

University Apartments' future is uncertain

CARLOS COBA
Asst. News Director

On any given day of fall or spring semester, student residents can be seen grilling food on barbecues or playing volleyball in the sands of University Apartments' beach volleyball courts.

"You feel like you're living in an apartment, not a dorm," said junior Tarek Abdel Raouf, a

mechanical engineering major.

Other student residents feel like the apartments' facilities are outdated and call for some improvement in maintenance and upkeep.

By 2020, however, students might not have the option of residing in University Apartments.

The 2010-2020 Master Plan's draft shows that University

Apartments may lose some, if not all, of its beds.

The Master Plan guides the university's development and building for a decade, and all public universities are required to upgrade their Master Plans every five years.

Without a Master Plan, the public and donors would not know what the university intends to develop.

The plan's illustrative map of Modesto A. Maidique campus shows several structures in the area currently occupied by apartment buildings F, G, H and J. There are approximately 50 beds per apartment building – removing four of the 10 buildings would mean 200 fewer beds.

Administration insists that any beds removed from University Apartments would be compen-

sated for by new housing projects or housing projects under construction.

"Five hundred students are housed in University Apartments," said Lynn Hendricks, interim executive director of Housing and Residence Life. "Any complex built with more than 500 beds would account for

SEE APARTMENTS, PAGE 2

Arsenic-related cancer under scrutiny by Panthers

IRVIN S. CARDENAS
Contributing Writer

Arsenic, a known carcinogen, is almost unavoidable by humans. Traces of it can be found in rice, drinking water, apple juice and even in chicken meat.

However, Barry Rosen, associate dean of basic research and graduate programs, said that although finding arsenic in our poultry sounds frightening, we should not be scared.

Rosen is a molecular biologist that has been studying arsenic for over 30 years. Rosen and a team of researchers have made discoveries ranging from new genes, enzymes and pathways that are involved in the creation of arsenic-related cancer.

Rosen's latest research focuses on the analysis of arsenic in microorganisms.

"One of the biggest risks with arsenic is that it causes cancer in humans," said Rosen.

To tackle the issue of arsenic-related cancer, Rosen and his team are coming up with ideas about the development of drugs that could prevent "arsenic carcinogenesis," or the creation of arsenic-related cancer.

Rosen was recently awarded a \$100,000 grant by Florida's Department of Health for his proposal titled "Development of high-throughput assays to identify drugs to prevent arsenic carcinogenesis."

His research will investigate large-scale procedures, or screenings, to assess enzymes and chemical compounds as possible drug components.

"If you can do one thing at a time, it takes you a long time to get anything done. But if you can do them typically in the types of assays that we do in our laboratory, using 96 well plates, then that means doing 96 assays at the same time," said Rosen.

With the one-year grant, Rosen and his team will research the developmental process of these highly desired drugs.

SEE ARSENIC, PAGE 2



IRVIN S. CARDENAS/THE BEACON

Dr. Venkadesh Sarkarai Nadar working on the crystallization of ArsM, the bacterial enzyme. Through their research it has been demonstrated that ArsM detoxifies inorganic arsenic in microbes.

Departments compromise for work study students

STEPHAN USECHE
BBC Managing Editor

Recently, the Federal Work Study Program has suffered cuts and departments, including FIU Libraries and the Recreation Center, have felt the impact.

The FWS Program helps students with financial needs by awarding them money in the form of a paycheck when they work for departments within the University.

Before the 2012-2013 school year, FWS covered 100 percent of the awards; but, according to Lydia Lopez, assistant director of Human Resources and Budget, each department of the University will now have to contribute 25 percent of these awards from their own budgets.

"It's a compromise, so the students can get the award," said Lopez. "Twenty-five percent is very reasonable."

According to Lopez, the libraries hire up to 80 to 90 student employees each year and

“It’s a compromise so the students can get an award.”

Lydia Lopez
Assistant Director of Human Resources and Budget

the amount of FWS students have decreased along with its fiscal year. In the 2011-2012 school year, the total amount of FWS awards for the library were \$623,542; this dropped to \$202,065.75 the next year, according to Lopez.

This drop was also noticed at the Hubert Library, located at Biscayne Bay Campus, when the amount of FWS employees went from 33 in 2011 to 9 in 2012, according to

Lopez.

Director of Financial Aid Francisco Valines wrote in an email to Student Media that there will not be any further cuts because the University was "funded at the same level for the 2013-2014 school year as we were at the 2012-2013 school year."

However, "there's only an amount of money that they receive," said Lopez, "and they want to spread that as much as possible."

In the case of the the Recreation Center, the number of FWS employees has decreased from five to three or two per semester within the 175 students who work for them, according to Robert Frye, director of Campus Recreation.

"We used to get a lot more, probably about five years ago before things started to tighten

up," said Frye. "We would have as many as ten in our staff, but Financial Aid is cut back and it's tougher to get that."

Frye said that when it is time to hire, the department does not look into whether the applicant is part of the FWS program.

"We look into whether they are going to fit our availability needs, their background and experience," said Frye.

While the program helps students and departments alike by funding employment, once a FWS employee has used up the award, they cannot continue working unless the department decides to take on the paycheck itself.

"Sometimes they would run out before the end of the semester, which is not a good thing for us," said Frye. "And it's not a good thing for them because they [can't] work anymore and we have to fill those hours that they can no longer work."

-stephan.useche@fiusm.com

Panther Sports Talk Live

Listen every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday on Radiate FM:
88.1, 95.3, and 96.9 fm



WORLD NEWS

Syria agrees to UN investigation

Syria has agreed to a UN investigation after last week's alleged chemical weapons attack outside Damascus. A senior White House official dismissed this deal, however, and said the U.S. has very little doubt that President Bashar Assad's forces used such weapons. Although President Barack Obama has cautioned against a hasty decision, naval forces have been dispatched toward Syria's coastal waters.

Hearings postponed in Mubarak and Islamists cases

Egyptian courts heard separate court cases on Sunday against former President Hosni Mubarak and the Muslim Brotherhood, both over allegations of killing protesters. Mubarak has been in detention since April 2011. He was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison last year for failing to stop the killing of some 900 protesters. This sentence was overturned on appeal. His trial has been postponed to Sept. 14. Top Brotherhood leader Mohammed Badie and five other members of the Islamist Brotherhood saw their hearings postponed to Oct. 29.

