

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

New major program set to launch in 2012

LAUREN ROVIRA
Staff Writer

In an effort to improve the University's lackluster graduation rate, Doug Robertson, dean of undergraduate education, has headed the establishment of a new program called MyMajor to ensure that students are matriculated, or accepted into school, with a set plan and have ready academic advising at their disposal from the moment they enter as freshmen.

According to Robertson, the six-year graduation rate at the University stands at 43 percent, which is nine points lower than the average rate in the country for all four-year institutions.

"Students are staying, but they're not taking the right courses," Robertson said. "Data suggests if students are placed in appropriate majors as soon as possible their chances of graduation are much higher."

The new system will be put in effect in its entirety in fall 2012. It consists of three major components.

The MyMajor.fiu.edu website which already available and is connected to a search system that works through a retail shopping-esque function.

MyMajorMatch, which will be optional for incoming students, will serve to place students into majors that befit the students' personalities, goals and interests by subjecting them to a questionnaire.

MyEadvisors.com is a component that has yet to be entirely devel-

oped but seeks the goal of having an all-professional advising model where there would be approximately 300 students per adviser by 2014. Currently, the University's student to adviser ratio in 2009 was 557 to 1, according to the 2010 Work Plan/Proposal.

In the revision for 2011, data showed there were 33 advisers total between those newly hired and those retained.

For fiscal year 2011-2012, 18 new advisers were hired; in the next three years the University aspires to hire 40 more.

The advisers would have access to students' universal advising record, which is meant to eliminate students getting multiple stories from advisers.

They would also be commissioned to send messages to students who deviate from the track provided to them after their major has been chosen.

Charlie Andrews, director of the academic advising center in Undergraduate Education made it clear that no one solution exists for this issue.

"While no tool or assessment can provide all the answers, the MyMajorMatch tool, that FIU is utilizing, was developed using over 70 years of research on the ways that a person's interests and abilities are linked to success in his/her chosen career," Andrews said. "There are a number of factors that contribute to how students select a major and the careers that individuals decide to pursue."

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OCCUPY THE FOUNTAIN



SHAWN STEVENS/THE BEACON

Pedro Guillen, a business administration major and Sabrina Marcinski, a chemistry major protested outside of GC against the extra fees for online classes.

ACADEMIC PLANNING

Glitch found in student data

BROOKLYN MIDDLETON
Staff Writer

Nothing was lost. But technically, it was lost.

This was how Elizabeth Béjar, vice provost for Academic Planning and Accountability, described a data "glitch" that, as of Oct. 10, resulted in approximately 300 students who applied for fall 2011 commencement not being registered in the system.

Students who applied for a commencement pass received a success message that they were registered for the ceremony, but the system actually did not retain their information.

The technical error affects students who registered as far

back as Sept. 28, the first day registration was open for fall 2011 commencement and guest passes.

University Technology Services has been "data mining," meaning they have been manually going through the database of approximately 2,400 students, to find which students have been affected.

The technical error is thought to have occurred in the last month, when UTS modified a code in the online student commencement survey that resulted in a partial loss of students who had registered for a commencement pass and purchased guest passes.

Student Media called UTS for comment but was referred back

to Béjar.

Students who happened to double check their commencement registrations with the registrar, only to see they were not recorded, alerted UTS that a possible glitch had occurred. Béjar said they started researching the matter immediately.

In regard to why the University waited until the end of the commencement deadline to announce that there had been an error, Béjar responded, "In part it was coincidence. It was only open for a week so we waited until we really understood everything. What we didn't know is if there were multiple situations

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FOOTBALL

FIU defense to be tested in road game

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

One season ago, Nov. 27 at home versus Arkansas State, FIU clinched for the first time in program history the Sun Belt championship.

On Oct. 18, the Red Wolves (4-2, 2-0 SBC) and Golden Panthers (4-2, 1-1 SBC) will play for the first time since that historic night in Jonesboro, Ark. at 8 p.m. on ESPN2.

ASU brings back many of the same impact players that they had last year when they finished with a

conference record of 4-4.

Junior quarterback Ryan Aplin is number one in completion percentage in the Sun Belt at 66 percent, while also making great use of his legs by having the most carries on the team at 62 rushes for 177 yards and one touchdown.

"He's a guy that you have to be on point in terms of your assignments, your discipline, and you certainly have to hustle towards the football because he can break it on you," said head coach Mario Cristobal.

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COMING UP | **At the Bay**

Check out the Oct. 19 issue for coverage of the "Meet Your Dean" event where students talk to their Journalism, Hospitality Management, Arts & Sciences, Business and Honors College deans.

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Police open fire on couple at South Fla. mall

Authorities say a man and woman tried to run down police officers, who then fired at their fleeing vehicle in the parking lot of Miami's Dolphin Mall.

The shooting happened Thursday night as the mall was crowded with shoppers and diners.

The Miami Herald reports police confronted the couple, who they suspected of committing fraud at Saks Fifth Avenue. The couple got into a confrontation with an officer, throwing him to the ground.

Another officer opened fire as the woman took off, weaving in and out of traffic.

NATIONAL

Deal struck to rebuild NY church destroyed on 9/11

It took a decade, but a deal has finally been struck to rebuild a church destroyed on 9/11, the church and a public agency announced Friday.

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey said they have resolved their long dispute over how to rebuild St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, a small, 85-year-old chapel that stood across the street from the World Trade Center and was destroyed when the towers fell.

The church and the public agency had been at odds over the details of a land swap that will move the church slightly down the street to make way for some of the giant construction projects now under way at ground zero.

WORLD

EU considering massive cuts to food aid for poor

The European Union is considering a roughly 75 percent cut in funding for a program that helps feed 18 million of its poorest citizens.

