

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Quarterback now off the field, hits the books

MICHAEL JEFFREY
Contributing Writer

When people think of an engineering student they might imagine a someone who doesn't know the first thing about sports and couldn't tell you any of last night's scores. Paul McCall is nowhere near that stereotype.

McCall, a former starting quarterback for the Golden Panthers football team, is outgoing, well-known at the University, has an athletic build and does not shy away from doing interviews or helping out a friend in need.

He is a huge sports fan and very active in physical activities.

McCall said that being an engineering student has helped on the field while being

a competitive athlete has helped him in his studies. He provided some advice to up-and-coming student-athletes and said to go for the most advanced and toughest major they believe that they can be successful in.

"What would you do if you knew you couldn't fail?" said McCall, who tells young student-athletes to think about that when choosing a career path. "That's going to set you up for the most success going into the future."

"The year after you graduate, nobody cares how many touchdowns you have," said McCall, a doctoral student in electrical engineering and a record-setting quarterback.

He grew up in South Florida and received his bachelor's and master's degrees

in electrical engineering all while juggling both his studies and playing football at the University.

He made it through his studies with various scholarships and currently holds a National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship.

He explained one of his toughest days while studying electrical engineering and playing football was when he was finishing his senior design project and he had training camp to get ready for the upcoming season at the same time.

"We had a week where we really had to cram and get ready for the senior design presentation and there were three nights that we just pulled all-nighters and went to prac-



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Paul McCall, former Golden Panthers quarterback, is seeking a degree in electrical engineering.

tice in the morning," McCall said.

McCall said that he went through his entire bachelor's and master's degrees without telling his engineering profes-

sors that he was a football player because he didn't want them to think he was looking for an easy-ride through classes.

"People don't see the hard

work that it takes to be a quarterback, not just hard work on the field but in the film room and really that preparation.

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HUMAN RESOURCES

Faculty accomodating to changed retirement plan

ANALIA FIESTAS
Staff Writer

What one man considers a contribution, another considers a pay cut.

A new regulation, which Gov. Rick Scott proposed earlier in 2011 and went into effect in July, requires all state employees to put three percent of their salaries toward retirement.

"A three percent contribution to our pension... we respond to that as a three percent cut in our benefits package," said Thomas Breslin, chairman of the Faculty Senate, who represents the faculty on the Board

of Trustees.

The state of Florida will save \$68 million a year with the new law. All state employees' retirement benefit will be calculated based on an average final compensation over the last years of employment, instead of the last five years.

State employees did not contribute whatsoever to their retirement plans prior to July. As a result, Democrats, unions and teacher groups see the three percent requirement as a pay cut.

However, Scott said it puts public and private employees on the same playing field.

"It is unfair for public sector employees to have a guarantee that the private sector does not," Scott said.

Staff and faculty around the University are already feeling the bitter changes. One of them is Victor Uribe, associate professor of history.

According to Uribe, if a professor makes \$50,000 annually, he or she will have to pay \$1,500 annually towards retirement—and the higher the salary gets, the more money employees will need to give away.

"With \$1,500 I can pay gasoline for more than a year, buy groceries

for three months or pay 10 electric bills. This is, alternatively, money I do not have to pay for clothes for my three children, or tutoring after school, or school supplies. In my case, any money taken away from my pay is money I cannot spend in the education of my children, home supplies, food, entertainment, culture, etc.," said Uribe.

Uribe also believes one of the negative effects of the new bill is that professors and others have to change their lifestyle for the worse—refraining from going out to the movies, eating out or purchasing extra books.

"Our salaries are shrinking as we speak. This is because gasoline costs more, universities charge higher tuition, and groceries are not getting any cheaper. Notice the cheaper lunch available today, at FIU for example, is not \$3.50 as it used to be back a few years ago—it is twice as much," he added.

Math Professor Michelle Beer, also believes the new bill is completely ridiculous. She believes that all those affected will suffer greatly, for the bad economy itself has already negatively affected

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NATURE PRESERVE

Day of clean up also meant to provide education

MELHOR LEONOR
Contributing Writer

Equipped with shovels, hatches and wheelbarrows, students and staff members came out to the Nature Preserve and joined the ecological restoration project, clearing out trails and removing unwanted plants as part of the Nature Preserve Day.

"Daily downpours during the summer excite

plant growth and when we come back to the fall semester, there is plenty of new plant growth that crowds over trails," said Ryan Vogel, manager of the Nature Preserve and coordinator of the event. "We are doing this to clear trails so students, faculty and staff can utilize the trail and to facilitate transportation inside the preserve."

The Nature Preserve Day provided a community service opportunity for many students, while also engaging them in a hands-on learning

experience.

"Today and throughout the time that I've been volunteering, I haven't just learned about native and invasive species, but also why we need to help clear out the preserve," said volunteer Ana Gonzales, sophomore health science major at a neighboring university.

Located on the western side of Modesto Maidique Campus, during its 33 years the preserve has provided students, faculty and staff with many

educational and recreational services, attempting to instill environmental awareness in its visitors.

"The preserve was established in 1978, therefore it's older than most of the other structures here on campus," Vogel said. "Most of the big trees you see were planted by FIU students many years ago. Most of what we see today is pretty young but has an important place in FIU history."

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COMING UP | Sports

Check out the Oct. 28 issue for recap of the Golden Panther's home football game against Troy University.

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Sen. Rubio denies claims he embellished history

Florida's freshman U.S. senator and rising GOP star Marco Rubio is fighting back against allegations he embellished his family's history in saying his parents fled Cuba after Fidel Castro's communist revolution.

Rubio's Senate website says his parents came to America following Castro's 1959 takeover, and he has always publicly identified with the exile community and called himself a son of exiles in campaign commercials. In turn he has maintained a strong and loyal political following within its Miami hub.

But reports Thursday by the St. Petersburg Times and The Washington Post revealed his parents emigrated to the U.S. in 1956, when Cuban dictator Fulgencia Batista was still in power and Fidel Castro had just been released from prison and exiled in Mexico.

Rubio responded to the report with a statement saying his parents had tried to return to Cuba in March of 1961 in hopes that things were improving on the island post-revolution but quickly left because they did not want to live under communism.

