

Football Preview '09



PLAYER PROFILES
POSITION BREAKDOWNS
STARTS ON PAGE 5

SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

The Honest Liar's Club invites you to one of their readings. Or do they?

AT THE BAY PAGE 4



New courses available for wine aficionados. Bottoms up!

OPINION PAGE 9

SGC-BBC meetings should continue to be held once a week.

OPINION PAGE 9

Cell phone use behind wheel should be deterred through legislation.

OPINION PAGE 9

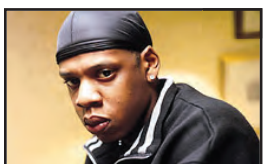
Students should be aware of the University's accomplishments.

LIFE! PAGE 12



Supa Sounds host DJ JB talks about his life as a Radiate FM DJ.

LIFE! PAGE 12



Under pressure: Greatness expected from The Jigga Man.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Obama's Address to Congress Watch Party; Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m. Watch the commander in chief's address to Congress alongside your fellow Golden Panthers in GC 243.

Women's Studies Faculty/Student Mixer; Sept. 10, 12 p.m. Mingle and learn about internships in GC 243.

WEATHER



WEDNESDAY
Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 77 HIGH: 88



THURSDAY
Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 78 HIGH: 88



FRIDAY
Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 78 HIGH: 88

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FISH TALES

Graduate student explores jewelfish's behavior as an invasive Florida species

BLANCA MORALES
Contributing Writer

Most people at FIU are not allowed to have pets on campus, but right across the football field, a graduate student keeps almost 240 carnivorous fish in the name of science.

An FIU environmental studies graduate student, Diana Lopez keeps a collection of a carnivorous, aggressive fish called African jewelfish at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

Working under the guidance of Dr. Jennifer Rehage, an aquatic ecologist,



LOPEZ

opologist, Lopez is performing a study on the behavioral differences of several populations of African jewelfish found in Florida.

Jewelfish, originally from Africa, were introduced into Miami-Dade's canal system in the 1960s. While it has not been confirmed, they may have made their way here by aquatic trade, since jewelfish are sold in pet shops for their aesthetic qualities.

In the last decade, the jewelfish have been found in Everglades National Park, first reported on the east boundary where canals meet the park.

During the last few years, the jewelfish have gradually traveled southwest throughout the whole park. Having originally lived in rivers and streams in Africa, they thrive in South Florida's warm water

systems.

"It's a luxury to be studying the jewelfish because we know exactly when and where they came into the Everglades," Rehage said.

Lopez, who graduated last spring with a major in biology, has been going back and forth between the Everglades National Park and MMC collecting and depositing this invasive species of fish.

"Diana at first didn't like fish – she didn't want to even touch them, but now ... she really seems to be enjoying this

FISH, page 2



African Jewelfish

MEDICAL SCHOOL

Students elected to top positions

DIANA JORDAN
Staff Writer

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine students elected their fellow peers as officers to various positions within three medical organizations last week.

Simar Singh and Kenji Ogura were elected president and vice president, respectively, of the American Medical Students Association and after a runoff, which resulted in another tie for the officers of the American Medical Women's Association, Trine Engebretsen and Anisha Kshetrapal agreed to be co-presidents.

Engebretsen believes both she and Kshetrapal can work well together given they can each offer something different to the organization.

"We both have grand plans and our differences in personality and leadership style will ensure that both of us stay centered and accomplish all of our goals," she said.

All students enrolled in the College of Medicine will automatically become members of the Medical Student Council, the third organization to which students were elected as officers.

For this organization, the medical students elected Patricio Lau as president, Mike Hann as vice president, Ashley Rojas as secretary and Mary Garland as treasurer.

"I think that as a first class, it is very important to let the faculty know what our concerns and views about certain things are," Lau said.

AMSA is the oldest and largest independent association of physicians-in-training in the United States governed by students.

Founded in 1950 as the Student American Medical Association under the American Medical Association, its goal was to provide medical students a chance to partici-

Having a unified government will help us organize our ideas so that we can then present them to the other departments.

Patricio Lau, president
Medical Student Council

"Having a unified government will help us organize our ideas so that we can then present them to the other departments within the College of Medicine."