Palestinians call off peace talks

Palestinian officials said they called off a planned round of peace talks Monday after Israeli soldiers killed three protesters during clashes following an arrest raid in the West Bank. Clashes broke out when Israeli forces entered the Qalandia refugee camp, just outside of Jerusalem, on an overnight arrest raid. Shai Hakimi, a spokesman for the paramilitary border police, said hundreds of Palestinians poured into the streets and hurled firebombs, concrete blocks and rocks at officers. However, State Department deputy spokeswoman Marie Harf said that "no meetings have been canceled. We've been clear that the two parties are engaged in serious and sustained negotiations."

For more world news, check out www.FIUSM.com.

CORRECTIONS

In Volume 25, Issue 6, the column titled "Make sure you take enough time out, see your folks", was written by Ashley Valentin, not Adrienne Richardson.

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

An investigation into the source, results of arsenic's relation to cancer

ARSENIC, PAGE 1

"We feel that within this year we should be able to develop the tools, the assays, that we need to be able to screen for drugs," said Rosen.

Rosen said that their initial goal for this research is not to identify the drugs, but to create the tools needed to screen for the drugs.

An analogy, Rosen said, would be that they are not building cars, but rather making the tools that will be used to build cars.

He said that the task of this research is to develop a process where they can see arsenic methylation in real-time. In our bodies, the progress of arsenic causing cancer begins when the arsenic is taken into the liver and a liver-residing enzyme transforms it into this carcinogen.

Current assays that model this process can take days and are not suitable for identifying compounds that are possible drug candidates.

The novelty of this initial research involves finding a way to see the enzymatic process in seconds or minutes, rather than hours or days.

Rosen can't mention what the finalized version of these assays will look like yet. But to give us a better idea, Rosen said that it will be an adaptation of a procedure they are developing. In this assay they have enhanced the ability to emit fluorescence of an enzyme called methyltransferase. This assay has demon-

strated that arsenic binding to this enzyme causes a large change in fluorescence in milliseconds.

"We will adapt this assay to look for potential drugs that can prevent arsenic binding to the enzyme," said Rosen.

Rosen said that after achieving such assays using a high throughput process, typically using their laboratory equipment of 96 well plates, they could collaborate with other facilities, such as Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Research, which performs this process on a very large scale.

"These facilities also have more potential drug compounds that we can test," said Rosen.

Research states that arsenic is the most ubiquitous toxin and carcinogen endangering human health.

"Long-term exposure through an increase of arsenic in our diet, or direct contact with inorganic arsenic, can cause major health problems leading to skin, bladder, or lung cancer," said Rosen.

Further evidence of its danger can be seen in the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's "U.S. Priority List of Hazardous Substances," which ranks arsenic as number one.

Rosen said that while arsenic is linked to these cancers, arsenic-related cancer is usually associated with geological formations. This is the case of locations such as West Bengal, India, where there are high levels of arsenic

in the Ganges River or in Chile and other South American countries where a lot of the arsenic is found associated with copper and silver mines.

As far as the issue of arsenic in our diet goes, Rosen believes that we should be mostly concerned with rice, especially since recent discov-

Pharmacology.

Packianathan said that roxarsone is often used as a feed additive for chickens to increase their weight, as illustrated in his research.

The team's research has led them to pioneer the process of genetically engineering rice that could natu-



Long-term exposure through an increase of arsenic in our diet, or direct contact with inorganic arsenic, can cause major health problems leading to skin, bladder, or lung cancer.

Barry Rosen
Associate Dean
Basic Research and Graduate Programs

eries show that rice is a natural accumulator of arsenic.

During a discussion of their recent discovery of a structure involving roxarsone, an industrially made arsenic-bonded compound, Rosen reiterated his point.

"I think Rice is the problem, not apples or chicken," said Rosen after a comment from Charles Packianathan, a research associate from the Department of Cellular Biology and

rally vaporize arsenic. It is this sort of research that has led to various arsenic-related discoveries, and to his pursuit of finding arsenic-preventing drugs.

There are currently no assays to identify drugs that prevent arsenic carcinogenesis; Rosen and his team of researchers would be the first to achieve this.

-news@fiusm.com

Students face housing uncertainty

APARTMENTS, PAGE 1

the beds removed from University Apartments."

Parkview, which recently opened, has 622 beds. In addition, Hendricks said "...EdR, a private developer, is building 542 beds across S.W. Eighth Street; and a different private developer plans to add an additional 900 beds a few blocks from campus."

According to Jim Wassenaar, director of Facilities Planning and Operations, off-campus housing built by private developers will continue to increase.

"We've been supportive of private partnerships because we believe the Sweetwater community should embrace the University as a full partner," said Wassenaar.

However, private partnerships can also serve as a reminder of the Master Plan's uncertain nature.

A Master Plan is inherently hypothetical because it projects future construction without considering the availability of state funding.

"The reality is that state funding is below our expectations," said Robert Griffith, director of Facilities Planning. "So funding these projects

relies on private partnerships."

According to several administrators, private partnerships are the catalysts of the university's expansion, which leads to the displacement of facilities.

"If we displace student housing we are going to replace it and improve it," said Wassenaar.

Any changes to apartments would likely occur by displacement of on-campus housing to the area in front of Lot 6 and near the football stadium, where most residential halls are.

The area east of Parking Garage Five and north of Southwest 11th Avenue, which runs through University Apartments' Lot 14, would be the location of Academic Health facilities.

"There are a series of medical buildings and partnerships scheduled for that northeastern quadrant of MMC," said Wassenaar. "We don't expect any impact in that area until the following five to 10 year period."

Griffith hopes that students think about the lack of available land within MMC and the convenience of designating certain areas of campus for specific purposes.

The Master Plan has to guide some strategic decisions, and Griffith believes expanding academic health on the northeast corner of MMC is strategic.

"We expect to grow the most in medicine," said Griffith. "We are not going to preserve four housing units and put academic health facilities in an inconvenient place."

Wassenaar reminds students that University Apartments were built in 1985 and it does not have Parkview's modern facilities.

University Apartments cost around \$8 million to build, while Parkview was a \$40 million project.

"When you build a structure such as Parkview, you're building housing that is better prepared for hurricanes, more energy efficient and has a longer life-span," said Wassenaar.

Student residents were not surprised by the Master Plan's projections.

"I've been living here since 2006 and they've been expanding campus, so these plans don't really surprise me," said Sebius Santos, a senior biology major.

carlos.coba@fiusm.com

THE BEACON

EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITOR IN CHIEF

BRANDON WISE

BBC MANAGING EDITOR

STEPHAN USECHE

PRODUCTION MANAGER/

COPY CHIEF

JENNA KEFAUVER

NEWS DIRECTOR

MADISON FANTOZZI

LIFE! EDITOR

ESSY DE LA MONEDA

SPORTS DIRECTOR

FRANCISCO RIVERO

OPINION DIRECTOR

JUNETTE REYES

PHOTO EDITOR

STEPHANIE MASON

CONTACT INFORMATION

Modesto Maidique Campus:
GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 348-2709
news@fiusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus
WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 919-4722
bbc@fiusm.com

Editor-in-Chief:
(305) 348-1580
brandon.wise@fiusm.com

Advertising:
(305) 348-6994
advertising@fiusm.com

The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by Student Government.

