

## FINALLY Panthers beat FAU Owls for first time in six years



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Players celebrate with the Shula Bowl trophy after their 41-7 win over the Owls of Florida Atlantic, their first in six years.

**JACKSON WOLEK**  
Staff Writer

When T.Y. Hilton chose to stay one more year at FIU, he made a promise. The senior made a pact between himself and head coach Mario Cristobal. He said that the promise would not be revealed until later in the year.

As the tenth annual Shula Bowl came to a close at Alfonso Field for Hilton's last ever home game as a Panther, he shared what the secret was—win the Shula bowl.

The Shula Bowl trophy resides at FIU for the first official time in the rivalry between the Panthers and FAU Owls in the decisive 41-7 win, and also the last time Hilton will play a home game.

"I cried about four times. I cried before I walked in just

looking at the stadium, when they were announcing my name I cried again and the fans mean so much to me I just love playing here and I wish I had another year," Hilton said.

Despite being senior night, Cristobal decided to give the start to redshirt freshman Jake Medlock at quarterback over senior Wesley Carroll. Carroll had thrown an interception in each of his last four games.

"We hadn't done real well offensively that last couple weeks, and the games that we hadn't won is not any indication that our quarterback was responsible for those losses," said Cristobal. "We just felt like we needed some kind of spark, particularly what he could do with his legs. You saw what he could do on those

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### ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

## University introduces mini-term courses for students

**LAUREN ROVIRA**  
Staff Writer

For the first time in its history, the University is offering students a winter mini-term to students.

The intensive program is 13 days long, making it shorter than the half summer terms. Students, who apply to take a course during this term, will be in school Monday through Friday from Dec. 14 through Jan 5, 2012, with the exception of the days the University closes for the holidays.

Students are only allowed to choose one of the 15 courses being offered during this term. The courses are available in one of three time slots and run for approximately three and a half

hours.

"Prior to our designating the times for these courses, we asked students to submit a survey regarding whether or not they would like to take these courses and at what time they thought would be best to take them," said University Provost Douglas Wartzok.

Out of 1,500 students, approximately 1,000 students said 'yes' and would take up the opportunity if presented.

"I'm excited because I've wanted to take courses that I can't seem to fit during the Spring or Fall semesters," said Claudia Vega, sophomore sociology and anthropology major. "Summer is a great opportunity to catch up, take some electives and explore other interests. I see this new winter session as another opportunity to do the

same."

Jeffrey Gonzalez, associate vice president of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness in the University's division of Academic Affairs, said by the morning of the second day enrollment was open for the winter mini-term, 200 students had already signed up.

"Students are interested," he said, "that's good."

Moreover, students identified 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. as the best morning time, 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the later afternoon as the second best time and midday 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. after that. There will be seven, five and three courses taught in the aforementioned time slots, respectively.

Besides these courses there will be 11 more offered online.

"This winter term is primarily meant to increase graduation rate," Wartzok explained, "there are certain courses that students need that fill up quickly, and it poses a problem. This will give students the opportunity to move more quickly."

The winter courses are available to all students enrolled in a degree-seeking, undergraduate program who possess at least a 2.5 GPA at the beginning of fall.

"We started discussing this late summer, and we talked to the deans so they could ask their faculty about what courses they felt would fit into this condensed time frame," explained Wartzok. "This is a trial; it's not part of any

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## Board of Governors sets goals for 12th university

**PHILIPPE BUTEAU**  
News Director

The State University System Board of Governors has set a series of goals that, if achieved, could lead to the University of South Florida's Polytechnic Campus becoming the 12th university in the state system.

The BoG, the 17 member body which oversees the current 11 state universities, gave the approval after a four-hour discussion in a 13 to

3 vote during their Nov. 9 to 10 meeting which took place at Florida Atlantic University. Governor Stanley Marshall is not present for the November Board meetings.

USF Polytechnic is a math and science-focused branch of USF located in Lakeland, Fla. about 40 minutes away from USF's main campus in Tampa. The BoG's approval came not too long after comments from Gov. Rick Scott in which he questioned why the state

was graduating so many anthropology majors.

"Is it a vital interest of the state to have more anthropologists?" Scott said. "I don't think so."

The decision, however, isn't guaranteed for USF and its satellite campus. USF Polytechnic has several benchmarks it must meet before it can return to the BoG for final approval to be the 12th state university.

Among those benchmarks, after separate accreditation is achieved,

Polytechnic will implement the programs identified in Phase I of the Business Plan upon approval of the programs by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, according to a press release from the State University System.

USF Polytechnic's benchmarks, which could take at least five years to achieve, are as follows:

Highest priority for program development and implementation shall be focused on programs in

STEM fields and appropriate discipline-specific accreditation shall be sought.

Polytechnic must attain a minimum full-time enrollment of 1,244 as calculated in the Business Plan, with a minimum 50 percent of that FTE in STEM and 20 percent in STEM-related programs.

The following facilities and infrastructure shall be in place –

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### COMING UP | Sports

Check out the Nov. 16 issue for a preview of the woman's volleyball Sunbelt Conference Tournament.

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**NEWS FLASH**

LOCAL

**Florida forgave \$110.5M in taxes, fines in FY11**

For the second year in a row, Florida is giving up on collecting more than \$100 million in taxes, fees and fines owed the state.

Last year Florida wrote off more than \$109 million as uncollectable. But new data collected by a state agency shows that the state forgave \$110.5 million for the fiscal year that ended June 30 despite a budget shortfall.

A large portion written off by state officials was unpaid taxes, including sales taxes, corporate income taxes and unemployment taxes owed by businesses.

But this year the state also closed the books on \$27.5 million owed to the Department of Juvenile Justice. An agency spokesman said the money was owed by parents who had children in state supervision. Courts order parents to pay the fines, but the state must forgive the debt if it is not paid within four years.

WORLD

**Venezuelan police free major leaguer Wilson Ramos**

The kidnapping of Washington Nationals catcher Wilson Ramos ended after two days when Venezuelan police commandos swooped in to rescue him in a flurry of gunfire and arrested five alleged abductors.

Ramos said he was happy and thankful to be alive, and that the final moments had been hair-raising as police and the kidnappers exchanged heavy fire in the remote mountainous area where he was being held.

He thanked the police and National Guard commandos who rescued him, saying “the boys did a great job.”

Ramos, 24, had not been seen or heard from since he was seized at gunpoint outside his home Wednesday night and escorted away in an SUV.

– Compiled by Melissa Caceres

**CORRECTIONS**

In Vol. 23, Issue 39 of *The Beacon*, the article titled “Panthers win SBC tourney” in the Sports section, the Denver Patriots are actually the Denver Pioneers.

In Vol. 23, Issue 40 of *The Beacon*, the bottom right photo of the article titled “‘Rock Band’, ‘Just Dance’ among activities at event” in the At the Bay section, Richard Currie’s name was spelled incorrectly.

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

PROFESSOR PROFILE

**Lehtinen gives first-hand look at war**

**LAEBONY LIVINGSTON**  
Staff Writer

Sometimes the most qualified person to teach a history class about the Vietnam War is someone who was there.

