

CLASS REUNION

DJ Irie feels connected to the FIU community

ESRA ERDOGAN
Life! Editor

As the official DJ for the Miami Heat, former University student DJ Irie will never forget his roots. During the years 1995 through 1999, Irie was very involved on campus and held the positions of Vice President of Student Government and General Manager of WRGP, Radiate FM. Irie feels so connected to the University that he continues to stay involved today, and took a moment to speak with Student Media.

SM: How are you involved with the University?

DJ Irie: One of the things I have been consistent with is Homecoming and the Ultra Fest [in previous years]. The First Generation event came about because I keep a good dialogue with all the administrators and even though we have a lot going on, if there is anything I can help them out with that is possible on our end, we are in. Really, it's a matter of me just wanting to say that [the University] wasn't a place I just went to get a higher education.

Miami is where I grew up from high school to college. All those



MANNY HERNANDEZ/PICTUREGROUP VIA AP IMAGES

DJ Irie, who attended the University from 1995 through 1999, is currently the official DJ for the Miami Heat.

[academic] experiences have shaped me today and I don't feel like those are experiences that I can say 'Oh, that's cool and it's a thing of the past.' Education is a huge, huge thing for me and if I can help out and do anything that advances the

University, then I'm in.

SM: What is your next big project that you're working on with the University?

DJ Irie: The big project we are trying to do now is the Miss

University event at FIU next year. My partner, Carlos Arias, and I took Donald Trump to court and finally won exclusive rights to Miss University.

What we wanted to do is build a cool and fun anti-pageant. It's an

event that celebrates student life. It is not about the most beautiful or pretty student, it's really about showcasing and highlighting a particular student who not only excels at their education but also is very active in school, works very well in groups and is active in their community.

We're in talks with Student Government and other levels of administrations to launch this at FIU. We would like to take it to different universities but for the initial one it would be strictly an FIU event and would have students' say on the vote. It's going to be a great thing for the school because PR would say this thing was birthed at FIU.

SM: What would you like to see the school improve on in the future?

DJ Irie: I'll say this — it's a hard question because being someone that isn't a student. Students may feel a little differently but I can speak as someone from the outside.

I read what's going on in the papers and FIU is really on fire. Great things are happening in athletics with

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SGA looks into formation of student political parties

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
News Director

While Republicans figure who will face off against Democratic President Barack Obama for the White House next year, student government at the University is figuring out how political parties will operate here.

Political parties are already accounted for in SGA's statutes because of an amendment in April 2011, but procedures on how to create party rules dictating how much they can spend and, among other things, how they will campaign, haven't been defined yet.

So, to prevent the possibility of a political party spending \$10,000 or more on a year-round campaign, the senate of the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus are in the midst of discussions on what

the necessary rules will be.

The plan is to have something finalized in time for spring 2012 elections.

Jose Toscano and Michelle Castro, assistant directors of

“

That cannot work here. [You're] only going to see people of wealth being able to [run].

Patrick O'Keefe,
President
SGC-MMC

Campus Life, and Carlton Ng, graduate assistant for Campus Life gave a presentation to the senate which included ideas the senate could use, modify

or reject.

“We've done the legwork and now the senate will fill in the gaps,” Castro said in an interview with Student Media.

The legwork was nationwide research on how political parties operate at other universities such as Auburn, Ohio State, and Florida. One of their discoveries is two possibilities under which political parties would fall — either under student government or the Council of Student Organizations. Political parties at UF fall under their version of CSO, according to Toscano.

Another consideration for the senate is whether parties will be active year-round or only during elections.

“My hopes are that parties are year-round and registered through SGA,” Toscano said in an interview with Student

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Ozone depletion remains an issue in South Florida

MEL ALVAREZ
Contributing Writer

Last winter, atmospheric scientists discovered what is now being described as the “first significant ozone hole ever recorded over the high northern regions” by the science journal, Nature.

Though this ozone depletion is temporary, unlike that of the Antarctic discovered in the 1980s, it demonstrates the lasting effects greenhouse gases have on the planet.

Jack Parker, professor of environmental science and chemistry at the University, explained the differences and causes of atmospheric holes over the Arctic and Antarctic regions.

“The difference is [this hole is] in the north pole not the south pole; we don't have anywhere near the same level of an ozone hole in the north pole because it's not anywhere near as cold as the south pole,” Parker said. “One of the characteristics needed for the chemistry to take place, that is depleting the ozone, is that it has to be very cold in the stratosphere.”

Several factors need to exist before the Antarctic ozone improves similarly to what is

currently being reported in the Arctic, according to Parker.

“It's going to take a long time for some of these chemicals to be low enough in the atmosphere to say that we no longer have a hole in the ozone in the Antarctic area. It doesn't happen right away because some of these chemicals last for hundreds of years. [The hole is] probably temporary in the Arctic because it has to have very special conditions in order to be cold enough.”

Depletion is measured by the reduction of ozone concentration in a particular area.

Furthermore, chemical ozone destruction in the Arctic has been known to occur in winter and spring; this is due to atmospheric chemical reactions with local hot or cold air. However, never had such a significant depletion occurred as was the case in February 2011 when the northern ozone hole reached southward into Russia and Mongolia.

Though ozone depletion and global warming are generally separate topics in the scientific community, in the present case, a link can be

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COMING UP | News

Check out the Nov. 18 issue for an article on the \$600,000 scholarship donation to the University by the Betty G. Reader estate.

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Rosanne Cash opens Miami book fair with songs

Singer Rosanne Cash opened the Miami Book Fair International with an impromptu performance.

Cash read from her memoir "Composed" and sang several songs on a borrowed blue guitar on Sunday night. Cash said she finds melody in prose and tried to emulate her favorite writers as she worked on the book.

Fantasy writer Christopher Paolini also talked about his Inheritance series with the crowd. The Miami Herald reports that the 26-year-old got laughs when he described wearing "billowy pantaloons" on his first book tour and confessed that he originally named the hero of his books Kevin.

NATIONAL

Police clear out downtown Occupy Oakland camp

Riot-clad law enforcement officers cleared out a weeks-old anti-Wall Street encampment in Oakland just before dawn Monday after issuing several warnings to Occupy demonstrators.

Protesters appeared to put up little resistance to the raid and officers could be seen leading some handcuffed demonstrators away from the downtown plaza where the camp had been set up. Warnings from Oakland authorities had been similar to those issued before officers raided the encampment on Oct. 25 with tear gas and bean bag projectiles.

WORLD

EU imposes new sanctions on Syria

European Union foreign ministers decided Monday to impose additional sanctions on 18 Syrians in response to the killings of protesters by Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime.

The names of those sanctioned will not be known until they are published in the EU's official journal in a day or two. In a statement, the foreign ministers said they were "individuals responsible or associated with the repression and supporting or benefiting from the regime."