Facing the education giants in U.S.

GIOVANNI GARCIA
Staff Writer

A recent article published in the New York Times mentioned that a new educational grading exam was to be released internationally, crafted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The Assessment of Higher Education Learning Outcome will be used to compare university students internationally, specifically undergraduates who are close to graduating, by determining how well they can use what they have learned in the workforce. The results will be compared without including cultural and language backgrounds.

OECD's reasons for establishing such an exam, as stated in their brochure, is that "no international tools exist for the direct evaluations of students."

All of this may still be a work in progress since OECD only has economic and engineering exams as of yet.

The question now is

whether the U.S. should participate in this examination as well.

The answer may vary, but I think we are not ready at all.

To bluntly state my point, the U.S. education system is not at the highest level.

Only ranked 17 out of 20 in the list of "Best Education in the World," according to a global report by Pearson.

This shows that our education system is completely different than those of Finland, South Korea and Hong Kong, which make up the top three of the list.

Justin Carpenter, an instructor and Ph.D student of University of South Florida, said that in order to determine whether this exam is necessary, it must be proven as a helpful standardized test that will measure students against this baseline.

"Will the test correctly measure students against academic goals that are, in fact, universal? This remains to be seen," said Carpenter. "Do we expect our students to score high on this test, and does scoring high on this test

tell us that the student is more suited to achieve academically than one who scored poorly? This too remains to be seen."

If the U.S. managed to join the AHELO bandwagon, it will only be more of a problem than what we are facing already.

Even though the exam mostly contains critical thinking and problem solving questions that relate to real life situations, students in general will probably all have a different way of thinking and a different way of solving problems.

It may also lead to another exam that you would need to buy books, pay tutors, and even take a class to be able to pass.

John Aubrey Douglass, a professor at the University of California, mentioned in the New York Times that AHELO was modeled after the SAT college entrance exam.

The SAT has so far only worked as a profitable application, but hasn't helped in education one bit.

The same can be said with

Florida's FCAT since it was made solely for financial help.

If high school graduates have to spend money to be able to pass the SAT, the same can be said for soon to be graduates on taking AHELO.

This may also be another way to separate students by their grades even more.

It might not be an entirely bad thing, as you do not want an ignoramus to be enrolled in Harvard, but instead of accepting students within a range, universities will simply accept A+ students while other lower level universities will take the "leftovers."

Overall, AHELO may turn out to be increasingly problematic for the U.S. and the education system if we were to be involved with this international standardized examination.

Competing at an international level just isn't worth it when our students are already at a disadvantage.

-opinion.fiusm.com

THE BEACON | Editorial

We have high expectations and so should you

Welcome back, everyone. As your new editorial board, we wanted to take this chance to let you understand what we are hoping to do this year.

The student newspaper at each university has a great responsibility to its readers to keep them well-informed on issues and events going on around campus. We take this responsibility very seriously and want to make sure that each person on campus has a better understanding of those events and different projects going on within the University.

For example, this summer we informed many people of the pending deal to bring Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines to the Biscayne Bay Campus, which otherwise would have gone unreported. It is with great pride that we take on the task of bringing you, the readers, content three times per week in print and online daily.

As a part of the University's plan to be "World's Ahead," we want to help bring you something in a similar vein.

This year, we will launch a "World Issues" section that will run once a week. In this section, you can expect both current writers of the Beacon and alumni to bring you news of the world from their perspectives around the globe.

One week our section may have the theme of Syria, for example, and our correspondents will write remotely from either the Middle East, Europe or Asia to bring us perspective from those areas. This will give insight to how people around the world are experiencing and reacting to the conflict in Syria, for example.

This is a concept that the Beacon has yet to try, and we are excited to bring it to you this year.

We also want to make sure you are up-to-date with everything happening around each of your athletic teams on campus. From football to track and field, we will have something for everyone. We are hitting the ground running, already combing out campus looking for the next big story that you need to know about this year.

**NOW HIRING
WRITERS, COPY
EDITORS,
PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Pick up an application in GC 210, WUC 124, or online at fiusm.com!

Ratemyprofessors: credible or not?

ASHLEY VIERA
Contributing Writer

Fall is rapidly approaching, along with the dreaded, panic-stricken process of having to select classes for the upcoming semester.

At this point, most students at FIU are trying to determine whether a teacher is a good fit, keeping several factors in mind.

For assistance and assurance, students tend to turn to ratemyprofessors.com, a well known site whose sole purpose is to be a place where college students from all over can receive feedback in the style of comments regarding professors in colleges and universities alike.

Now, since so many seem to depend on ratemyprofessors.com to select their classes, a reasonable preceding question would be whether it is even a reliable website to begin with.

Ratemyprofessors.com has its moments where it can be of much assistance, especially when you want to obtain a general gist or vibe of what a teacher and their class will be like.

Sophomore José Sabatier said, "I personally find the website very helpful and very reliable, especially when

having to choose classes for an upcoming semester."

While the site can be exceedingly helpful at times, it can also be incredibly arduous and frustrating to work with at other times.

Like many teacher rating sites, a worry

not be solely dependent on a teacher rating site to determine their upcoming schedules."

In my perspective, Valencia makes an excellent point to use ratemyprofessors.com as a guidance tool but not as your only resource.

When it comes to these kinds of situations, common sense and logic play an essential role in the decision making process.

For instance, if results on the site of a professor's teaching methods are either heavily positive or heavily negative, keep those in the back of your mind because chances are they are most likely reliable.

Similarly, if there is only one negative comment and the commentator seems to be blatantly bashing a teacher, do not pay much attention to it.

Ratemyprofessors.com can be a great resource to assist in the selection of professors and classes but it should most definitely not be completely considered a go-to, dependable resource for one's schedule selection.

-opinion@fiusm.com

“When it comes to these kinds of situations, common sense and logic play an essential role in the decision making process.”

at hand is determining whether comments posted are based on pure emotion or a professor's viable merit.

Any college student who has had a bad day or received a bad grade in a class can go online and post negative feedback, which is a concerning issue.

When asked about this flaw in the site, sophomore Armando Valencia said, "For that exact reason, I believe students should

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to 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, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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.