Miami native Dexter Lehtinen has been an adjunct professor at the University since 1982. His vast career gives students real access to what they have only read in books.

After studying at University of Miami, Columbia University and Stanford University, Lehtinen obtained degrees in political science and business administration as well as a Juris Doctorate. Throughout those years he has been a United States attorney, Florida State senator and Vietnam War veteran.

During fall 2011 he is teaching a history class called United States and Vietnam in the Cold War, a course that “explains the cultural differences between the U.S. and Vietnam and examines how and why they got involved in Vietnam and ended up fighting a major war in southeast Asia.”

Along with Professor Anthony Atwood, a doctoral candidate who is working on his dissertation on World War II, the two hope to provide a unique experience and perspective for their students.

“Professor Lehtinen has a great insight. He was there. We get a whole picture of the Cold War,” said Ethan Thomas, a senior history major.

During the Vietnam War, Lehtinen worked his way up to first lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Lehtinen had to retire from the Army when he was injured in action and retired with a Purple Heart.

Lehtinen sustained injuries to his face and his discharge from the army did not deter him. Instead, they became his reasoning for entering the teaching profession.

“I got shot in a war. I couldn’t see well enough to fly. When that happened I had enough education to do something else. I came away from the army with the belief that the more a person knows about history the better,” said Lehtinen.

His favorite part about teaching is the students.

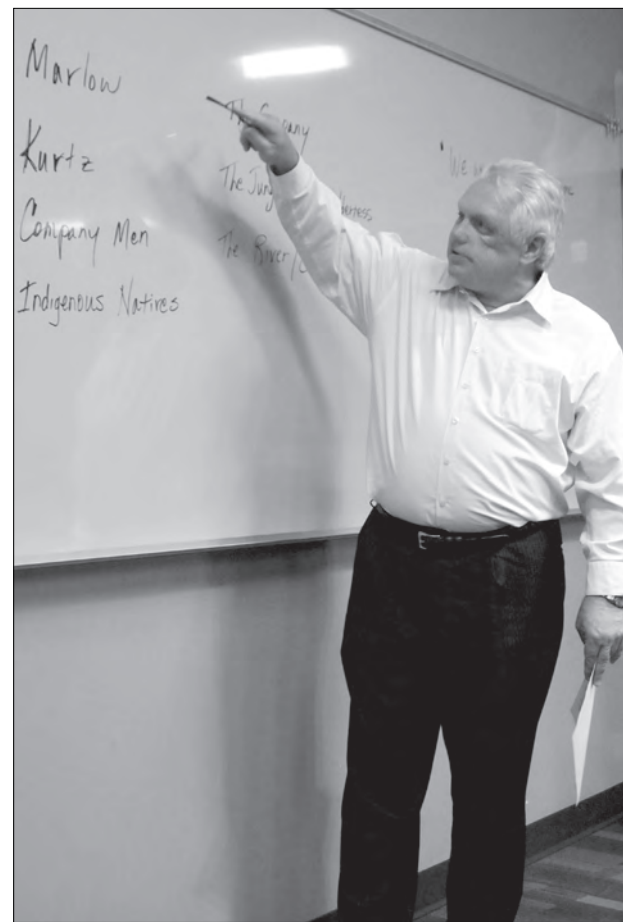
“Students that are interested in the subject keep me around,” he said.

The students feel the same way.

“He makes the class interesting. We learn the true story of the Vietnam War. Vietnam War is not the war of pop culture, he shows us that,” said senior Aquiles Consugra, a history major.

Lehtinen’s long history with the University has allowed him to see the impact his teaching has had on his students. His wife, U.S. Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, is a University alumna who recently paid a visit to the University on Oct. 28.

His former student includes Representative David Rivera



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Vietnam veteran Dexter Lehtinen teaches American history.

who took a constitutional law class with Lehtinen.

He continues having an impact on his students.

“You can’t understand Vietnam unless you know the facts and the context. We pay more attention to the atrocities and My Lai Massacre,” said Lehtinen. “If this class learns anything it is that people have it worse.”

Lehtinen continues to grow and learn with his classes. He wants his students to be able to

look and process information in different contexts.

“It is a tool for thinking,” he said. “Students should be able to look at history and imagine what it was like back then and now.”

The only conflicting aspect about the job for him is the time restraint.

“My wife Ileana would like me in Washington more.”

As long as he is able to, Lehtinen plans to continue being a professor.

**New winter term to last only 13 days**

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teaching contract. We asked faculty to volunteer courses needed for students’ degree programs.”

Astrid Arraras, professor and advisor for the International Relations department, will teach during the winter term.

“This is a great opportunity for students to take classes, especially those that are in high demand,” Arraras said. “But it’s a challenge because it’s very intense; it’s very short.”

The challenges this will pose professors who will teach during the winter term will affect everything in the classroom.

“How do we adjust our syllabi to meet the demands of such a short term?” Arraras asked. “This is something I’m facing right

now. What you cover, and what you expect students to read has to change.”

The short term will also affect how professors assess students.

“We can’t give the students two exams and a paper as is custom in a 13 day span,” Arraras said.

Besides the College of Business that completely opted out of the program due to an inability of finding willing faculty, most of the other colleges are participating. Only regular faculty will be teaching during this term as this is a pilot program for the University.

While this winter mini-term is unique to the University in Florida, there are schools out of state with a similar program.

“We looked around [and] the staff found about a half dozen other universi-

ties that had classes during a winter term,” said Wartzok. “We haven’t heard that any of the schools were going to discontinue the program,” he explained, “but we did find that some focused on condensed study abroad. If this works out this year, we are looking at possibly trying that next year.”

**WINTER TERM**

**Mon. - Fri. ; Dec. 12 to Jan. 5, 2012**

9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.	7 courses
11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	5 courses
1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	3 courses

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the Science and Technology Building, Phase I of the Wellness Center, the modular resident hall (70 beds) and the residence hall (120 beds).

Polytechnic shall have a full complement of the following services or functions, provided either directly or where feasible through a shared services model – financial aid,

admissions, student support, information technology and finance and accounting with an internal audit function.

Students shall be given an option to graduate with a diploma from USF, subject to USF’s criteria.

The BoG shall monitor the development of the campus and its operations, working in collaboration with the appropriate boards, on a semi-

annual basis.

The Board shall be consulted on any significant change to the Business Plan prior to any action being taken on such change.

“One of the Board’s constitutional responsibilities is to ensure a coordinated, accountable State University System. While growth is no doubt in our future, today we provided a set of reasonable bench-

marks that USF Polytechnic Campus must reach in order to gain independence,” said BoG chairwoman Ava L. Parker. “These benchmarks ensure the development of a STEM-focused institution that will meet the growing demand for jobs in our state. The Board of Governors is committed to the support and oversight required to ensure the success of the University.”

**THE BEACON**

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## WOMEN'S SOCCER

# Knights shut down Panthers in NCAA Tournament

**ANTHONY GUIVAS**  
Staff Writer

With the Panthers entering the NCAA tournament for the first time in 18 years, the current SBC champions hoped to knock out UCF in the first round.

But even though FIU had the opportunity to continue their historic season, they could not seal another win as they lost to the Knights 2-0 in Orlando, Fla. on Nov. 11.