Sanctions generally include visa and travel bans on people and the freezing of assets. The sanctions adopted Monday also include suspending the disbursement of European Investment Bank loans.

—Compiled by Melissa Caceres

Chevrolet partners with FIU AMA

AURA ALTAMIRANDA
Contributing Writer

The collegiate chapter of the American Marketing Association at the University took on the task of participating in the Chevrolet Campus Promotions Program during fall 2011. AMA FIU was hand-picked by Edventure Partners, an organization that specializes in fostering educational and professional partnerships.

"We know that FIU is a well-known school and it has a large [number] of students enrolled. FIU is truly a great university," said Natalie De Leon, Edventure Partners account manager.

With a budget of \$3,000, their goal was to promote the new line of Chevy Cruze, Equinox, and Volt, as well as the Chevrolet College Discount Program. The discount program is one that offers reduced Chevy vehicle prices to students and recent graduates. Their objectives also include awareness for Chevrolet and a higher number of sales, a better reputation for the company, more community involvement, and extensive research, among others.

"They're giving a real world marketing and learning experience to students but also to educators and professors, whoever is involved. In this case, the educator is a little hands-off because the students run

with the ideas," said De Leon.

The program offers prizes for the most successful campaign, including Flip camcorders, GPS systems, and netbooks; AMA FIU's additional incentive for participating is the opportunity to network, use a number of resources, and steer a campaign in a professional environment that attends to its client's needs.

Ultimately, the program is geared to heighten the success of Chevrolet, while providing these marketing students experience. "Participating offers a unique opportunity to manage finances, people, projects, and deadlines - the skills you'll need as a marketing professional," said Daniela Delfino, a senior international business major who serves as public relations director for the campaign.

Each of the 40 students involved have taken on their respective roles in seven departments. These departments are: public relations, accounting, finance, reports, research, campaign strategy and implementation and advertising.

In order to meet their goals, the students set up a Facebook page to reach out to their peers as well as a website: www.gmsavesfiu.com.

"What Lies Beyond," a student-made film by Jarrod Knowles, a senior information technology major, premiered at the University on Oct. 26; prior to the

showing, a teaser was aired AMA FIU's campaign.

AMA FIU's grand event will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 16 and exhibit the three cars they have been assigned to promote as well as slogans and personas for each that will help their target audience identify the vehicles in the future.

The students unveiled their plans in a presentation to their client and Edventure Partners prior to initiating their campaign. Their progress was measured in their second milestone, Event Activation and Content Generation. In a few weeks, the final assessment will be made upon a mutually agreed date that will detail the outcome of their efforts.

"Between work and classes it is often difficult to get all the members of the project at the same place at the same time," said Delfino. The least of their concerns, as told by Delfino, has been gathering support. Members of the community and sponsors such as ChicBerry Frozen Yogurt and Pizza Rustica contributed to the organization's efforts.

"I've grown to really appreciate, this hands-on real world, real client experience," said Justin Dixon, junior advertising major and advertisement department leader for the campaign. "It makes my degree so much more valuable to me."

University interested in green options

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made between the two.

As evidence shows, the primary cause of global warming is carbon dioxide in the lower atmosphere, which traps and accumulates heat; thereby limiting the heat that can be absorbed in the stratosphere. Subsequently, the stratosphere becomes colder and causes more ozone destruction.

Parker stressed that South Florida is at risk to global warming.

"Particularly coastal South Florida is one of the most

vulnerable urban places on the planet and probably the most vulnerable urban area in the United States."

He attributes this to Florida's proximity to sea level as well as the estimated three to four foot rise in sea level projected to occur by the end of this century.

The most effective way to lessen the impacts of global warming and ozone depletion, Parker suggested, is working on a local level to limit carbon emissions and reduce energy usage.

The University has shown interest in promoting this message with projects like Campus Sustainability Day and

America Recycles Day.

Carrie Kashar, assistant director of sustainability, said to Student Media, in 2011, the University will participate in the Environmental Protection Agency's Game Day Challenge for the first time.

During the friendly competition, collegiate schools strive to reduce waste and recycle during a football game in hopes of excelling in one of five EPA award categories, which includes greenhouse gas reduction.

The Office of Sustainability has dubbed the effort the "GoGreenGame" in correlation with the office's America Recycles Day. Recycling options

were made available at the Nov. 12 tailgate and in FIU Stadium to help increase participation of students, faculty and staff in waste reduction programs, while heightening awareness of environmental issues.

Kashar encouraged students who are interested in getting involved with environmentally sustainable organizations on campus to contact the Students for Environmental Action, Panther's Going Green or the Intellectual Decisions on Environmental Awareness Solutions club; all of which can be reached through the Office of Sustainability's website go.green.fiu.edu.

President, speaker worried

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Media.

Toscano also said political parties would not replace the current system for elections but instead will add to what already exists in the Elections Code.

Whatever the senate passes needs the signature of SGC-MMC President Patrick O'Keefe before a statute revision can be done. If O'Keefe vetoes the bill SGC-MMC Speaker of the Senate Donovan Dawson would need two-thirds vote of the senate to override his veto.

In an interview with both O'Keefe and Dawson, the two said they are opposed to political parties in the "traditional sense" - the one now being discussed.

O'Keefe is worried about political parties at the University descending into what now exists at UF. At UF, there exists a political system with alleged back-door politics that include blackmail and paying of opposition.

The slate system, what FIU currently uses, allows people to support each other but not for established political parties.

"That cannot work here," O'Keefe said.

"[You're] only going to see people of wealth being able to [run]."

However, Dawson feels because FIU is predominantly a commuter university, in the short term life of political parties, O'Keefe's fears, will not become reality.

Both men share similar feelings in that a person's affiliation should not help or hurt them get elected.

"Just because people choose not to align [themselves] doesn't mean they should be at a disadvantage," Dawson said.

O'Keefe, his running mate Sanjeev Udhvani and Dawson were all endorsed by the Coalition of Students for Reform, a group of students whose president said they are a political party.

CSR's President William-Jose Velez, a former senate speaker in SGC-MMC, had several concerns with points in the political party proposal.

As he looked over the proposal during an interview with Student Media Velez' concerns concentrated on how much control there would be over political parties.

"This proposal sounds like it will micro-manage parties and to me, that's a mistake."

THE BEACON

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FOOTBALL

Decision to start Medlock sparks a quarterback controversy

There are moments in a football game that define the team's season, whether it is a single throw by the quarterback, a defensive stop, or a coach making a major decision. That moment happened this week for the FIU Panthers.

COMMENTARY



BRANDON WISE

Jake Medlock had been sitting on the bench all season. Sitting, waiting, watching everything Wesley Carroll did as quarterback. Over the past four weeks, Carroll threw four interceptions and did not run the offense particularly well at all.

