in rebuying the same low-quality items throughout one year. Does anyone really want to walk around with lint, colorless, wrinkly clothing?

Haute Topic is a weekly fashion column. Juan Satzibal is a guest columnist on men’s fashion.

Being female not a hindrance to priesthood for student

PRIEST, PAGE 1

At first, Buehler needed time to weigh Blasco’s decision. He eventually pledged his support to her after he saw how happy she had been after deciding to join the priesthood.

“We share our experiences, and it makes us closer. If going to the seminary and becoming a priest makes her happy, then it makes me happy,” said Buehler.

Although she did not have to study anything in particular for her bachelor’s degree before applying for the seminary, she chose religion because she wanted to be well-rounded.

“All the religions that I have studied since I’ve been here I [have] found really interesting. I find a lot of religions to be beautiful and just misunderstood because they haven’t been studied,” said Blasco.

Despite her dedication to her church, don’t expect Blasco to proselytize in class.

“I would never want to make anyone think I want them to think how I think,” said Blasco.

She has applied to three seminaries in the northeast and will be attending for three years.

“I am excited but there’s also this fear. I’m not sure what I’m afraid of, being homesick or not succeeding,” said Blasco.

After graduating, she plans to come back to South Florida.

“I think the South Florida diocese needs highly qualified bilingual clergy,” said Blasco.

Blasco projects the opposite image of a priest, so it is no wonder she has a drink now and then. “I won’t get drunk, but I’ll go to a bar and have a few drinks,” said Blasco. After all, she is a college student.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATALIE BLASCO

Blasco (left) and her husband Antonio Buehler (right) after a church service.

RADIATE REVIEWS

“Paralytic Stalks” an intimate look into frontman

Kevin Barnes is an immensely challenging artist to follow. While there are certain aspects of Montreal fans have come to expect both in their records and live performances, every hint at a possible new release always leaves the followers with a nagging sense of uncertainty, a bitter-sweet prospect of what is to come.

COLUMNIST



CARLOS
SUCRE-PARRA

This, in itself, is a big reflection of Barnes' persona, as his lyrics tend to reveal his most intimate thoughts, and the turn of a verse or a simple chord change completely alter the mood of a song—and sometimes the album itself.

“Paralytic Stalks” is a fantastic example of this, presenting what could best be described as controlled chaos: an amalgam of carefully crafted pop songs, paired with distorted sounds and landscapes, leading to dada-esque moments of total loss in a sea of noise, before reigning the song back into a tight melody, making this one of the most exciting records of Montreal has released to date.

The starting track, “Gelid Ascent,” presents a reverb-heavy melody that draws back from ‘90s rock angst and offers an early look into the record’s themes of solitude, loss, tragedy and growth.

The lyrics, mostly lost behind a massive wall of guitars, beg for the presence of someone no longer present, showing a rather