The game was very competitive between the two in-state rivals, but the Panthers simply could not match what the Knights were dishing out.

When both teams took to the pitch, both squads started the game with a lot

of intensity. But soon enough, UCF outplayed and easily outmatched the Golden Panthers.

The first half saw the Knights controlling the tempo of the game, constantly applying pressure on the Panther defense. And similar to the second half against WKU in the SBC final, the Panther offense was nowhere to be found, giving their defense more than it could handle.

In the 14th minute of the first half, Tishia Jewell scored her seventh goal of the year to put UCF ahead early on.

From that point on, UCF continued to march forward, challenging the Panthers on every possession giving FIU almost no chance to get a shot in.

This was also seen on the stat sheet, with UCF outshooting FIU 9-2 in the first half.

Then the second half came around and FIU hoped to change the momentum of the game in their favor, but it was just not in the cards as UCF continued to control the game.

Even though UCF did control the tempo of the game throughout the first and second halves, the Golden Panthers were able to get a little traction going late in the match.

FIU had small spurts of momentum where the Panthers actually drove the ball into UCF territory, but the Knights defense kept FIU off balance and had them take bad shots.

That small window of momentum

shut as quickly as it opened, which lead to UCF nailing the final nail into FIU's season in the 77th minute.

"They controlled the game. We did enough to stay in it, but once they got the second goal it pretty much put it to bed," head coach Thomas Chestnutt said.

The Knights Tishia Jewell fired a shot inside of the box that was rejected by goalkeeper Kaitlyn Savage, but was picked up by Emily Grider who drove it home to put UCF ahead 2-0.

The loss eliminated FIU from the NCAA tournament and ended their 2011 season.

Even though the season may have come to an abrupt end, it did not make the season any less remarkable for the

team.

Not only did the Golden Panthers prove to the rest of the SBC conference that they are the team to beat, but have also for the first time in school history have three consecutive 10 win seasons.

The game concludes the collegiate careers of eight seniors, including April Perry and Victoria Miliucci, who depart as the third winningest group in FIU women's soccer history.

But like the Panthers always do, they are not dwelling in their sorrows but instead they look forward to next year.

"We will get back at it and work hard...we will battle harder than ever next year," Chestnutt said.

FIU 41, FAU 7

## Panthers roll past Owls to win Shula Bowl X, gain bowl eligibility



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

T.Y. Hilton [above, right] running towards the endzone during his 97-yard punt return for a touchdown vs. FAU.

## FOOTBALL, page 1

third down conversions to keep those sticks moving."

Medlock threw 18-24, 135 yards and one touchdown, while rushing for 47 yards and one touchdown. Carroll threw four interceptions in his last four starts.

"At first I was real shocked because I wasn't expecting it," said Medlock. "I was expecting to get some playing time with Wes, and when he told me, Wes was a great leader, a great senior and a great friend and helped me the whole week. During the whole game, he told me what was going on and I really think this 'W' goes to him more than it does to me."

FIU (6-4, 3-3 SBC) is now

bowl eligible for the second time in school history, while the Owls (0-9, 0-6 SBC) remain winless.

After the Panthers jumped out to a 24-0 lead in the second quarter, the last score of the half came from Hilton when he returned a punt 97 yards for a touchdown, the longest in program history and gave the Panthers a 31-0 lead at the half, the largest lead any team has had over FAU this season.

The return was sparked by a huge block from Wayne Times on Damian Parmis that gave Hilton all the space he needed.

"I actually tried to tell him to turn around and get the kicker, but I looked back and he cracked him [Parmis],"

said Hilton

The Owls stalled the FIU offense in the third quarter, and got on the board with a touchdown drive early in the second half. The score came on a 22-yard touchdown pass from Graham Wilbert to Marcus Cunningham on the first drive of the second half.

It was the only score the Panthers defense surrendered all game, however, and ended the night with three interceptions, all from freshmen. One came from Richard Leonard and two from Justin Halley. Also, there was a total of 24 penalties in the game, 14 for 142 yards from FAU, and 10 for 97 yards from FIU.

In the last quarter, the Panthers began to run down the clock, and a 37-yard field

goal from Griffin in the beginning of the fourth quarter plus a Darriet Perry rushing touchdown sealed the 41-7 victory, their first win against the Owls since the 52-6 win over the Owls in 2005 was vacated due to NCAA violations.

It was the last game on the sidelines for legendary coach Howard Schnellenberger of FAU, who apologized for his teams performance.

"I have to apologize to Paul Bryant and Blanton Collier and Don Shula and people that I learned how to play and coach football from," said Schnellenberger. "And I have to apologize to Florida Atlantic University for the first half of football that we played here today and live with it."

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

# FIU prepares to open season

**MALCOLM SHIELDS**  
Staff Writer

Although the Panthers were able to distance themselves against Florida Memorial in their exhibition game with an 86-69 victory, they did not play a particularly clean game.

The Panthers allowed for Florida Memorial to shoot over 45 percent from the field and allowed for the Lions to go 11-for-16 from the free throw line to keep the game close at halftime.

The Golden Panthers also struggled to knock down their free throws as FIU shot only 54 percent

from the line.

"We didn't play like we wanted to play," DeJuan Wright said of the first half. "Coach got into us a little [at halftime] and the second half, we came out with a little bit more fire. We will work on tightening up our defense and our offense and get ready for Monday night."

## CARRYING THE LOAD

Guards Jeremy Allen, Wright and Phil Taylor accounted for 50 of the team's 86 points in the win.

**MEN'S, page 4**



SERGIO NASER/THE BEACON

Tola Akomolafe goes for a layup vs. Florida Memorial.



## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## Coley scores 22 in season opening win over Jacksonville

**D'JOMBAUREY MOREAU**  
Staff Writer

The Panthers were very aggressive in their season opener as teammates Jerica Coley and Finda Mansare showed a great balance of a perimeter game and low post game. They combined for 38 points to help the Panthers outscore and overmatch the Jacksonville Dolphins, dominating them in a 63-37 win.

In the season opener for both teams, sophomore All-Conference guard Coley flirted with a triple double, recording a line of 22 points, eight assists and 11 rebounds.

The speed of the Panthers' guards was on display as they

pushed the tempo after every miss, opening the game with a 32-7 run in the first half.

The quicker guards in the Panthers' backcourt ended up leading the game with 14 fast break points. The whole night the Panthers were tenacious to the basketball and defensively they held Jacksonville to 20.6 percent shooting for the night.

They also rebounded well, as they led the rebounding category 48-39, minimizing the Dolphins' shot opportunities.

Freshman Kamika Idom was a huge spark plug off the bench, chipping in with 12 points, including a couple of three pointers.

Another category that FIU shot incredibly with 57.1

percent was from behind the arc.

With all of the firepower on the team, the Panthers must do a better job of controlling the ball on offense. They had 24 turnovers, often because they tried to do too much, pressing the issue.

With a cut down of the turnovers, they could have easily had 20 more points.