The cuts, set to take effect after New Year's, would come at a time of rising unemployment and consumer food prices in many parts of Europe, as well as overall economic turmoil on the continent. The looming cuts already have raised fears among people who rely heavily on the program.

"We poor, small people, we cannot face up to this," said Rene Waltener, 41, who is unemployed and married with four children. "We sometimes have difficulties getting through the month, so a bit of milk here, a tin of cassoulet, a bit of yogurt — the kids are happy with that and it allows us to continue."

— Compiled by Melissa Caceres

UNIVERSITY POLICE

Theft cases reduce since last year

PATRIK SIMMONS
Staff Writer

Students that spend their time in many of the University's lounges and study areas may have noticed signs cautioning them about leaving their property unattended. But that still has not stopped thefts from occurring on campus.

"The majority of our thefts tend to occur in the Green Library or the Graham Center, like in the computer lab or the general areas of GC," said Alexander Casas, chief of FIU Police.

There have been 65 reported cases of on-campus thefts between Sept. 1 and Oct. 5, according to a case log, which can be found online on the FIU Police website.

"Usually, [the thefts occur] when someone gets up to go to the restroom, or they claim a good spot in the library and go to lunch. They leave their laptops or their books," he said.

Those numbers have, however, improved since last year.

"The same month last year we had 76 cases, so they actually went down. Those are numbers that are consistent with our student population. We had less than last year even though we have more students this year, so the numbers are going in a great direction."

A similar amount of thefts have occurred on the campuses of other Florida universities.

"If you look at FSU and UCF, FSU had 67 and UCF had 56 [in September]."

According to Casas, most thefts occur during the fall semester because of incoming students, especially freshmen.

"Freshmen are excited about being here. They get caught up with their friends

and they'll leave their stuff hanging around. They haven't learned yet that they need to be aware and mindful of their property."

But he advised that freshmen students are not the only victims.

"It can happen to anybody. You can be in the line at the Bustelo station in GC and have left your backpack at a table right behind you, and in that minute, when you have a large number of people in one area, and it's congested, it's hard to see what every body's doing," he stressed.

Casas has a few helpful tips to prevent someone's property from being stolen.

"The number one tip we give everybody is be aware of their surroundings. Take a little responsibility for your property. Do not leave your stuff unattended. Keep track of the serial numbers of your property. Write your name on the cover of the book you bought. You can do those things to make an opportunist go somewhere else."

He also suggests that, if a student owns a smart phone, they should install any app that will help track down the device in case it is ever stolen.

For example, BlackBerry Protect, which is a BlackBerry-exclusive downloadable app, uses GPS to track down a BlackBerry device, and allows its owner to see the location on a map. It also allows the owner to log on the app's website and lock the device remotely, preventing the thief from further using the device if the owner did not have a password in place originally.

Casas said that if a student realizes they have become a victim of theft, they should call FIU Police immediately and file a report.

"First thing we do is try to get whatever identifying characteristics you have. We'll check local pawn shops. We'll look at any surveillance video we may have."

It can take anywhere between three days to a month and a half to solve a theft case.

"When you're talking about a person's crime, like a battery, it's very easy. Even if you don't know the person's name, you can describe the person — and we have leads to work from. But when no one sees what happened [like in cases of theft], it's difficult."

Due to the nature of many cases of theft, however, most do not get solved.

"Typically, not a whole lot of [cases] get closed. The only ones we tend to have leads on are when laptops are stolen. Even if we have surveillance video, it just shows somebody walking out with a backpack. Nothing is saying that it is your backpack they walked out with."

Through previous cases, Casas has learned that students have better luck in retrieving their stolen product if they own an Apple device.

"We have a lot of success with Apple [devices] because of the way they register their information. We can go to the Apple Store and see if this particular laptop has been registered by somebody else."

Casas hopes that an increase in visibility of police officers on campus will decrease the numbers of thefts that occur in the future.

"We're doing more foot patrol. I believe in that. That does have a deterrent effect. That visibility may deter a few."

Patrik Simmons is the beat reporter covering FIU Police, Public Safety and Parking and Transportation.

Program set to help graduation rate

MYMAJOR, page 1

Andrews went on to say, "This tool will hopefully guide students to consider careers that people with their same interests

have found to be a good fit for them."

This change is a part of greater plan called the "Graduation Success Initiative."

Robertson said, "the grand concept here is that once we get students on the path it becomes data for a planning tool."

The second purpose for the tool is to "eliminate having students wait a year to graduate because they can't get into a particular class," Robertson said. "Through this, we can anticipate the demand for certain classes as we will have their paths to look to for data about where they should all be and when."

William Berry, an adjunct professor of psychology, agreed.

"Perhaps pushing students into a major will cut down on their expense as well as intro-

duce them to a topic they seem suited for," said Berry.

In accord with the administrators, advisers and Berry, Yordan Martinez, a senior at G. Holmes Braddock Senior High explained, he felt the new system would be beneficial to his future college career as he is unsure of what it is he would like to do.

"A little guidance never hurt anyone," he said, "and getting placed into a program of study that suits me sounds like something I'd like. I'm not sure what there is to choose from, having a system figure that out for me is definitely something worth my time."

The system is based on an optional 60 question online vocational interest assessment. The responses the students give to the questions will provide them with the top five

choices among 16 total clusters of majors offered by O-Net Online. It is customized to feed into majors offered at the University.

A student can choose his or her own major prior to deciding on following a path prescribed by the system, or can opt to seek out a major in one of the six branches in what will become "exploratory studies."

This latter most option is for those students who are entirely undecided and wish to pursue a major outside those recommended by O-Net and the MyMajors system.