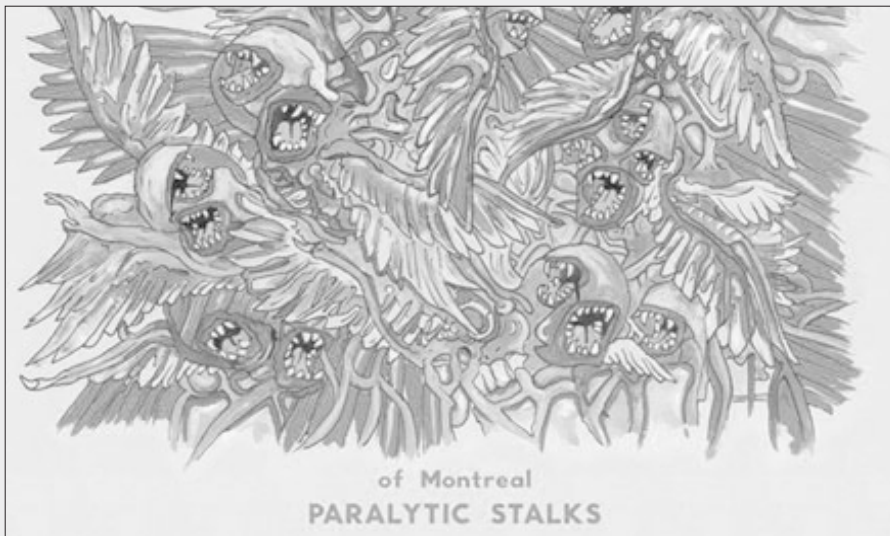


PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.OFMONTREAL.NET

of Montreal’s latest LP “Paralytic Stalks” uses broken relationships as “an opportunity for soul-searching and personal growth” rather than wallowing in depression.

melancholic look into mending broken relationships and ending in media res, yet immediately continuing the themes in the next track, “Spiteful Intervention.”

“It’s sad that we need a tragedy to occur to gain a fresh perspective in our lives,” Barnes said, kicking into a bass-driven jam where he rails against humanity all the while having multiple key changes, creating a sense of instability, a dour sensation of disaster that permeates throughout.

This constant feeling of doom presented by Barnes is what ultimately makes of Montreal so attractive, a rather miasmatic entity that never

departs the music, despite the uplifting nature of the song. With each track, Barnes finds a new clue about himself, life and humanity, and every crescendo often feels like a massive celebration, a cathartic burst of instrumentation that injects a grain of hope in the sea of bitterness he often portrays. And while this formula might become repetitive under any other artist, Barnes adds enough variety to the record where no two tracks feel the same.

His sense of personal confusion, his conclusion that he has “lost the thread of being human,” does not reflect as wallowing in depression for lack of better subject matter

(Adele), but rather an opportunity for soul-searching and personal growth.

“There is no economy of drama,” Barnes said, and it shows brilliantly in “Exorcismic Breeding Knife,” the eighth track of the record, a disjointed, frenzied track, where the overwhelming lack of structure puts Barnes’ anguish into perspective.

Part mystery movie sound track, part controlled demolition of a man’s sanity, the song best represents the latter end of the album, with much longer tracks that lyrically portray a stream of consciousness, leading into a much-needed improvement, a resolution for his emotional ailments, albeit only temporary in nature, as shown in “Authentic Pyrrhic Remission,” intertwining a relatively happy melody in a torrent of syncopated strings, leaving a lingering sense of dread to follow.

“Paralytic Stalks” offers a brief sight into its creator’s mind, and often feels like therapy session, observing the fluctuations of a single man’s ID and his personal monsters.

Yet, the intimate nature of its lyrics and attractive instrumentation keeps pulling the listener back once more. It only seems fitting, then, in its contrast between the beginning and ending track, starting with overtly aggressive tones, and ending, in not a whimper, but rather a sigh of resignation with the world, and most importantly, with himself.

Radiate Reviews is a weekly music review column. Email at carlos.sucre-parra@fiusm.com.

Gonzalez’s writing “original and emotionally true”

FICTION, PAGE 5

it loyalty, shame, joy or fear,” Gonzalez said.

For Gonzalez, writing began at the age of 13 as forced therapy to treat congenital stuttering

disorder.

“Because I stuttered so much when I spoke, speech therapists recommended I write down my thoughts before I said them,” Gonzalez said. It was difficult, and Gonzalez under-

went eight years of speech therapy to get the problem under control.

Maxie Hernandez, a former student of Gonzalez, barely noticed his stutter in class.

“He was open about

it in the beginning of the semester, and I think he even apologized for it,” Hernandez said. “But it never affected the kind of teacher he was.”

Hernandez said that Gonzalez taught his

students not to settle for mediocrity in their writing, which is something she feels students often do after countless years of repetitive English classes.

“I think David is one of the most passionate people I’ve ever met in my life,” Hernandez said. “I learned and improved more than I believed possible.”

Debra Dean, an assistant professor of English at the University, remembers Gonzalez’s passion in his work.