In steps, Medlock, who when given the opportunity, has run the offense very efficiently. The offense has scored 65 points in the seven quarters that the redshirt freshman has seen action. He brings a dimension to the offense that Carroll does not power run.

Medlock is not afraid to get out and try to run over some of the linebackers and defensive backs. He has even been known to get out front and lead block for Kedrick Rhodes or Darriet Perry.

However, the Jacksonville native better be careful and learn his lesson



Jake Medlock [left] picked up a win in his first start over Wesley Carroll [right], igniting a dilemma under center.

that he cannot do that every play because otherwise, he is going to find himself in a hospital room.

While it was great to see the young gun and future starter get his shot, it was a sad sight to see Carroll watching the game from the sideline with a headset on after taking this team to heights never seen before and leading them to a 5-4 record so far this season.

The redshirt senior was a

game manager and handled the offense well when he was asked.

However, last week the offense could only score nine points against a shaky Western Kentucky defense. It seems like head coach Mario Cristobal went with the hotter hand at the time.

There is now a quarterback controversy to deal with in Miami: Carroll or Medlock. Even though he only passed for 135 yards,



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

there is no reason for Medlock not to start against Louisiana-Monroe. He can manage the offense better and find more receivers down field other than T.Y. Hilton.

If Carroll gets the start this week against the Warhawks, it is a despicable move by Cristobal and a blatant sign of disrespect to the senior. He only touched the field against the Owls to hold the snap

for the extra points.

Cristobal even put it in a back up kicker to kick the last extra point for the Panthers, but Carroll cannot even get a ceremonial snap at the end of the game.

IT'S ABOUT TIME

This is officially a rivalry now. It took ten years (technically), but the monkey is finally off of the Panthers' backs. Those

obstreperous Owls could not do anything to control Rhodes running the ball, much less themselves.

Even with the win getting the Panthers over the hump against FAU and making them bowl eligible, it is not as impressive a win as one might think by looking at the box score. The Owls are the worst team in college football this season and have barely played up to the enormous expectations that their legendary head coach Howard Schnellenberger places on his team every season.

The Panthers still have a lot to prove with two games remaining in the season. So far in Sun Belt, the reigning conference champions have beaten the teams that they were supposed to.

But, they have also lost to each of the teams that are ahead of them in the conference, Louisiana, Arkansas State and Western Kentucky.

This team can finish the season 8-4 and still finish fourth in the Sun Belt and miss a bowl game. With only two bowl tie-ins, the Godaddy.com bowl and R+L Carriers bowl. The Panthers will most likely have to hope that a bowl committee is willing to pick them up as the fourth team from the Sun Belt.

The chances are slim to none and slim is on the way out.

Medlock enters week as starter for ULM; Hilton awarded

JACKSON WOLEK Staff Writer

Before each game this season, there had been no question that the starting quarterback for the upcoming game would be senior Wesley Carroll.

But after redshirt freshman Jake Medlock got the start and played the entire game in the 41-7 victory over the Florida Atlantic Owls on Nov. 12, it is now his job to lose. On Monday, head coach Mario Cristobal made it clear that Medlock would be going into this game week as the starter.

"They will both get plenty of reps, but Jake will go in as the starter," said Cristobal. "I'm trying to keep it as simple as I can for everybody and for the benefit of him as well."

We all have to get better every game of the week and I think this is the best way to do so and it's also the fair way. When you look around the

country, people are winning games in different ways and we want to make sure that whatever happens, we're prepared to have an answer for it."

It was Medlock's first ever start in college, and in the game he threw for one touchdown and ran for another, but also turned the ball over once on a fumble.

"[I need to do a better job] at holding the ball and making better decisions on passing," Medlock said. "I know this week is going to help a lot. It's going to be hard because they [ULM] blitz everywhere, but it's just taking care of the ball and making sure everything goes good."

An area that has improved for the Panthers over the last two games has been defense, which is now first in points allowed in the Sun Belt and 22nd in the nation at 19.8 per game. The team has only surrendered four touchdowns through the last

three games after having given up four in one game against Arkansas State.

"Arkansas State was a reality check, and ever since that game we felt bad about it and we know that our defense is better than we showed on that day," said senior defensive back Jonathan Cyprien. "We just honed in on what we always do. We're just focusing more on the little things and it's paying off."

The Panthers (6-4, 3-3 SBC) became bowl eligible for the second time in program history, but are still not guaranteed a bowl game after the season.

The two remaining conference games are against teams that have already been eliminated from bowl contention: ULM (3-7, 2-4 SBC) and Middle Tennessee (2-7, 1-4 SBC). Fifty-three teams in the nation have six wins or more and with 35 bowl games, 70 FBS teams can make it to a bowl game.

"We're bowl eligible, but I believe that things are still up in the air for right now and bowl game or not, we're just trying to win these last two games and see what happens," Cyprien said.

REDSHIRT FOR GRACE?

Cristobal announced that the team is looking to get senior defensive back Chuck Grace, who has missed seven consecutive games due to a knee injury, an option of redshirting, which would allow Grace to play next year. "We're just going to seek a redshirt for him. He has another year to give," Cristobal said.

Also, T.Y. Hilton won his seventh Sun Belt player of the week award when he took a punt 97 yards for a touchdown against FAU, earning him special teams player of the week.

It was the longest punt return in FIU history and the second of Hilton's career.