WORLD

Togo elected to UN Security Council

Togo has been elected to the United Nations Security Council after balloting went into subsequent rounds.

Guatemala, Morocco and Pakistan were elected in the first round for five two-year terms beginning Jan. 1. A fifth slot remains undecided.

U.N. General Assembly members gave each of the four countries the two-thirds majority they needed Friday to be elected to the U.N.'s most powerful body. But the fifth slot remained undecided after Azerbaijan and Slovenia, competing for the sole East European opening, failed to obtain a majority. The 193-member General Assembly took a break and were to try again in the afternoon.

—Compiled by Melissa Caceres

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 23, Issue 32 of *The Beacon*, the article titled "SGC-BBC president's impeachment on the table" in the At the Bay section, the article incorrectly stated that SGC-BBC President Denise Halpin served as vice president of SGC-BBC during the 2011-2012 academic year. She was vice president during the 2010-2011 academic year.

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

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Students will install water system

MICHAEL JEFFREY
Contributing Writer

Engineering students are taking their talents to Costa Rica.

In December the University's student chapter of Engineers Without Borders-USA will send a group of students to a remote underdeveloped location in Costa Rica to help make a difference to a struggling community. They will begin the second phase of a project that was started last summer by EWB-FIU.

A fundraiser will take place on Oct. 28 at 9:30 p.m. at Fox's Lounge at 6030 S Dixie Highway to help raise money to send the students. It will have a Halloween theme and include a costume contest, raffles, food and more. All students are encouraged to attend and donate to EWB-FIU.

For two weeks the students will stay in Costa Rica, near Tonjibe, to work on a water supply project for an indigenous community, known as the Maleku. Currently the community has an aging 50-year-old system to deliver water to approximately 1,300 residents. The system is unable to handle the demand of all the residents and sometimes does not function at all during the dry season which lasts from December to April.

EWB is a non-profit humanitarian organization that partners with developing communities worldwide in order

to improve their quality of life.

Rebecca Dahdah, a junior civil engineering major and president of EWB-FIU, explained how the students work side-by-side with the Maleku to ensure the project is satisfactory to both the standards of the EWB-USA and the community.

"We make sure that the [Maleku] community is an integral part of the project," Dahdah said. "We stay with the community [during our trip]."

Dahdah said students from Spanish speaking countries were a great asset during EWB-FIU's previous trip in August 2010.

"[They] were really able to connect with [the Maleku], talk to them and learn about their culture on top of being able to provide them with the [water] system," she said.

Dahdah has been the president of EWB-FIU for the last two years and before that she was involved as the secretary for the organization. She is the director of communications for the Society of Woman Engineers at FIU and a member of American Society of Civil Engineers.

"I love it, it's definitely my life. There's not a day that goes by that I don't think of EWB, I don't stress about EWB, or I don't laugh about EWB."

She has been an integral part of getting this project going. Setting up fundraisers

and helping plan and organize the trips to Costa Rica.

"I've taken EWB-[FIU] to a place where it wasn't before; we had never gone on an implementation trip, [because] we didn't have funds. It's been a challenge and it's hard when students have a million other responsibilities."

EWB-FIU has three mentors, one from an international engineering firm called MWH, and two others from Parkson also an international engineering firm. The students have been working closely with the mentors through the process of designing the new water system. Once they arrive in Costa Rica the group will work on a student to mentor ratio of 7 to 1 to make the system operational.

The project is divided into three different phases: the first phase completed last summer, restored spring boxes to improve water collection. The second phase, which the students will perform in December, will see a storage tank with a disinfection system put into action to make sure the Maleku are able to drink clean water. A third phase planned for next year either during spring break or the summer will ensure the proper operation of the water system.

For more information about the fundraiser at Fox's Lounge, or about EWB-FIU email ewbfu@gmail.com or check out their website <http://www2.fiu.edu/~ewb/index.html>.

Changes receive mixed reactions

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many public employees.

Some University students are also not happy with the new bill.

"I'm against it because I don't think it's up to the state to decide. You should decide what you want to do with your paycheck—not the state," said Tremaine Steed,

senior nursing major.

Steed added that employees have a budget based on their paychecks, and that the three percent cut may interfere with that budget, causing economic difficulties.

Because of that, it should be up to each employee to decide whether they accept the three percent deduction or not.

While Steed is against

the bill, Ivan Garcia believes the bill is good for state employees.

"I think it's a benefit for the teachers... at least they're going to have that money in the bank whenever they retire. They may not see it as a benefit now but in the future they will," said Ivan Garcia, freshman criminal science major.

"It's very misleading. Basically, a pension is compensa-

tion," Breslin said. "What the state is really doing with our pension is a reimbursement. The state will hold an amount from our salary and give it to us at a later date. It's a shell game."

Regardless, Breslin is concerned for the future of all state employees.

"I don't know whether or not this is something that's going to push employees to other places," he said.

Preserve also for learning

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Within its 11 acres, the preserve represents three Florida ecosystems and also houses its own organic garden. It is also home to many native plant and animal species that serve as the basis for student and faculty research.

With over a dozen active projects throughout, Vogel said the area serves as an important learning resource at the University. He also added that the preserve provides other benefits that lay outside of the educational.

"It creates a refuge to get away from the stresses of school and work and life," Vogel said. "It creates a magical environment, something that cannot be created anywhere else here on campus. [It is] somewhere for students and faculty to get away to in order to get in touch with nature and to enjoy what was once all Florida Everglades."

In its future, Vogel said the preserve has the potential to expand and hopes to see it become more entangled in students' everyday lives.

"I think the preserve has the potential to set the standard for state and private universities throughout the country as how an urban wilderness area could be managed efficiently to provide for education space as well as recreation space," Vogel said. "If we were to have some sort of structure built immediately adjacent to the preserve I think that would allow a lot more students to enjoy the preserve."

As of today, the preserve plays an important part of University life, housing Florida ecosystems that are open to research and recreation in an urban campus. To keep the preserve functional, however, it requires student involvement.

"I learned that for nature to be preserved it needs dedi-

cation and hard work," said volunteer and freshman finance major Hector Nivia. He added that although he is majoring in finance, the community service opportunity gave him a chance to learn about the preserve while also restoring it.