“I first met David when I was a guest at the FIU Writers Conference, and David was a grad student,”

Dean recalled. “He handed in a wonderful short story, the kind that warms the cockles of a teacher’s heart because it was both completely original and emotionally true.”

“I thought, ‘If this is the kind of writers they’re bringing in to FIU, I want to teach there.’”

This story was researched and written for JOU 3300 Advanced News Writing taught by Dr. Fred Blevens in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. You can see this and other class work by going to thenews-wave.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

25

WEDNESDAY

CLS VOLUNTEER FAIR

WHEN: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
WHERE: BBC WUC Panther Square

MLK HWCORUM FORUM: “(IN)EQUALITY AND HEALTH

WHEN: 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free to public
WHERE: MMC AHCI 170

WHAT IS A SENATOR?

WHEN: 2-3 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC 150

STUDY ABROAD FAIR

WHEN: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC PC 113

TARGET WEDNESDAY AFTER HOURS

The opening reception for Maria Thereza Negreiros: Offerings, Annette Turrillo: A Thought for the Planet, West Wind East Water by Qin Feng, and Metropole/Colony: Africa and Italy in the Wolfsonian Teaching Gallery
WHEN: 6-9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Frost Museum

26

THURSDAY

SPC “WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?” LECTURE

WHEN: 6:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC Ballrooms

SPC MOVIE SERIES: PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 3

WHEN: 3 & 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC WUC Theater

THE TROUBLE AT HAMILTON STATE: A CASE STUDY IN LEADERSHIP, ETHICS, AND VALUES

WHEN: 2-4 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC 140

THE CONTEMPLATIVE WAY: THE TRADITION OF THOMAS MERTON

WHEN: 7-8:30 p.m.
WHERE: St. Johns on the Lake United Methodist Church

BRAZIL AND ECUADOR: AFRO LATIN AMERICA

WHEN: 3:30-5 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC 113

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CLASS DISMISSED

Recent death reminds about dangers of hazing

In 2008, the Chad Meredith Act made hazing a felony in Florida in hopes that organizations, Greek or non-Greek, would stop this dangerous practice. However, the brutal death of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University drum major Robert Champion reignited a heated discussion on the merits and dangers of hazing. In the midst of this discussion, I truly hope our University is never on the darker side of it.



JASMYN ELLIOTT

According to a hazingstudy.org survey of over 11,000 students, 55 percent of college students in an organization, Greek or non-Greek, have experienced some form of hazing.

The most popular form of hazing is binge drinking, which can cause fatal alcohol poisoning. Chad Meredith, the University of Miami student for which Florida's anti-hazing policy is named, died in 2002 when he, after getting drunk in a hazing exercise, drowned in a lake on campus. In addition to binge drinking, beatings and other injurious methods also caused deaths.

Even after this incident, as a student at the University I have heard the arguments in favor of hazing: "It is tradition," "It builds character," "It shows just how far you're willing to go for

your letters," and other nonsensical reasons behind putting new members through humiliating, if not life-threatening, ordeals for the sake of joining a prestigious national organization.

“Joining an organization should build character and make college life more fun, not break you down and cause you pain.”

As a member of a Greek organization, I can proudly say that my sorority has faithfully upheld the zero-tolerance hazing policy as outlined by the University and the state. I can only hope that this is the case for all student organizations on campus.

Greek organization or not, every one of us profess to uphold high standards of conduct. In one way or another, honor and friendship make up the core of our values. As a human being and as a sorority member, I cannot see the honor or the friendship in beating someone with a paddle, coercing a new member into binge drinking or putting a new member through any other morti-

fying or painful ordeal to join an organization.

Even if a practice doesn't result in death or serious injury, by hazing we dishonor and show ourselves undeserving to belong to the organization we claim to represent.

According to the aforementioned survey by hazingstudy.org, nine out of 10 student that have experienced hazing did not perceive that they were hazed, which I attribute to initiated members down playing the practice by using the empty excuses I mentioned above, and then some.

