


 <p><b>EGYPT</b></p> <p><b>Mass in Cairo to mark Mubarak fall</b></p> <p>Hundreds of thousands packed into Cairo's Tahrir Square celebrating Hosni Mubarak ouster and pressing Egypt's new military rulers to uproot the rest of his regime.</p>	 <p><b>CHINA</b></p> <p><b>Alert for leather protein in milk supply</b></p> <p>China has warned dairy producers that inspectors are on alert for fresh milk tainted with the industrial chemical melamine and another toxic substance extracted from leather scraps.</p>	 <p><b>KENYA</b></p> <p><b>Protesters rally to replace president</b></p> <p>Authorities used batons and tear gas against thousands of protesters in Djibouti, the latest in a series of rallies modeled after demonstrations across Africa and the Middle East.</p>
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## JUST SHORT OF HISTORY



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

Just two games shy of Robin Ventura's NCAA record 58-game hitting streak, Garrett Wittels 0-2 on opening night to cut his streak short at 56 as the Golden Panthers fell 10-2.

### Anxiety, flashy defense stop Wittels short in pursuit of record

IGOR MELLO  
ANDRES LEON  
Beacon Staff

What started at home against Maryland in last year's season opener has come full circle.

The streak is no more.

Although Garrett Wittels reached base twice and drove in a run, his 56-game hitting-streak has been snapped as FIU fell 10-2 in the season-opener to Southeastern Louisiana.

"Eventually, I'll break history somehow. I know I'm second place in this but I plan on playing baseball for a lot more years and I'll break history another time," Wittels said.

With the streak snapped, Wittels fell two hits shy of tying Robin Ventura's 58-game Division I record set in 1987.

Wittels had his best opportunity in the eighth inning when he had the bases loaded. With the streak on thin ice, Wittels lined a sharp ground ball towards third base line. SLU's third baseman Jonathan Pace made

a diving grab, tapped third base to give Wittels his second fielder's choice of the night.

At the end of the inning Wittels ran by the SLU dugout to compliment Pace on his catch.

"Being under all that pressure, it shows great character on his part," said Pace, who threw him out twice in the game.

BASEBALL, page 3

#### SOME OF THE CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT FIU IN THE 366 DAYS SINCE WITTELS' LAST HITLESS GAME...

- Baseball and Football Conference Championships
- 3 new on campus buildings
- Chili's Too Grand Opening
- US Century Bank Arena interior renovations
- New Hospitality and Tourism Management, Education, Nursing and Health Sciences deans
- Smoking ban passed, enacted on campus

## Senior VP returns to take University to the 'next level'

MELISSA CACERES  
Staff Writer

The former Head of Advancement returned to the University, without the benefit of a national search, a slightly different title and accusations of having created a hostile work environment at Ohio University.

University President Mark Rosenberg appointed Howard Lipman as the senior vice president of university advancement. Lipman rejoined FIU last November from Ohio University, where he served as the vice president for university advancement, and president and CEO of the Ohio University Foundation since 2006.

He was previously at FIU from 2002 to 2006 in a similar leadership position. According to Jaffus Hardrick, vice president

of human resources, a nationwide search was unnecessary for the president because "a search firm would have sought him out anyway since he has a track record and history in having success in the area of development."

"We are thrilled to have Howard back on our team," said Rosenberg in a press release. "This campaign will take FIU to the next level as a student-centered urban public research university that is locally and globally engaged. With Howard at the helm, we look forward to a successful campaign."

Lipman, who also serves as executive director of the FIU Foundation, is responsible for securing philanthropic support for the University and will currently oversee a \$750 million fundraising campaign recently approved by the Foundation.

"I feel FIU has endless potential. We are in the beginning stages of a \$750 million dollar campaign that will respond to our evergrowing needs," said Lipman in an email to Student Media. "It also allows us to engage our alumni, parents, friends, faculty and staff in the future of our community."

During his time at Ohio University, more than \$200 million were raised for the institution.

Donor gifts included a \$28 million naming gift for the College of Education, a \$13.3 million gift for arts education and a \$7.5 million lead gift for the Scripps College of Communication.

He also helped obtain a \$95 million gift for the Russ College of Engineering and Technology, which is considered one of the most significant gifts in the history of Ohio

University.

"He is a well-seasoned executive with the skills and the repore among Florida community leaders as well as business leaders," said Hardrick, in an interview with Student Media. "They know him and now it's just all about reacquainting those donors."

Howard worked closely with academic leaders in the development and execution of Ohio University's \$450 million fundraising campaign, "The Promise Lives," which supports initiatives like scholarships endowed professorships for faculty, research, campus building renovation and expanded outreach programs pivoting around medical care.

Yet Lipman returns to the FIU with

LIPMAN, page 2

## National campaign urges students to study in China

NICOLE CASTRO  
Staff Writer

A growing initiative pushed by both President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama is propelling students, now more than ever, to take advantage of studying abroad in China.

Launched in 2009, "100,000 Strong" is a campaign the President and his wife have been advocating to promote travel to China with increased scholarships for students interested in the opportunity.

Collaboration between the United States and China on this effort has been evident in the last

few months. On Jan. 19, the First Lady addressed an assembly of students at Howard University about the initiative, while Chinese Leader Hu Jintao stated, in his last visit to Washington, that their government would award 10,000 scholarships to high school and college students in an effort to maximize people-to-people exchanges

between Chinese and American future business leaders, researchers, and scholars.

According to a 2009 survey by the Modern Language Association, about 61,000 students are enrolled in Chinese courses and 13,000 students

CHINA, page 2

# Position at FIU is the ‘highlight’ of Lipman’s career

## LIPMAN, page 1

legal allegations left behind at OU. During his time there, a federal complaint was filed by Ohio University employee, Molly Taylor-Elkins, claiming she was stripped of paid administrative leave and her son was kicked out of a master’s program in retaliation for sexual harassment and bullying claims she filed against the former OU vice president.

An OU investigation conducted last year agreed Lipman “created a hostile work environment but

couldn’t find enough evidence to substantiate the sexual harassment claims,” according to The Post, OU’s independent, student-run newspaper.

“This was something that the [University] president was certainly made aware of. But it was not anything that would cause us to be alarmed here at the University,” said Hardrick. “Even if you go back and look at the story, there is no evidence to substantiate the claim.”

The Post also reported that in September 2010, she made a

settlement offer to OU, demanding \$225,000 in addition to five years of paid medical expenses and free tuition for herself and her two sons.

However, OU rejected her settlement offer.

“One of the things that you have to be mindful of when it comes to these stories, is that there is so much that goes into these types of allegations and anyone can go out and file claims and do whatever,” Hardrick said. “But in terms of FIU, we did not see any risk at all by bringing back here to

the University.”