The preserve management encourages students to become involved and keeps volunteer schedules posted by its site throughout the semester.

Vogel urges students to become a part of the work happening everyday at the preserve.

"In the past year alone I've noticed a lot of growth, a lot of new exiting energy here at the preserve, and I only foresee that that energy will continue to grow and expand," Vogel said. "Hopefully a lot more students and a lot more staff will come out here and start utilizing it. I can't wait to see how the preserve reaches its full potential."

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FOOTBALL

Defending co-champions to face off at FIU

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

The historic start of the season for FIU has now quickly turned into desperation mode with a recent loss to Arkansas State, which now places FIU three games behind first place Louisiana with five games remaining on the season.

When the Panthers face off against Troy on Oct. 25 at home at 8:05 p.m. on ESPN2, a win will keep first place within striking distance, while a loss will push a repeat of a Sun Belt championship even further back.

"We treat all games with extreme importance, but as things start to shake out, the awareness heightens," said head coach Mario Cristobal. "They are a good football team and in a very similar situation (2-4, 1-2 SBC), they're talented and have won the conference for many years and I think still one of the best teams in the conference."

Last year FIU went on a scoring spree by putting up 52 points against the Trojans on the road while on the way to a 52-35 victory. In a story on www.usatoday.com, Troy's defensive tackle Tony Davis was quoted saying, "I still think about that, to the day. It would definitely be sweet revenge to go down there and beat them on national TV. It still leaves a bitter taste."

"I think our tackles Rupert and Caylin won't allow that. They're pretty tough, so I think those two guys will lock them down," sophomore running back Kedrick Rhodes said.

Rhodes is the second leading rusher in the Sun Belt with 85 yards per game, and the Trojans have given up 173 yards per game on the ground this season.

"I get excited because I know in the back field we got a lot of potential, so we can take advantage of that and make it even more, raise the bar," Rhodes said about Troy's rush defense.

This year, the offense is producing better numbers than last year with 26



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

The Golden Panthers hope to get back in the win column against the visiting Troy Trojans.

points per game compared to 21, and quarterback Wesley Carroll has passed for 1,455 yards as well as the rushing attack gaining 1,002 yards.

Still, the Panthers have had trouble in the redzone all season long, getting in 12 out of 26 chances. Out of the 12 times they have scored a touchdown while in the redzone, 11 of them have been rushing, while only one has been a passing touchdown.

Troy, however, comes in with a redzone defense that has allowed 11 touchdowns, six rushing and five throwing, and six field goals out of a combined 19 chances. This makes them tied for the worst redzone defense in the conference with Middle Tennessee, allowing a score 89.5 percent of the time.

Offensively, quarterback Corey

Robinson has helped the Trojans gain an average of 298 yards passing per game, which is 18th in the nation. Even so, he has still thrown seven interceptions and just nine touchdowns thus far.

His favorite targets have been Eric Thomas (32 rec, 435 yards, 5 tds) and Corey Johnson (26 rec, 200 yards). The FIU defenses have allowed 231 yards through the air and eight passing touchdowns in seven games.

"We're a hard working football team and we're just going to continue to work hard," said senior defensive back Jonathan Cyprien. "We have great defensive backs and a great defense, we're just working hard, and we know we have a good football team coming in and we're a good football team. We're just ready to compete."

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Shutout win extends streak to three games

ANTHONY GUIVAS
Staff Writer

With the regular season coming to a close, the Golden Panthers are finishing strong as they come off two immense wins against North Texas and Denver. Both of which are the top two teams in the conference.

Along with those two great wins, FIU's own goalkeeper Kaitlyn Savage earned the SBC player of the week after she shutout both North Texas and Denver this past weekend.

Now the Golden Panthers come into play on Oct. 27 facing off against the ULM Warhawks, who are having a horrendous season with a 5-11-1 overall record and a 0-8-0 record in the SBC. ULM's dismal season will continue, since FIU beat ULM 3-0 in Louisiana.

The good times kept rolling as the Golden Panthers not only notched their third consecutive win, but also made FIU history.

For the first time ever in the history of the women's soccer program, the Golden Panthers have had three consecutive seasons with 10 or more wins.

With this adjudication, the Golden Panthers have proved that they are becoming one of the elite teams in the SBC.

"That is a great accomplishment for our team as for this program... We certainly don't want to stop at 10 games this year and we certainly don't want to stop with three consecutive seasons. We will make it four next year," said coach Thomas Chestnutt.

To achieve this accolade, the Panthers did so in stellar fashion, as they did not give the Warhawks any breathing room.

The first half was where the Golden Panthers made their damage, as the team scored back-to-back-to-back goals in a matter of seven minutes.

In the 13th minute, sophomore Kim Lopez took a beautiful assist from Chelsea Leiva and drove it home to open the scoring and marking her first goal of the season. That shot was then a sign for things to come as two minutes later the Golden Panthers struck again.

In 15th minute, FIU lined up for a corner kick, which resulted in freshman Sara Stewart setting up a great ball for co-captain Victoria Miliucci, who then delivered a header. But ULM's goalkeeper saved it but could not hold on to the ball, resulting in Miliucci capitalizing on her mistake.

FIU was then up 2-0 in the first 15 minutes of play, but the Golden Panthers added another goal for extra measure in the 20th minute. Sophomore Chelsea Leiva nailed the final goal of the game after taking an assist from Deanna Rossi.

"I think the girls showed their maturity today... being ready and focused from the get go and obviously that focus translated into three early goals," Chestnutt said.

After starting off the season with some bumps on the road, the Panthers have been able to gain team chemistry and become a true contender to win the Sun Belt Tournament.

"The maturity that they had on this trip showed that we are improving in going to another level as a group," Chestnutt said.

The Golden Panthers will now finish the season with the remaining two games being played at home. FIU will first face off against Louisiana on Oct. 30 at 12 p.m.

Progress not always a linear process

History always gives the impression that progress follows a linear path.

COMMENTARY



CHRIS TOWERS

You go from step one, to step two, to step three, inexorably through time, achieving more and more with each subsequent step, ad infinitum.

To use an example from the field of biology, the perception most have of evolution is a constant state of small but significant improvements, leading inevitably and consistently to a larger and grander end point. The image of the simian walking forward, leading, step-by-step, stands out to us.