"We're making investments to support growth," Robertson said. "Letting students explore on their own has not been productive; we're trying to show them the path and give them immediate feedback, if and when they get off it."

UTS addresses data issue

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or [if there were] common characteristics."

The common characteristic was that the students were affected after UTS changed a technological code.

The deadline to apply

for a commencement pass, which ended Oct. 10, will be extended until Oct. 19 for students affected by the error. All students affected will still be able to participate in commencement and purchase guest passes.

Academic Planning will send out notification to

students affected, encouraging all students who applied to double check with the graduation office to make sure they are registered for commencement.

The University will continue researching the matter so as Béjar said "we don't lose anybody."

THE BEACON

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FOOTBALL

Record-breaking season hits crossroads at Arkansas State

For the Golden Panthers' offense, good is an understatement. This season, the offense has shattered the record books.

COMMENTARY

BRANDON WISE

Darriet Perry has set the record for rushing touchdowns in a career with 26.

T.Y. Hilton set the record for receptions in a game with 12, and the team itself is off to its best start ever at 4-2.

The offense has been able to carry the team this season. Wesley Carroll is in the midst of his greatest collegiate season of his career.

Through six games this season, he has 1,232 yards and six touchdowns, with a completion percentage of 63.8. Meaning, he is finding receivers at a more efficient rate than last year.

The receiving core has been solidified. T.Y. Hilton has continued to etch his



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Darriet Perry [above, #28] is one of a few Golden Panthers who have broken record in FIU's best start in program history.

name in the program's record books.

He currently holds nine school records, which is

sure to jump up by the end of this season. The best player in school history is only getting better with

each game.

A nice complement to the senior has been the emergence of Wayne Times.

When the Golden Panthers have needed someone to step up under the gun, the junior has been right on

time.

Picking up 308 yards on 30 catches and one touchdown, Times has proven that if defenses want to lock in and blanket Hilton, he will find holes and expose them quickly.

All of this means that Carroll has more opportunities to open up the passing game and turn it into a true aerial assault. If the redshirt senior can keep this up, he is on pace to break his own record for passing yards in a season.

Not only has the passing attack proven itself this season. The ground game has found its two horses to carry the load: Perry and Kedrick Rhodes.

The tandem has combined for 834 yards and 11 touchdowns. It is almost as if we are seeing the past and future of the running back position at FIU battling it out each and every week to prove who is better.

Perry has laid the found-

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FIU looks to pull even with Red Wolves in standings



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

With a win on Oct. 18, the Golden Panthers would be tied for second in the conference along with the Red Wolves.

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him and stay disciplined."

He is not the only threat on the ground though, as a new face for the Red Wolves, redshirt freshman running back Frankie Jackson, has carried the ball 40 times for 190 yards in only four games.

He had missed two straight games before last week due to a high ankle sprain. In fact, running backs Derek Lawson, Jermaine Robertson and Andre Smith all have over 20 touches this season along with Jackson, giving the Red Wolves a stable of running backs.

The bigger threat this year for their offense, however, has been from the top three wide receivers, Dwayne Frampton (47 rec, 606 yards, 3 touchdowns), Josh Jarobe (30 rec, 413 yards, 2 touchdowns) and Taylor Stockemer (21 rec, 332 yards, 1 touchdown). Together they have helped make ASU number one in passing yards on the season for the Sun Belt with 1,821.

"We can't wait, it's a great challenge for us and we're just ready for the opportunity to run our coverage's and play great defense against these great receivers," said Cyprien. "Against Frampton we just plan on playing off, playing press and mixing it up on different coverage's.

When we're in, man we just got to keep our eyes on

the defense has been able to complement the offense's success thus far by being the number one team in the conference in pass defense with opponents completing only 54 percent of their passes and causing eight interceptions.

Also, not one rusher has been able to go over the 100-yard mark against them either.

Defensive end Brandon Joiner has been able to help disrupt opponents passing game by becoming an elite pass rusher for the Wolves. Through the last ten games he has played in, going back to last season, he has 7.5 sacks in all, with 3.5 coming from this season alone.

"He's had about 10 sacks in his career, and most of them have come in the last 10 or 11 games so he's a guy who's gotten really hot, and I think he's their guy this year outside," Cristobal said.

Cristobal knows how important each conference game will be for his team from here on out and compared it to what could be considered the playoffs starting now.

"As competitive and as much parity as there is in the conference, I think every single game is going to have those playoff implications and feel to it and that's what makes it such a great conference," said Cristobal.

GAMEDAY PREDICTIONS



Igor Mello

FIU 31, ASU 27:

If you want to jump over the top of the standings, you have to beat the teams ahead of you. The secondary will finally step up and contain ASU quarterback Ryan Aplin. Look for the defense to create some turnovers against Aplin.



Joel Delgado

ASU 31, FIU 20:

Ryan Aplin is the best quarterback in the Sun Belt Conference and he should be picking on FIU's shaky pass defense all season long. The Red Wolves also have home-field advantage and head into this game with a lot of momentum.



Rico Albarracin

FIU 34, ASU 24:

The Golden Panthers have been superb on the road. This game will be no different, as the defense will step up, T.Y. Hilton will cause a disruption and Darriet Perry will run for big yards.



Brandon Wise

ASU 41, FIU 34:

Ryan Aplin has been tearing up defenses all season. With the secondary already being a concern, FIU will have one of their toughest tasks of the season. The Wolves will take this one in a shootout.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Practice begins with season looming

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Staff Writer

With a month to go until their season opener against George Mason at the NIT Season Tip Off, the Golden Panthers took to the courts on Oct. 15 for their first official practice.

For most of the players, the beginning of practice was welcomed.

"I'm excited. Basically the new season is a month away," said freshman Gilles Dierickx.