Poster collection once confiscated by Nazis on display at Jewish Museum

DANIEL URIA
Staff Writer

This past summer, The Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU, located on Miami Beach,

debuted a collection of posters that had been confiscated by Nazis from collector Dr. Hans Sachs. Sachs's collection included 12,500 posters, making it the largest private poster collection in the world. In 1938, during the occupation chief of Nazi propaganda, Joseph Goebbels, confiscated his collection, claiming it would be moved to another museum.

The Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU hosted an exhibit called AUKTION 392, that focused on Florida families attempting to reclaim Nazi-looted art. While researching this exhibit, the museum discovered Dr. Sachs's son, Paul, who had been fighting to win back his father's collection.

"At the time of our exhibit, he had not been successful," explained Executive Director Jo Ann Arnowitz. "He was still fighting German courts to get restitution."

Approximately 4,259 of the posters were finally released to Sachs's family by the German government in 2012. Some of the pieces have been auctioned off, while some have been given to various museums, including The Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU.

In a press release by the museum,

Sachs is quoted explaining why he chose to distribute the pieces: "There's, of course, no practical way that I could frame and hang 4,300 posters, so I just didn't see any other alternative than to do what we're doing." He told the Huffington Post.

"But I don't feel guilty in any way whatsoever — even with them being auctioned, I think it's far preferable that they will wind up in the hands of people who truly enjoy them and appreciate them, rather than sitting in a museum's storage

for another 70 years without seeing the light of day."

The museum is just as ecstatic about the opportunity for people to share in the beauty of Sachs's collection.

"It's very exciting for us to have this collection on display," said Arnowitz. "We're very proud that Sachs turned to us in order to ask us to display it."

The exhibit features a selection of about 21 of Sachs's posters on display, some of which are believed to be the very last posters in exist-

tence of that particular image. The posters include propaganda and political posters, as well as entertainment, travel and sports posters among other things.

Arnowitz claims that since the exhibit has opened, the reception has been overwhelmingly positive.

"I think people are amazed to see the different scope of the posters, and it's a really good representation of the work that he collected."

The collection seems most impressive when one considers what it has been through.

"It's survived through this tumultuous heritage of having been carefully cared for by a collector, and then ended up wandering through the turmoil of the war and then finally making its way out," Arnowitz said. "I think that it really adds a lot to telling a full story. And in this case, it's a very positive story that the family has finally been able to get some of the posters back."

The exhibit will remain on display through December 2013.

-daniel.uria@fiusm.com



ANDRES CARDENAS/THE BEACON

The Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU focuses on the history of the Jewish experience in Florida. The museum has recently added to its collection Dr. Hans Sachs posters.

Curtains unveiled: Bursting the Bollywood bubble

COLUMNIST



CONSUELO NARANJO

Sun block, light clothes, a ramanent of anti-malaria and Imodium pills fell into a big, black luggage and became part of my hasty packing.

Deep breathing and western expensive meditation techniques helped my heart calm down minutes before the flight to the unknown began. Could the land of a million faces and a thousand religions allow me to escalate the ladder of spirituality? Purportedly, the most adventurous live the "eat, pray and love" story inside the magical land of India; nevertheless, I discovered that this myth always diverges.

My fascination for this place had grown through the years. I was hoping that this land of faiths would allow me to discover my inner-self and, finally, I would stumble onto the absolute truth. I was fantasizing with the idea of praying with the Muslims, reading with the Christians, meditating with the Jains and sharing a meal with the Hindu-vegetarians.

Traveling and daydreaming may look manageable while you are sitting in front of fast speed Internet, enjoying an air-conditioned room and drinking from uncontaminated water sources. India's promise of colors, food and culture traps you; indeed, it trapped me.

Two months back, while working on some articles at the FIU newsroom, my everlasting search for God, Allah, Ehyeh, Hare Krishna

and the Divine had an unexpected twist when a small black and white ad from the Religious Studies department offering a lifetime journey to study Jainism, an ancient religion originated in South Asia, caught my attention. Call it miracle or destiny but in that moment I knew that this unforgettable trip would change my life completely.

According to Guy Trebay, The New York Times columnist and well-known traveler, India is a compelling and bewildering country that may guarantee misery for those first-timers and unprepared travelers. I was one of them.

Unbearable heat, overwhelming traffic, and an ongoing horn-honking cacophony received me in Delhi after more than 24 hours of air and road trav-



CONSUELO NARANJO/THE BEACON

Smiley faces and pure innocence are reflected by Indian children while sitting in the back of a tuck tuck on their way to school. Tuck tuck or taxi is the a common way of transportation in South Asia.

eling. "The Lonely Planet-India Edition" became my bible and travel guide.

Although I am originally from South America and I have traveled around

the world while embracing **SEE INDIA, PAGE 5**

Astronomy professor brings first “real” observatory to FIU

DANIEL URIA
Staff Writer

Young people are often encouraged to shoot for the stars when attempting to achieve their dreams. Professor James Webb’s dream involves allowing those same young people to get a better view of the stars.

This dream was recently realized with the completion of the Stocker AstroScience Center.

Webb had been committed to improving FIU’s observation facilities since the University’s “Observing Pad,” which was located on the Chemistry and Physics building.

“I spent my first years here actually perfecting that observatory and basically developing that observatory into a useful teaching space,” he recalled.

All of Webb’s work would soon go to waste as renovations to the Chemistry and Physics building rendered the observing pad unusable. It would be another 4 years until a new observing pad would be constructed. But, even with this new ground observing pad built Webb still felt that the University needed it to help properly teach its students.

“I think an important part of teaching astronomy is actually being able to look through a telescope and seeing things in the night sky,” he said. “In order to do that you have to have facilities, especially in a place like we live. In an urban environment, there’s lots of scattered light around, you need an observatory to actually make these observations with a good telescope and everything like that.”

Ultimately, Webb decided to

take matters into his own hands and began his efforts to build a “real” observatory at FIU. In 2005, he orchestrated the “Guitars under the Stars” fundraiser, which raised \$20 thousand, and from this point there was no looking back for Webb.

“That’s sort of been my legacy, is this quest for this observatory,” he stated. “It’s something that I think any good astronomy teacher would do. It’s something that’s necessary to teach the subject that we want to teach and we love teaching.”

Despite this strong start, the road to completing the observatory would not be an easy one. The University lacked the funds to see the project completed, and despite a promise from then president Mitch Maidique to match any funding Webb could raise, most of the money came from outside

sources.

The most significant contribution came in 2007 as a result of an article written about Webb in the magazine VIP Guide Miami. The article caught the eye of former Miami Dade physics professor, Dr. Carl Stocker, whom the observatory is named after.