At the Jan. 26 meeting of the FIU Foundation, Lipman was recognized by the board and provided an update of the Capital Campaign, mentioning that the University must increase the number of alumni who are making annual gifts and significantly expand its department in charge of social media.

“Miami is my home. It is where my children were born and where our family and friends live. Coming back to Miami under President Rosenberg’s leadership

is the highlight of my career,” said Lipman to Student Media.

“Having lived and worked here for so many years I understand our community and have developed working and personal relationships with many of our philanthropic and business leaders. This allows me to hit the ground running and better prepare our university for the campaign ahead.”

*Melissa Caceres works as a Beat Writer, covering the FIU Foundation, Board of Trustees and Faculty Senate for The Beacon.*

# Number of students in China has ‘steadily increased’

## CHINA, page 1

study year round in China.

It is the objective of the U.S. administration to have a minimum of 100,000 American students studying in China by 2014.

While the initiative is commendable, some feel that financial constraints along with the current availability of courses could be a concern for the President’s goal.

“I applaud and fully support Obama’s initiative on China. I think those are necessary actions through the U.S. to really begin to bridge that. I don’t think we are where we need to be, but it’s a step towards the goal,” said Office of Study Abroad Director, Magnolia Hernandez.

Yet, through the University’s study abroad opportunities, Hernandez claims that the number of students studying abroad in China has steadily increased.

For the short-term model, which occurs during the summer semester, China ranks third as the most popular destination for studying abroad at FIU, whereas the semester

model, which includes fall and spring semester, usually has more attention on Spain and Japan.

According to Hernandez, many students choose the short-term program to explore China for the first time to test their adaptability.

Out of 700 students sent abroad last year, approximately 11 percent of them were in China.

In the spring 2011 semester, there are “about four students right now... Last year we had five, but this is only in relation to study abroad,” said Hernandez.

Any decline in studying abroad can often be attributed to financial woes, but there are federal budget funds scholarship programs such as the Gilman and Fulbright as well as funds provided by the private sector.

“It motivates and encourages me as well as other students who are also interested in going to China, because we won’t have to worry about any financial deficit,” said Piero Alosilla, International Relations major, who is currently

in his second semester of Mandarin.

Hernandez praises the current effort by FIU’s Asian Studies Program for their ability to adequately prepare students who choose to study abroad in the summer, and how it often leads them to spend an entire semester or year in China.

While traditional language and culture programs have always had programs available for students to travel to China, Hernandez has begun to see that a recent trend that she has observed over the years is that the traditional language “the business, engineering and art programs are sending more students as well.”

The University’s School of Business offers a track of courses that consists of 2 terms of introductory Mandarin followed by a study abroad opportunity. The program is geared towards helping students develop skills needed to do business with Chinese industries.

Yarmilia Tona, International Business and Management major, was one of the 30 students that studied in China

during the summer of 2010.

She had to adjust to minuscule changes such as paying for napkins when dining at a restaurant or paying for bags when buying merchandise, but nonetheless admits that it was a rewarding experience.

“I met a lot of people on the trip not only from the United States, but also from China. We went to the U.S. embassy in Beijing as well as the one in Hong Kong to see how people operate in the field,” Tona said.

“Unfortunately I didn’t have the time to stay there for more than two weeks but I was very confident about interacting with that culture and I

would have loved to stay there longer.”

Additionally, in 2006, Hospitality and Tourism Management introduced the first U.S. School of Hospitality in China. The Marriot Tianjin China program consists of Chinese students as well as U.S. students that travel abroad.

Hernandez points out that in a fast-moving and global world, where communication among nations is fundamental, especially with China, there are several reasons why studying abroad—in China or any other country—is important.

“Professional development, academic enhancement and

personal growth. These are the 3 basic pillars for our students when thinking of studying abroad” she states.

As students return from their study abroad experience, Hernandez claims that their comments are all positive. Those who go to China “really challenge themselves because it takes an extra kind of dedication to learn the language, understand the people, so then you can use that in your career and your community.”

“They’re feedback has been that initially there is a period of adjustment, but they would not change the experience for anything in the world.”

Global Learning for Global Citizenship

## Tuesday Times Roundtable

at Modesto A. Maidique Campus (MMC)

### Moderator & Theme

<p><b>Sarah Clegg-Crawford</b>, Student Conduct Can Civility Survive the Age of Technology?</p> <p><b>Sadiq Abdullahi</b>, College of Education Rethinking Global Education</p> <p><b>Pallab Mozumder</b>, Earth and Environment To Be Announced</p> <p><b>Rev. Paul Massingill</b>, FIU-MDC Wesley Is Pure Altruism Possible?</p> <p><b>Mariam Willis</b>, Architecture &amp; The Arts The Repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell</p> <p><b>Abuzar Kabir</b>, Chemistry &amp; Biochemistry The Complex Immigration Policies of the U.S.</p> <p><b>Steve Schwartz</b>, University Advancement To Be Announced</p> <p><b>Divina Grossman</b>, Vice President of Engagement Deaths in Childbirth: Preventive Care &amp; Policy</p> <p><b>Michael Brillman</b>, History To Be Announced</p> <p><b>Laura Boudon</b>, College of Medicine International Adoptions after Natural Disasters</p> <p><b>Alan Gummerson</b>, Economics The State of the Economy</p> <p><b>Cem Karayalein</b>, Economics Debt and Unemployment</p> <p><b>Marc Weinstein</b>, College of Education Do Straight "A" Students Live Longer?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Every Tuesday from 12:30-1:30pm in ZEB 150</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">FREE LUNCH PROVIDED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For more information, visit us online: <a href="http://GoGlobal.fiu.edu" style="color: white;">GoGlobal.fiu.edu</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">presented by <b>The New York Times</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">FIU</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Student Government Association</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">FIU</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Global Learning</p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em; margin-top: 5px;">Office of the Provost</p>
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## Wittels streak ends at 56 games in FIU loss

### BASEBALL, page 3

Even SLU's head coach Jay Artigues praised Wittels for the way he handled himself.

"The fact that he came over to congratulate the team and Pace, shows a lot of character in young man that's gone through a lot," Artigues said.

Wittels had a rough night, going 0-for-4 in the season opener. It was the first appearance for Wittels since his alleged sexual assault allegations.

It was also Wittels' first action in 259 days, since they were eliminated in the NCAA Regional tournament.

He chased the first pitch on three out of his first four at-bats.

"Garrett [Wittels] was very aggressive tonight. One thing I know about Garrett [Wittels] is that if he was going to get this job done, he's going to go down swinging," said FIU coach Turtle Thomas. "Honestly, I thought he'd go at least 75 games before it would come to an end."