Medical student Dillon Arango, a Golden Panther throughout his undergraduate career as well, was elected as the Student Government Association representative.

Arango will be responsible for representing his fellow 42 peers at SGA meetings and for voicing the college's needs and ideas.

participate in organized medicine.

In 1967, however, SAMA cut ties from the AMA and became independent and student-governed.

After the two parted ways, SAMA began to take a stand on more socio-medical issues such as universal health care and human rights and in 1975, changed its name to the American Medical Student Association.

The 68,000 AMSA members range from medical students, premed-

MED SCHOOL, page 2

VALET PARKING

Program signs two-year contract

JOSHUA BALLANTINE
Contributing Writer

In the wake of the national attention the FIU pilot valet parking program received last March from newspapers and even Jay Leno, the valet company Gold Star Parking Systems has been signed on for a two-year contract.

With its center of operation in front of the FIU Bookstore, the valet parking program has little room to operate. The site is where students are picked up, the stop for the FIU shuttle and often the location for the blood donor buses.

"It gets real crowded in here," said Jude Wallaway, an employee of Gold Star while working in the intense sun reflecting off the white sidewalk. "It gets people pretty frustrated."

Gold Star was contracted to run a valet pilot program last year and was then offered a two-year contract by FIU's Department of Parking and Transportation in May, according to Gold Star Director Jorge Zuluaga.

"It's already going a lot better than last year," said Zuluaga. "Many people think we are trying to take money from students, but this service is more for visitors."

According to Parking and Transportation Director Bill Foster, FIU receives 15 percent of the gross revenue as a commission from Gold Star. They provide five parking spots in front of the bookstore, and Gold Star does all the staffing and incurs the other costs. The financial reports are given bi-weekly, so the profits FIU has made in the first week of operation are yet to be known.

VALET, page 2

NEWS FLASH

NATIONAL

National unemployment reaches 26 year high

The national unemployment rate has risen to 9.7 percent, a 26 year high.

According to CNN Money, August saw an elimination of 216,000 jobs, 60,000 less than in July. As of 2008, 6.9 million jobs have been cut.

However, the stock market rallied despite the high unemployment numbers, as the DOW Jones industrial average gained 96 points, the S&P 500 index rose 13 points, and the NASDAQ composite jumped 35 points.

Arson to blame for California fires

Fire officials blame arson as the cause for the fires that are devastating the Angeles National Forest north of Los Angeles, Calif.

According to *The New York Times*, the fire has already taken the lives of two firefighters and scorched about 150,000 acres.

Fire officials said that it can be up to two weeks before the fire will be fully contained.

– Compiled by Jorge Valens

Student studies fish's 'bold' behavior

FISH, page 1

project," Rehege said.

By collecting at least 240 fish, Lopez will conduct two experiments at the tank facility on MMC to study the differences between the fish on either side of the park.

With the first, she will observe the fish's dispersal tendency as a population. The second experiment will test individual fish for boldness.

Boldness in such studies is a behavior defined to be exploratory, with a tendency to take risks and leave a population to colonize new territory.

Lopez will use a testing method that has been widely used by scientists. Her hypothesis is that the populations on the east are shy and that those on the west are bold.

If her hypothesis is correct, it will confirm that invasive species have a certain behavioral type that spread and colonize new ranges. This experiment will then work as a risk assessment method to avoid the spread of future invasive species.

The second component of her thesis is to look at morphological differences between the east populations and the west populations of this species.

Because water levels are higher on the west, with an abundance of predators, the population on the west, she believes, have the aforementioned boldness and

I'm hoping to get volunteers to help me in the field. It's been difficult. Science is crazy, and I won't expect positive results, but who knows, hopefully it will.

Diana Lopez, graduate student

aggression.

She will confirm previous studies that species that face more predation tend to have slight physical differences than other individuals of their species, such as bigger heads or tails, or more streamlined bodies.

"The jewelfish are really cool fish," Lopez said. "They are very competitive and territorial."

Not only do they multiply persistently, but they have no trouble defending themselves. They are natural-born fighters, and will defend their offspring to the death.