Just because "everyone else had to do it" doesn't mean you have to; any so-called "tradition" that makes you uncomfortable, causes physical or emotional injury, embarrasses you or could endanger your life is not worth enduring.

Joining an organization should build character and make college life more fun, not break you down and cause you pain. After all, there is no point to submitting to hazing if, especially in the case of Meredith and Champion, you don't even live to see the other side.

For more on how to prevent hazing on campus, contact the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Office at (305) 348-3939.

"Class Dismissed" is a biweekly column critiquing education in America. Email jasmyn.elliott@fiusm.com

Occupy FIU: reevaluate message, strategy

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Staff Writer
philippe.buteau@fiusm.com

The FIU offshoot of the Occupy movement needs to chill and fall back for a bit.

By that I mean the group's members need to be very careful with what their overall message is, including what they say to the media, and it needs to stop with the rallies, teach-ins and anything else they plan on doing on campus until they get a more realistic set of grievances for occupying.

The Jan. 12 arrest of seven Occupy FIU members did more to delegitimize the group than legitimize them.

On that day, FIU Police officers arrested members of the group for unlawful assembly. The members said what they were doing was not a protest but a music festival in support of the anniversary of the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti.

News reports from FIU Student Media, *The Miami Herald* and NBC Miami on the day of the arrests all had quotes from members of Occupy FIU in which they said they received permission for their event from "the ombudsman." They didn't say Larry Lunsford, the University ombudsman,

just "the ombudsman." This makes me wonder if the group even went to Lunsford, but regardless he isn't the one that grants permission for such events. He only knows.

In NBC Miami's report, Derek Mustelier, a University student and member of Occupy FIU, said he didn't know he'd be arrested but "that's what happens when you challenge the status quo."

Mustelier didn't clarify whether being a member of the group or the music festival was challenging the status quo, but his quote suggests something more was being done or said during the festival.

Mustelier also said he was sure University administration stopped the festival because it was associated with Occupy FIU.

I disagree with this notion because if that were the case then the occupation of the Graham Center lawn in Nov. 2011 would not have been allowed. Also the two-day long teach-in, which took place in the Deuxieme Maison pit in Nov. 2011 would have been stopped also. Mustelier even said in the NBC Miami report the event in the DM pit was not stopped.

As for their reasons for occupying, Occupy FIU needs to fall back and come up with better occupation reasons and exclude tuition as one of

them.

For those who don't know, tuition has risen by 15 percent every year since 2009-2010 - seven percent from the University and eight from the State University System Board of Governors.

“Occupy FIU needs to fall back and come up with better occupation reasons.”

However, those increases are reactions. FIU and the BoG reacted and are reacting to the state Legislature's continuing reduction in higher education funding.

This fiscal year, 2011-2012, the University received \$157 million from the state compared to last year's number of \$228 million. That number is down by \$71 million or about 33 percent.

The University can't just make do with less money; it has to make the difference up somewhere. Unfortu-

nately for us that somewhere is our wallets.

I agree with editorials *The Beacon* has published in the past in which they said tuition increases are necessary evils.

If, as a student, you want your academic program to receive funding but the state is providing less and less money than we're going to have to pay a bit more.

Saying "no" to tuition increases without taking everything into perspective is an immature reason to occupy this university.

A small bit of research can turn up a wide range of other reasons to Occupy FIU.

To name a few: the fees students pay regardless of whether we use that particular activity and/or service, a University-wide smoking ban that neither a majority of students nor faculty asked for, a Strategic Plan of adding 2,000 more students a year to reach 60,000 enrollment by 2020 even as the University struggles to provide enough classes and improve the services for the students currently enrolled.

I'm not saying the group should not occupy or do whatever events they want to do, but that they should come up with better occupation reasons.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Payroll bonus - NOT

The money directly deposited in FIU employees' accounts on Jan. 13 was not a surprise start of the semester bonus but rather an error in payroll. The switch to a new payroll system disrupted the system causing the erroneous depositing of \$53,000 to 217 employees.