In his first at-bat, the scrappy infielder hit a chopper toward SLU shortstop Justin Boudreaux. Boudreaux flipped the grounder to Brock Hebert at second to get the force out. Wittels reached safely on a fielder choice in the first inning, but did get a hit.

"I try not to give a pitcher any credit as a hitter but they made a couple of good pitches tonight. They really got me to chase out of the zone," Wittels said.

Wittels got another crack at the streak in the bottom of the fourth inning as he drilled an 0-1 pitch down the right field line in foul territory. SLU right fielder Cody Goughler caught the foul ball as he ran into the bullpen fence down the right field side.

"I was a little too anxious, that's the only thing. Even though I was thrown off a little bit, I thought I had some really good swings tonight," Wittels said.

His third at-bat appeared to have some controversy.

Wittels appeared to have been hit by a pitch on left hand, but home plate umpire Michael Baker, ruled it a foul ball. Baker claims that the pitch hit Wittels' bat and not his hand.

At the end of the game, the junior infielder admits that the pitch hit him.

"It was the worst moment of baseball that I've ever been a part of in my life. I got hit by a pitch and was selfish and didn't take my base. I'm more pissed off at that than not continuing the hit streak," Wittels said.

On the following pitch, Wittels hit a one-bounce grounder towards Pace that resulted in an easy out at first.

With the streak over, Wittels will regroup and try to start a fresh streak. The infielder still has 54 games remaining in this young baseball season.

"It's been an amazing run. I'm so proud of myself. I'm about to go out in tears right now," Wittels said

### FIU 8, SLU 3

Solid pitching and good hitting helped lift the Golden Panthers to their first victory of the season, and 8-3 win, in the second game of a series clash between the Golden Panthers and the Southeastern Louisiana Lions on Feb. 19.

With a change in the lineup, SLU's Josh Janway hit a homerun off the newly installed scoreboard in his first at-bat of the season against FIU starter Phil Haig.

But the Golden Panthers' lineup was able to concentrate better a day after a media frenzy on



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

Phil Haig [above] picks up a win in his first start as a Golden Panther on Feb. 19.

Friday night following Garrett Wittels.

In the bottom of the second inning, walks and clumsy pitching gave FIU a 3-1 lead going into the third.

With the bases loaded three times, two shallow hits to right field and a deep hit to left brought in designated hitter Mike Martinez, second basemen T.J. Shantz, and left fielder Pablo Bermudez.

"We are getting used to the new bats, we were more focused today, but we can do more than what we did today," coach Turtle Thomas said.

While the Lions were having pitching problems early on, Haig continued to be on cruise control, earning five strikeouts by the end of the

third inning.

"I try not to think about the offense that much," Haig said. "I can only control my job behind the mound, but by the second inning the two-run lead got me comfortable so I changed it up and got some of their hitters swinging."

Haig (1-0) earned the victory and finished the game with eight strikeouts during seven innings of work.

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### MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Owls deal Golden Panthers overtime loss at home



REBECCA VILAFANE/THE BEACON

Isiah Thomas discusses one of the several disputed calls in loss to Florida Atlantic on Feb. 19.

### JACKSON WOLEK Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers lost another close game to FAU on Feb. 19 in an 80-78 overtime defeat despite double-doubles from both Dominique Ferguson and Dejuan Wright as the rivalry continues in this heated battle between in-state rivals.

The building became packed as fans started filing in about five minutes after tipoff. Even though Golden Panther fans outnumbered Owl fans that attended the game, it did not seem that way. Many times in the game it felt like the game was taking place in Boca Raton rather than Miami.

"They have been tremendous all season and I guess it does have something to do with winning," said Alex Tucker of FAU. "I feel like they're an actual part of it."

Foul shooting and turnovers hurt FIU again as they went 21-33 from the foul line and turned the ball over 15 times.

"I feel like I come in every night and have the same press conference," coach Isiah Thomas said. "If you just pan over to the foul line you will see leave too many points on the foul line each and every night."

In the first half, FIU refused to let the game get away from them as they continued to fight back from scoring streaks put on by the Owls. FIU struggled to find their offense until finally they decided to stop settling for threes and start driving inside.

Even then, it was difficult to get a shot off on the Owls defenders, who had five blocks in the

first half alone.

With 46 seconds left in regulation, Ferguson grabbed his 12th and most important rebound of the game and put it back in for the layup to put FIU up 72-70. The Owls would answer and put in a layup of their own from Greg Gannt that was originally blocked by Brandon Moore, but was ruled goaltending with 16 seconds left to play.

The Golden Panthers would have the ball one last time, but could not make anything out of it when Dejuan Wright turned the ball over and could not even get a last shot off as time expired.

In overtime, FIU went up 76-72 on four consecutive made free throws, but let the Owls right back into it as they started to lose control of what they were doing.

There was not enough time for FAU to go on another great run, and with 35 seconds to go and FIU down 79-78 Phil Taylor stole the inbound pass and got the ball back into FIU hands.

Down by two, the Golden Panthers had one last chance to tie the game with 5.6 seconds left when they had an inbound pass underneath their own basket and got the ball to Taylor who never got a shot off as he proceeded to step out of bounds and turn the ball right back over to FAU.

"Phil Taylor has come through for us in some very clutch situations and tonight was just an unfortunate thing for him," said Thomas.

FIU has lost 10 out of their last 11 games and will have one more home game against Troy for senior night and then head to the conference tournament as presumably the sixth seed.



## SOFTBALL

# Golden Panthers split four-game tournament

**MALCOLM SHIELDS**  
Staff Writer

FIU began their weekend against some heavy competition as they hosted No. 17 Georgia Tech and Pittsburgh on day one of the Blue and Gold Felsberg Memorial and faced off against Providence and Illinois in day two of the tournament.

## FIU 9, GEORGIA TECH 1

FIU jumped on the Yellow Jackets early en route to a 9-1 victory.

“We had a lot of emotion and a lot of enthusiasm [against Georgia Tech],” coach Beth Torina said.

FIU would score in the first inning. Ashley McClain hit a double which scored two to give FIU a 2-0 lead. McClain would add on her 3-or-3, five RBI game with a solo homer and a two run RBI double, in the third inning.

“It was really great to get my swing back,” McClain said.

Georgia Tech pitcher

Kristen Adkins would be pulled after 2 1/3 innings for reliever Lindsey Anderson. Combined, both pitchers gave up five walks and seven runs to give FIU a big lead after three innings.

Pitcher Jenn Gniadek pitched a complete game for FIU, only giving up one earned run.

“They were phenomenal. That’s our team. That’s our number one [in Gniadek] on the mound. That’s our lineup,” Torina said.