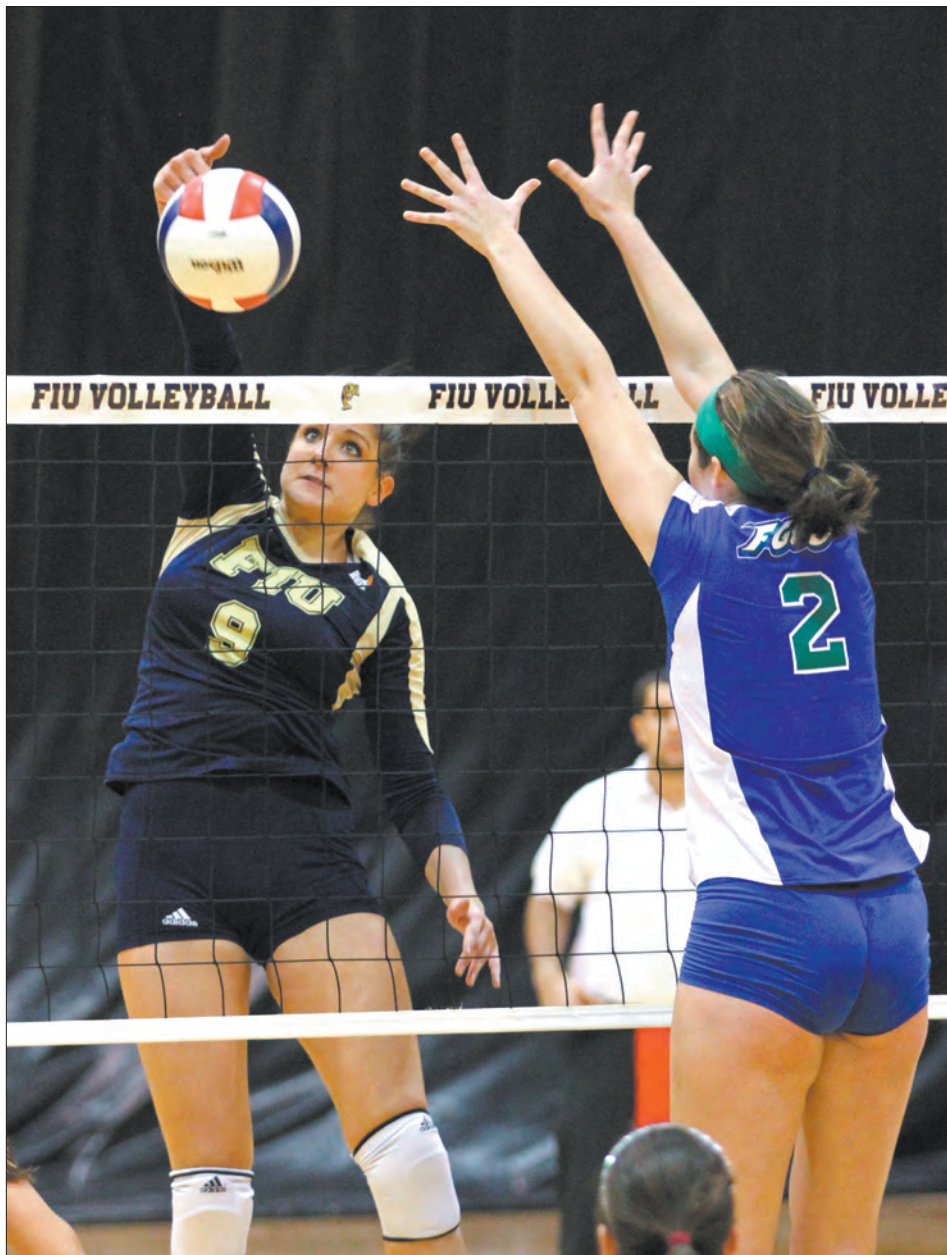


KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Jonathan Cyprien goes for a tackle during Shula Bowl X.

VOLLEYBALL

Panthers close regular season with sweep over Trojans



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Silvia Carli led the Panthers with four block assists against Troy on Nov. 12.

EDUARDO ALMAGUER
Staff Writer

While the Panthers' win against Troy on Nov. 12 may have meant nothing more than just another win for FIU, it may have been the last game the Trojans play in 2011.

On a night that marked the final game of the regular season for both teams, FIU (19-9, 10-6 SBC) swept Troy (16-14, 6-10) using explosive offense and exceptional defense.

The Panthers shattered their previous season-high mark in digs accumulated in three sets by posting 71, 13 more than they posted against UALR on Oct. 23. Attributing to that total was junior outside hitter Marija Prsa with a team-high 19. Prsa, who also had 11 kills, was one of two Panthers to post a double double. To no one's surprise, outside hitter Jovana Bjelica was the second player with the double double with 24 kills and 17 digs. It was her tenth double double of the season.

The team collectively hit for a .282 mark, a top ten performance in the season, led by Bjelica's .455. Setter Jessica Egan led the match with 48

assists and middle blocker Silvia Carli led her team with four block assists.

The first set was a tense battle between both teams, as there were a whopping 18 ties in the set. After finding themselves in a 11-9 hole, the Panthers posted three consecutive points on the heels of two kills and a service ace from Prsa to lead for the first time all set. Though they would never fall behind again, Troy would not let up their fierce attack.

A tight 26-26 score kept both teams on their toes until FIU came crashing through with back-to-back kills. Senior Sabrina Gonzalez sent Egan's set over the net for the first kill followed by a Bjelica rocket to capture the set.

The extra-point set win seemed to have given the Panthers the answer to creating bigger leads in the second set. An error by Trojan Brittany McClelland was sandwiched in-between two Carli kills to give FIU a 17-11 lead.

Troy was not about to roll over, however, and rattled off four consecutive points to close the gap and make the game close again. After a Troy error made it 21-16 though, the

Trojans called a timeout to regroup.

It was no good as FIU's stellar defense held Troy to only two more kills in the set. The Panthers surfaced with their second set win, 25-18, after Prsa and Bjelica slammed down back-to-back kills to

It seemed as if FIU's fatal flaw this season, relaxing after taking 2-0 leads, was happening again. As the third set opened, Troy took a commanding 7-1 lead and extended it to 12-5 after Bjelica and senior Andrea Lakovic committed two attacking errors.

After four consecutive Trojan points saw their team lead 16-9, FIU decided to stop the bleeding. The Panthers went on a 6-0 run to tie the game, thanks in part to three straight errors from Troy. The massive run was enough to shift the momentum to FIU's side of the net, as the team went on to capture the set in a close battle, 25-23.

It was a good way to end the regular season for Panthers, as they will need the momentum on Nov. 17 when they play their first match in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament in the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

BASEBALL

Marlins extend offer to Pujols

STEVEN WINE
AP Staff

A surprising visit by Albert Pujols sent a message: The Miami Marlins will be a much different franchise than the Florida Marlins.

Pujols picked an unlikely locale to begin his free-agent tour Friday when he was courted in Miami by the Marlins, only hours before they officially changed their name during a ceremony at their new ballpark. Pujols had lunch with team officials, checked out the stadium and received a contract offer.

The notoriously thrifty franchise, suddenly in the mood for a spending spree, declined to disclose details of the contract proposal. Free agents Jose Reyes and left-hander Mark Buehrle also received offers after taking ballpark tours earlier this week.

"We've never been penny-pinchers," owner Jeffrey Loria said. "We just haven't had the ability to do it in the old stadium. Now we're looking forward to a new era."

The 31-year-old Pujols, a three-time NL MVP, is a free agent for the first time after spending his first 11 major league seasons with St. Louis. Pujols and the Cardinals didn't discuss a contract extension during the season, which ended with a World Series title, but he hasn't ruled out remaining in St. Louis.

"We're just going to see where

God takes us," Pujols said last week.

It could be Miami, now that the Marlins have become aggressive free-agent shoppers. They expect crowds of more than 30,000 nightly next season, meaning a revenue increase that will allow the frugal franchise to be more active in free agency.