The value of the offseason conditioning should play into the tempo of basketball that the Golden Panthers expect to play this season.

"The preseason was good," said senior guard DeJuan Wright. "We did a lot of extra conditioning to get prepared for the season so we can hit the wings hard and play a lot of good solid defense. Preseason conditioning was great."

The Golden Panthers entered their first practice in relatively good health.

"I am very excited to start," head coach Isiah Thomas said of practice. "Everyone will be healthy."

Although Wright sustained a knee injury back in August, he feels that he is good to



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Dominique Ferguson [right] enters his second year with FIU.

practice.

"I feel great. I did a lot of rehabbing and I am a 100 percent ready to go."

Added Size

The Golden Panthers were able to add size to their frontcourt with the addition of Dierickx. He spoke about how he has adjusted to the jump from the high school level to Division-I basketball and the work he has put in with the Golden Panthers and the strength and conditioning of coach Roderick Moore.

"It's been going pretty well. The first couple of weeks they

were hard," Dierickx said. "Coach Moore really pushes us."

Dierickx is only one of three players on the roster listed over 6'9". He, along with Dominique Ferguson and Brandon Moore, will most likely fill out the big man rotation.

Dierickx's main focus was to continue to prepare himself for any amount of playing time. "I just need to keep working, try to put on weight and work hard in practice."

More Chances

Underclassmen like sophomores Ferguson and Phil

Taylor will have expanded opportunities to contribute for the Golden Panthers. Ferguson was a contributor last season, especially in the frontcourt for the Golden Panthers as he averaged 7.1 points per game and 4.8 rebounds per game in the 20 games he played in.

"I just try to keep it simple," Ferguson said. "My role is to help us win as much as I can with anything I can do on the court."

Last season, Taylor averaged 21 minutes per game and 7.3 points per game. In conference play, his scoring average jumped up to 8.4 points per game.

This season, Taylor is expected to have more playing time at point guard next to Wright in the backcourt.

"We definitely expect leadership out of him," Thomas said of Taylor. "We want him to set the defense and set the tone on offense."

The starting lineup for the Golden Panthers will have some open slots to be filled. At this early stage of the season, coach Thomas wants his players to compete for any open spots that are available.

"Every position is open," Thomas said. "We have no set rotation."

Red Wolves silence critics in fast start

COLUMN, page 3

dation for the position, running for 1,664 through his career up to this point.

However, Rhodes could challenge some of the records that Perry holds. The sophomore has already racked up 518 yards this season, averaging nearly five yards per carry.

With another two seasons for Rhodes, the sky is the limit to show how great he will become.

The offense this season has been like Allstate Insurance, always in good hands.

For the defense, the offense has been their insurance, keeping the team in the games.

This week, the Golden Panthers head to one of its toughest opponents of the season, the Arkansas State Red Wolves.

The fast start by FIU was somewhat expected this year, but no one really gave the Red Wolves a chance this year.

Predicted to finish fifth in the conference by the

coaches of the Sun Belt, Arkansas State has been silencing critics all season long.

The challenge this week will be non stopping, but trying to slow down the prolific passing attack of Ryan Aplin and the receiving core for the Red Wolves.

As great as Carroll has been this season, Aplin has been that much better, throwing for 1,646 yards and six touchdowns.

With a wary secondary already, Aplin should have a field day against the Golden Panthers.

The secondary has to step up its game and show Aplin that he cannot do whatever he wants out there.

They must be able to contain Dewayne Frampton and the rest of the Red Wolves' receivers from getting down field and behind them.

Otherwise, it will turn into another Sun Belt shootout where it could come down to who has the ball last with a chance to score as time expires.

ADAM LEVINE
LEAD SINGER
MAROON 5

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VYV-02962 07/11

Students promote environmental sustainability

SYLVIA SIMIONI
Staff Writer

Like many other institutions, the University takes its environmental activism seriously.

Its previous Sustainability Committee, dedicated to green initiatives around campus, evolved into the Office of Sustainability in April of this year.

In 2007, former President Modesto Maidique signed the American Colleges and University Presidents Climate Commitment, which entails the University's plans to reduce its carbon footprint, according to Alexandra Dutton, program assistant of the Office.

"Our goal is to eventually reach climate neutrality, meaning a zero carbon footprint," said Dutton. "We don't know when this will happen; it will take a lot of work."

Such work includes the inauguration of the University's first annual Campus Sustainability Day, which is held during Energy Conservation Week. Students will be taught tips on how to conserve energy and save money.

On Oct. 19 at MMC, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., students will have the opportunity to visit eco-vendor tables at the Graham Center, where they will be asked to participate in sustainability-based interactive activities and will be offered environmentally friendly products.



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

Bhaduri Madhi, a graduate student studying Asian studies, and Rob Freyre, a sociology major speak to Juliet Phillippe, a junior studying biology, about the Farm Fresh Miami program at the Farmer's Market.

Dutton added, "In the Pit, we will be having an elliptical machine that will be hooked to an unnamed device, with the aim of powering it. We expect students to enjoy trying it out."

"There will also be a table on vampire energy" in celebration of Halloween.

From 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., students and staff will be invited to attend the Green Jobs Panel Lunch and Learn at GC 140. The workshop will instill in its attendants knowledge about green jobs in the work force.

"We're dedicated to educating students, faculty and staff on the policies and procedures of promoting

a green lifestyle. We want to incorporate in students the possibility of having a career that will help improve the environment."

Students will also be able to browse the stands and buy organic produce at the weekly Farmer's Market from noon to 3 p.m. near the main entrance of the Green Library.

In the evening, from 6 to 8 p.m., the celebration will end with the Home Energy Savings Workshop, which will be held at the Campus Support Complex in Room 1123.