This season's roster boasts a great balance, and this team can do well after finishing last season with a loss in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

The next game FIU will host will be against Florida Gulf Coast on Monday, Nov. 14 at 6 p.m. inside of the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

## FIU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL HOME SCHEDULE

## NOVEMBER

11 (Fri.) JACKSONVILLE 6 p.m.  
14 (Mon.) FGCU 5:30 p.m.  
21 (Mon.) FAMU 6 p.m.  
25 (Fri.) MARYLAND 6 p.m.  
27 (Sun.) CSU BAKERSFIELD 3 p.m.  
30 (Wed.) LYNN 6 p.m.

## DECEMBER

29 (Sat.) ALBANY 6 p.m.

## JANUARY

3 (Tue.) MORGAN STATE 6 p.m.  
7 (Sat.) ULM\* 5:30 p.m.

12 (Thurs.) MTSU\* 5:30 p.m.  
21 (Sat.) FAU\* 4:30 p.m.  
28 (Sat.) WKU\* 5:30 p.m.

## FEBRUARY

9 (Thurs.) NORTH TEXAS\* 4:30 p.m.  
11 (Sat.) DENVER\* 5:30 p.m.  
23 (Thurs.) TROY\* 5:30 p.m.  
25 (Sat.) SOUTH ALABAMA\* 5:30 p.m.

\*Conference games

**All home games are played at U.S. Century Bank Arena**

## VOLLEYBALL

## Late surge comes up short for FIU in road loss



SERGIO NASER/THE BEACON

Despite the loss, the Golden Panthers are still guaranteed a spot in the Sun Belt tournament.

**EDUARDO ALMAGUER**  
Staff Writer

Perhaps the Panthers were never meant to beat a team on Veterans Day that had its school initials come out to USA.

FIU dropped its second straight road game on Nov. 11 at the hands of the University of South Alabama in four sets, (25-23, 22-25, 18-25, 20-25).

This marks the second consecutive road game that they lose to a team with a sub-.500 record. The Jaguars (10-17, 5-10 SBC) snapped their seven-year losing streak to the Panthers (18-9, 9-6 SBC) with the win.

Blocks were the main component of the match for USA. When FIU is out blocked, it does not fare well, and the match showcased that perfectly.

The Jaguars notched 20 block assists. It is only the third time FIU has let an opponent surpass the 20 mark in that category this season.

The Panthers were extraordinarily sloppy on the court, posting 28 errors for the second straight road game. The errors took a toll on the efficiency of the offense, as only one Panther with at least five kills, senior

Sabrina Gonzalez, posted a hitting percentage above .200.

Junior Jovana Bjelica led her team with 15 kills, and setter Jessica Egan led both teams with 47 assists. Junior Marija Prsa was the only Panther to post a double double with 11 kills and 11 digs.

FIU began the first set strong, scoring five of the first six points. The Jaguars battled back to tie it at 10-10 as FIU let the lead slip away.

The Panthers made another push to create a big lead by scoring four consecutive points punctuated by a kill from Bjelica. USA refused to back down and again tied the match at 15-15.

The set continued this way until the match 23-23. Freshman Silvia Carli scored a point to put FIU in a set-point position and send USA to a time-out.

It did the Jaguars no good, as Egan and senior Andrea Lakovic teamed up for a block to score the final point and take the set 25-23.

Another tug of war ensued in the second set as no team could build a lead of more than three points, until it was tied 14-14. USA scored three points and never looked back.

Bjelica slammed down a kill to bring her team to within two points, 21-19. Carli then tried giving her team the push it needed by scoring back-to-back kills to make it 23-21. FIU's hopes ended there as they eventually committed an error to lose 25-22.

At some point during the 10-minute half-time interval, FIU lost its will to play, as a 7-7 tie in the third set turned into a 16-9 deficit. USA continued to punish the Panthers as they widened the lead to 23-13.

Though FIU had a late surge, they lost the third set on another error to fall behind 2-1.

FIU could not dismantle the wave of momentum that USA rode into the fourth set, once again falling behind early. A 7-2 deficit turned into a 22-13 deficit.

The Panthers did not give up completely, however. Lakovic scored a point to make it 24-19 and the Jaguars committed an error to tally another point for FIU. In the end, another Panther error ended the set, and this time, the match.

The win keeps a Sun Belt Conference Tournament berth alive for the Jaguars. FIU is already guaranteed a spot.

## George Mason missing key pieces for opener vs. FIU

## MEN'S, page 3

"Phil is a tremendous little guard. DeJuan is an exceptional player for us also," head coach Isaiah Thomas said. "Phil, Jeremy and DeJuan... they are very potent for us offensively."

With the experience that the Panthers have in their backcourt, the backcourt advantage may be in their favor against George Mason who will start a completely new backcourt from last season.

## NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

Newcomers Tola Akomolafe, Gilles Dierickx, and Tanner Wozniak all logged

playing time against Florida Memorial. Akomolafe was given the starting nod and played 31 minutes and collected eight points and nine rebounds.

Dierickx saw limited action against Florida Memorial, as he played only five minutes. Wozniak went 3-for-4 from behind the arch and finished with nine points in eight minutes of play.

## FIRST UP: GEORGE MASON

George Mason enters the matchup against the Panthers without some of their key contributors from last seasons' Colonial Athletic Association regular season championship team. George Mason

finished last season with a 27-7 record.

According to ESPN.com, the Patriots will be without senior guard Andre Cornelius who was suspended for the first 10 games of the Patriots season due to his pleading guilty to misdemeanor credit card fraud charge.

Cornelius' backcourt mate from last season's NCAA tournament team, Luke Hancock transferred to Louisville at the end of last season. It is expected that guards Byron Allen, Vertrail Vaughns and Sherrod Wright will platoon together in the backcourt on Monday night against the Golden Panthers.

In the frontcourt, the Patriots will be

led by forwards Ryan Pearson and Mike Morrison. Pearson was the second leading scorer on the Patriots last season with 14.2 points per game.

Paul Hewitt, formerly the head coach of Georgia Tech, leads the Patriots in his first season after replacing long time coach Jim Larranaga.

"We got a lot of old tape on them last year. They played a lot of zone, but that was under a different coach," Thomas said.

"I'm sure Paul will come in and try to be much more up tempo. We will try to figure out what Paul has done in the past and try to scout around it."



## MUSEUM BEAT

# ART BASEL

## FIU increasingly involved



AP IMAGES

Art galleries at the Miami Beach Convention Center will be open to the public during Art Basel.

**BROOKE WERTMAN**  
Staff Writer

Football fans bide their time all year waiting for the Super Bowl, baseball enthusiasts count down to the World Series and tennis buffs have a summer full of tournaments to keep them entertained. But what about those who feel compelled to create, like those who feel a paint brush or a camera is an extension of their arm, and could easily squander a sunny afternoon in a museum? For them, there is Art Basel.

Art Basel Miami, a four-day convention dedicated to all things art, is the sister event of the original Art Basel, which takes place in Switzerland every year.

Now celebrating its 10th year, the event is a monumental attraction and is widely known as the winter meeting place for the international art world. Art Basel draws crowds from around the world, bringing over 46,000 visitors to South Florida and generating close to \$500 million in spending for the local economy.