Loria and a contingent of team officials even visited the Dominican Republic on Thursday to watch a private workout by highly regarded Cuban outfielder Yoenis Cespedes.

"We're looking at everyone," Loria said. "We want to make this team as special as we can. We would be foolish not to entertain the possibility of some of these players. It's just one of those things that mean you're going forward. We've had our hands tied for a long time. With this new stadium we want to step into a new light."

New manager Ozzie Guillen is expected to help recruiting efforts.

"Miami is a magnet — the city, the manager, the new ballpark, the players we have," Loria said. "We have a terrific core here. All of it put together is the magnet."

The Marlins are expected to increase their payroll from \$57 million this year to at least \$80 million in 2012. Signing Pujols would likely mean spending even more.

Marlins president David Samson

made it sound unlikely that the team would be willing to pay all three veterans they're courting if Pujols, Reyes and Buehrle accept offers.

"It's a problem we never suspected could happen," Samson said. "It didn't even occur to me. We have a first choice, a 1A and a 1B after 1. This week did not happen by accident. We knew who we wanted to see, and when we wanted to see them."

Pujols would be the big prize. The Cardinals exercised a \$16 million option on his contract after last season. The slugger rejected a multiyear extension that included a small percentage of the franchise during the winter, and cut off negotiations on the first day of spring training.

Pujols' numbers in nearly every major offensive category are on a three-year decline, but he remains among the game's elite players. He hit 37 home runs this year, running the 30-homer streak to 11 years, and batted .299 with 99 RBIs. He led the Cardinals' improbable late-season surge and became only the third player to hit three home runs in a World Series game.

Loria said the meeting with Pujols went well.

"He's terrific," Loria said. "I can only tell you that he loved the stadium, he liked being here, he liked the flavor of Miami. We're hopeful some of these deals will happen."

BLOCK PARTY



SERGIO NASER/THE BEACON

Dominique Ferguson goes for a block in an exhibition game against Florida Memorial. The Panthers began their regular season against George Mason on Nov. 14.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Violinists finds playing in Quartet freeing

KATHY PAZ
Staff Writer

For the last seven years, the University has housed a group that has received critical acclaim and praise from countries around the world for their intelligence, approach, playing and style. The Amernet String Quartet, the University's Ensemble-in-Residence, was created two decades ago by students at the Juilliard School. Since its start, the group has earned much recognition and prestige from the music community.

Misha Vitenson, one of the two violinists in the Quartet, is a native of Tashkent, Uzbekistan. His exposure to the world of classical music came at an early age.

"I started playing the violin when I was about six years old. For some reason, I remember my first lesson, the very first lesson—nothing afterwards as much," said Vitenson.

"I would practice with my mom, who is also a violinist and happens to be my father's student; My father is a violinist, too. I was playing with my father for a while. Then, when I was 11 or 12, I started studying with other people."

Vitenson immigrated to Israel in 1990 and continued his studies under Chaim Taub. During his time in Israel, he received

multiple awards. He has received America-Israel Cultural Foundation scholarships and the Braun Zingel Award, to name a few.

Vitenson's studies eventually brought him to Florida, where he completed the first part of his higher education at a conservatory in Boca Raton and earned his bachelor's degree.

"The conservatory used to be called Harid Conservatory and then it became Lynn University. After that I got my master's degree from Juilliard.

During my second year there, I studied with the former first violinist of the Juilliard String Quartet, Joel Smirnoff, who is now the president of the Cleveland Institute of Music," said Vitenson.

Vitenson joined Amernet String Quartet in 2002. He is accompanied by violinist Marcia Littley, cellist Jason Calloway and Michael Klotz, the groups' viola player.

"I'm very happy to be a part of the Quartet. I would say it's probably the most gratifying thing to do as far as repertoire is concerned," described Vitenson.

Playing in a group as opposed to playing solo carries its own set of perks.

"In a quartet, you have a lot more liberty. You get to play with other people as well, so it's not always just a quartet. Although



SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

Misha Vitenson is one of the two violinists in the Amernet String Quartet.

there are many great conductors around the world, it's kind of nice not to have a conductor," said Vitenson.

As far as playing music goes, Vitenson's career has allowed him to explore a wide ranged repertoire. But there is a partic-

ular style that has left an impression on him more than all others.

"As far as repertoire preference, I suppose that maybe I'm inclined to be impacted by the romantic quartet repertoire. At the same time, Mozart is a great composer for a quartet. That's one of the reasons why quartets are so unique—from any period, you have a lot of great repertoire," said Vitenson.

This year, the Honors College at the University launched a new, upper division course that is centered around the Amernet String Quartet. It is an interactive course that combines lecture, discussion and performance. It is taught by Vitenson and his colleagues in the Quartet.

"Basically, we look at historical things from certain periods and we tie them to specific composers. We talk about certain events in the composers' lives. We also look at the social atmosphere of these times.

We're letting the students know about all kinds of things that went on in the world and we're doing it through the String Quartet's repertoire," he explained.

The String Quartet's next performance will be on Dec. 3 as a part of the University's New Music Ensemble at the Betsy Hotel in Miami Beach during Art Basel.

RADIATE REVIEWS

Electronic group's new direction alienates fans

Electronic music is meant to evoke the most basic human emotions through its pounding rhythms, massive loops, constant shifts and bass drops.

COMMENTARY



CARLOS SUCRE-PARRA

This is also why both Skrillex and the Jersey Shore have become so popular. French beat makers Justice have a definite knack for this and their debut record, "Cross," certainly served as a testament to their talent. "Audio, Video, Disco," their latest release, attempts to maintain the same momentum and enthralling vibes created by its predecessor. However, some-



PHOTO COURTESY OF JUSTICE ON FACEBOOK.COM

where between the fear of recreating their debut and taking a completely radical new direction at the risk of alienating their fans, Gaspard Augé and Xavier de Rosnay found an uncomfortable middle ground where they tried to appease both sides to deliver a lackluster sophomore effort that can't quite define itself, much less

capture the attention of the listener.

The starting track, "Horsepower," sets the stage for the new album. The listener is presented with a strikingly similar tune to "Genesis," utilizing horns to create tension, massive buildups and a certain level of hype for

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LAST HURRAH



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

The FIU Meme Generators were spotted on Nov. 12 at the last home football game of the season against rivals FAU. FIU beat FAU 41-7.

HAUTE TOPIC

When it comes to makeup trends, classic is better

I love to wander around in drugstores, especially in the makeup aisles. Something about the pretty packaging, the colorful displays and the “NEW” signs are really attractive to me.

But the truth is make up is not my best friend. Actually, I may be allergic to the stuff. Maybe it is because my mother never taught me anything about applying it while I was growing up, but that has not stopped my sister from dropping major bucks on products.