While these small, six to 12-centimeter fish may be carnivorous and aggressive, feeding off each other if need be, they can also live off insects and plants such as algae.

"They are a very pretty fish, especially during their mating season. They have vibrant colors," Rehege said.

Lopez visits the tanks every day providing the jewelfish with small fish,

such as gambusia, that she keeps in another tank.

"I have another tank of jewelfish that I had collected before," Lopez said regarding another tank that contains fish that will not be used in the experiments. "They already 'know' me, because when they see me, they come up to the surface to be fed."

Her project will be a long one, having to collect populations in South Florida's three ecological seasons: early wet, wet and dry seasons.

Lopez will be working Fall and Spring semesters in the Everglades and at FIU, with the assistance of volunteers and lab partners.

"I'm hoping to get volunteers to help me in the field.

"It's been difficult. Science is crazy, and I won't expect positive results, but who knows, hopefully it will," Lopez said.

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated Sept. 4, the article titled "Updates, renovations included in new agenda" said that the reason for the delay in the video taping of SGC-MMC meeting was privacy issues. In fact, according to President Anthony Rionda, the meetings are not being video taped yet due to the lack of equipment.

In the same article, the budget reforms will include a line-item budget with more oversight of senators, not a line-item veto.

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

AMSA members advocate diversity

MED SCHOOL, page 1

ical students, interns, residents and practicing physicians and abide by four key components of the organization.

These components include abolishing differences in healthcare, championing for diversity in the field, changing the culture of medicine and trying to obtain healthcare for all.

The AMWA differs from

the AMSA in that it is an organization made up solely of women. This organization, which is the oldest and largest multispecialty organization for women physicians, is comprised of medical students as well.

Founded in 1915 by Dr. Bertha VanHoosen at a time when there was a stark difference between the ratio of male to female physicians, its main goal is to empower women to

improve female healthcare across the country.

Members of the AMWA unite to discuss pertinent issues in the field affecting women such as ethicality, policy and legislation and reproductive health.

"I'm joining AMWA because I think it is important to have a group specifically for women in this field," said student Sandy Novoa. "We plan to have female physicians come

in and talk to us about balancing family and work, which is very important to me because I want to be a wife and mom in the future."

The officers of the organizations will soon gather to discuss the ideas they have for their respective organizations and their plans for the future.

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ALEX GARCIA / THE BEACON

CONVENIENCE: FIU offers valet parking and the five spots allocated to them already seem not to be enough.

Despite valet program, parking remains an issue

VALET, page 1

Hallaway explained that they have to turn away about 30 percent of the cars that come to them for service. The five spaces seem not to be enough.

The cost of parking is \$5 per hour, or \$20 an entire day for students, faculty and guests.

The other pilot program in the parking program at FIU is the car wash in the Gold Garage and takes up

parking spaces but is not overseen by Parking and Transportation according to Foster. This venture is overseen by the Office of Business Services which did not return *The Beacon's* calls to inquire about the budget.

SGC-BBC

Council tries less meetings

MAUREEN NINO
Staff Writer

The Biscayne Bay Student Government Council canceled their second general meeting of the Fall semester on Sept. 2, prompting a discussion about the relation between meeting frequently and fulfilling the duties for which they were elected.

On Aug. 26, during a regular meeting, the council delayed further discussions on whether weekly meetings were necessary.

"The senate felt they needed a chance to discuss among the cabinet and chief of staff, and figure out if this is something we even wanted to try," said Christin "Cici" Battle, SGC-BBC vice president.

The senate still plans to continue its weekly meetings, held Mondays. General meetings, which are held every Wednesday and include both the senate and executive cabinet, are the ones in question.

"The option is plausible and legal. I wouldn't want to have a meeting with nothing or very little content involved. I would rather have that content expressed in a memo or e-mail," said Sholom Neistein, SGC-BBC president.

According to Natalya Cohen, SGC-BBC senator at-large, canceling the meeting was a trial.

"I think that the number of meetings we hold should depend on their need to sufficiently reach our assigned goals," Cohen said.