Together with Dream in Green, a Miami-Dade County-affiliated program, the Office of Sustainability

will inform residents on energy efficiency and conservation, and it will also provide homeowners with the information and resources to reduce their utility costs and carbon emissions.

"Participants will receive a free energy savings toolkit valued at over \$100," states the Miami-Dade Feedback website. Seats are limited.

Campus Sustainability Day will conclude its events with the Eco Fair at BBC on Oct. 20. A chance to win prizes and other green-related activities will be held at the Academic 2 building from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Student clubs affiliated with

the events and with the Sustainability office include Panthers Going Green, Garden Club, Farmers Market Consortium, the Student Government Association and Green Management Consulting Organization -- among others.

OfficeMax, Waste Management Inc. and South Florida Water Management District will also sponsor the workshops. The University's efforts in inducing environment awareness have been commended.

"I am glad that our committee has expanded into an office," Dutton remarked. "FIU is required to report greenhouse emission inventories every two years. We have projects planned with the focus of reducing our carbon footprint -- these factors called for the need of a full-time office."

According to the FIU GoGreen website, the University is number one in energy efficiency in the Florida State University System, and it is also the first school to become an Arbor Day's Foundation's Tree Campus USA.

Tree Campus USA recognizes colleges and universities for promoting urban forest management and engaging the campus community in environmental stewardship.

"Most importantly, however, our establishment signals the University's growing exposure to global environmental issues. We want to ensure students and faculty maintain that understanding."

COVER TO COVER

"Sarah's Key" story of french oppression

In Paris, during 1942, approximately 13,000 Jews were arrested and sent to so-called work camps -- but not by German Nazis.

COLUMNIST



KELLY MALAMBRI

In the Parisian-Jewish community, the French police sent thousands to concentration camps, which eventually took them to Auschwitz. The majority of the Jews killed due to the Velodrome d'Hiver roundup were women and children.

Tatiana De Rosnay's novel, "Sarah's Key," tells the story of Sarah Starzynski, a French Jewish girl, and Julia Jarmond, the journalist that uncovered the child's horrific story.

De Rosnay's book takes readers through the events of the little-discussed French occurrence, code-named Operation Spring Breeze. The New York

Times best-seller begins with the night that Sarah and her family were arrested. Told by her parents they would be back home before she realized, Sarah locked her younger brother Michel in a secret cubbyhole in an attempt to protect him. She eventually escapes from Auschwitz, but does not make it back to Paris in time to save her brother.

Throughout the first half of the novel, De Rosnay switches between the story of Jarmond and Starzynski -- and she kept my attention by doing so. The author also keeps her chapters short and sweet; each chapter was about three to four pages. By breaking up the story in this way, she keeps the reader captivated.

De Rosnay uses the approach many drama television programs use: she turns your attention away from the story of one character at moments that leave you dying, which causes you to continue turning the pages to find out what

SARAH'S KEY, page 6

Coming out day brings together participating LGBT community

ALFREDO APARICIO
Staff Writer

If it were only as easy as walking through a door.

That's what Luigi Ferrer, program director of Pridelines Youth Services, hopes students realize about National Coming Out Day, held on Oct. 11 in the Graham Center pit.

"FIU has a long history of working with LGBT students, and I hope this event creates visibility of the issues which students are facing daily," Ferrer said. "It's still hard for a student to come out in their academic life because it will follow them. And we still see students attempting suicide because of these issues, so letting others know is important."

The event, which brought together various on- and off-campus organizations, such as Stonewall Pride Alliance, Pridelines Youth Services and Switchboard of Miami, served the double duty of providing engaging activities for all those in attendance while presenting educational materials that shed light on common LGBT issues.

Ferrer, who has been involved with the Pridelines (Since we

have a break before continuing with the same source) for 25 years, is proud of the work that has been accomplished in creating the only drop-in center in Miami-Dade and Broward County for LGBT youth, which now includes the David Bohnett Cyber Center, where students have access to the internet, laser color printers and

that they become leaders in their own right," Ferrer said.

Youth Treasurer Alex Febres, a sophomore and English major, got involved with Pridelines when he was in high school. He later became treasurer of the youth council of the organization and created the Spirit Day Candlelight Vigil in remembrance of those who have been killed or committed suicide because of bullying.

"I myself faced homelessness at the age of 15 when I came out to my mom. She's very religious so it's a daily struggle," recounted Febres. "With Pridelines, I have been able to help those who need it; I have met a lot of homeless youth who need a hot meal and a place to stay."

Elvira Velez, the former director of the Health Care and Wellness Center in Biscayne Bay Campus, noted the importance of educating students on campus about health and sex.

"I used to go in the residence halls and have sessions about sexuality in which students were encouraged to come and ask questions in an environment that

COMING OUT, page 6

“People have been very accepting of who I am, whether it be students or teachers.”
Junior Marcus Ramirez
Junior majoring in social work

a lending library.
“The most satisfying thing is when I see kids which come to us in a crisis and seeing them progress to the point where they have a stable life with college and are participating actively to the point

CHANNEL SURFING

Thriller series "Homeland" potential television gold

COLUMNIST



SANAH FEROKE

are premiering soon. It is like TV

Many shows we have grown attached to are coming to an end. With the fall season in full swing, new shows with a potential for bigger impact are premiering soon. It is like TV networks have remembered that school is in session, and viewers have got their thinking caps on. Trust me, we will need them for some of these shows.

Thriller: "Homeland"
Showtime, Sundays
10 p.m.

Sundays have a whole new meaning now that I watch this show religiously. "Homeland" is one of

those shows that will be more than a hit -- but legendary like "Dexter." It has a modern-day plot with a fusion of CIA detective work, compliments of Claire Danes's character, Carrie Mathison.