I actually own a lot of

makeup. It is not often, but I do succumb to buying whatever “incredible” or “life changing” product the magazines are raving about this month. Then, I watch a YouTube tutorial or two to learn how to use the product and attempt using it.

The at-home trial usually results in one of two outcomes. Either I am successful and feel like I have undergone a transformation so I take a photo of myself and never wear the product out of the house or I fail miserably and regret wasting my time and money on a useless product.

Either way, I reevaluate my opinion on trendy make up and end up thinking I’m just not the kind of girl that can be really experimental

with it. I do have a few products that I am faithful to. I love blush and I wear it daily.

Although my make up

firmly believe there is a shade out there that looks good on everyone. And sometimes, if I am feeling confident, I put on eye shadow.

“How can someone fashion oriented ignore make up? There is no denying that sometimes it can really transform a look.”

savvy friend says I do not put nearly enough on, it is enough for me to notice. I will also always have a love affair with red lipstick. I

oriented ignore make up?

There is no denying that sometimes it can really transform a look from dull to bright with a swipe of lip gloss or give glamour to an outfit that is understated, like a sweater and jeans accompanied by exaggerated cat eyes.

Make up is also an excellent way to have a signature. You cannot imagine Nicki Minaj without her pink lipstick or Elizabeth Taylor without her bold black eyeliner.

Make up trends change every season, along with clothing trends. But I do not think we should all be scrambling to buy new products after every fashion week. Unlike in other categories of fashion where I grow frus-

trated by routine, I think it is perfectly fine to have a uniform face.

It does not mean that I want to be wearing the same shade of red for the rest of my life or that I would not want to experiment, but I am completely comfortable with my old faithful products.

Original, well-made clothes and accessories last longer and retain their value over time. There are some items that will never go out of style. As for makeup and hair trends, they come and go very quickly, so do not feel pressured to purchase that berry lip stain just because you saw it in a runway review.

Haute Topic is a weekly fashion column. Look for it every Wednesday this fall.

Album tries to marry disco and modern electronica

JUSTICE, page 5

what is to come.

While the next track, “Civilization,” attempts to take a stab as a crossover hit, it misses the mark; it feels bland and dull in comparison to “We Are Your Friends” from an earlier single and “D.A.N.C.E.” from “Cross.”

Both became massive hits due to their immense catchiness as purely club-centric electronic pieces aimed for the discotheques, where the spirit of Ed Banger, their record label, thrives.

“Civilization” reminds me of the time I wasted when I saw Lionel Messi in a commercial for Adidas in hopes of catching parts of the song; the hype surrounding the album became a greater opportunity for them to sell the expectations of an unreleased product at a high price.

Unfortunately, what follows becomes increasingly disappointing. The third track, “Ohio,” never quite picks up a definite groove; the bass and main rhythm becomes an afterthought behind a series of piano arpeggios that detract from the overall value of the tune.

By the time the beat grows into the track, it is a lost cause. The next two tracks, “Canon (Primo)” and “Canon,” become highlights of the album, one for its brevity and the other for

the homage it pays to Daft Punk’s “The Prime Time of Your Life.”

The two find a great groove and an infectious balance between electronic and rock that begs for people to take over the dance floor. But this only becomes a brief flash of brilliance in what otherwise seems as an effort to marry revivalist disco and modern electronica without taking a firm stance on one or the other. “On’N’On” provides what could be considered the best track in this experiment.

The funky combination of synths, string arrangements and vocals blend into a pretty catchy jam—ignoring the flute/piccolo break, which adds a somewhat uncomfortable Spyro Gyra/fusion jazz element to the track that lingers in the background, never quite fitting in.

Ultimately, that certain combination of alluring pulsations and somewhat kitschy instrumentation represents Justice the best. It becomes a guilty pleasure – something you vehemently deny listening to, yet fully embrace on the inside, making it such a great thing. This is the embodiment of “Audio, Video, Disco.” You may not embrace the album in the realm of public opinion, but you will “D.A.N.C.E.” to it and love it.

Radiate Reviews is a weekly music review column. Look for it every Wednesday this Fall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16

- **French Week at the Frost Museum: November 10-17, 2011:** 12-2 p.m., MMC Frost Art Museum Atrium
- **Chamber Music Series: FIU String Students:** 7:30-9:30 p.m., Herbert and Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall, Ticket prices : \$15.00 General Admission, \$10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, \$5.00 FIU Students and FIU Alumni Association Members

THURSDAY, NOV. 17

- **2011 Americas Venture Capital Conference:** 7 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Biltmore Hotel, Coral Gables
- **Nature Preserve Volunteer Day:** 8 a.m.-11 a.m., Nature Preserve, wear closed-toe shoes; anybody wearing sandals may be asked to go home. Long pants are strongly recommended.
- **The Festival of the Trees:** 6-8 p.m., Coral Gables Museum, The Festival of the Trees is celebrating it’s 25th year.

WRITE TO CALENDAR@FIUSM.COM TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED!

CLASS REUNION

DJ Irie “proud of FIU,” stays involved on campus

DJ IRIE, page 1

athletics with the football team, basketball and baseball. We’re making some headlines — headlines that we weren’t making when I was a student, so I think that’s great.

I would like to see those programs continue to improve and I think it’s a big part of school spirit. With academics, nothing has made me happier than seeing the results of our law school graduates passing the bar.

I was a part of the organization that lobbied for a law school [in] Tallahassee with the Board of Regents, pleading the case to get a law school for FIU. I wasn’t more sure about anything in my life.

I’m sure there are other things the school can be better about but from someone on the outside I am very proud to let people know that that’s my school; I’m a Golden Panther.

I was on [the Modesto Maidique] campus a month ago and wow — that campus is exploding. I have great perspective on that because from my years there, for every building that was there, I can identify three that weren’t there. I am very proud of FIU.

SM: What are you doing to keep busy during the lock out?

DJ Irie: What I can say is since I am not participating in games now it



PAUL EMMANS/MTV/PICTURE GROUP VIA AP IMAGES

DJ Irie at the MTV Sucker Free Awards. DJ Irie has also been nominated for a BET award.

really enables me to travel. I have a certain commitment when we are in season to be home because we have 40 plus games.

Once you’re in season and those calls come in to go to Singapore or Vegas, then we have to table those things until summer and sometimes in summer they aren’t available anymore.

With this scenario, I can take advantage of it. I just got back from Singapore and it was amazing. I may be going to Europe in January and Asia again. There is no issue keeping

busy, but I miss the game of basketball.

SM: Did you ever imagine getting to where you are today growing up?

DJ Irie: No! Hell no! I never even thought that someone would give me a dollar, much less have a business based around music and performing.