## PITTSBURGH 3, FIU 2

FIU held a 2-0 lead through five innings, but Pittsburgh would score three runs in the final two innings to win.

FIU would score first on an RBI double to right field by Brie Rojas.

Beth Peller would follow Rojas by hitting a double to center to give FIU a 2-0 lead.

Pitcher Mariah Dawson pitched the first five innings allowing no runs, but in the last two innings Pittsburgh would chip away at Dawson to pull

out the victory.

“I started off good then I got rattled at the end,” Dawson said. “I miss my spots in times I shouldn’t have.”

Pittsburgh would score in the sixth inning on a single by Ciera Damon and in the seventh on a double by Ashley Amistade.

A sac fly by Holly Stevens scored the winning run from third.

“We really got tired as the day went on,” Torina said. “We got to figure out how to play two games in a day.”

## FIU 17, PROVIDENCE 1

The seventeen runs scored established a new team record as FIU scored three or more runs in each of the first four innings, including an eight spot in the fourth inning.

“That was a really good offensive effort by us,” Torina said.

Mariah Dawson recorded her first win of the season while Kayla Burri stepped into the leadoff spot and went 4-for-4.



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

Beth Peller [above] attempts to lay down a bunt over the weekend tournament for FIU.

“You sit there and wait and wait for your pitch,” Burri said. “Batting leadoff, I’m trained to [be patient].”

## ILLINOIS 7, FIU 4

FIU would fight back after falling behind 5-0 with four runs in the bottom of the fifth inning with key doubles by

Rojas and Peller.

“When Ashley McClain comes up to get a hit, then I get a hit, its momentum,” Rojas said. “This game is about momentum.”

After trimming the deficit to 5-4, the Fighting Illini would score three more runs in the sixth inning.

FIU would have an opportunity to tie the game in the bottom of the seventh.

FIU had the bases loaded with one out when Patty Zavala would hit a hot shot to second but Danielle Zymkowitz would make the catch and double off Peller from first base, to end the game.

## WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

# Coley scores 21 in rout over rival Florida Atlantic

**RICO ALBARRACIN**  
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers came away with their first Sun Belt conference sweep of the season, coming against their cross-town rival.

FIU cruised to a 100-64 victory against their South Florida rival Florida Atlantic.

The win gave the Golden Panthers their second consecutive sweep of the Owls, after suffering a sweep to FAU in the 2008-09 season. It was the first time since 1998 that the Golden Panthers had scored 100 points in a game.

“The team played great. I couldn’t be prouder of the team,” Coach Cindy Russo

said.

FIU was led by freshman Jerica Coley, who led all scorers with 21 points, and senior Michelle Gonzalez, who added 21 points and 6 assists. Rakia Rodgers made her return to the hardwood and her presence was felt, as she had a 21-point, 8-rebound effort.

“She’s our energy player. She yells, she screams. She gives us that boost that we need,” Coley said.

The Golden Panthers got off to a hot start, jumping out to a 10-4 lead over the Owls. The contributions from different players like Fanni Hutlassa, Jerica Coley, and Finda Mansare kick started the

offense for FIU.

At the 13:59 mark in the first half, Rakia Rodgers checked into the game for the first time. It was the first time Rodgers had played since Jan 22, when she sustained an injury to her left ankle. Rodgers would help the Golden Panther’s momentum, giving FIU a 23-10 lead with 11:16 left in the first.

FIU would show no signs of slowing down, building up to 41-19 lead. FAU struggled to put up good shots, consistently running into FIU’s smothering defense.

The Golden Panthers put pressure on the Owls with double-teams and smothering defense.

The biggest issue for the Owls was containing the Golden Panthers from beyond the arc, with FIU shooting 7-11 from the three point area. The Golden Panthers would continue to maintain a stranglehold on the game, going into halftime with a 51-25 lead.

FIU would begin the second half the same way they started the first. Fanni Hutlassa put herself into position to score two baskets minutes into the half, adding to the Golden Panthers lead.

The Owls would begin to exercise a full-court press to put pressure on FIU.

It would prove to be effective until the Golden Panthers used the passing game to break through the Owl press.

FAU kept up with the

pace of FIU, as both teams traded baskets for the next few minutes.

With 7:35 left in the game, Carmen Miloglav took a spill into the scorers table. Although she quickly picked herself off the ground, it was evident that she was playing in pain.

Miloglav would get the rest she needed while FIU maintain a large lead.

The Golden Panthers reached an 84-53 lead with 3:58 left in the game, at which point FIU intensified their defense with the possibility of scoring 100 points.

With 22 seconds left, and a 97-64 lead, Rodgers pulled up for a three-point shot to put the Golden Panthers over the century mark. As the final seconds ticked off, the crowd gave FIU a standing ovation.

“It was our defense. If we just traded baskets, then the score could go 300 to 300. I gave the credit to the defense,” Rodgers said. “We have never talked so much on defense.”

FIU is currently in third place in the East division of the Sun Belt conference. The Golden Panthers have a chance to overtake Western Kentucky for second place when FIU travels to Bowling Green to take on WKU on Feb 23.

With the season drawing to a close, the team feels confident going into the SBC tournament.

“I certainly feel great about our chances. If we continue to play like this, we can win in the tournament,” Russo said.



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## Students showcase their talents at Kennedy Center theater festival

ALFREDO APARICIO  
Staff Writer

Actors, directors and costume designers all come together to create a world of escapism for an audience when putting on a production, even if it's just for two hours.

For their dedication to this idea the students of FIU's theater department were invited to the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF).

The event held workshops for students, matinees and night shows as well as opportunities to further expand their horizons in the mediums related to the theater.

Zakiya Markland, 19, a sophomore Theater BA major, was extremely excited at her nomination to attend the acting competition portion of the festival for her performance as Mimi in last fall's production of *Rent*.

"Being that this was my first big show, being nominated was really intimidating," said Markland. "I came into the competition very nervous but willing to have fun. I didn't think I would win because I was so young."

Markland couldn't have been more wrong.

With the help of her scene partner, Michael Mena, 21, a senior Theater BFA major, Markland made the judges laugh in the first round of the competition and advanced to the semi-finals.

"When she heard her name called, I think I was more excited than she was. She couldn't believe it," said Mena. "All

she could think was 'I'm being 'Punk'd' right?'"

Markland didn't advance to the finals, but she did credit Mena as being a big help by encouraging her and being a good support system during the competition.

"He's really intelligent and I really wanted someone who could help me," said Markland.

Michael Mena, who starred as Collins in the fall production of *Rent* as well as acting in the annual *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, described his experience at KCACTF as "the quickest five days I have ever experienced in my lifetime. There was always something do."