The fact that 3 percent of total payroll was just accidentally disbursed is an issue of accountability and accuracy.

This is not only problematic for the University as it now has to find some way to take back the funds but it is also a huge inconvenience for employees who now have their bank balances only momentarily increased.

As told to Philippe Buteau, reporter for *The Beacon*, the University plans on deducting the funds from future paychecks.

The Beacon recognizes that the University has few appropriate choices on how to get the money back and the deduction of money from future paychecks may indeed be the most minimally invasive solution. However, this should never have happened.

It is unfortunate that FIU employees have to rearrange their finances and budgets because FIU payroll failed at their most important and basic role: to pay the right amount of money at the expected time.

The introduction of the new payroll system should have been implemented more carefully. Phasing it in a more properly monitored manner could have prevented this entire ordeal.

The Beacon notes that errors like this waste employees' time and University officials' time, who now have to deal with this.

This even is reminiscent of what occurred in Oct. 2011, when *The Beacon* reported that a computer "glitch" resulted in the removal of multiple students off the graduation registration.

The Beacon recommends that the University, as a whole, get their glitches in check as now it has not only affected graduation registration, but also personal bank accounts.



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ENTER THE DRAGON



PHOTOS BY ALONSO LAWHORN/THE BEACON

In celebration of the Chinese New Year, students came together in the Wolfe University Center's Panther Square to welcome the Year of the Dragon with a variety of activities being tabled on Jan. 23. (Top-Left) Fang Chen, senior hospitality student, takes part in the entertainment. (Left) Zibo Ding and Ye Chen, hospitality alumni, provide as (Top-Right) hospitality professor Jinlin Zhao watches.

RECREATION

A way to keeping New Year's resolutions

BARBARA CORBELLINI DUARTE

Staff Writer

barbara.duarte@fiusm.com

Almost half of Americans make New Year's resolutions; yet, after the first week of the year, only about 75 percent of this people keep their goals, according to a 2002 survey collected by the "Journal of Clinical Psychology."

Over the past two years, the FIU Recreation Center and the FIU Biscayne Bay Wellness Center have been helping to keep up the common promise of health resolutions, promoting the New Year Get Fit Challenge.

"Every one has New Year's resolutions, we want to provide an extra incentive for them," said Val Butler, programming assistant for the Recreation Center and coordinator of this year's event.

The 2012 Challenge will start on Jan. 27. Participants can do the initial weight-in from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the FIU Biscayne Bay Wellness Center located on the third floor of Wolfe University Center.

"It has always grown every year, this is an event that pulls out the staff and the faculty to come out a lot, as well as students," Butler said. "So it's great to see an overall competition throughout the University."

According to Butler, participants will have the chance to receive assessments where they can find out their strength score, body mass index and body fat percentage.

Participants will be divided in groups of two.

"You can come and make a team or you can sign up with the free agents and we will partner you with someone," Butler said.

Every person that signs in will get discount for the Wrap it Up Food Truck.

"This is the first year that along with the program we have our recreation training, which is our own brand of personal training," Butler said. "When a team registers, you automatically get a free personal training section."

The Challenge will last eight weeks. Teams will compete to lose the highest percentage of weight, not necessarily the highest amount. Every Friday, teams must weight-in at the Wellness Center.

In 2011, the winner team lost 166 lbs, which is equivalent to 11.6 percent of body fat, according to Butler.

Throughout the competition, participants can receive nutrition tips from Andres Bermeo, senior health educator for the Wellness Center, and physical assistance from Joel Palau, Recreation Center personal trainer.

"Anyone from the community that purchase a membership, faculty, staff and students are always welcome to participate," Butler said.

The competition ends on Mar. 23. The winner team will receive a trophy and personal training benefits.