To continue reading this article visit our website. You can find this article under Life! columns.

www.FIUSM.com

Poor planning affects departments

JUNETTE REYES
Staff Writer

The University's Federal Work Study program, a program that functions by providing "...part-time jobs for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay education expenses," has had a stressful year.

Underfunding on the part of federal aid, as well as overestimation of funds and underestimation of participating students by the Financial Aid Office, has caused hiring departments to take the burden of providing a share of cost to fund the program "...from their individual department budgets to compensate for the funds that were overestimated" for the first time since Fall 2006.

The University was given \$135,000, compared to the \$300,000 to \$750,000 federal funding it usually receives. The Financial Aid Office is providing 36 percent of funds for the program, and is requesting that departments provide an additional 18 percent cost-share while working on a plan for the remaining unaccounted-for funds.

This request was unexpected, though, seeing as this situation was not taken into consideration when planning their individual budgets.

Although the departments are not required to provide any funding due to a waiver the University is eligible for, they should learn from this situation and plan their future budgets with this cost-share in mind out of precaution.

Granted, the departments have no fault in the chaos of the program,

This would not only keep departments from being jeopardized, but it won't jeopardize the students either.

and they are not the ones that should be planning to ensure this never happens again. They are, however, having trouble providing funds for their unexpected cost-share.

Because of this, I believe they should plan a cost-share within their individual budgets from now on out of preliminary caution, whether they do or do not need to provide funds for the program.

This would not only keep departments from being jeopardized, but it won't jeopardize the students either, considering that "...without [their cost-share] students' awards would have to be cut by 18%" this time around, as explained by Financial Aid Director Francisco Valines.

Whether they decide to plan for an 18 percent cost-share or a 25 percent cost-share is up to the departments.

Nicole Castro's article about the work-study dilemma for FIU Student Media on Oct. 5 explained that the federal government provides the majority of the money that funds the work-study program, while hiring departments are typically required to share 25 percent of the cost to fund the students' payments during a university's scheduled disbursement.

The University's hiring departments are not obligated to provide

a 25 percent cost-share, however, because "...FIU is a Title 2 and Title 5 institution, meaning it is a developing and Hispanic-serving institution, respectively."

This makes the University eligible for an optional waiver, which has been used for five consecutive years and allows departments to disregard the obligatory 25 percent cost share.

This is how the Financial Aid Office then determined that the departments would need to provide an 18 percent cost-share to somewhat cover what they would provide with a 25 percent cost-share in order to not cut the students' awards.

Planning for the program was conducted poorly, and could have made all the difference if there were not any mistakes in estimates.

The Financial Aid Office and the hiring departments need to learn from this situation to improve their plans for the future of the program, should the program be federally underfunded again.

While the Financial Aid Office needs to correctly assess their estimates to ensure this never happens again, hiring departments should still have a cost-share accounted for in their individual budgets out of precaution, so as to not jeopardize themselves or the students.

THE BEACON | Editorial On-campus exams inconvenient

The convenience of online courses is reduced when students have to commute to take an exam on campus. *The Beacon* finds it senseless to require students to take exams for online courses in person; this requirement completely defeats the purpose of distance learning.

Online courses are available for all majors of the University. Courses that require only books and an Internet connection opens up doors for a type of student who may otherwise be incapable of going to college in person.

Work schedules, children, military life or living overseas can make it arduous, and often even impossible, to obtain a college degree. Distance learning solves the problem.

However, online learning opportunities are compromised when they also include in-person exams. In the interest of continuing to expand avenues for education, in-person test-taking requirements should be discontinued.

Perhaps one of the greatest concerns for online courses is that of potential cheating. *The Beacon* thinks if a student is adamant about cheating, it does not matter if they are taking the test in-person or on a computer; they will find a way.

Online, there are obvious concerns of cheating when a student takes a quiz, test or even comprehensive midterm or final exam. However, cheating can be made more difficult in a couple of ways.

First and foremost, the material for online tests and exam should be appropriately timed and done in Respondus Lockdown Browser, a software program that creates a web environment that bars the test taker from opening other tabs or documents.

The time allotted for the test is also crucial. Obviously, students do not need 60 minutes to answer 20 multiple choice questions. The timing must be allocated appropriately.

Secondly, if there needs to be a multiple choice test due to the nature of the course, the test can vary for each student.

Thirdly, essay tests and papers that are turned into turnitin.com can be weighed heavier than multiple choice tests.

Online education opportunities are important and integral to our "Worlds Ahead" mentality. Online education should be limitless in regard to location and convenience. Eliminating the on-campus requirement encourages this.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Political parties already exist, will improve involvement

On Monday November 7, 2011, *The Beacon* published the column titled "Political parties admirable, but possible complication". This is a response to that column and several of the points it makes.

In early 2010, the Student Government Council - Modesto A. Maidique Campus Supreme Court held a case that fundamentally altered the manner in which Student Government Association elections happened at Florida International University.

In this case, *Mujica v Elections Board*, the court ruled that students are constitutionally guaranteed to endorse each other, based on the right to freedom of expression. With this ruling not only came a more fair and free process, but also the possibility of political parties in the framework of our SGA.

Aware of the need to implement some

fair rules to help in the process, last year the SGC-MMC Senate enacted a new Elections Code, one with provisions targeting party fundraising, campaigning and overall involvement in elections. It now appears there is a push to "establish" political parties. Again.

The fact of the matter is that parties already exist. The FIU Coalition of Students for Reform already has established itself as the first political party on campus, taking an active involvement with the April 2011 elections endorsing a significant amount of the winning candidates, including President Patrick O'Keefe.

Moving forward we must all be aware that a debate on whether to have parties or not is pointless; they cannot be prohibited.

It is important to state that parties are not meant to be a distraction but a tool to

address your SGA officials.

With that in mind, any and all regulations must be fair and allow students to fully exercise their rights, not infringe upon them; rumors that students won't be able to have a Democratic or Republican Party are disconcerting; it is not SGA's or Campus Life's job to determine how a party is called, or what it stands for. That job is solely up to the students who wish to coalesce around common ideas for our student government.

The process to reform the already enacted political party regulations must be an open one. The Senate Student Advocacy committee, upon the filing of a bill should hold public hearings to gather student input on the regulations.

The idea, if correctly implemented, won't represent the neglecting of requirements or responsibilities; on the contrary, established, active parties will serve as a

check on an SGA that passes laws without anyone noticing; particularly when it takes weeks for them to be posted online.

The ambition behind the concept, inevitable as it is, can be correctly implemented with a student-led process that reflects the virtues and characteristics of our university.

We must not merely copy other universities' models which are often derided as inadequate; the opportunity is there to establish a new type of system that is free, open and accountable for everyone.

The opportunity is there for our elected SGA officials to take action in this matter and deliver. This will be one small step towards the SGA that we all want and deserve, and perhaps, a giant leap towards getting more of our student body involved with its government.