The "point a to point b" standard only works for high school geometry word problems, however. It fails to acknowledge the fits and starts every real example of progress has contained.

The road FIU has taken over its 10-year path proves a perfect point for the fitful nature of any type of evolution.

A HISTORY LESSON

Let's look back a little at FIU's football history.

After the three most non-descript years as a Division I-AA school, FIU made the jump to Division I-A in 2005 and won five games, including three wins in its first season of Sun Belt Conference play.

In 2006 and 2007, we saw the team win one game combined, and while there

were a lot of close calls, trust me when I say those teams deserved that fate. The lack of talent at the top levels, let alone when it came to depth, was astounding for a team trying to play at college football's highest level.

FIU followed that up with a five-win 2008 campaign that ended up in an overtime loss against rival FAU away from a bowl berth, and then an injury riddled three wins in the 2009 season.

But finally - finally - FIU made the jump in 2010. Seven wins, the first conference championship and a slew of postseason accolades, culminating in a thrilling nationally televised bowl win.

And, as the FIU fan expected, it only continued at the beginning of the season:

a 3-0 start; wins over a BCS automatic qualifying school; votes received in the AP national rankings!

"This was it," thinks the FIU fan. "We've made it. There's no turning back now! We can only go upwards, forever!"

NOT SO FAST

It does not work like that. At least, it does not in this world, not without some serious luck. FIU went 10-2 from Oct. 9, 2010, a win over Western Kentucky, to Sept. 17, 2011, the 17-10 win over UCF. That is a remarkable run for a Sun Belt team.

However, in what seems like the blink of an eye, FIU has won just one of its last four, including two close home

MEN'S SOCCER

Tulsa hands slumping Golden Panthers tough road loss



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

The Golden Panthers have failed to win a game on the road so far this season, falling to 0-6 away from FIU.

BRANDON WISE
Staff Writer

Having dropped two of their last three matches, the Golden Panthers had a chance to pick up a much-needed win on the road against the

Tulsa Hurricane.

However, forward Corey Albertson did not allow that to happen, as the Hurricane pounded the Golden Panthers 4-1. Head coach Munga Eketebi was disappointed in his team's performance.

"It is tough to lose," Eketebi said. "Especially coming off a great performance against UCF, who was number six in the country. I did not see the intensity and focus coming into this game that I saw in games prior."

The Hurricane jumped out to a

three-nil advantage in the first 37 minutes and managed to hold on for the rest of the match.

In the 19th minute, forward Stephen Roberson took a shot for the top of the box and buried it in the top right corner of the net to give the Hurricane a 1-0 lead.

Albertson then picked up the next two goals for the Hurricane in the first half. His first came in the 30th minute when Tony Rocha and Blaine Gonsalves joined Albertson inside the penalty area, passing it back and forth amongst each other.

Eventually, Albertson got it past goalkeeper Rodney Greiling, making it 2-0.

Just seven minutes later, the same kind of situation arose for the Hurricane. Albertson and Rocha passed the ball back and forth and then beat Greiling for the score. Eketebi believed the midfield was the problem.

"It was mostly the midfield that did not play up to the level of expectation in the outing," Eketebi said.

In the first half, the Hurricane took 16 shots on goal, while the Golden

Panthers could only manage five.

The second half saw the Golden Panthers pick up a favorable situation as Hurricane defender Jake Dobkins was red carded in the 55th minute.

Down a man with 35 minutes left to play, the Hurricane was still able to hold on.

The lone highlight for the Golden Panthers was when Andri Alexandersson put one in the back of the net off an assist from Junior Sebastian Frings.

But the Hurricane bounced right back when Leonard Smith received a pass from Omar Mata and put his shot in to make it 4-1 in the 87th minute.

The loss drops the Golden Panthers to 4-7-3 and 1-4-1 in Conference USA play. They are now seventh in the standings, eight points behind conference leader, South Carolina, who comes to town on Oct. 22.

Eketebi knows what the team has to do.

"It is a must win," Eketebi said. "If the team can play well against teams that are ranked sixth and eleventh, there is no reason why they can't play with the rest of them."

PAUL MCCALL

Former quarterback pursuing a career in engineering

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It is the same thing you learn in engineering, you can't just show up for a test, you gotta put the work in," McCall said. "That really transferred over very easily for me into football, because you can't just show up to game day and expect to do well."

"Having that structure of football when I came in

here as a freshman, [helped] with the 60-70 hours weeks," explained McCall. "You really don't have too much off-time [so] the time you do have has to be dedicated to school work. In that way football really structured my life coming into college."

Since completing his master's degree and ultimately leaving the Golden Panthers, McCall tells how his involvement in sports,

particularly team sports, has changed considerably.

"Every now and then I get offers [to play in] flag football games or leagues, [but] I really try to stay away from contact sports these days," said McCall. "Those things are too competitive; when you play Division I football, that's the real thing, anything but that is literally just a game to me, it's just for fun, and a lot of people tend to

take flag football games very seriously and I've seen a lot of people get hurt."

McCall continues to be active and stay healthy while keeping his body conditioned.

"Since I graduated I had a lot of injuries, so I started training for triathlons and things like that, mostly swimming and running," said McCall, "to heal a lot of long standing elbow, knee

and hip and ankle problems I had. I run and ride bike and swim more than anything else, now."

McCall is currently working for a private engineering firm that deals with electronic testing devices for the heating, ventilation and air conditioning industry. He completed a co-op with the U.S. Department of Defense while finishing his master's degree in summer 2009 and

spring 2010.

McCall said he found many advantages to being an engineering student and an athlete for the University at the same time. He said employers recognize the difficulty of "being able to handle the workloads of both school and athletics" together, which they look at as the ability to multitask and have a good sense of time management.

Don't let disappointments distract from bright future

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losses and last Tuesday night's embarrassing 18-point loss to Arkansas State, which effectively ended FIU's hopes for a conference title defense.

So what must the FIU fan think, now? "We're going the wrong way! A team that wants to reach the next level can't be losing games like this. We were frauds!"

It is a natural expression of frustration. Sports is not a science, as much as people like me might try to force it to be, sometimes.

That goes double for the reactions and interactions of fans, who inhabit a special world somewhere between faith, psychology and sociopath.