“Carl Stocker saw it and decided it would be a good thing to leave as a legacy. He donated \$300 thousand that was going to be matched by the University and matched by the state,” Webb explained. “Finally when we did get the money then things started developing and things started happening.”

The coming years would bring more funding and ground for the brand new observatory would be broken in 2012 and today the observatory is preparing for its grand opening in early November.

Webb is excited about the prospects of the new observatory to help improve the “gee whiz” factor of learning astronomy and help students learn to the best of their ability.

Junior computer and electrical engineering major, Alejandro Alcantara, agrees.

“I think it’s pretty cool that they decided to add that,” he said. “It gives us more options and it’s more hands on. As soon as they open it I’ll probably check it out.”

“We’ll be able to see lots and lots of different things in the night sky: nebula, star formation regions and other galaxies. And people will be able to go up and see them with their own eyes,” Webb said. “I think it’s going to have a huge impact on the students.”

-daniel.uria@fiusm.com

India: A concealed reality that you need to know

INDIA, PAGE 4

dissimilar cultures, I have to affirm that there is not a place in the world like this country where “Slumdog Millionaire” is the daily scene and the typical dancing Bollywood movie becomes a fairy tale.

While walking around the colorful busy markets surrounded by the deep and distinct smell of exotic spices, I saw naked children laying on the ground asking for money. I could not comprehend how I would ever be able to find spirituality around grief;

where religion, like every other society, has become a business. Finally, I realized that there is not time for enlightenment when food is almost extinct; supernatural Goddess cannot protect you from bad karma or from a caste system that has transcended hundreds

of years. According to the World Bank, India is one of world’s fourth recent growing largest economies; however, 1.2 billion people are living in extreme poverty.

Boundaries between social classes are throbbing and 33 percent of the popu-

lation lives with \$1.25 per day.

Despite the extreme cultural shock, life in the modern and hasty city of Delhi grew some hope inside my thirsty desire for peace. Meanwhile, surviving in this concrete jungle dominated by hungry

males and where female light skin birds like me had everything to lose, I realized that India enchantment is dissimilar for everyone. I did not find what I was looking for, although, for sure, I found what I needed.

-life@fiusm.com

Wong Kar-wai’s ‘The Grandmaster’ not so grand

COLUMNIST



JUAN BARQUIN

There’s something about Ip Man, a well-known Chinese martial artist who taught Bruce Lee, that has become incredibly popular in the film world over the last years. Everyone involved in Chinese cinema seems to be trying their hand at telling his life. The latest installment comes

from none other than the always-stylish Wong Kar-wai.

Those who have experienced the director’s past films, “In the Mood for Love” and “Chungking Express” being two of the best known, know that his works are as lush as can be. “The Grandmaster,” his film about the life of Ip Man, is no exception to this.

That distinct style is on full-force here, with fight sequences in brothels, pouring rain, and more.

Those tired of the rather boring collection of American action films will rejoice in the beauty of these Kung fu sequences, as they truly deliver the best moments of “The Grandmaster.” The special effects in these moments may not be subtle, but they blend in so beautifully with the photography that it’s entirely excusable.

Regardless of how impressive some scenes are, Philippe Le Sourd’s photography does sometimes fall into an almost tiresome

imitation of the work that Christopher Doyle used to provide for Kar-wai’s former, and better, films. The rehashing of style with a lack of substance is just the issue here, though.

Kar-wai doesn’t have nearly enough substance to provide real drive to a film that’s over two hours long. Anyone can fill an action flick full of action-set piece after action-set piece, but Kar-wai chooses instead to focus on the drama, as he is known to do.

As much as one might want it to be more of a wuxia film, “The Grandmaster” is ultimately more of drama and romance heavy biopic. This means that with all the beauty and martial arts comes the occasional boring spot, especially in the latter half.

It is mostly thanks to Tony Leung, the always talented and handsome Chinese actor, and his co-star Ziyi Zhang, that the film remains interesting to watch. Both have clear

experience in martial arts, drama and romance films, and Kar-wai makes excellent use of the two regardless of how lacking the story might be at times.

Wong Kar-wai’s tries to blend action and history with the lush romantic dramas of his past, but only manages to be somewhat successful. Regardless, “The Grandmaster” will be sure to please many with its looks and performances.

-juan.barquin@fiusm.com

Super Bowl may be ‘Storm Bowl’

DAVID SHARP
Associated Press

The Farmers’ Almanac is using words like “piercing cold,” “bitterly cold” and “biting cold” to describe the upcoming winter. And if its predictions are right, the first outdoor Super Bowl in years will be a messy “Storm Bowl.”

The 197-year-old publication that hits newsstands Monday predicts a winter storm will hit the Northeast around the time the Super Bowl is played at MetLife Stadium in the Meadowlands in New Jersey. It also predicts a colder-than-normal winter for two-thirds of the country and heavy snowfall in the Midwest, Great Lakes and New England.

“We’re using a very strong four-letter word to describe this winter, which is C-O-L-D. It’s going to be very cold,” said Sandi Duncan, managing editor.

Based on planetary positions, sunspots and lunar cycles, the almanac’s secret formula

is largely unchanged since founder David Young published the first almanac in 1818. Modern scientists don’t put much stock in sunspots or tidal action, but the almanac says its forecasts used by readers to plan weddings and plant gardens are correct about 80 percent of the time.

Last year, the forecast called for cold weather for the eastern and central U.S. with milder temperatures west of the Great Lakes. It started just the opposite but ended up that way.

Caleb Weatherbee, the publication’s elusive prognosticator, said he was off by only a couple of days on two of the season’s biggest storms: a February blizzard that paralyzed the Northeast with 3 feet of snow in some places and a sloppy storm the day before spring’s arrival that buried parts of New England.

Readers who put stock in the almanac’s forecasts may do well to stock up on long johns, especially if they’re lucky enough to get tickets to the Super Bowl on Feb. 2.

All brands

all Spare Parts

for your

computer

Bring this Ad and your machine for repair and get:

- free diagnosis *
- free system maintenance *
- 5% discount on final price *

IMPACT®

COMPUTERS & ELECTRONICS

4151 N 29th Ave
Hollywood FL 33020
Phone: (954)-920-3100
Ext. 280
M - F 9:00am - 6:30pm

Acer®, Apple®, Asus®, Compaq®, Dell®, eMachines®, Gateway®, HP®, IBM®, Lenovo®, Lexmark®, Sony®, Sun®, Toshiba®, and all Other Trademarks or Registered Trademarks are Property of their Respective Companies. Impact® Computers does not represent any brand or trademark nor any model or brand of equipment. *Valid only for FIU students with proper ID, services are based on standard services and company policies.