Art Basel attracts collectors, designers, curators and critics from around the world, providing panels and lectures on design, architecture, art and fashion. As one of the largest contemporary art fairs, the event takes place over many days and in multiple locations, including Miami Beach, Lincoln Road, the Design District, Wynwood, Midtown and the Univer-

sity's Modesto Maidique Campus.

Throughout the years the University has become increasingly involved in the festivities and will be hosting several events this year in conjunction with Art Basel.

The first of these will take place on the night of Nov. 30 at the Ritz Carlton in South Beach. The hotel will be hosting the Masters' Mystery Art Show, an international annual art event featuring over 1,000 artworks by more than 500 artists from 31 countries.

By attending this event, guests can admire and purchase works of art while taking a guess at the artist that created it, as each piece is signed on the back instead of the front.

The event raises funds for the University's MFA in Studio Art program, while providing exposure for both internationally-recognized and newly-emerging artists.

On Dec. 1, the art galleries at the Miami Beach Convention Center open to the public. This attraction will be open daily from noon until 8 p.m. and will feature works from over 260 leading galleries from North America, Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa.

The collection of works is by more than 2,000 artists of the 20th and 21st centuries.

On Dec. 2, at night, Wolfsonian-FIU will host a party in honor of their new exhibit — Liberty, Equality and Fraternity — as part of

Art Basel. The exhibit will explore the ways French design has embodied the French motto "liberte, egalite, fraternite."

On Dec. 3, in the evening, patrons of music can enjoy a free concert at the Betsy Hotel in South Beach provided by the University's New Music Ensemble, under the direction of Jason Calloway. University students will play a variety of songs by Latin American composers and finish the night with a piece by John Zorn, titled "Cobra."

"It was his way of creating a piece of music based on game theory," said Calloway. "When they play the piece, instead of directing them, it will be more like loosely controlled improv. It's something that has to be seen to really be appreciated."

The Frost Art Museum will host its annual Breakfast in the Park on Dec. 4, where guests can enjoy a complimentary breakfast, receive tours of the museum and sculpture park and listen to a guest lecturer.

"Each year, we invite a noted sculptor to explain all about their art and why they do what they do," said Amy Pollack, who works for the Special Projects department at the Frost Art Museum.

This year's sculptor will be Joel Perlman, an artist who works with the mediums of steel, bronze, copper and aluminum,

**ART BASEL, page 6**

## THEATRE DEPARTMENT

# Interpretation of classic "Nutcracker" gives back

**ALFREDO APARICIO**  
Staff Writer

The story is a timeless classic: a wooden nutcracker comes to life to take a little girl on a magical adventure on Christmas Eve. The tradition, however, is entirely new. The Department of Theatre and School of Music are coming together once again to recreate the magic of "The Nutcracker," this time in benefit of theater and music student scholarships.

"FIU needs traditions beyond football. We need more cultural traditions that staff, faculty, students and administration can look forward to. I think this is a major obligation that should be expected from all faculty and staff. Students need a school that has tradition. We have to be careful of always looking for the 'new' to always see a need for change," said Phillip Church, an associate professor, who adapted and directed E.T.A. Hoffman's immortal tale.

The play, which opened last year to packed theaters, will feature a little-known string quartet arrangement by Carlo Matelli, which is performed by the ensemble-in-residence, Amernet String Quartet, and showcase young dancers from the Roxy Performing Arts Center, as well as dramatic scenic backdrops created by middle school art contest winners.

"The Nutcracker" is usually a ballet. This original version incorporates a string quartet arrangement, actors, dancers, and scenic designs by 15 Dade County middle schools, Miami Children's Hospital, Easter Seals and

“  
**Students need a school that has tradition. We have to be careful of always looking for the 'new' to always see a need for change.**

Phillip Church,  
Associate Professor  
Theatre Department

”  
Miami Coalition for the Homeless," explained Church. "The concept is my own. Interdisciplinary in nature, the play follows a mandate from President Mark B. Rosenberg to develop projects, on and off campus, that bring disciplines together."

Marcia Littlely, the area coordinator for strings and violinist of the Amernet String Quartet, was immediately captivated by Matelli's string arrangement which she came upon by chance. "I found it in a box of music my friend gave me which had a sample copy of the music. It's not published in this country so it's something that hasn't been done before."

**NUTCRACKER, page 6**

## COVER TO COVER

# Daren Krupa explores sexuality in "brave" novel

Alan Hovey has had many relationships with females in the past, but he has always found sex with men more enjoyable.

In Daren Krupa's "Such a Nice Boy," Hovey's female coworker Lindsey Ronan changes all of this when she strikes him with love at first sight. In a troubled marriage herself, and wary of a man with a homosexual past, Ronan faces as many challenges in entering their relationship as Hovey does.

The novel is a story of their trials and errors in search to find happiness in relationships that know no bounds. Through his work, Krupa presents a great allegorical story that is much

needed and appreciated in a time when campaigns about "NOH8" and sexual acceptance are rampant everywhere.

In the beginning of the novel, which took Krupa 11 years to write, his dialogue is slightly hard to understand as the book progresses his regal and inspiring message about borderless love coming alive.

As she speaks about the way many choose to hide their true feelings in relationships and throughout life, Krupa's character Ronan projects part of his message regally: "Reality changes, so we renegotiate our happiness. We sell out. We pretend not to see. We think we compromise and compensate but we rationalize and slip deeper into emotional bankruptcy."

Krupa beautifully develops Hovey as he falls in love with Ronan and her

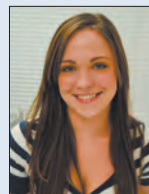
son. In building his relationship with her young son, Hovey finds he enjoys playing the father-figure role, and discovers more about himself than just the truth about his sexual preferences.

Ronan and Hovey are both developed even further as they are faced with the decision of leaving their current lovers, which neither of them are satisfied with, in order to pursue a relationship that reflects who they truly are.

In this sense, Krupa has created a coming-of-age novel that all can relate to, as readers explore who they are in their personal lives and who they are in their familial lives.

The book does contain expletives that the conservative reader should be weary of, but the book is brave in

**NICE BOY, page 6**



COLUMNIST

KELLY MALAMBRI



## CHANNEL SURFING

*“Glee” improves after mediocre start to season three*

**DRAMA: “GLEE”**  
FOX, TUESDAYS  
8 P.M.

So, after waiting weeks on end to watch “Glee,” thanks to the World Series who decided to choose “Glee’s” time slot, I was beginning to think that “Glee” was actually becoming a waste of my time. I know — gasp! — but the show felt like it was going nowhere in comparison to its first two seasons, which were

epically and controversially amazing from the misfits finding a fit, the Christians being unholy, and the characters exploring their sexuality. I have been such a worrywart with this new season because the recent episodes left me unsatisfied. This past “sex” episode, however, gave me the reassurance I needed.