- William-Jose Velez

Former SGC-MMC Senate Speaker

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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.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (500 words maximum) in to 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.

SEAS works on improving natural habitats

STEPHANIE FELDMAN
Contributing Writer

With a variety of physical landscapes, from mangroves to beaches, Biscayne Bay Campus serves as a home for some of Florida's most treasured species.

Its location alongside Oleta River State Park provides a lush landscape and habitat for hundreds of native species.

But one bird has environmental science students excited: the wood stork. This rare bird is one of the only storks that breed in the United States and is considered to be threatened due to the destruction of shallow wetlands such as the ones that surround BBC.

Making its home alongside other migrating birds, the wood stork's presence indicates the health of the environment on campus.

Students at the School of Environment, Arts and Society plan to keep it that way. According to Jennifer Grimm, the environmental programs manager at the School of Environment, Arts and Society, students and staff have engaged in several important projects to help restore and conserve the environment.

One project that is currently taking place is a massive wetland and mangrove forest restoration project.

Mangrove forests can include various species of trees and shrubs that grow in the water near coasts and estuaries. These trees, with their complex root system, can tolerate salt and brackish water, and provide safe havens for young creatures such as shrimp, oysters, fish, even baby



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

The Great Blue Heron, one of the native Florida species that inhabit the Biscayne Bay Campus, searches for food in the ponds located between the Marine Science Building and Academic One and Two.

sharks.

In addition to the protection of animals, mangroves serve as "natural buffers" shielding coastal areas from erosion and storm surges, very important during Florida's many hurricanes.

The project, which will in part be aided by volunteers, hopes to restore about 15 acres of land at BBC. Their work will consist of helping to remove invasive species, planting the mangroves, exploring other wildlife restoration projects such as

maintaining and planting in the butterfly gardens and working in the greenhouse.

The campus' many ponds and mangrove forests provide hunting grounds for many Florida species such as Anhinga birds, which can completely immerse themselves in water as they dive and search out food, but are often seen drying their feathers in the sun.

Snowy egrets and blue heron are also commonly seen in the pond between the Wolfe University Center and Marine Science Buildings.

The beaches around the campus also provide homes for a vast number of aquatic animals. It is not uncommon to see crabs scurrying around the shoreline or even manatees and dolphins.

Several butterfly gardens have also been constructed throughout campus. Floating above native flower species, one can see orange and black monarch and queen monarch butterflies and even threatened species such as the Atala butterfly.

Other insects commonly seen around campus include the banana spider which can weave a twelve foot wide web in just one night.

According to Grimm, all plants and animals regardless of size are vital as "each one of them has a very important role in keeping the food web and ecosystem in check."

She hopes that by turning the focus on Florida's native species, like those found on and around campus, students and researchers will help find new ways to study and conserve wildlife as well help to highlight FIU's environmental initiatives.

SGC-BBC kicks into overdrive to close out semester

ANTHONY CAVE
JONATHAN SZYDLO
FIUSM Staff

As the fall semester winds down, the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus has initiated a series of resolutions to renovate and add to areas on campus.

Speaker Pro Temp Daniel Usma and Vice President Emilio Collyer met with architects last week regarding the Wolfe University Center's renovations, which would include the centralization of Panther Square and a balcony over viewing Panther Square.

SGC-BBC also amended a resolution to

add a pathway roof from the Wolfe University Center to the Marine Science building.

Renovation of floor tiles across both Academic One and Two have already started and will continue this week.

A three-ton panther statue may soon be incorporated on campus as well, as SGC-BBC viewed printouts of sample statues at the Nov. 9 SGC-BBC General Meeting from two different companies. Plans include more than 100 mini-statues with an estimated cost approximately \$125,000.

Finally, President Denise Halpin said she is waiting on an email in order to start the placement of electrical outlets where the swinging

chairs on the south end of the Wolfe University Center lie.

At the Nov. 14 senate meeting, the legislative branch passed motions to renovate the Hospitality Management Building restrooms by a vote of 12 in favor and on abstention; for the School of Journalism and Mass Communication to allow online payments for the Grammar Entrance exam, which until now has only allowed cash and checks as methods of payment, passed by a 12-0-1 vote; for swinging chairs to be added in the second floor exterior balcony of the WUC that faces north towards the Hubbert Library by a vote of 12-0-1; and for the creation of a committee to analyze whether

or not students should be charged an additional Eco Fee of \$1 per credit hour for Eco-friendly renovations projects by a unanimous vote.

New members appointed; SJMC senator up for Internal Affairs Chair

In a unanimous vote, student Giselle Heraux was appointed as the Director of Legislative Affairs for SGC BBC.

Following Farah Yamini's resignation from the Internal Affairs chair, School of Journalism and Mass Communication senator Kevin Houston discussed how he would carry out the position at the Nov. 7 senate meeting, whose nomination was once again tabled at the Nov. 14 senate meeting.

'FIU 30' connects male students with career mentors

NATHANIEL EDWARDS
Contributing Writer

According to collegeboard.org, during 2010, an estimated 26 percent of African-American males and 18 percent of Hispanic men receive associate degrees or higher within a four year mark. This is an extremely low record compared to previous years for Florida based colleges.

In light of these statistics, a group of men and women have joined together to help with this growing problem, called FIU 30.

FIU 30 is having a kickoff event called "The Wake Up: A call to action to men" on Nov. 17, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The kickoff event is going to introduce the programs that FIU 30

"[FIU 30] is really there to help the undergrads get more involved so that they can better their chances of not just graduating...but to...gain real life experience.

is going to be implanting, including workshops for networking and leadership and will be having free food for students in attendance.

The goal of the FIU 30 is to connect upper and lower division undergraduate students for success in academics and collegiate leadership.

Joshua Numa, part of the male retention taskforce and marketing

and management senior says "the mentoring program will help many undergrads get involved and make networks to better themselves".

The Male Mentoring Initiative seeks to create a culture of support for the University's male students and foster relationships with future University students.

"I love the idea [behind] this

program," said Alexander Dominguez, a freshman business major. "[FIU 30] can help just bring guys together and make them feel more open to talking to someone they feel comfortable talking to."

With the upcoming kickoff event, many students such as Dexter Quin, junior biology major are enticed by the benefits of the program.

"I am actually looking forward to this because it can help me keep me on track [with courses] and I can get [some] insight on my major from someone who has more experience in that field," said Quin.

Numa hopes that many students come out and take part in the program because of the potential impact the mentoring can have on students who are lost on their respective career paths.

"[FIU 30] is really there to help the undergrads get more involved so that they can better their chances of not just graduating on time but to help them gain real life experience with people who have been through it, and can help them find the right path," said Numa.