Projected starting running back kicked off team following arrest



BEACON FILE PHOTO

The now former FIU Panther Jakhari Gore, above, was dismissed from the team after he was arrested for robbery by sudden snatching and false imprisonment. Gore was expected to be the Panthers' starting running back this season.

Freshmen class look to make a difference

ALEX SOLANA
Contributing Writer

As the summer winds down and the 2013 season quickly approaches, Head Coach Kenny Arena and the rest of the new-look men's soccer team are ready for their season opener at Loyola Marymount on Aug. 30. This season the team added several new and young faces as they begin their second full season under Arena.

After suffering through many tough seasons, the Panthers recorded their most wins since 2005. As the new season gets ready to kick off, the Panthers will be hitting the field after bringing in a promising 2013 recruiting class.

More than half of the roster spots this season will be filled with brand new talent, as twelve freshmen highlight the young team; along with three transfer players. Only thirteen players will be returning from last seasons 8-8-2 team.

Arena and his staff are very excited to see what this large 2013 recruiting class will have to offer, not only for this season but also for the future of the program. The 2013 freshmen class features players from all over Florida, as well as a few out of state players

from California and two international players from Germany and Jamaica. According to Arena, one of the team's biggest issues last season was "depth, and overcoming injury." However, Arena believes that "they have really helped that issue with a solid recruiting class." Arena may be right, as FIU's recruiting class was named a top 40 recruiting class according to CollegeSoccerNews.com.

The 12 freshmen that were recruited by Arena and his staff have a very impressive track record at their previous high school and club teams. Several of the freshmen have played or trained with premier club teams in the United States and abroad.

Players like Angel Josue España, a midfielder out of Baldwin Park, Calif, will showcase the same talent he displayed in his 21 appearances with the LA Galaxy's Under-15/16 Development Academy team. Arena recently pointed him out in an interview saying, "He has done very well early on."

A few of the incoming recruits have also made appearances on their respective national teams. Ismael Longo, a two time State

SEE SOCCER, PAGE 7

FRANCISCO RIVERO
Sports Director

As the FIU football team prepares for its first game of the season against Maryland this Friday, the Panthers once again find themselves dealing with another player's trouble with the law.

Jakhari Gore, who transferred from Louisiana State University, was arrested late Sunday night, Aug. 25 on charges of robbery by sudden snatching and false imprisonment, according to an FIU police report.

The incident started late Friday night, Aug. 23 at approximately 11:23 p.m. when the victim came to the University to visit Gore. It started out as a disagreement outside of University Park Towers.

The report said that Gore snatched the keys from the victim, preventing her from leaving. Gore then convinced the victim to follow him up to his dorm. Once inside, the victim stated that Gore grabbed her forcibly behind her head in an attempt to have her perform oral sex.

The report goes on to say that the victim then pushed Gore away but was still held in Gore's dorm room against her will. The victim then followed Gore back downstairs thinking that she would retrieve her keys; however, Gore took control of the victim's vehicle and drove away with the victim inside.

Gore was then transported to the FIU police station for questioning on Sunday, Aug. 25, according to the FIU Police Department. No facts were stated for Saturday, Aug. 26 in the police report.

Gore is the second running back to be arrested this season. The first being Kedrick Rhodes who was kicked off the team after being arrested in July. Head Coach Ron Turner now has to deal with losing both his starting running backs in less than two months.

The Panthers are now left with five running backs on their roster which includes two juniors, Talir Satterfield-Rowe and Anthon Samuel, two freshman, Alfonso Randolph and Silas Spearman III, and one redshirt sophomore, Shane Coleman.

In a statement, Turner said Gore was released by the team but would not comment further.

Gore's only response to the whole situation was short and simple.

"I will give my side of the story to the judge and my attorney," said Gore according to the police report.

-Additional reporting was done by Diego Saldana-Rojas.

-sports@fiusm.com

New pitching coach comes to FIU

LUIS BARROSO
Contributing Writer

Sam Peraza was announced as the new pitching coach by head baseball coach Turtle Thomas earlier this month. Peraza, a California native born and raised in Los Angeles, decided to make the jump to the East Coast after four collegiate seasons as a pitcher.

Peraza ended his career in San Diego State University, followed by nine successful seasons coaching in the West Coast, in programs such as Cal State L.A. University, and Cal State Northridge.

Peraza led the Matadors last season to one of the most successful pitching seasons in program history by recording the team's best earned run average in 21 years and helped the Matadors reach a season high in overall wins record since 2002.

Peraza has been making himself at home in the sunshine state, now residing in Miami Lakes. Coming from Los Angeles, city traffic is not a new matter for Peraza, but even with a couple of directional miscues on getting around, he is still getting used to the new city as he really enjoys its culture and atmosphere.

Peraza also pointed out some distinction on the usual "college" pitcher in the West coast from the East coast.

"The East Coast has more power pitchers, more arm strength," Peraza said. "While



BEACON FILE PHOTO

After a disappointing pitching performance last season, pitching coach Drew French, above, will be replaced by Sam Peraza.

West Coast pitchers are known for focusing on the little things, mechanics wise, as well as fielding."

Peraza was recommended to head coach Thomas by some of the top head coaches of the West Coast, such as UCLA's John Savage and Rick Vanderhook from Cal State Fullerton. Peraza was described as a perfect replacement piece for the Panthers.

Behind the recommendations, Thomas was able to reach out to Peraza and the rest is history.

"I couldn't be more pleased than having Sam Peraza join our coaching staff, Thomas said. "I feel like he is the best pitching coach FIU has had during my tenure as head coach here.

He brings extensive knowledge on teaching a pitching staff. We think we have hit a grand slam with Sam Peraza joining our coaching staff and we can't wait to start the 2014 season."

The feeling is mutual for

SEE PITCHING, PAGE 7

Two linemen named to Senior Bowl watch list

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

The Senior Bowl, to be played Jan. 25, 2014, has two players on the list of possible participants from FIU to play in Mobile, Ala. Defensive linemen Paul Crawford and Greg Hickman will look to show their skills in the All-Star game in front of scouts from all 32 NFL teams.

Hickman is in the record books, where he leads the program in the "Quarterback Hurries" category at 10. Hickman, who has 23 consecutive starts over the past three seasons, will be lining up with the first team defense this season. He will also look to

add to his four forced fumbles, which is fourth in the record books and 23 tackles for loss with a total of 84 yards, which puts him ninth in the record books.

This adds to the preseason nominations for Hickman. This year he has been predicted to be on the Conference USA First Team by Phil Steele, Lindy's Sports Annual, and College Sports Madness. Hickman, who is listed at 6 feet 2 inches and 280 pounds, is noted as one of three defensive line prospects to go in to the NFL following this coming season along with Isame Faciane and Crawford.