Apart from the competitions, the students were encouraged to attend shows, which helped strengthen bonds between the students, as well as workshops, which taught new techniques in costume design and acting.

"We were encouraged to watch the shows and bond and enjoy ourselves...[to] watch something that we enjoyed doing," said Mena. "It was a nice tradition."

One of the more popular workshops was the Michael Chekhov for Teachers, a workshop dedicated to helping students explore different acting techniques.

"It was all running around (no words) and expressing ourselves through our movements and instincts," said Jeanette Galup, 27, a theater BA major who attended the Kennedy Center as a director for the New Plays Direction portion of the festival.

"We were paired up and given four

### A SUNNY AFTERNOON



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Freshmen Danielle Michel (left), a music major, and Mariana Fabregas (right), a business major, enjoy the unusually warm weather on Feb. 18 on the Green Library lawns. The pair put on an impromptu concert during their picnic.

days to put on the play, from casting to rehearsals," said Galup.

Galup's playwright was Daniel Bjork who won runner-up for his original play. "It was a good experience because you had a small portion of time to bring many people and their ideas together to create

the show."

Caroline Spitzer, 21, a junior theater BFA major for Costume Design has been involved in costume construction since her freshman year at FIU. Spitzer will

**THEATER, page 6**

## Sell yourself for a good cause at cancer fundraiser

ALEX MACIEL  
Staff Writer

The hope for a better healthcare system and the need to help those suffering is the grounds for

which Nicole Millan built her group.

Millan, founder and president, created Project Hope at FIU with the intention to financially help low-income families, who have to bear the treatment cost of cancer treatment.

"There is a large history of cancer in my family. I understand that some families cannot afford the high cost of treatment. This was the idea behind creating a club to promote cancer awareness," said Millan.

The student fundraising organization is new, and began earlier this spring. This project was not initially FIU's but instead came from Miami Dade College in Fall 2010. The University's version is still in the making and changes are still to be made, said Millan.

The Project Hope mission is "to bring hope to those diagnosed with cancer and improve their lives in cooperation with the League Against Cancer, a community-based, not-for-profit organization providing free medical care to needy cancer patients."

The finances inflicted on cancer victims is a huge burden to carry for families and to help relieve some weight, the goal of Project Hope is to raise \$45,000 for patients. The typical cost for a full chemotherapy treatment is approximately \$50,000.

"We already have \$1,500 from simply garage sales," said Millan.

To support the financial goal there will be three main upcoming events, including, a date auction, fashion show, and car wash.

The Fashion Show is one of the club's biggest events and will be held at Miami Beach's The

Deauville Beach Resort. Many professional and novice models will be walking the runway for a cause. This compares with the next, less formal event, a car wash. Where car-washing proceeds, will contribute to this 45 thousand dollar quota.

But the group's first major event is The Date Auction. It is exactly as it sounds: volunteers will auction off a date in return for donations. Bids will be made, and the highest gets the date. During this event, there will be free food, drinks, and music.

"It is a fun and great way to gain proceeds for this good cause," said Millan.

Students will compete against each other in an auction for the right to take that person out on a date. This will usually mean dinner, a movie or lunch. The premise of the date can be entirely up to the dater and donator.

The Date Auction will be a vital way for this growing club to do good and help these people who have fell victim to the life-threatening illness.

Project Hope and FIU Maps are hosting. The Date Auction takes place on Feb. 23 in the East GC Ballrooms.

It is free entry for FIU students, and \$3 for Non-FIU students. FIU students must present a valid student ID. All donations will be accepted in cash, and all proceeds go towards financial support for cancer patients in need.

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In partnership with the Center for Hispanic Leadership, FIU kicks off the 10-city Hispanic Leadership Tour March 16 - 18, 2011. The mission of the Center is to educate businesses on how to gain a global competitive advantage by allowing their Hispanic talent to utilize the characteristics that make them great leaders.

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## FASHION FINDS

# Colorful accessories take simple outfits to the next level

Whenever I'm getting dressed for the day or for a night out, I think of one item in my wardrobe and build an outfit from that. For me, it's either a pair of hooker heels or a top. For a lot of people an outfit is completely based off an accessory.

Out of everything in a girl's closet, accessories give you the most freedom to break out your creativity. A simple white tee and jeans can become loads more fun with just the addition of a colorful necklace or a silk scarf.

## COLUMNIST



ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ

Scarves are my favorite item on the accessories list. They are straight up practical. You could wrap one around your shoulders when you are cold. You can use it to give your outfit a retro feel by choosing a paisley scarf straight out of the 70s. Scarves offer so many possibilities for outfit greatness.

I have a severe obsession with pashminas, oversized scarves that I throw on with almost every outfit. They come in almost every color imaginable. The best ones are only \$10 and sold at Bijoux Terner's and even at Navarro. I'm not kidding when I say I have 12 pashminas. It's a sad, sad story.

When it comes to jewelry though, I teeter on a thin line.

I like the clean look of bare skin not covered up with jewels, but I also can't resist a statement necklace or cocktail ring.

When it comes to earrings try a simple hoop. Leave your name out of the center of it, please. Thin gold and silver hoops are a classic look that has been around since pirates were cool. Being the annoyingly preppy ex-private schoolgirl that I am, I also love the look of pearl earrings.

For almost all occasions, a small understated diamond (or cubic zirconia because only a jeweler could really tell the difference) earring works. If you're wearing an insane outfit with

lots of color and patterns, don't let jewelry or other accessories compete.

Like I mentioned before, statement necklaces are true to their name. They are oversized and really add a punch to outfits.

Now that spring is here, bring out the bright colors. I love the look of turquoise with any color tee. The other day I put on a plain coral-colored tee and a turquoise necklace I got from a New York street vendor and to my surprise the outfit was a hit. The combination of the colors looked really fun and put a goofy spring in my step.

I'm not going to lie, finding the perfect statement necklace is really difficult. The best thing to do is visit a craft store, buy beads and design your own. Michael's offers a lot of variety in stones although they are kind of pricey. Do your research and find a store that sells beads at wholesale prices. I know making your own necklace sounds like a daunting task, but it's actually quite simple. Besides, the wire

and string usually come with dummy-proof instructions.

I've mentioned in previous columns how awesome I think cocktail rings look. I also like the look of simple bands grouped together on one finger. They are easily found at Forever 21 or practically any store. It's my version of Bulgari's "Zero" ring but about \$1200 cheaper.

Beaded bracelets made with stones or wood beads are really simple and nice to wear with your everyday wardrobe.

I like to wear a thick gold bangle or a beaded bracelet with my oversized watch. Watches are probably one of the best accessories you can buy. I buy a new Michael Kors watch every year as a little pat on the back for the start of a new school year. It's a total indulgence because each watch costs around \$250 but I promise they are worth the dent in your account.