The characters I have grown up with—well, over the year—and become accustomed to love are not diminishing into a two-season wonder. I am sure that director Ryan Murphy can do it all, but just a hint: focus less on “American Horror Story” and more on “Glee.” There is nothing scarier than a bunch

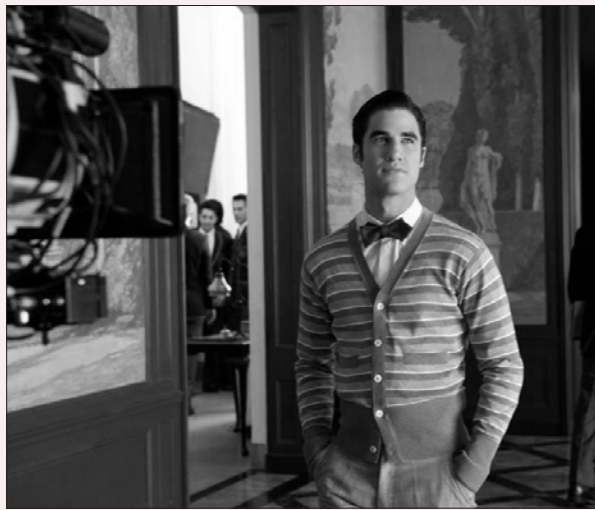


PHOTO COURTESY OF GLEE ON FACEBOOK.COM

Darren Criss plays Blaine, who is Kurt’s love interest.

of “Gleeks” wondering if starstruck Kurt Hummel and Rachel Berry made it to the

big leagues of Broadway, if spicy Latina Santana Lopez grew some lady balls and

dated the very confused Brit-tany Pierce, and if softy quarterback Finn Hudson finally stopped crying — but I doubt Finn will ever stop.

In these past episodes, music director of “New Directions,” Mr. Shuester, continues on the never-ending fight with cheerleading coach Sue Silvester, whose life goal is to ruin Mr. Shuester with oil-greased hair insults integrated in every season, and this season with her campaign to cut all music programs.

It would usually be the same old story, but this time, Burt Hummel, Kurt’s father, is taking charge to keep music programs afloat because it saved his son.

In the most recent episode, Artie Abrams, as the director for “West Side Story,” also plays a matchmaker, or rather advises Rachel and Blaine Anderson to give up their “v-card” to their boyfriends for the lack of chemistry between the two.

Throughout the show, hormones were raging, and some were for the wrong reasons, like building an acting career (I am looking at you, Rachel).

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[www.FIUSM.com](http://www.FIUSM.com)

*Novel promotes finding oneself*

## NICE BOY, page 5

that it discusses what many are afraid to, and it should be recognized for that reason alone.

As it explores the decisions we make about our sexual preferences, Krupa’s novel suggests that we should not be timid or allow ourselves to be influenced by others, like when Ronan and

Hovey explore their messy relationship.

I feel this message is one that should be understood by all as we try to stay true to ourselves in our day-to-day lives and respect the fact that others are simply trying to do the exact same thing.

*Cover to Cover is a bi-weekly book review column. Look for it every other Monday*

“As it explores the decisions we make about our sexual preferences, Krupa’s novel suggests that we should not be timid or allow ourselves to be influenced by others.”

*Proceeds from “Nutcracker” go to funding arts scholarships*

## NUTCRACKER, page 5

Littley’s first performance of the music was during the holiday season eight years ago when she and a friend reached out to the ill and underprivileged in their community — with puppets. The play was revived last year when the string quartet, along with Church, went searching for a project that could be used to support the Haiti relief efforts.

“We performed it at the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center Main Stage Theatre, Miami Children’s Hospital and Jackson Memorial Hospital to great success,” said Littley. “There are many needs in this world, and I think it’s great when theater and music join together to do something that is not only artistically valuable in its own stake, but also socially conscious and contributes toward humanitarian causes.”

The play will be performed on Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, located at 609 Brickell Ave., Dec. 8 at 7

p.m. at the Coral Gables Congregational Church, and Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. at the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center. The Dec. 8 performance will benefit David Lawrence Jr.’s Children’s Movement of Florida, and the Dec. 10 proceeds will go toward funding student scholarships in the School of Music and Department of Theatre.

Tickets will be \$10 for general admission, and they can be purchased online at <http://music.fiu.edu>. The idea began during this year’s Alternative Theatre Festival on campus.

“We are still a young enough university, and every university is striving to build a scholarship base. For me, it’s a very valuable experience and something which sets the outlook and hopefully will inspire other such activities around campus of which there are already many,” Littley said.

The cast, led by Jair Bula, a senior and theater major, as Drosselmeier, Marie and Fritz’s godfather, who

played Esteban Trueba in “The House of the Spirits,” will also feature Tatiana Pandiani and Jason Caceres as Clara and Fritz, respectively.

Pandiani, a junior and performance major, who was involved with the production last year, is excited to be involved with the project again this year. “I specifically enjoy this performance because it is for a good cause and it’s always inspiring to communicate with the community with the art I do. It’s becoming a tradition I’d love to do again next year.”

Caceres, a senior and theater major, who will also take on the role of the Nutcracker, remembers the joy he brought to the children in the hospitals of Miami during last year’s performances. “I love being a part of this because it reached out to children who are sick and can’t leave the hospital. There was nothing like seeing the faces of the children that we performed for light up at our expressions and gestures.”

## UPCOMING EVENTS

## MONDAY, NOV. 14

- **Study Abroad Art Exhibition**  
FIU: 5-7 p.m., MMC Graham Center Art Gallery
- **FIU Women’s Basketball vs. FGCU:** 5:30-8:30 p.m., U.S. Century Bank Arena
- **FASA Art Talk:** 7-9 p.m., MBUS Gallery, 420 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach
- **FIU Men’s Basketball at George Mason:** 9:30-11:30 p.m., Blacksburg, Va.
- **RasaBoxes Classes:** 6:30 p.m., The PlayGround Theatre, \$180
- **Miami Short Film Festival:** 7:30 p.m., Colony Theatre, \$12-\$85
- **Sea Kayak & Snorkel Adventure:** 9:30 a.m., Crandon Park Visitors and Nature Center, \$70

## TUESDAY, NOV. 15

- **The Film Initiative Underground Presents Chinatown (1974) by Roman Polanski:** 9:30 p.m., GC140
- **FIU Men’s Basketball at 2011 Dick’s Sporting Goods NIT Season Tip-Off:** All day, Blacksburg, Va.
- **Nature Preserve Volunteer Day:** 11 a.m.-2 p.m., FIU Nature Preserve, Wear closed-toe shoes; anybody wearing sandals may be asked to go home. Long pants are strongly recommended.
- **Tuesday Times Round Table: The Changing Values of Relationships and Marriage:** 12:30-1:30 p.m., BBC WUC 159
- **Watch The Throne: Jay Z and Kanye West:** 7:30 p.m., American Airlines Arena, \$39.50-\$250

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TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED!

*Emerging artists to show their talents at Art Basel*

## ART BASEL, page 5

and through his work explores the ideas of weight, danger, negative space and monumentality.

Art Basel is also an excellent opportunity for newly-emerging artists to make their mark. Several University art students will be showing their work as part of events surrounding Art Basel.

Thesis I and Thesis II students will be exhibiting works in the small installation galleries at the MBUS Gallery on Lincoln Road. “I’m very excited for them,” said Professor Pip Brant. “Many of them have shown before, but it’s a wonderful opportunity.”

These students draw their inspiration from a variety of sources. Lauren Webb Harris, a senior who will be showcasing some of her photography at the gallery,

finds beauty in forsaken machinery and the areas around them.