It is an inherently irrational emotional and mental state to be in, which is part of what we love about it. It is socially acceptable to be totally irrational and crazy when it comes to men playing children's games.

However, speaking as

someone who watched every game during the 0-12 season and made the miserable drive to the decrepit Orange Bowl, the Panthers were forced to play in during the 2007 season to cover the team and watch them win only once, please allow me to provide another view point.

A LITTLE PERSPECTIVE

Going back to an earlier metaphor, the evolution of our own species is often seen and described as the inevitable end of a long line of gradual improvements, as seen in the notorious depiction of man rising from lumbering ape to the intelligent and graceful upright walking creature that now creates symphonies and plays football and watches Jersey Shore and does all of those other wonderful things we do.

However, this image is overly simplified. There were dead ends, false starts and near catastrophes along the way to getting to where we



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

With the Golden Panthers failing to live up to its fast start, proper perspective needed.

are; becoming the species we have become was anything but an inevitability. And so it is with FIU.

FIU may one day become something resembling a national power. There is certainly a blue

print, available at other large commuter schools like USF for becoming a nationally relevant player in college football.

But it is not there yet, and that is ok. It does not mean Mario Cristobal has failed,

or that they have squandered a one-time opportunity to make an impact.

I know, FIU fan. You are upset. You should be. The team has disappointed you over the last month. However, take a few steps back, stop

staring cross-eyed at the tree three feet in front of you and take the forest in as a whole.

Mario Cristobal had to pull this program 25 feet out of a ditch just to get it to sea level, a place he reached the last time he played tomorrow's opponent, Troy, in 2010, a 52-35 stomping that served as FIU's coming out game.

Where he takes the program from now until his contract runs out in 2016 is, obviously, still up in the air.

But do not let a handful of disappointments distract you from reality, and the reality is this: Progress is rarely measured on a straight line.

Things will not always go according to plan and every once in a while, you might see a step back (or three) after a long run forward, but compared to where FIU has been, it is hard to envision anything but an even brighter future.

You just might have to take a step (or three) back to realize it.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Band member dedicated to keeping spirits up

MARIANA YERN
Contributing Writer

It is a common misconception that musicians are born with all the talent they need to become successful. Carlos Hernandez, a sophomore studying music education, proves that a musician is a combination of an innate ability, passion and hard work.

As a lead member of the University's marching band since his freshman year, the clarinet player has witnessed the growth that the ensemble has undergone and knows that there are even greater things ahead. "I want to be in [the] marching band when the ensemble reaches its peak, [when] the team and the band become one."

In high school, Hernandez knew that he wanted to study at the University. His current saxophone professor, who had been his mentor since sophomore year in high school, had an enormous influence in his decision.

"My namesake and mentor Carlos Hernandez has always been here to advise me wisely about my career and help me grow as a musician. His enthusiasm and love for his culture have brought me closer to my roots. I knew that he worked at FIU and I did not



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Carlos Hernandez, who is a music education major plays many instruments including the clarinet and saxophone.

think twice about applying," said Hernandez.

There were several other factors that made Hernandez lean toward the University. At the time that Hernandez was to apply, the Music Education program at the School of Music was considered the top in the state of Florida and Hernandez wanted his career to

have a strong beginning in such a favorable environment.

Dr. Kathy Light Kerstetter, a former director of the department, was someone who Hernandez admired and hoped to study and work with upon entering the University. However, Kerstetter left right before his freshman year.

"FIU had everything I needed and wanted. My audition there was [my] best and most confident one. Even when Dr. Kerstetter left, I did not feel discouraged, but [I] knew that I would soon get a chance to meet her as it later happened. As of today, I feel that FIU is definitely the place where I belong and where I have come to

go beyond my expectations."

The marching band at the University is a versatile and inspiring ensemble. Fans depend on the band to keep spirits up during sporting events, so band members feel the pressure to give their best performance every time.

Even though students get paid to be in the marching band, they still have to pay for the ensemble's credits as a regular class. Members march arduously out of their passion for music. "To me, [being a part of the] marching band takes commitment and love. I do it because I want to and not for the money, which is nothing compared to the long hours we practice," said Hernandez. The marching band practices three times a week from 6 p.m. to almost 10 p.m. at night. That is without counting the several performances they do every week and game days. These long hours of practice are a challenge to all members.

"Time management is the greatest challenge I have had to face. [The FIU] Marching Band practices are hard and tiring. Most of the people who are in it miss early classes sometimes because it does take a lot out of you. It is all

BAND, page 6

GIVING BACK

Livestrong cancer walk raises money to help affected

EDWIVE SEME
Staff Writer

Though great strides are being taken to cure cancer, the truth remains that millions are affected by the several forms of the disease every year. This gives organizations like Delta Phi Epsilon the opportunity to join the fight against cancer by raising money.

Delta Phi Epsilon's members are doing their part by raising money for the Lance Armstrong Foundation. Launched by Lance Armstrong - named one of the world's best cyclists who was later diagnosed with cancer - the foundation has the mission of improving the lives of people affected with cancer.

On Oct. 13, the sisters of Delta Phi Epsilon held their fourth annual Livestrong walk at the University's Modesto Maidique campus outside the entrance of the Graham Center.

Delta Phi Epsilon initiated the Livestrong walk in the fall of 2008 in the hopes of raising money as well as cancer awareness. In the year of the event's debut, it raised over \$10,000, which was donated entirely to the foundation. The sorority raised money through fundraising walks and sponsorships from local grocery stores and companies.

Some of the sorority's contributions consist of a portion of their chapter dues and sponsorships.

After signing in for the event at the debut of the walk at 11 a.m., participants were guided by the sorority members around certain locations of the University while being informed about little known facts about cancer.

The three-hour event consisted of a walk



Delta Phi Epsilon organized the fourth annual Livestrong Cancer Walk, which was held on Oct. 13. **Above:** Members of the sorority lead the way as participants make their way across campus to the different stations. **Right:** Participants were encouraged to write names of those affected on the commemorative banner.

around the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum and in front of the Blue and Gold garages. Throughout the walk, participants had a stop where sisters shared important facts about cancer. This session was followed by the final part of the walk, which was spent in silence in remembrance of those who have either passed away or who are currently battling cancer.