After eight years of captivity, U.S. Marine Nicholas Brody is free from the clutches of al-Qaida. While Nick is seen as a hero, Carrie thinks he may be a terrorist after a tip she got from a Baghdad prisoner destined for

execution. She goes to great lengths to reveal the man beneath the Marine uniform.

Wit acts as comic relief within the abyss of solemnity and pressing seriousness when discovering the truth: which side the troop has currently taken -- the U.S.'s or al-Qaida's. Because the plot intertwines with the current political atmosphere, and the show has an audience that believes that an ongoing war with the Middle

East will hopefully come to an end soon, the show is relevant to our lives in some way, even if we are not directly connected with the Marine Corps or to the CIA.

To continue Channel
 Surfing, visit

www.FIUSM.com

Journalist uncovers the tragic story of young Jewish girl

SARAH'S KEY, page 5

happens next.

Jarmond stumbles upon the girl's story while working on an article for the fictional American magazine she writes for, Seine Scenes.

She finds out that Sarah eventually went back to the home where she left her brother, only to find his rotting body in the cupboard; she had held the key in her possession

for weeks. To top off the intricate plot, Jarmond's in-laws have been living in that very house for years.

De Rosnay's prose is merciless: "He was stiff, curled up, his face resting upon his hands. He had gone a horrible, green color." The conclusion is tied up neatly. William, Sarah's son, reveals to Julia that his mother killed herself because she was continuously haunted by the pain of Auschwitz and

the memory of her brother. The story closes with the two of them crying together; they reflect the pain that has gone unrecognized for so long by so many -- including the French.

Although all of the characters in the novel are fictional, the event discussed, now referred to as the roundup of Vel' d'Hiv, did take place in Paris in July 1942. The event occurred due to an alliance the French and Germans had at the

time.

The Jews in Paris suspected that the French police would come to arrest the adult men, so the women and children did not hide. However, they did not expect that every Jew would be a target.

With quotas to fill and not enough bodies to count, the French police turned to collecting women and children, like Sarah Starzynski.

The haunting novel left

me feeling disheartened not only for the tragedy of the Vel' d'Hiv roundup and Auschwitz in general, but because I had no previous knowledge of the event.

In any history or international relations class I have taken, the subject has never come up. According to the novel, it is a topic that even many young Parisians are not familiar with.

Because of the unfamil-

ilarity to this historic event, I believe those at the University and all others elsewhere should read "Sarah's Key" in order to learn more about the horrific and important event they might not know about. Besides that, this book should be read simply because it is an excellent read.

Cover to cover is a biweekly book review column. Look for it every Friday this fall.

Coming out day shines light on respect among students

COMING OUT, page 5

was understanding and not judgmental," Velez said.

Velez, whose own cousin was ostracized for being gay, was sensitized early

on about the issues in the community.

"I remember being at the forefront of the AIDS epidemic and having to come together as a University to educate students on what was going on. Condoms were a taboo at the time, but by being able to put

them out in the Health Clinic, it became a normal idea."

Nan Van Den Bergh, an associate professor of the School of Social Work and founder of Area Resource and Referral Organization for Women, was shocked to find the limited resources available to lesbian women during her own battle with cancer in 2003.

"Lesbian women are at greater risk for breast, lung and gynecological cancers and cardiovascular disease than straight women mainly because they have faced discrimination in the past or fear discrimination," said Van Den Bergh. "ARROW aims to provide a health care resource for LBT women and teach health care providers how to be culturally sensitive."

Marcus Ramirez, a junior majoring in social work, described his experience as a transgender student on campus as positive, but noticed a lack of events for transgender students, despite their growing power.

"The main thing for me is for people to learn that everyone is human and deserves respect," Ramirez said. "Coming to these events puts a face to the LGBT community, and those who get involved see that we are real people with real problems."

Tony Martinez, who works with Switchboard of Miami, has seen that educating youth goes a long way. A new program at Switchboard, Project Protect, has been created to educate college students on the effects of unsafe sex and substance abuse.

"For now, we are focused on Florida Memorial University, because the zip code where the university is located has seen high numbers of STDs and substance users," explained Martinez. "We have created a Dimensions of Wellness workshop, which is kind of like a first-year experience course, and we present the information in nonthreatening ways, like flash mobs, as a way for students to enjoy themselves while learning."

For Zoe Russia, a freshman and architecture major, coming out to her parents in Venezuela via Skype continues to be a daily challenge. "They told me to stay here and hoped that I wouldn't get AIDS. They called the next day to apologize, but I am taking it day by day. I know they love me, and I try to always keep communication open. I feel the event had a lot of acceptance on campus, though, [with] a lot of people asking questions and signing up for organizations. It's rare that I am even in GC, but I'm glad I came."



Plan To Attend:

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY, OCT. 17

- **Graduate Information Session - Online:** 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Online
- **Cover Letters & Writing for Business Workshop:** 10 a.m., MMC CBC 123
- **Meet Your Dean:** 12-3 p.m., BBC WUC 223
- **Yoga:** 3-4:30 p.m., BBC Recreation Center

TUESDAY, OCT. 18

- **Nature Preserve Volunteer Day:** 8-11 a.m., FIU Nature Preserve
- **Robert Kegan Interactive Workshop:** 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., MMC CBC 232
- **Tuesday Times Roundtable: Occupying Wall Street:** 12:30-1:30 p.m., MMC GC 150
- **FIU Football at Arkansas State:** 8-11 p.m., Jonesboro, Ark.

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

ECON WITH NEDA

Debit card charges, a possible hassle, but avoidable

With our debit cards, we have swiped our way through life. They are convenient, widely accepted and typically safe. Unlike a credit card, which offers a generous limit, a debit card does not lead us into temptation every time we go to the mall.