*Fashion Finds is a weekly column on fashion. Look for it every Monday.*

## THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2011

### PRESIDENT'S DAY LESSON



Learn about the scandalous presidents in history!  
WHEN: 2-4 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: MMC GC 314

### SUSTAIN U

Clothing drive event.  
WHEN: All day  
WHERE: BBC Campus

### SPIRITUALITY AND THE GROWTH OF AFRICAN JUDAISM

Introducing Professor Tudor Parfitt of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, known as "the British Indiana Jones."  
WHEN: 7-8:30 p.m.  
WHERE: MMC GC 243

### MIXOLOGY: BATTLE OF THE WORDS

Hosted by the Black Student Union.  
WHEN: 9-11 p.m.  
WHERE: MMCTBA

### ICE SKATING



Come skate with the members of the International Students Club!  
WHEN: 6-9 p.m.  
WHERE: Kendall Ice Arena

### UNITED FOR HAITI DONATION DRIVE



They will be collecting items to take on our 2011 spring medical mission trip to Haiti.  
WHEN: All day  
WHERE: MMC HLS II-654

### AN INTIMATE EVENING WITH MICHAEL FEINSTEIN



WHEN: 7:45 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$175 to \$250  
WHERE: Vanderbilt Mansion

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2011

### NATIONAL RECREATIONAL SPORTS & FITNESS DAY



WHEN: All day  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: MMC Rec Center

### FIRST AID TRAINING

WHEN: 10 a.m.-12 p.m.  
WHERE: BBC Campus

### WELLNESS COOKING DEMO

WHEN: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
WHERE: BBC Panther Square

### BLACK GIRLS ROCK

WHEN: 7-10 p.m.  
WHERE: BBC Campus

### BEGINNER'S SUNSET YOGA



WHEN: 5-6 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Organic garden

### BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDIES

WHEN: 7:30-8:15 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: MMC ROTC Trailer next to W10A

### UNITED FOR HAITI DONATION DRIVE



WHEN: All day  
WHERE: MMC HLS II-654

### TABLING

WHEN: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
WHERE: MMC GC tables

### COLLAGE & BOARD OF FACTS-LUST FOR LIFE

WHEN: 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: MMC GC hallways

If you are interested in having an event featured in the calendar, contact: [calendar@fiusm.com](mailto:calendar@fiusm.com)

## Students learn from theater professionals at festival

### THEATER, page 5

be designing the costumes for the spring production of *Twelfth Night* as well as already having been head of wardrobe for *Rent*.

Spitzer, who attended the festival for costume design, walked away with an honorable mention in the technical crafts category for a hat display she had created for a previous class.

"For the designers it wasn't really about a competition, it was more about receiving constructive criticism and feedback on your designs," Spitzer said.

One design in particular which caught Spitzer's attention was the horse head pieces for the play, *Equus*.

"They were very interesting and mind boggling," said Spitzer, who attended portfolio and design concept workshops as well as a puppetry workshop led by a University of Florida professor who had worked for *The Muppets* as well as making the puppets used in an Eminem video.

And while students focused on their competitions, one play in particular, *Ruined*, performed by the students of Tennessee State University, stole the show.

"The blew us all away. Their performances were so real and powerful and the play itself has a powerful message," said Markland. "It was very raw and real."

The play itself consisted of an all-black cast, who handled both the acting and technical sides of the play.

"They only have an acting program under the school of communications," said Galup, "so it's inspiring to see how a school without a big acting program could do so much and put on a great show."

"You could tell all the actors enjoyed what they were doing and were into their performance," said Mena.

Afterward, University students got a chance to bond with Tennessee State and noticed many similarities between them.

"Their style was very raw," said Markland. "It's a lot like what we have at FIU."

"The other plays were more polite, but *Ruined* was more about the emotion," said Galup. "I think it has to do with culture and the fact that down here [in Miami] we are more used to being emotionally available and expressive."

"It's not about losing control of your emotions," said Markland, "it's about letting the feeling be true and getting in touch with your body."

The festival, which lasted from Feb. 1 to 5, was a big honor for the students of the University.

"It was my first time going so there were definitely plenty of emotions," said Mena, "but it's ultimately about going out there and doing the best you can."

## Student to meet inspiration at Food and Wine Festival

### BLOOM, page 8

event such as the WWF played a big part in why the young chef chose the University.

"The SoBe [Wine and Food Festival] is a major reason why I came here," Bloom said.

While there might be some pressure involved with working around such big names, Bloom feels that he'll perform just fine.

"I do realize I have a lot to prove but this a great opportunity for me to go out and make connections and network as well," Bloom said.

One of his professors, Chef Roger Probst, shares his sentiment.

"Of course he can handle it, he'll do fine," Probst said.

Bloom is one of a few select students that will be sleeping over in a South

Beach hotel courtesy of event sponsors, sign of a long weekend ahead of him.

He hasn't even been through the ringers of his first food and wine festival yet, but Bloom is already hyped up in anticipation of next year's festival.

"As long as I'm here, if you're not taking advantage of the opportunity at hand then why bother," Bloom said.

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ECON WITH NEDA

## Business school yields useful education

During his State of the Union address, President Barack Obama spoke of the importance and necessity of education as a solution to various global and domestic issues. With that said, the University's business school has taken the responsibility of properly and adequately educating its students for the future, both nationally and internationally.

COLUMNIST



NEDA GHOMESHI

According to The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the College of Business Administration here at the University is among the top five percent of elite business schools worldwide. With the current global competition, students are competing with students around the world. Therefore, it is essential for the University to continue to excel, especially within the business school.

As an international business and marketing major, I am pleased with the courses I have taken thus far. Last semester, my Applied Macroeconomics professor constantly explained to us the importance of our textbook reading. During his lectures, professor Jorge Salazar-Carillo would relate the concepts taught in our

textbook to current domestic and international issues. As a requirement, we, the students, were responsible for reading the Wall Street Journal and keeping up with major economic issues. This requirement enabled us to understand the global economy. Professor Salazar-Carillo obtained multiple degrees, including his PhD from The University of California Berkeley.

Most of the professors at the business school at the University are properly preparing their students for the real world. Steven Christopher Ellis, an instructor at the University's business school, prepares his students by teaching them the proper concepts and tools needed in order to thrive in this competitive business world.

Professor Ellis teaches two courses: Quantitative Methods in Business and Operations Management. During his lectures for both of his courses, Ellis applies fictional scenarios to real-life instances. Over the years, Ellis has designed The Jiffy Cube Game for his Quantitative Methods in Business course. It sounds crazy, but the game requires students in groups of eleven to efficiently solve fifteen Rubik's cubes.