Besides the walk, the sisters held other

activities during the event: a raffle offering prizes such as a free manicure and pedicure, a basket from Peace Love World, three baskets full of baked goods and a game of paint ball. The bonus raffle offered a one night stay at a hotel in Miami Beach.

To make the event more personal, the sisters made a commemorative banner where people were able to write "in memory of" or "in honor of," followed by the name of a

friend or family member who was affected by cancer.

At the end of the event, the sisters were thankful to everyone that showed up, sponsored and supported the cause.

"Overall, it was a great turnout and we raised over \$1,500," said Luly Sanchez, a sorority member who was involved in the walk. The money raised will go to the Lance Armstrong foundation.



PHOTOS BY ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

PANTHER 30 POINTS

FORCE

54 OL RUPERT BRYAN JR.

FIU VS TROY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25TH 8:00PM AT FIU STADIUM

FACULTY & STAFF APPRECIATION DAY PURCHASE TICKETS FOR \$1 AT THE UNIVERSITY CREDIT UNION BOX OFFICE WITH A VALID FIU FACULTY/STAFF I.D.

SCAN TO RSVP

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Student aims to teach music

BAND, page 5

worth it in the end though," said Hernandez.

All marching band members take their role very seriously. They hold themselves accountable for the team's victory or loss. "When we lose a game, we all stay silent all the way back from the stadium thinking that we did not do enough for the team to win. I think that every performance makes a difference on the game's outcome," said Hernandez.

In the future, Hernandez is determined to make a difference through teaching.

He wants to create a relationship with his students where learning is a mutual experience reflective of the teaching that he has been granted at the University.

"I want to create a relationship with my students where I can teach them life principles through mediators such as music," stated Hernandez.

Hernandez is also determined to go far in the

conducting professional world. "At the end of the day, I would like to be in front of a professional symphonic orchestra that plays itself while I just paint music with my hands. After all, it was conducting that led me into teaching."

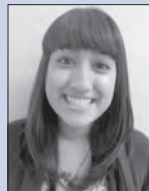
On his way up as a professional conductor, Hernandez wants to make marching band part of his life. "I would like to be the director of major school bands and work with music education students in college."

CHANNEL SURFING

Creepy episodes excite

With Halloween coming up, what could be better than a spooky lineup of shows? I have TV shows to keep me busy with all the drama - witchy drama.

COLUMNIST



SANAH FEROKE

Shows like "Ringer," "The Secret Circle" and "Pretty Little Liars" released Halloween episodes that will set you in the mood for the season. Something wicked this way comes.

version of "Ringer," but it also lacked aspects that "Ringer" pulled off effortlessly. The pilot jumps right into the madness of Siobhan and Bridgett's life and, although TLG also tried to pull this off, I was not nearly as hooked as I was on "Ringer." Nonetheless, "Ringer," in comparison to TLG, is more intense and sophisticated rather than juvenile.

I am anxiously waiting to see what happens between Gemma and her husband, Henry Butler, because if you missed the last episode, Gemma just might be dead. Oh well, curiosity killed the cat, or the biffle.

THRILLER/DRAMA: "RINGER" CW, TUESDAYS 9 P.M.

SCIFI: "THE SECRET CIRCLE" CW, THURSDAYS 9 P.M.

Former vampire slayer Sarah Michelle Gellar takes on a whole new role as a twin who dropped the audience into a never-ending series of trouble, danger and sultry drama. Battling the undead is so 1990 - it's the living that you have to look out for now.

So here's the digest version: Running from her past and mistakes, Bridgett Kelly takes refuge in her wealthy and seemingly perfect twin sister, Siobhan Martin. When Siobhan "drowns," Bridgett takes over her life without realizing how twisted Siobhan's life is.

As Bridgett struggles to keep up with Siobhan's friends, husband and stepdaughter, Bridgett's personality melts the heartless personage Siobhan has created and begins to make things right, or at least she can try, right?

In all honesty, I wasn't sure if I would even be interested in the show and I overlooked it as I'm sure many "The Lying Game" viewers did. In the last review, I mentioned that TLG's drama factor has escalated to a new level, but after watching the first 30 minutes of "Ringer," I was convinced that TLG was not only a PG

Ranging from creepy introduction songs to demon possession, this is not a show you want to watch without a night-light. The last episode was one of the most epic ones yet - one of the original six from the coven is killed.

Demon possession is a nasty business and sure, Nick and Melissa taking on new attitudes (and deeper voices), which shows that their acting isn't as limited as we all thought.

I'm still puzzled as to how far TSC will go to top its sister, Vampire Diaries, which is one of the best shows on TV this fall.

In the next episode, Faye Chamberlain, the daredevil, convinces Cassie Blake to throw the witches an eventful Halloween party, but Faye has her eye on more than candy apples; she's got her eye on Jake.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY, OCT. 24

- **BBC Food & Rec Expo:** 8 a.m.-3 p.m., BBC Panther Square/WUC Theatre
- **Teacher Training Workshop-The African Diaspora in the Americas:** 8 a.m.-5 p.m., TBA
- **Graduate School Fair:** 11 a.m.-3 p.m., MMC GC Ballrooms
- **Polish Lecture Series: "Perspectives on the EU Polish Presidency":** 12-3 p.m., Frost Art Museum "Cafe"

TUESDAY, OCT. 25

- **GL Advisors Presentation:** 12-2 p.m., Large Courtroom
- **Tuesday Times Roundtable-Why Outsourcing Isn't Killing America:** 12:30-1:30 p.m., MMC GC 150
- **Leadership Colloquium 2011:** 2-5 p.m., MMC GC Student Union, Room 243
- **GoGreen Football Game Tailgate:** 4:30-8:30 p.m., FIU Stadium

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BORDERLESS WITH BROOKLYN

Preacher with a gun endangers aid work efforts

Sam Childers' life as a drug-dealing loser turned born again, gun-carrying Christian preacher rescuing Sudanese orphans from peril sounds too good to be true—and it is.



COLUMNIST

BROOKLYN MIDDLETON

Machine Gun Preacher, the movie portraying his life that was released on Sept. 23, is heavy on the drama and violence, but light on the facts.