COLUMNIST



NEDA GHOMESHI

For a while, banks did not charge a fee for the use of debit cards; however, that has recently changed. Now, most customers are required to pay an additional fee each month, if they choose to make a purchase with their debit card. This is an additional financial burden added to our college lives.

Recently, banks have been surprising customers with the unpleasant news of additional fees. According to the Wall Street Journal, Bank of America recently announced it will charge most customers who use their debit cards for purchases a flat \$5 monthly fee. Although Citigroup is not charging for debit card use, they are raising banks fees by requiring a \$1,500 minimum balance on basic checking accounts. Chase and Wells Fargo are also testing \$3 monthly debit card fees in select markets.

This sudden desire to charge customers is not unwarranted, though. On Oct. 1, The Federal Reserve implemented a rule, which limits fees that card networks charge merchants to 21 cents per transaction -- about half the average that retailers have paid in the past. In response to this new rule, banks are trying to make up some of the \$8

“We should begin considering alternative ways to make our purchases to avoid these tedious fees.”

billion they stand to lose. To banks, this is a solution to their loss - for customers like us, this is a new problem.

Although these charges have not been implemented yet, and banks are not releasing enough information, we should begin considering alternative ways to make our purchases to avoid these unreasonable fees. Even though these new charges are overwhelming, we can avoid them.

The fee is only applied if we make a purchase with our debit card, so we can still withdraw money from our account with no monthly charge. Students should take advantage of paying with cash.

Smaller banks and credit unions have not made any announcements regarding debit card fees. Actually, most credit unions are opposed to ever adding a debit card fee. Closing a bank account is a hassle, but worth the effort if the savings are justified, which is clearly the case here.

Many customers have already made the transition.

According to Credit Unions Online, Paul B. Stull, senior vice president of strategy and branding at Arizona State Credit Union, reports an overall customer increase of 20 percent since Bank of America's announcement. Stull said, "We have no plans to add a fee to our debit card."

Nothing is finalized yet. In fact, Representatives Jason Chaffetz, a Utah Republican, and Bill Owens, a New York Democrat, plan to introduce a measure to repeal the rule required by the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act. Since most banks are only introducing this new rule to cover losses from the Dodd-Frank Act, if it is repealed, many of these recent possible charges may also be retracted.

As students, we are on limited budgets and are always trying to avoid fees. If banks decide to charge us for using our debit card, we have some options to avoid them.

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

Hooking up now easier than ever

BROOKLYN MIDDLETON
Asst. Opinion Editor

The nervous, sweaty awkward hand-holding precluding a casual hookup has been conveniently replaced by social media. A Tumblr post reblogged with a witty reply is the candlelight dinner of our time and a Facebook photo comment with a winking smiley face is the 2011 equivalent of a walk on the beach prior to someone making the first move.

It may be sad for romantics, but social media makes it much easier to get laid. No need to talk about this pejoratively, though. It is simply in line with our modern culture of constant connectivity.

In Jan. 2011, ABC News reported that *Shape* magazine and *Men's Fitness* magazine conducted a survey that concluded, "80 percent of women say relationships lead to sex more quickly because it's so easy to stay connected and 58 percent of the men surveyed said flirting over Facebook, texts and Gchat helps them get women into the sack sooner."

The article went on to quote psychologist Dr. Dorree Lynn, who lambasted social media as a platform that encourages a false sense of intimacy. She states that social media serves as a disadvantage because it does not "teach people how to develop genuine relationships."

The flawed nature of her argument is two-fold. First, Dr. Lynn is assuming everyone who flirts on social media or is trying to get laid

is trying to develop a "genuine" relationship. This is a subjective term open to many interpretations, but it cop outs that non long-term relationships are in some way substandard or disingenuous.

“**Social media does not have to be seen negatively in regard to relationships so much as it should be viewed as inevitable.**”

This is false; the longevity of a relationship does not determine its ingenuity or impact. Furthermore, her argument leaves out the entire college demographic that typically fosters a culture that is more conducive to hooking up than to monogamous relationships.

Secondly, Dr. Lynn sounds out of touch with the evolution of communication. The constant interconnectedness we have with one another is unprecedented. Social media does not have to be seen negatively in regard to relationships so much as it should be viewed as inevitable. It is not only easier to communicate flirtatiously and intimately via private Twitter messages, in 180 characters or less, or on Facebook chat, but it is

more time efficient and perhaps even safer than going to a party or bar.

Also important is the veil of your online persona which, while not necessarily a mask or something to hide behind, is instead a more liberated, honest extension of oneself that allows for more expression of what you really want. For some, and I would argue for most, something that is particularly salacious is far more likely to be typed than it is to be spoken. So long as it is within one's own personal boundaries of what feels comfortable, this can be honest and refreshing.

Furthermore, social media allows for certain demographics of people to connect that may have not ever met otherwise. This has even more positive effects for LGBTQ youth who may, in the physical boundaries of their hometowns, have no one to converse or be intimate with.

With a myriad of social media platforms, and more specifically with Facebook groups that promote equality and sexual expression, LGBTQ youth now have access to people of the same sexual orientations.

Along with continuing the crusade for a more accepting society, online communities of various sexual orientations can help to abate feelings of isolation and loneliness.

The notion that unlimited connectivity can be negative for people's sex lives is relevant, but the opportunity, convenience and fluidity that social media and the Internet present far outweigh the negatives.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Diversity must increase in the democratic process

By some measures, the approval rating of Congress is at its lowest in American history. Commonly cited reasons for this include a lack of integrity among today's politicians, perverse influence by well-connected special interests, and an increasingly polarized and virtriotic political culture.