“I am drawn to the unsettling variety of noises and the industrial stench. The work I plan on showing at the MBUS show is a representation of the industrial landscape of Clewiston, Florida, and the families that live and work there,” Harris said.

With an overwhelming amount to offer, it would be impossible to see and participate in every part of Art Basel. To plan ahead, people can download Art Basel’s new app for their iPhones, iPads, Android and BlackBerry devices, and browse the galleries and artists on view.

People can also find further information about the museum shows, events and exhibitions throughout Miami to try to get the most out of the weekend. After that, like all other fanatics, the creative at heart will just have to wait patiently for next year.

## ECON WITH NEDA

# Lagging education system in US needs improvement

The education system in the United States is not where it needs to be to address the needs of our society.

The labor force of the future is being educated in other countries to a degree that leaves the U.S. workforce far behind. The status quo in how we educate our children has run its course and has proven to be ineffective.

### COLUMNIST



NEDA GHOMESHI

A solution for the U.S., commonly encouraged by President Barack Obama, CNN's Fareed Zakaria and Microsoft founder Bill Gates, is to allocate more funds, time, energy and resources to education. One means to get to all of those objectives is through the Department of Education.

The original Department of Education was created in 1867, however, Congress re-established the current U.S. Department of Education in 1980. The department's official mission is to "promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access."

In Oct. 2010, I wrote a column for FIU Student Media addressing global competitive-

ness by explaining the differences between the lagging education system in the U.S. and the progressive education systems of China, Finland and India.

A year has passed, and yet, no concrete steps have been taken at the legislative level. Worse yet, some members of Congress and GOP candidates for the 2012 presidential elections have proposed the elimination of the Department of Education.

Last week, Zakaria dedicated his show, "Global Public Square," and his tweets to fixing the education system in the U.S. One of his tweets explained a fundamental difference between the U.S. and South Korea.

He said, "There are 205 school days in South Korea's calendar - 25 more than in the U.S." Basically, over an academic career, South Korean students spend two more years in school than U.S. students. As a result of rigorous education, Seoul, the capital of South Korea, is one of the world's fastest-growing economies.

The U.S. must catch up to its counterparts, and do it fast in order to remain as the dominant economic power in the world. Aggressive steps are needed to reverse the course we have been on for so long. The time for marginal improvements has expired.

“Aggressive steps are needed to reverse the course we have been on for so long. The time for marginal improvements has expired.”

Instead of supporting additional spending on education, some members of Congress are vehemently against allocating funds and adamantly search cutting funds to all departments, including the Department of Education. Republican Representative John Kline claims that supporting the Department of Education is a waste of time and resources.

He said, "Throwing more money at our nation's broken education system ignores reality and does a disservice to students."

Blatantly ignorant statements, such as those given by Rep. Kline, are part of the reason why America is economically struggling.

We need to increase the hours our students attend class, increase the work load, improve teacher qualification and so forth. These things can only happen with more funding.

Rep. Michelle Bachmann, Minnesota representative and a GOP candidate for the 2012 elections, is notorious for her blatantly ignorant comments. According to the Associated Press, Bachmann "wants to abolish the Department of Education, which she calls unconstitutional."

At least Mitt Romney, also a GOP candidate for the 2012 elections, now understands the importance of the Department of Education; he said he was "wrong earlier in his career when he wanted the Education Department shut down."

Words alone won't fix the problem we face. It is time to rededicate our efforts to revamp our educational system to prepare our workforce for the global challenge we face.

"Econ with Neda" is an economics op-ed column that runs every other Monday.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Message from President Obama to all college students on loan issues

Over the last few weeks, I've had the opportunity to get out of Washington and talk with folks across the country about how we can create jobs and get our economy growing faster.

This is a tough time for a lot of Americans - especially young people. You've come of age at a time of profound change. The world has gotten more connected, but it's also gotten more competitive. And for decades, too many of our institutions - from Washington to Wall Street - failed to adapt, culminating in the worst financial crisis and recession since the Great Depression.

For the last three years, we've worked to stabilize the economy, and we've made some progress. But we still have a long way to go. And now, as you're getting ready to head out into the world, many of you are watching your friends and classmates struggle to find work. You're wondering what's in store for your future, and I know that can be scary.

The truth is, the economic problems we face today didn't happen overnight, and they

won't be solved overnight. But the fact that you're investing in your education right now tells me that you believe in the future of America. You want to be a part of it. And you know that there are steps we can take right now to put Americans back to work and give our economy a boost.

The problem is, there are some in Washington who just don't share that sense of urgency. That's why it's been so disappointing to see Republicans in Congress block jobs bills from going forward - bills that independent economists say could create millions of jobs through the kinds of proposals supported by Democrats and Republicans in the past.

Now, the best way to attack our economic challenges and put hundreds of thousands of people back to work is through bold action in Congress. That's why I'm going to keep demanding that Members of Congress to vote on common-sense, paid-for jobs proposals. And I hope you'll send them a message to do the right thing for your future,

and the future of our country.

But we can't wait for Congress to do its job. So where they won't act, I will. That's why, I've announced a new policy that will help families whose home values have fallen refinance their mortgages and save thousands of dollars. We made it easier for veterans to get jobs putting their skills to work in hospitals and community health centers.

And at the University of Colorado at Denver, I announced steps we're taking to make college more affordable and to make it even easier for students like you to get out of debt faster.

Michelle and I know what it feels like to leave school with a mountain of debt. We didn't come from wealthy families. By the time we both graduated from law school, we had about \$120,000 worth of debt between us. And even though we were lucky enough to land good jobs with steady incomes, it still took us almost 10 years to finally pay it all off. It wasn't easy.

Living with that much debt forces you to make some tough

choices. And when a big chunk of every paycheck goes towards student loans, it isn't just painful for you - it's painful to our economy and harmful to our recovery.

That's why we're making changes that will give about 1.6 million students the ability to cap their loan payments at 10 percent of their income starting next year. We're also going to take steps to help you consolidate your loans so that instead of making multiple payments to multiple lenders every month, you only have to make one payment a month at a better interest rate.

And we want to start giving students a simple fact sheet called "Know Before You Owe" so you can have all the information you need to make your own decision about paying for college. That's something Michelle and I wish we had.

These changes will make a real difference for millions of Americans. We'll help more young people figure out how to afford college. We'll put more money in your pocket after you

graduate. We'll make it easier to buy a house or save for retirement. And we'll give our economy a boost at a time when it desperately needs it.

That's not just important for our country right now - it's important for our future. Michelle and I are where we are today because our college education gave us a chance. Our parents and their generation worked and sacrificed to hand down the dream of opportunity to us.

Now it's our turn. That dream of opportunity is what I want for my daughters, and for all of you. And even in these tough times, we are going to make that dream real once again.

In the weeks ahead, I'm going to keep doing everything in my power to make a difference for the American people - including young people like you. Because here in America, when we find a problem, we fix it. When we face a challenge, we meet it. We don't wait. And I hope you'll join me.

- Barack Obama is the 44th President of the United States.



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## ‘Yoga by the Bay’ gives guests a ‘happy and energetic’ morning

**BARBARA CORBELLINI DUARTE**  
Contributing Writer

With a dawning sun and a nice breeze outside, some students chose to start their day in a different way.