According to Ellis, the purpose of the game is to "give context to the use of the statistical tools." Students are constantly

raving about his teaching methods, including me. This semester, I am enrolled in Ellis' Quantitative Methods in Business-and I can almost solve the Rubik's cube.

Kristjana Loa Magnusdottir, a junior marketing major, believes that the material she is being taught is going to immensely benefit her at her future job. She says, "A lot of professors make us, the students, try to understand the complexity of current business issues in a realistic fashion."

To further ensure success, the University's business school also provides different programs to its students. As business students, we have the opportunity to take courses abroad in countries such as Spain and France. This enables students to better understand the global business market.

I have completed half of the business courses required for graduation, and I could not be happier with the material I have been taught. My experiences with my business professors have been useful and successful. I am excited to continue my education at the University's business school.

*Econ with Neda is a bi-weekly economics column. Look for it every other Monday. To submit story ideas, email neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com.*

THE BEACON | Editorial

## Single council system a possibility with changes

*This is the first of two editorials addressing the suggestion of a one-council student government.*

Due to a lack of filled positions, general inefficiencies and redundancies present within the two-council system, *The Beacon* believes a one-council Student Government Association would be more effective. However, we take this stance with several reservations.

As of now 58 of the 62 positions of the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus are filled. However, the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus currently sustains 13 vacancies of the 42 available positions. Clearly, SGC-BBC is having issues with keeping their seats filled to provide adequate representation for their already small student body, further endangering them of under-representation when it comes to University-wide concerns.

Because these councils operate as two separate entities, it is imperative that they meet to communicate. However both councils have failed to fulfill the monthly joint council meeting mandate. Additionally, several University-wide council meetings have been cancelled during Fall 2010 and Spring 2011, further widening the gulf of miscommunication.

Also, both councils have various redundant positions where one student could effectively serve both campuses' in both positions. For example, the press secretary position is one that unnecessarily has two separate individuals. We communicate with the press secretary often and, from where we stand, with proper communication the work of both press secretaries could be easily handled by one individual, perhaps with a deputy for BBC, if that.

Furthermore, while the student population at BBC certainly deserve representation, the current council structure echoes that of an autonomous institution, which contradicts the fact that BBC is ultimately a satellite campus of one University, not a separate establishment.

With the current student government setup, under-representation of BBC under a one-council system is a real possibility. The senators at MMC could easily overpower the senators at BBC, making it very difficult, if not nearly impossible, to pass initiatives that are campus-specific.

Couple that with the severe lack of filled positions in their council, one can see how BBC could be ignored and rendered incapable of doing what needs to be done in order to represent its student's interests in a one council system. Granted, such issues exist in representational government and somehow initiatives are still passed, albeit with compromises.

On a larger scale, SGC-MMC naturally favors the issues of their campus and may oppose or be completely unaware of the wants and needs of BBC, and vice-versa. This could be a source of conflict in a one-council system. However, if structural and procedural changes are made, the one-council can still streamline SGA overall while giving fair and equal representation to both campuses, in addition to eliminating a host of redundant positions between the two councils.

As stated in a Fall 2009 *Beacon* editorial, our University leadership structure offers a prime example for SGA to follow: several administrators represent their respective schools and departments, but at the end of the day they report to one president. Likewise, SGA should streamline their structure to reflect a similar system, but major revisions must be made that will strive to eliminate under-representation.

## Unwarranted student fees stress income

JARROD KNOWLES  
Contributing Writer

A few days ago, I logged into my.fiu.edu and clicked the "Account Inquiry" link. It says I owe \$1200! But, hold on a moment. What in the world am I paying for?

A health fee? I have my own insurance, thank you. A parking access fee? This really does not apply to me because I do not even own a vehicle. An identification card fee? That's funny, because when I lost my Panther ID and went to have it replaced, I was informed that it would cost \$10 the first time and, if I lost it again, it would increase to \$15.

So, what is the purpose of paying that fee when it is supposedly already paid for in my tuition?

Furthermore, may someone please inform me as to what a "non-resident tuition difference fee" is?

It is evident that the University is getting way more than they bargained for and much more than they deserve.

However, my intention is not to point the finger or cast judgment. Rather, I wish to shed light and ultimately raise awareness on this prevalent issue that troubles, confuses, and infuriates many students.

**Quite frankly, if I am paying a health fee and I not once visit University Health Services during the semester, then something is indeed terribly wrong.**

ates many students.

In life, money is one thing that any sensible, responsible human being values extensively. We like to receive value for our money and to be fully aware of exactly what we are paying for as well as how it benefits us. After all, we work hard for our possessions and wealth.

"Money does not grow on

trees", as my parents used to tell me. Technically it does come from paper, which is extracted from a tree, however, the fact of the matter is that money is not always so easily accessible. Realistically, you must contribute your time, labor, and expertise to make a buck, regardless of your line of work.

With that being said, we as college students, some of us working, now fully understand an average hardworking and responsible person's perspective of money. It is established that money most definitely does not grow on trees and, furthermore, it takes effort, dedication, and sacrifice to make ends meet.

Might I add that in some cases, it may even require blood, sweat, and tears to put food on the table and settle the bills.

Therefore, it is evident that the frustration and discontentment which a college student and his or her caretakers experience on the issue of paying unnecessary fees is indeed justified. We, the students, are fed up with these miscellaneous

charges which we unwillingly or unknowingly pay for and receive no benefit in return.

Quite frankly, if I am paying a health fee and I not once visit University Health Services during the semester, then something is indeed terribly wrong. I am not getting the value for that hard-earned money spent, and, if you ask me, I am certainly being taken advantage of. We all have a right to know where our money is being allocated and the right to not pay for something that we do not utilize.

Contributing one's hard-earned money to a lost cause is nothing short of absurd and outrageous. The University must revisit their policies and procedures regarding student fees to ensure that it is just and "student-friendly."

Ultimately, in order to ensure that students get the full value for the money they spend and get the best overall college experience, they should only pay fees that apply to them. Myself and the rest of the student community should not have it any other way.

VERBATIM

*"I don't want anyone to lose their job, whether they're a federal employee or not. But come on! We're broke! We've got to make tough decisions."*

*House Speaker John Boehner at a press conference on the possibility of a government shutdown*

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.

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 [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com)

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (450 words) in to [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto:opinion@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.





## ARGENTINA

### US asked to apologize for undeclared cargo

Anibal Fernandez, Argentina's Cabinet chief, demanded on Feb. 16 the U.S. apologize in a dispute over the seizure of U.S. military equipment brought in by a police-training team.