This is expected from Hollywood, of course, but the problem is Childers' life is real and so is the danger he is putting humanitarians and aid workers in.

A brief history of Childers and the crusade he is on is relevant. In 2001, in the town of Nimule in Southern Sudan, Childers opened the Shekinah Fellowship Children's Village. The creation of an orphanage in a war ravaged region in itself is commend-

able. However, Childers' crusade to fight the Lord's Resistance Army, a brutal rebel group led by Joseph Kony and his ultimate goal of killing Kony, is more flawed and problematic than it is heroic.

The Lord's Resistance Army deserves no sympathy nor does Kony. The blood-sucking rebel group and its leader deserve to be tried for the war crimes that have been brought against them.

The endless rapes, constant terrorizing and murdering of civilians must not be forgotten, but Childers' shady technique not only plays out the all too common scenario of a white guy from the West thinking he knows best, despite being told otherwise. Most importantly, his methodology endangers aid workers who would rather not be seen as potentially armed combatants.

Brett Keller, a writer for *Foreign Policy* magazine, refers to Childers as "The Machine Gun Menace." He writes, "Childers' underlying assumption seems to

“His methodology endangers aid workers who would rather not be seen as potentially armed combatants.”

be that the region's conflicts would end if the good guys could just kill enough bad guys.

This assumes not only that the good guy can magically discern who the bad guys are, but that killing—from attacking the LRA to selling weapons—doesn't fuel future conflict.”

The notion that gratuitous, gross violence can be stopped by a preacher with

zero education in international relations or knowledge about Sudanese politics is not just insane, it also threatens the lives of people who are capable of cultivating real change in the region.

Southern Sudan needs all of the help it can get, but its problems cannot be solved with Bibles or AK-47s.

“Borderless with Brooklyn” is a biweekly column examining world events.

High school program affects current University students

JUNETTE REYES
Contributing Writer

The Academy of Advanced Academics, a program that allows the high school students of Alonzo and Tracy Morgan High School to achieve their associate's degree during their high school years by completing the University Core Curriculum while simultaneously taking Advanced Placement classes, is an excellent opportunity for eligible high school students.

However, this does not indicate that the program is the best option for both high school students and students at this University, especially when some of those same high school students do not show any interest in returning to the University as college students.

While it is understandable that the students have plans on pursuing acceptance into Ivy League schools, particularly when meeting or even exceeding the requirements of the program such as "... a 3.0 unweighted GPA, [scoring] 50/50 on the PSAT, an excellent attendance record, and [having] no disciplinary problems on their record," as stated by Blanca Morales in her article for *FIU Student Media* published on Sept. 28, it does not excuse their

detrimental presence at this University when they do not envision it as their ideal school.

Allowing high school students to enroll in college courses in our already overpopulated campuses may be troublesome when it comes to enrollment for students

“Their presence, although temporary, can hinder the opportunity of enrollment for current University students.”

currently attending the University.

Their presence, although temporary, can hinder the opportunity of enrollment for current University students, considering what a difficult experience it already is when enrolling into quickly populated UCC courses. It is unfair for current students to have to deal with these high school students clearly devaluing their education at the University by showing preference for other schools beyond their education here.

All hope is not lost for the high school students

participating in the Academy of Advanced Academics program, though.

If seeking acceptance into an Ivy League school is what some of these students want, then there is no reason why they should not increase their chances of doing so by attending similar programs hosted at Ivy League schools like Harvard instead of attending our University.

Programs like Harvard's High School Summer Program offer a similar curriculum, which also allows high school students to attend college courses in exchange for college credit.

Of course, cost and housing must be taken into consideration; unfortunately, detailed information about this will not be available until Dec. 1. Students can still apply for programs like Cornell's summer program in which financial aid applications are required.

Students have enough time until this upcoming summer to make a final decision for their future, if they are serious about pursuing an Ivy League school.

It may or may not prove to be a similar experience like the program at our University, however, students should choose the program of the school they actually want to attend, as it is the best option for everyone.

American middle class in jeopardy, struggling

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

America's average middle class worker is systematically disappearing. About 50 percent of middle class Americans feel that their status is in jeopardy, according to a poll done by ABC News.

The class structure of our country is being reshaped into an hourglass figure with most citizens on the top and bottom and a diminishing few in the middle. There is a severe imbalance in our economy that is perpetuating the recession and creating a class divide in our country. This is unacceptable because the welfare of our country is every American's responsibility.

As one of the top 10 commuter schools in the nation, our University is made up of a majority of middle class commuters.

Most of us want to get an education that will provide us with a good career when we graduate.

According to www.payscale.com, University graduates with a bachelor's degree can expect a starting salary of \$40,500. Yet, the number of jobs available to those graduates keeps declining with an almost 25 percent decrease in the number of available middle class jobs since 1999, according to an article on www.good.is.

This means that the number of higher end jobs is not changing much, middle class jobs are sharply declining and the number of lower wage jobs is increasing.

Many over-qualified workers are being forced to take up lower paying jobs as a result of the unbalanced dispersion of working positions. The burden of our country's debt should not have to be shouldered solely by the same middle class workers who made this country what it is today.

According to an article in the *Canada Free Press*, more than 65 percent of all economic growth in the United States went to the top one percent of Americans over the past 10 years. This is imbalanced, and only serves to show that the money that should be used to pay middle class workers did not just float away, it is being collected and stored by the richest of Americans.

If this misdirection of wealth continues on this path, we could soon see a society where there are only two classes of workers.

It is not fair that the American Dream is slipping away from us, and as the statistics show things only seem to get worse as time goes on. There need to be some serious changes in the way our economy and government work to begin to reverse these imbalances.

VERBATIM

“Progress is agonizingly slow, and the International Rescue Committee says that only one-half of 1 percent of the rapes it deals with in Sierra Leone lead to convictions.”

-Nicholas Kristof

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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

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Food and Rec Expo to bring Food Network chef

NADRA MABROUK
Staff Writer

National Food Day is designed to push Americans away from the mass of factory produced foods spilled with genetically modified organisms to the alternative of naturally grown foods.

The 2011 Biscayne Bay Campus Food and Rec Expo will be held on Oct. 24 and will combine with the initiatives of National Food Day to present students with an array of health and recreational activities.