Crawford stands a towering 6 feet 8 inches tall and weighs 270 pounds. The Los Angeles

native lined up with the first team defense in the spring and will most likely continue to in the Fall. Crawford had 18 tackles seven solo tackles, 1.5 sacks and 2.5 tackles for loss in the 2012 campaign.

Their position coach Andre Patterson, who has had an illustrious tenure in coaching including time with the Dallas Cowboys, has been letting them pick his brain as much as possible.

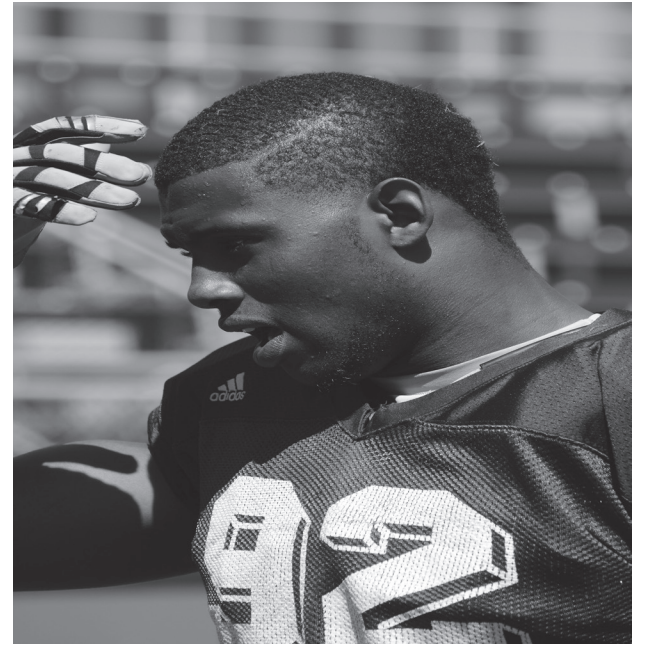
"The guys know that I have lived all this and that they can come to me at anytime with questions," Patterson said. "I am giving them the best information I can to help them become the best players and people that I can. All 32 teams know who these guys are. Paul,

Greg and Isame have chances to be great professional players along with some of the other guys here."

Faciane is also happy for his fellow teammates on being named to the watch list.

"Greg is an outstanding player who can read the offense. He is in his first season playing the interior of the line but he has adjusted faster than I have ever seen and is definitely a leader on the defensive side of the ball," Faciane added. "Paul's strength and length make it so that he can be a big time player. He definitely has potential, as Greg and some of the other guys on the defensive line do, to make it to the next level of this game."

-rhys.williams@fiusm.com



BEACON FILE PHOTO
Senior defensive linemen Paul Crawford (above) was recognized with Greg Hickman for Senior Bowl watch list.

Panthers lose in season opener to Arizona Wildcats

VERONIKA QUISPE
Contributing Writer

On Friday night, the Panthers took on the University of Arizona's Wildcats and lost 4-2 on their kickoff game of the 2013 season as members of Conference USA.

In the first half, Arizona's Kaitlyn Lopez scored the first goal of the night at five minutes into the game with an assist by Alexandra Doller. At the 38th minute, the Panthers began to pick up momentum as sophomore Mariena Stablein covered the midfield to build the team some point opportunities. However, this was

the only goal of the half and closed the half by 1-0. Arizona also led the first half in shots, 7-6.

In the second half the Panthers returned to the field on full action. At minute 49 junior Ashleigh Shim defended a nearly sure side goal by the wildcats. Shortly after the wildcats responded and began holding possession of the ball and by minute 53 Arizona's Jaden Degraie kicked in the ball from out of bounds and gets quickly swept by Shim, she then loses possession and gave wildcats the opportunity to make the second goal of the night in the second half.

The second half continued in favor of the

Wildcats until around the 73rd minute, when senior Crystal McNamara scored a header goal with the assist of sophomore Madlen Weinhardt. This alerted the Panthers to keep the momentum going and at the 78th minute, Arizona attempted yet another goal and was viciously blocked by freshman goalkeeper Vanessa Plasencia.

The Wildcats responded again with another goal at the 81st minute. Yet the Panthers did not stay quiet and within the same minute, the ball was brought back onto the field and Weinhardt scored the Panther's second goal of the night.

The game ended 4-2 Arizona, which has served as an improvement compared to last season's match that ended 3-0.

"We lost physical balance. Arizona was good," Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt said. "They did the things needed to be done but we didn't. We need to make sure to win our physical battle and play a bit smarter next time."

The Panthers next home game will be against the University of Florida Gators on September 1 at 7 pm.

-sports@fiusm.com

New pitching coach working 'tirelessly' at FIU

PITCHING, PAGE 6

Peraza on being a new member to the FIU family.

"I am very excited to join the FIU family and ready to get to work, Peraza said. "The opportunity to work for a legendary coach like Turtle Thomas is one that I am very much looking forward to. I'm prepared to work tirelessly with the pitching staff in order to help our program get back to a Regional and continue the baseball tradition and success in the FIU community!"

When it comes to Peraza's season goals as a pitching staff, he's looking to continue his past success by having his staff hold an era under 4.00, as well as having success in one of his biggest coaching philosophies, something he calls "2-out finish". It consists on the ability of a pitcher to effectively cloe out innings after recording the first two outs.

Peraza will also focus on basic simple techniques in order for his pitchers to have success.

Techniques such as fielding the pitcher's position, throwing strikes, controlling the 1-1 count and not beating themselves up in order to compete.

Peraza's point of view about a pitching staff on a baseball game can be described as a relay race, doing everything in your power to match the other pitcher's performance and be ready to pass the baton on to your next pitcher.

One of Peraza's main focus is the ability to pick each other up as a team while staying positive and confident as the game unfolds.

If the defense makes an error, pitchers should see that error as an opportunity to be great, great as a team and great as an individual.

One of the things Peraza asked his pitchers once they were being introduced was "What do you want to be known as at this time next year?"

-sports@fiusm.com

Young talent hopes to thrive in Kenny Arena's second year

SOCCER, PAGE 6

Champion at Cypress Bay, was a member of the 2008-2009 U14 and U15 U.S. National Team. Joining him on the national stage is David Mitchell, a goalkeeper out of Kingston, Jamaica, who played on the U20 and U23 Jamaican National team.

This year's freshmen will have a lot to live up to after last year's recruiting

class that exhibited their talent well throughout the 2012 season.