## PUERTO RICO

### 469 people arrested in PR

Police in Puerto Rico have arrested 469 people in a sweep across the U.S. territory that targeted people accused of crimes ranging from murder to traffic violations.



## HAITI

### 2 presidential candidates start campaigns

Mirlande Manigat and Michel "Sweet Micky" Martelly, the two candidates in Haiti's presidential runoff election, launched their official campaigns on Feb. 17, providing voters with a sharp contrast in tone and style.

## SOUTH BEACH WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL 2011

# Chocolateer sees festival as a learning experience

CHRISTOPHER TURPIN

Contributing Writer

Two people decided last summer to take their talents to South Beach and leave the cold behind. One went to the American Airlines Arena and the other to the Hospitality Management building at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Daniel Bloome, sophomore hospitality major from Hollywood, Fla., decided now was the time to return home after graduating from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY.

It's only been a been about a month since the semester started but Bloom, 25, is already a teacher's assistant in training, listed on the Student Leadership Board by Mike Hampton, dean of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management; and President of the Food and Wine Club. To top it off he will be a student lead with this year's South Beach Food and Wine Festival which lasts from Feb. 24 to 27, and personal assistant to such chefs as Danny Meyer, Andrew Shotts, Godiva head chef David Funaro, and Jacques Torres.

But these rewards and responsibilities haven't been handed down to Bloom, he's had to earn it.

Bloom started his collegiate career at

the University of Florida but eventually transferred to the CIA.

"I found out I was cooking more than I went to class," Bloom said.

While at the CIA, he excelled at making pastries and chocolates and developed a talent on the side as a bee keeper.

"They just asked us one day if anybody would be interested in our honey cultivating program, and we would be working with bees," said Bloom.

And the skills would come in handy while working at the Ritz Carlton in Orlando, Fla. for a year and a half, as he would cultivate honey for celebrity clientele.

His passion for what he does is the reason he puts so much work and attention into what he does and is why he never stops trying to learn as much as he can.

"My mom was a teacher for 27 years and the greatest thing she ever taught me is to never stop learning," Bloom said. "And because of that, I'm a sponge; if you give me the opportunity I'll soak it up."

The opportunity to participate in an

**BLOOM, page 6**



CHRISTOPHER TURPIN/THE BEACON

Daniel Bloom, a junior hospitality major, making truffles in preparation for the South Beach Wine and Food Festival which will take place this weekend from Feb. 25 to 27.

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

# Two councils exist despite empty seats, redundancies

BECCA GRIESEMER

Staff Writer

Seemingly since the day the Student Government Association was disbanded in 1991 by then University President Modesto A. Maidique, there have been members yearning to put it back together again.

Less than four years ago, then SGC-MMC vice president Arthur "AJ" Meyer proposed to form a committee to re-evaluate SGA in order to search for the best system possible, according to an article in the Nov. 08, 2007 issue of *The Beacon*.

The American Student Government Association compiled a report, sent to Meyer on March 19, 2009, that provided three separate opinions to the question: Should there be a single Student Body President serving both the Biscayne Bay Campus and [MMC]?

One report began, "This is easily answered in a single word: 'No.'" The other two opinions expressed the same sentiment.

But while SGA remains governed by separate councils, the questionable logistics of operating with two councils keep the debate alive.

Sholom Neistein, former SGC-BBC president, said the theoretical

merge will never happen.

"Nobody's in favor of it. I mean, I'm not going to say nobody because MMC is always in favor of it," Neistein said. "But Dr. [Rosa] Jones [vice president of student affairs] is not going to let it happen."

Neistein said Jones would have the final decision on the matter and that she'd refuse a merger because when the councils were originally combined, BBC was unfairly represented.

As of press time Jones did not respond to calls and emails to her office.

"All the resources went to [MMC]. So when all the resources are pumped into one locale, and 20 percent of the population resides here, it's not fair," Neistein said.

Craig Cunningham, director of student affairs at BBC, agrees with the results of the report, and said BBC deserves its own student government that provides needed programs, services, and funding.

The Student Government Council at MMC is constitutionally required to have 32 senators, but currently has three vacancies. The council at BBC is required to have 11 less senators than MMC, yet has three times as many vacancies.

In order to make quorum, the

number of members required for a formal senate or general meeting, attendance of senators is determined by fifty percent plus one.

With SGC-BBC holding 11 senators, this means that six senators are required to be in a meeting that could potentially vote on decisions that affect the entire BBC population.

It also logically means that fewer bodies are available to accomplish tasks, and those present assume greater responsibilities, while making nearly the same amount as SGC-MMC officials.

SGC-MMC has six associate justices. At the beginning of the spring semester, SGC-BBC had zero associate justices and vacancies in four created positions: internship coordinator, director of sustainability, director of community relations and outreach, and director of external relations.

Tiffany Huertas, SGC-BBC press secretary, said the council consists of 43 positions, but 13 spots remain open. Sixty-two positions are listed on SGC-MMC's website for executive, legislative, and judicial branches; out of those 62, four spots are vacant.

Oehleo Higgs, former SGC-BBC press secretary, described complications he faced with working

on a small council.

Higgs said he tried to juggle all aspects of the press while simultaneously helping other cabinet members with whatever was needed.

"At MMC, you have one person doing each thing: a marketing person, someone for press, a webmaster," Higgs said. "But one person doing it all is a very heavy load."

While Jervaris "Jey" Floyd, hospitality senator, said having a smaller council makes sense because BBC is smaller campus, he is well aware of the difficulties it presents.

"We're trying to put people in committees and people are either on a committee or a chair of one, so we're pulling hairs with the ones we have," Floyd said.

Higgs greeted the idea of one council with skepticism.

"From being on the inside of SGA, I don't think MMC knows the vibe or atmosphere of the students [at BBC]. Unless there's a university-wide voting towards BBC students, I don't know how it would work," Higgs said.

As of press time, Rafael Zapata, SGC-BBC advisor was unavailable for comment.

While many at BBC agreed there could never be one council, some could at least offer solutions.

Floyd said that the senate is looking into amending article four of the SGA constitution, which says to qualify for SGA, one must be registered for no less than 50 percent of classes at the campus he or she represents.

If it were amended, a student who has less than half of their classes at BBC could still qualify for to be a part of SGC-BBC, thereby potentially increasing the council size. Neistein's suggestion was a bit more complex.

"The only way I would see one council working is if: one, the president would have a basis on both campuses, meaning the president would be given a gas and cell phone stipend to commute to both campuses," Neistein said.

Neistein's second requirement: two offices, two vice presidents, and for this president to show his or her presence at each campus a minimum of twice a week.

"If there's going to be one council, it's always going to be a president from [MMC]," Neistein said.

*Additional reporting by Vincent Fernandez. Full article at fuis.com.*

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