"You have nothing to lose, but weight," Butler said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Environment a key issue in GOP Florida Primary

MATT SEDENSKY
AP Staff

Four years after the GOP's rallying cry became "drill, baby, drill," environmental issues have barely registered a blip in this Republican presidential primary.

The candidates' positions on environmental regulation, global warming as well as clean air and water are all but certain to get attention ahead of the Jan. 31 primary in a Florida, where the twin issues of offshore oil drilling and Everglades restoration are considered mandatory topics for discussion.

"It's almost like eating fried cheese in Iowa," said Jerry Karnas of the Everglades Foundation. Drilling has long been banned off Florida's coasts because of fears that a spill would foul its beaches, wrecking the tourism industry, while the federal and state governments are spending billions to clean the Everglades.

Though most expect the candidates to express support for Everglades restoration as Mitt Romney did in his 2008 campaign environmentalists are noting a further rightward shift overall among the GOP field. The candidates have called for fewer environmental regulations, questioned whether global warming is a hoax and criticized the agency that implements and enforces clean air and water regulations.

"A cycle ago, there were people who actually believed in solving

some of these problems," said Navin Nayak of the League of Conservation Voters. "Now we're faced with a slate that doesn't even believe in basic science."

The candidates, of course, dispute such a characterization. But their stances have generally grown more conservative. And even when they haven't, they often offer positions that aren't in line with conservationists.

Romney heralded the passage of stricter limits on carbon emissions in 2005 when he was governor of Massachusetts but last year said it was a mistake. He previously agreed with the scientific consensus on global warming and humans' contribution to it but now says "we don't know what's causing climate change."

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich supported tougher environmental regulation early in his congressional career and appeared in a 2008 TV spot with then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi pleading for action on climate change. Now he's says appearing with the San Francisco liberal was "the dumbest thing I've done in the last couple of years" and is calling for lifting restrictions on offshore drilling and branding the Environmental Protection Agency a "job killer" that must be replaced.

Texas Rep. Ron Paul said during his 2008 campaign that "human activity probably does play a role" in global warming. Now he calls

the science on manmade global warming a "hoax."

Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum shows fewer signs of a shift on such issues. He has called for more drilling, including in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and doubts research that points to a human role in global warming, calling it "junk science."

An analysis by the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics found about \$2.8 million in campaign donations were made by those in the energy and natural resources sector, according to Federal Elections Commission data, with about 84 percent of it going to Republicans.

Meantime, the EPA, which is responsible for policing environmental rules, has been singled out for Republican criticism this campaign season. Paul has called for its outright elimination as part of his plan to drastically curtail the federal government. Romney has said it's "out of control." Santorum has railed against the EPA's limits on mercury from coal-fired power plants. And Gingrich has called for overhauling the EPA, saying it should be converted to an "environmental solutions agency."

Nayak says: "There's no doubt that this kind of slate of presidential candidates is one of the most regressive and most closely tied to polluters that we've seen at least in decades."

Some Republican presidents

and nominees have been strong environmentalists. Teddy Roosevelt was seen as a role model to environmentalists, using his presidency to establish wildlife refuges, preserve forests, and conserve water. Richard Nixon helped create the EPA that has been vilified by his successors on the campaign trail today. And the last Republican nominee, Sen. John McCain, was the chief co-sponsor of a bill that sought mandatory caps on greenhouse gas emissions.

Michelle Pautz, a political science professor at the University of Dayton who focuses on environmental policy, said the current slate of Republicans may not be giving much reason to applaud their environmental stances, but it may not matter much overall with the economy taking center stage.

"The bottom line is both with the GOP primary and looking to Obama and the general election, the green vote is a non-issue," Pautz said. "There are too many other issues crowding out the environmental ones."

But Tony Cani, the national political director for the Sierra Club, said taking what he calls "extreme" views on the environment won't play well come Nov. 6.

Jim DiPeso, of Republicans for Environmental Protection, said he hopes to see a shift as Election Day draws closer, but that the state of politics right now has made ecological issues untouchable.