According to Article IV of the Student Government Association's constitution, the president has "the power to convene special SGC-BBC meetings, provided there is at least 48 hours' notice of such meetings."

Council members were notified of the cancellation via e-mail two days in advance. Rafael Zapata, SGC-BBC advisor, said agendas still determine a meeting's importance.

"If they see it is a heavy agenda, they won't cancel it," Zapata said.

Canceling meetings is up to the president, but Neistein still wanted everyone in the council to agree.

"We're not going to try it unless the senate and the cabinet are OK with it. Then, we'll have bi-weekly meetings," Battle said.

Members such as Kiela Samuels, SGC-BBC internship coordinator, believes that canceling meetings will provide the opportunity to complete goals.

"Time is a very precious commodity, and this is more time for me to work at something or with my interns," Samuels said.

SGC-BBC is divided into two branches: the senate and the cabinet, which includes the president, vice president, comptroller and other members of the executive office. Each of the branches has individual meetings, but even when they are canceled, members still do their job, according to Battle.

"We still have to get our work done," said

SGC-BBC, page 4

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



SERGIO MONTEALEGRE/THE BEACON

HELPING HAITI: Melissa Binns (left), SPC-BBC vice president, and Melissa Desrameaux (right), SPC-BBC president, pack canned food donated by students in Panther Square on Sept. 4 to be delivered to Haiti

Program teases the palate

Students can taste wines from around the world

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Contributing Writer

Aspiring wine aficionados can look to the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management to fulfill their dreams.

HTM is offering a comprehensive wine program aimed at teaching anyone at least 21 years old, not only University students, how to taste and evaluate wine.

The program will be taught in the Southern Wine & Spirits Beverage Management Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus on Mondays from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The program is called Wine Masters Certificate Program and begins Sept. 14 and ends Dec. 14. It costs \$695, but it's not covered by financial aid.

The type of wine served in class depends on each day's theme.

"If it's Italian Wine Day, they'll taste Italian wine. If it's French Bordeaux and Burgundies Day, then they'll taste that," said Patrick Cassidy, instructor of wine technology and director of the beverage program.

He created the program back in 2000 and continues to teach it today.

The course cost covers all materials, food pairings and tastings, as well as a parking permit for the entire semester.

The course was originally scheduled to begin Aug. 31, but the start date was moved back because not enough students were registered, according to Claudia Castillo, assistant director of the Institute for Hospitality and Tourism Education and Research.

In addition to Cassidy, the program has two more instructors: Bill Hebrank, adjunct instructor of wine technology, and Eric Hemer, educational director of the center and a master sommelier, which is a trained professional who specializes in all aspects of wine service.

Cassidy, now 62, has been in the wine business since he was 18 years old. The course was created for the public, but most people who take the class are in the wine industry, he said.

According to Cassidy, he does all the promotion for the course.

"I don't get any help from the University. It isn't on any Web site, so it's usually through word of mouth that people hear about the class," he said.

But some students are

dissuaded from taking the courses because of lack of financial aid.

"It doesn't have anything to do with my major - maybe for fun, but since it isn't covered by financial aid, then no," said Sybille Belfort, a freshman pre-med major.

Sophomore mechanical engineering major Andre Robinson agreed.

"I would be interested, but it's too expensive," Robinson said. "And I'm not 21."

As part of the wine mastery course, students will learn about different wines from great world vineyards, wine and food pairing, how to improve wine lists and reduce inventory costs, as well as how to buy and sell alcoholic beverages.

Students will also learn the proper way of storing, serving and merchandising beverages in a restaurant, hotel or dining facility.

Students will be able to sample more than 135 wines during the semester, which is approximately a minimum of 10 wines per class, according to Cassidy. In order to improve their palates, students will taste the wines while blindfolded.

"We don't make much money, but being able to pass on something that you're very passionate about is a wonderful thing," Cassidy said.

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Council sets deadlines for completion of goals

SGC-BBC, page 3

Battle. “The general meetings on Wednesdays are only a place to exchange information, like updates or reports.”

At its Sept. 1 meeting, the senate approved a one-month trial for deadline benchmarks. If a goal benchmark is not met for the Fall semester, the vice president or president can be impeached. If the council does not meet deadlines, the member in charge of the unmet goal can be removed by the chief justice or the senate’s vote.