It will focus on helping students lead healthier lifestyles and will include the presence of Chef Robert Irvine from the Food Network, who is known for the shows “Dinner: Impossible,” “Restaurant: Impossible,” and “Worst Cooks in America.”

In 2007, Irvine was named

an Ambassador of the Culinary Institute of America and noted as one of the “25 Fittest Guys in America” by Men’s Fitness magazine.

The event will lead with a vendor fair that will be held in Panther Square from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Vendors will include Whole Foods Market, Smoothie King, T.G.I. Friday’s and more; some will have giveaways for the students.

From 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Chef Irvine will have a lecture and a cooking demonstration in the Wolfe University Center theatre. Guests will be able to dine on the appetizers prepared by Irvine and his team.

The Expo will include diet and nutrition sessions, giveaways and free massages, among other things. According to Warren Shaw, assistant director of Campus Recre-

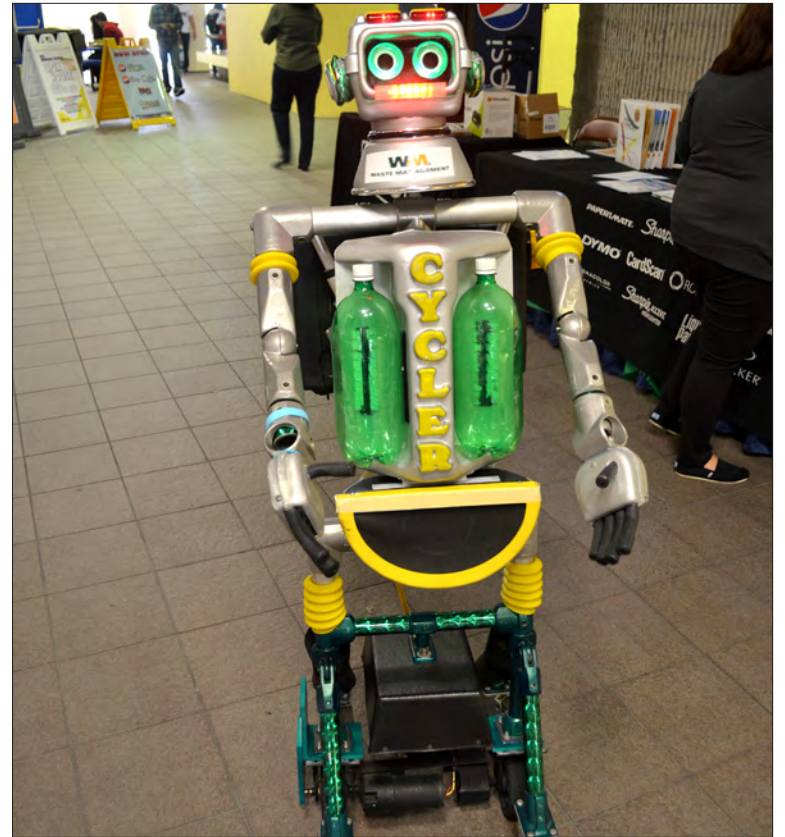
ation, screenings held by the American Heart Association, Aventura Hospital and Medical Center, Mount Sinai Medical Center and Eastside Chiropractic Center for things ranging from cholesterol to glucose will be held for students wishing to participate.

Students can get their fitness questions answered by personal trainers from the recreation center. They will have 100 free coupons for the students to try the personal training.

The event hopes to enlighten students on health and its effect on the educational experience and show them an appreciation for eating healthier foods and making responsible decisions regarding their body and active lifestyles.

There will be 30 vendors and sponsors expected to take part in the Expo.

NEW STUDENT ON CAMPUS



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Cyclor, a remote controlled robot, rolled around Academic One during the University’s Sustainability Day, interacting with students as they headed to class.

Ghosts of professors past give students a playful fright

BARBARA CORBELLINI DUARTE
Contributing Writer

The Student Alumni Association hosted the Ghost Tours on Oct. 20. The tours took place

on Biscayne Bay Campus principal buildings, Chaplin School of Hospitality Tourism Management, Marine Science Building and the Wolf University Center.

Students started arriving around 7 p.m. and were asked to

sign a waiver, taking responsibility for the risks they were about to take. The SAA organized three tours, which had an average of 10 students participating in each of them.

“The Ghost Tours is a

Halloween themed event when we transform the campus into a gigantic haunted house. This year we have a story that involves the School of Journalism and Mass Communications; it’s a tale of betrayal, murder and redemption,” explained the director of Ghost Tours, Gregory Jean-Baptiste, senior, computer science major.

This was the second year the Ghost Tours has been at BBC.

The tour guide told a story about a rumor involving Maxwell, a professor that used to change the grades of the grammar exam.

“Because of some miscommunications after the grammar exam, he got fired. Now Maxwell’s ghost haunts our campus every Halloween and claims three victims as an act of revenge,” explained Anastasia Seldinskaya, sophomore majoring in international business, in the beginning of the first tour.

During the tour, students received a survival kit, with snacks and candy. The tour started

behind the Hospitality building and moved around BBC.

When entering the Marine and Science building, one of the tour guides, Zahra Arbabi Askari, SAA President, warned the students, “there are classes going on right now, so please be quiet.” Yet, the students were surprised and scared several times.

While walking around the bay area, the participants testified a staged murder scene, set up by the SAA. The ghost of Maxwell stalked the group throughout the buildings, and kidnapping random students during the tour.

The tour ended with a video testimonial from the students that accused Professor Maxwell of changing the grades.

After each tour, the participants were offered pizza, snacks, drinks and giveaways.

Jean-Baptiste affirmed, “We plan to make this a tradition. Hopefully next year, we will be able to side-step some of the technical issues we had this year.”

DIVERSE ENSEMBLE



ANA TERESA DELIZ/THE BEACON

Left to Right: Allison Howard, sophomore, biology, Fang Shu, hospitality management, graduate student, Gene Yllanes, sophomore, undecided, Dante Williams, senior, hospitality management, perform at WUC Panther Square during Diversity Day.



BARBARA DUARTE/THE BEACON

Michael Aquino, SOC vice president, gives students a tour of BBC as part of SAA’s Ghost Tours.