But there is something else to consider: the average legislator is a white male in their 50s or 60s that is primarily trained as a lawyer. In other words, our representatives hardly reflect the growing diversity of their own constituents. While you

don't necessarily need to relate to someone to represent them, it's clear that in these trying times we need more careers, ages, ethnic groups, and belief systems to be a part of our political process.

A democratic society needs all its ideas and perspectives on the table to better shape policy and solutions.

Diversity is no panacea, but given the obvious failings of the status quo, we need more of our voices to be heard.

-Romney Manassa
FIU Alum

VERBATIM

"Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere."

-Albert Einstein

"Hate and force cannot be in just a part of the world without having an effect on the rest of it."

-Eleanor Roosevelt

"What you are is what you have been. What you'll be is what you do now."

-Buddha

DISCLAIMER

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

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts in (500 word 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.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

‘All Nighter for the Poor’ raises funds for Haiti

NATHANIEL EDWARDS
Contributing Writer

For the fourth consecutive year, the Biscayne Bay Campus will participate in the “All Nighter for the Poor” event, a nationwide occasion held to commemorate World Food Day.

On Nov. 18, FIU will join colleges and universities around the nation to fight hunger and malnutrition.

According to the “All Nighter for the Poor” website, one in eight Haitian children die before the age of five, many of them dying from malnutrition.

“All Nighter for the Poor” is the brainchild of “Food for the Poor,” the largest international relief and development organization in the United States. The organization has raised money to help the poor of the Caribbean and Latin America through sustainable projects for over 28 years.

With the money earned from the fundraiser, The Food for the Poor organization works with the Haitian community to build a pond with pangasius fish, which can provide a fishing village in Haiti with a self-sustaining source of food, jobs and income.

They also help build irrigation systems and water wells in Haiti. The event will be held in the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms. The opening ceremony begins at 6:30 p.m. and the event, which lasts all night, will end at 7 a.m.

Student Programming Council

President, Catherine Vega, says that there will be a lot of activities that night for students to help raise money for Haiti.

The goal of the evening is to raise \$5,000 to make a pangasius pond in Haiti to help the agriculture of the village it is built in.

Given the proper feeding and management, pangasius, a member of the catfish family, can grow to be between two to three pounds in five to six months time, which is why it was chosen since it grows fast and is much easier to maintain than other fish, such as tilapia.

“We will be providing a lot of fun activities, such as laser tag and kayaking, so we expect a lot of students to come out and join us,” Vega said.

Leading up to the event, student organizations throughout campus are collecting money to fundraise for the event by setting up collection jars within their respective departments, high traffic areas and any other department willing to assist with the fundraising.

All the activities at the All-Nighter program will be free, but a suggested \$10 donation will be accepted. There will also be team competitions to raise money during the night.

There can be up to four people in a group, which can include any student, with some clubs joining in like SOC and SAA. SOC is in currently in the lead.

“I am proud and inspired to be running such an awesome organization,” Vega said.



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Craig Jean Baptiste, senior computer science major, spares some change for All Nighter for the Poor, in the collection jar located in the BBC Campus Life office. Collection jars will be located throughout BBC within department offices and high traffic areas.

University stays ‘Worlds Ahead’ with Diversity Day

STEPHANIE FELDMAN
Contributing Writer

Every day at the University it seems like Diversity Day, with students from all corners of the globe walking through the hallways, talking in a myriad of languages and all with different cultural and religious backgrounds.

In response to the diverse student body, Student Government Association has set up an event to honor and engage in issues relating to the diversity of society and the University’s student body.

On Oct. 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., all students will be invited to a Diversity Fair made up of different councils, panel speakers and performers, all with one goal

- to spread awareness and appreciation of diversity.

The event is being held at the Wolfe University Center’s Panther Square and is free to all students.

It begins with a meeting of multicultural organizations and councils from throughout the University, followed by a poetry reading and performance by spoken word artist Jason Carney, an award winning poet who has been featured on HBO’s “Russell Simmons Def Poets.”

For the past ten years, the University has incorporated different themes for Diversity Day.

This year’s theme will be homosexuality, with a focus on the intersection of religion and homosexuality.

While past Diversity Days have focused on the subjects of race and self-identity, this year’s discussion panel will tackle a more controversial subject matter, specifically the role that religion plays in gay/lesbian acceptance in society, legal rights and gay marriage.

This theme is especially poignant since there continues to be an ongoing struggle in the LGBT community for legal rights and acceptance, especially from within their respective religious communities.

Craig Cunningham, assistant director of Campus Life, hopes that this event will help students “expand their knowledge of diversity issues.”

Cunningham, along with Ivy Siegal, coordinator for Campus Life, who is over-

seeing the event, believe that it is “important for students to be exposed to different ideas and beliefs” as well as engage in an open dialogue in order to “come together and understand and accept each other.”

Students, such as Eben Stratton, a junior anthropology major, who hopes to attend this year’s Diversity Day sees the benefits that such an event can have.

“It helps remind us that diversity is what makes us special, there are things that all people have in common but without the things that make us different life would be boring,” said Stratton. “It’s those differences that make us unique and special, and inspire those who feel out of place to see that diversity is all around, and that there is no mold for normal.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Diversity Day

- Time: 11 a.m.
- When: Oct. 20
- Where: Panther Square

Ghost Tours

- Time: 7 p.m.
- When: Oct. 20
- Where: WUC Theater

Photoshop Workshop

- Time: 2 p.m.
- When: Oct. 22
- Where: AC II 242

Food and Rec Expo

- Time: 10 a.m.
- When: Oct. 24
- Where: Panther Square

SPC Comedy Show

- Time: 7:30 p.m.
- When: Oct. 26
- Where: WUC Theater