Sophomore Daniel Gonzalez, a midfielder out of Miami Killian High School, was selected to the 2012 C-USA All-Freshman Team after starting fourteen out of the sixteen games he played. Gonzalez, who led his team and conference with eight assists, was also named to the C-USA Third-Team All-Conference.

When asked what player he thought would make an immediate impact their freshmen season the same way he did, Gonzalez said, "All the freshmen are great and are playing at an amazing level coming in. It's a bit too early to say which player will be the stand out of all the newcomers, because so far they have all showed a lot of potential. But one thing's for sure," Gonzalez

continued, "they will play a big role in our new team."

Arena and the Panthers take the field on Aug. 30 for their first game in Los Angeles, California, where they will face Loyola Marymount at 10:00 p.m., a team they did not face last season. The team's first home game will be on Sept. 20 when they host North Florida at 7:00 p.m.

-sports@fiusm.com

JOIN OUR STAFF!

The **BEACON** is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don't be shy.

Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124 or apply at fiusm.com.



saves \$1,000 per year on average
compare every online store in one place
new, used, rentals, eBooks
every coupon, every offer

BIGWORDS doesn't sell, rent, or buy anything.
BIGWORDS searches every other site, relentlessly.
BIGWORDS is your friend who speaks the truth.

www.BIGWORDS.com or "BIGWORDS.com" Apps on iPhone, iPad and Android phones and tablets. BW89

BBC Week of Welcome expects large turnout

STEPHAN USECHE
BBC Managing Editor

A giant, inflatable panther by the entrance of Academic One in the Biscayne Bay Campus welcomed students as they made their way to the Week of Welcome BBQ event. On Monday, students gathered over barbecued chicken, beans and salad.

The BBQ was followed by the Blue and Gold Breakfast and the Mission IMPROVable Comedy Show, which according to its website is a “combination of MTV’s ‘Wild ‘N Out’ and ‘Who’s Line is it Anyway?’” Chicagoan actors, who comprise the team, perform various acts.

President Rosenberg is normally in attendance during this event, but according to Andres Bermeo, Campus Life marketing coordinator, Rosenberg was out of town, so he wasn’t able to attend.

Local businesses and restaurants around BBC awaited students. More than 45 vendors, like Duffy’s, Ale House and Misha’s Cupcakes, gave out samples and coupons to passerby’s.

“This year we are having our biggest event ever,” said Bermeo. Last year, the event hosted 25 vendors.

“It’s going to be like a little food festival,” said Katy Franco, Student Life public relations assistant.

There will also be some local hotels, along with a barber who will be providing hair cutting services to those students who wish to freshen their look.

The Week of Welcome continues with its biggest and most important event, according to Bermeo, which is the Freshman Luau. The event will feature a Polynesian dancer and have giveaways for students.

“We reserve our best giveaways for this year’s event,” said Bermeo. Last year Campus Life gave away beach mats that turn into bags.

The week will finalize with sporting events sponsored by the BBC Recreational Center, which includes Kayaking on the Bay on Friday at 1 p.m. and the Retro Series Triathlon on Saturday at 8 a.m.

-stephan.useche@fiusm.com



CHRIS CADET/THE BEACON

Students, such as Mengsha Yu, left, and Juan Du, right, happily load their plates with food during BBC’s Week of Welcome. Campus Life organized the event to welcome students to the new semester. A week of events precedes the BBQ.

Week of Welcome features staff member’s band

JESSICA MESZAROS
Staff Writer

Live Caribbean music flowed through Campus Life’s Welcome BBQ on Monday.

Noel Browne, University alumnus and current testing coordinator for the Center of Academic Success, is the lead vocalist for Caribbean Music Farm--the band that exclusively played the event.

“As a former student, I understand that when you’re coming to school for the first time, there could be some pressure,” said Browne. “So this is like a relaxation kind of thing.”

The band mainly performs reggae and calypso, but extended their genres to R&B, pop and hip-hop.

Ivy Siegel-Mack is the assistant director for BBC Campus Life. She coordinated Monday’s BBQ and selected Browne’s band.

“I’ve known him since

he was a student here and working in undergraduate studies. We’ve used him over the years,” said Siegel-Mack. “The vibe today felt more like a Caribbean-type of band.”

Browne got the group together in 2003 by personally choosing each of the seven other members. “The dream was to have my own band,” he said.

The members originate from various parts of the Caribbean. Browne is from Antigua, while other members come from Jamaica, Barbados, St. Lucia, Turks and Caicos, Virgin Islands and Trinidad.

Steven Moll, vice provost for BBC, was in the audience and had new Browne on a more personal level. Moll was an academic advisor to Browne about 10 years ago while he was studying in the Hospitality and Tourism Management School.

According to Moll, Browne

is “a brilliant singer with a fabulous band.”

“I went to one of his performances and I started recommending him to everybody I knew because he’s really good, and he’s been entertaining here now for about nine or 10 years,” said Moll.

Caribbean Music Farm has performed at various clubs in Miami, Broward, Ft. Lauderdale and West Palm Beach.

Their main focus now is to play at festivals and carnivals locally and around the world. The band just got back from performing in Brazil.

“We’d be happy to come back anytime to perform for students,” said Browne. “FIU is a fun place--it’s a place that has a whole set of cultures here from the Caribbean, and from the U.S., so we think we fit perfectly into entertaining FIU students.”

-bbc@fiusm.com



CHRIS CADET/THE BEACON

Noel Browne, testing coordinator for the Center of Academic Success, playing at the BBQ Welcome event at BBC.

Summit kicks off amid distrust over Fla. schools

GARY FINEOUT
Associated Press

Teachers, school officials, politicians and other education leaders on Monday kicked off a three-day summit in hopes of reaching a consensus on the next round of changes for Florida’s public

schools.

It was clear even from the beginning that there remains a wide gulf — and even some distrust — about what changes should be made to the state’s education standards and its well-known A-to-F school grading system.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott

called for the hastily-arranged summit following a summer that included the abrupt resignation of Education Commissioner Tony Bennett and a backlash over the state’s current grading system. It comes nearly a year after the Republican governor embarked on a “listening” tour where he

personally visited schools.

The summit also comes when the state is the middle of a huge transition to a new set of standards - and potentially a new high-stakes test to replace the current Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test.

Interim Education Commissioner Pam Stewart

repeatedly said that the summit was an opportunity for state officials to listen to others involved in education and create a plan for the future.

“I think we are focused on moving the bar forward,” Stewart said. “There are some things that we want to take a closer look at and

make sure that we are on the right track.”

But Miami-Dade Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvalho said that state officials need to fix problems with the state’s current system of ranking and evaluating schools before they move to new standards.