“It’s a good idea to have yoga classes outside, we can enjoy the fresh air. I feel very happy and energetic,” said Nina Korneva, senior international relations major.

Yoga classes are available for students every week at the Biscayne Bay Campus gym; yet, the opportunity to exercise, stretch and meditate by Biscayne Bay is rare.



BARBARA CORBELLINI DUARTE/THE BEACON

The Student Alumni Association hosted ‘Yoga by the Bay’ for all to attend on Nov. 9.

At 10 a.m. on Nov. 9, the Student Alumni Association gave students the first opportunity of this year to participate on Yoga by the Bay classes.

The group of 14 people attending included students, non-students, and alumni of all ages. SAA was distributing beach mats for the first 10 students, which was convenient, since many of them forgot to bring a towel.

Bonnie Quiceno has been teaching yoga classes at FIU for more than a decade.

“I make a blending of different styles of Hatha Yoga, always taking into account who is in the class and what they need for that day,” explained

Quiceno.

Quiceno made constant references to the environment surrounding the students.

“Look around. You can see that all trees are moving. Take a moment to challenge yourself and do this more often. Lie on Earth, or practice it at the beach.”

Even though the class was disrupted a couple of times by the noise of landscaping machines and cars, the participants maintained their focus and followed the yogi’s instructions.

“After the class, I feel very relaxed and happy. It’s great for students, because FIU can be very demanding and stressful, and we have a chance to work on all of this through yoga,” said Maria Collazo, graduate student of global strategic communication.

Gene Yllanes, a sophomore, added, “I recommend it to everybody, it’s great for everything and everyone to take part in. It makes you focus on breathing, which is the most essential thing, and people often don’t realize it.”

Quiceno finished the class with the advice, “If you missed the moon yesterday, you have another chance to see it tonight.

## Clubs unite for diverse occasion

**STEVE MESA**  
Staff Writer

As part of International Education Week, the Bay Vista Hall Council, Indian Student Association and International Student Council will host Culturefest on Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. at the Wolfe University Center Ballroom 244.

Students will dance, sing and recite poetry.

Some of the participants who will be performing the activities that will be showcased at Culturefest are from other FIU organizations, including the African Student Association at Biscayne Bay Campus.

“We have a lot of people at FIU who come from different backgrounds,” said Dialita Desty, BVHC president. “We hope to expose other students to different cultures through this one event.”

The idea of Culturefest originally came from the advisor of ISA, Sanjay Dhawan, who

used to organize Culturefest at Modesto Maidique Campus.

“He thought it would be really cool if we did an event like that here at BBC,” said Maria Reynaga, the Student Organization Council representative for ISA.

Reynaga, who will be one of the masters of ceremonies for Culturefest, helped attract some of the performers to participate in Culturefest. However, confusion arose over organization.

“The difference of how it was set up before and how it is set up is now is not that big of a difference,” Desty said. “It was a matter of just deciding where to put the speakers in the event.”

“This event is meant to give FIU students a little taste from each culture and country thorough all the activities that will be showcased at the event,” Reynaga said.

“I really hope to do this again next year if we get a really nice turnout.”

### COMMENTARY

## Intramurals at BBC are possible if students demand it

Want to play flag-football at the University, but don’t know where to go? That’s the same question some students at the Biscayne Bay Campus are pondering.

### COMMENTARY



NATASHA CAPLAN

Most students choose a college or university for its academic merits, but another key factor in their decision is the recreational sports programs and facilities. Recreational sports are an important component to students’ quality of life on campus and to a college’s recruitment and retention of students.

Intramurals help play a key role in meeting new people and having opportunities on campus to get involved through sports, making them an intricate part of the collegiate experience. Unfortunately, not all students are privy to their existence, especially those at BBC.

Campus recreation and intramurals at FIU involve basic sports like flag-football, basketball, volleyball and soccer, to list some options.

Alternatives, such as kickball, dodge ball, and even electronic game tournaments are available as well. However, these options are only available at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

BBC does host some events,

however, they are infrequent.

Most intramurals at BBC occur once a semester or even once a year, which cannot compare with the weekly and monthly events at MMC. For instance, the highlight of MMC’s intramural schedule is the five week flag football 7-on-7 season in the fall, which featured an open six division, 26 team season, on top of fraternity and sorority competition and 4-on-4 competition.

For BBC students, there are opportunities to participate in the intramural programs, providing they commute to MMC, which is roughly 40 minutes away.

Activities like these give students leadership experiences and opportunities to develop their people and teamwork skills, but with most options being at MMC, where does that leave students on the BBC?

“We have intramurals?” said David Klein, junior English student. “I’ve never heard anything about them. If we do, they should put up posters or signs and really promote these sports. I’d love to play some football.”

FIU gives out championship t-shirts after winning a league or a tournament championship, and these shirts are sought after on campus by all participants. These victory garments can be seen floating all around MMC, but are hard-pressed to be found on BBC.

There are three main reasons:

First, a lack of coordinators to initiate games; secondly, the almost invisible advertising for upcoming events around campus; thirdly, students not giving a voice to their wishes.

“Sports clubs can take on events themselves,” said Assistant Director of Campus Recreation Warren Shaw, who is responsible for intramurals at BBC. “We’d be happy to give them any equipment they need to facilitate that. If the need were actually there, we’ve done the best that we can do with the staff there.”

Some students don’t see an issue with the infrequency of intramurals on BBC.

“Just the way it is is fine,” said Daniel Triche, senior in criminal justice. “If it was once a month, people wouldn’t show up as much because they’d know it would be there next month.”

Yet, not all students agree with Triche.

“The lack of intramurals is sad,” said Javier Friguls, senior sports management major. “I want to see them have a champion from that campus versus a champion from this campus.”

Intramurals are orchestrated by Recreation Services, with a specific coordinator and graduate assistant for the position. FIU’s Intramural and Club Sports Coordinator, Matt O’Connor, believes that BBC doesn’t have the necessary infrastructure to accommodate intramurals just yet.

“[BBC] doesn’t have the facility space and the number of people to participate,” said O’Connor. “If promoted properly, students would definitely be as interested as they are at [MMC]. Intramurals are one of the most popular activities on campus. [Students should] go to student government and show that it’s something [they] want and need. [The Student Government Council] will recognize and see what they can do to mix things up on campus.”

It’s clear that FIU sports and recreation need to help create a more accessible way and better promotion for both campuses to enjoy frequent intramural sporting events for eager participants. More importantly, students need to voice their concerns and

needs in what they would like to see on both campuses. There is enough interest to have, at minimum, a 4-on-4 flag football season in the soccer fields next to housing, where occasional tournaments are held.

BBC students can unify their mutual ideas and goals and request a course of action from the entities in charge of these events.

Campus recreation, like intramurals, allows students to continue their education outside of the classroom as well as make memories and friendships that can last throughout their collegiate careers.

These memories can live for a lifetime, but only if created and supplied for those who wish to reach these goals.



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

FIU students engage in a game of flag football on Nov. 9 at Biscayne Bay Campus. FIU does not offer flag football intramurals at BBC.