“We have weekly meetings regardless,” said Battle. “The general meetings are for both sides to meet, which is on Wednesdays. Even if that’s canceled every other week, we still see each other every week on Mondays.”

Senate meetings take place every Monday at 3:30 p.m.

If SGC-BBC were to hold bi-weekly meetings, it wouldn’t affect any goal progress or the council members’ salaries, according to Battle.

“We’re not paid to go to meetings. We’re paid to do work and serve the students,” Battle said.

SGC-BBC members are paid by position and campus, Zapata said.

According to Article XVI of SGA’s constitution, hours and wages are distributed “according

to the allocation of funds to each SGC’s emolument account.” While BBC and the Modesto Maidique Campus share one budget of \$159,773, SGC-BBC receives \$90,773 and SGC-MMC receives \$69,000.

Each SGC president gets \$10,000 a year, while all other members are paid a percentage of that salary. SGC vice presidents get 75 percent. Other SGC members are also paid a percentage of the president’s total salary.

Students won’t care about a few canceled meetings as long as the workflow continues, Zapata said.

Anthony Rionda, Neistein’s presidential counterpart at MMC, said weekly meetings are a tradition that should be kept.

“I think we need to have meetings every week here. I wouldn’t consider doing that,” said Rionda. “It’s necessary for us, but it’s up to them to decide.”

The possibility of less general meetings worried Madeline Mendez, a junior business major.

“If they are paid to represent us, we should be given an opportunity to voice our opinion and be told when a meeting is canceled,” Mendez said.

Battle suggests students check the SGC-BBC Facebook group and Web site, www.wuc.fiu.edu, for updates.

Club writes and shares talent – no lie

SABRENA JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

It was a night of frank expression and poetry as the Honest Liars Club held its first reading series at the Luna Star Café in North Miami.

The Honest Liars Club is a reading series group created by the graduate students in the Biscayne Bay Campus’ Creative Writing Program. It was designed to give students an opportunity to display their creative works and to mingle with other students in the program.

The readings, which are free for everyone to attend, will take place the first Tuesday of each month for the entire Fall semester beginning at 8:30 p.m. in the Luna Star Café located at 775 N.E. 125th St., North Miami.

The café has a seating capacity of 35 people and is open to the general public.

“The program was basically created out of the need to have a reading series for the FIU creative writing students,” said Dave Landsberger, a third-year creative writing graduate student and one of the people who started the program.

According to Landsberger, there was a previous writing series, but it dissipated after the student who was in charge of the program graduated.

“We are re-establishing the series with the idea that it will continue even after we’re gone,” he said.

The first meeting consisted of five readers who were all first-year

CLUB FACTS

Club: The Honest Liars Club
Type: Reading Series Group

Club to meet every first Tuesday of the month at 8:30 p.m.

Luna Star Café
775 N.E. 125th Street
North Miami, 33161

For more information about the Honest Liars Club, visit the Department of English in ACI 335 or call 305-919-5857.

graduate students in the program. Each reader had a chance to present a collection of his or her own work, which was composed of short stories and poetry.

The series was created primarily for graduate students in the program, according to Landsberger. Beginning next month, they will have one undergraduate read at each event, but that student must be part of the program.

“The undergraduate students will be chosen based on the recommendations of different professors in the Creative Writing Program,” said Landsberger. “Basically, we are looking for someone who is a solid writer and who would like doing something like this.”

In addition to giving students a chance to showcase their work, the club is also a way for students to network and share creative ideas.

“All of the readers that presented tonight are first-year graduate students who are new to FIU. Some of them are from different parts of the country, so this will help them with their transition to the program. It’s a good way for them to get a chance to collaborate with other students,” Landsberger said.

Among the readers who presented on Tuesday night was Jane Beckel, a first-year graduate student in the program.

“This was my first time doing a reading at FIU. It was kind of nerve-racking at first, but I got a good reception. Everybody here seems really nice,” Beckel said.

Frequent cafe customers also enjoy the readings.

“This is really nice what they are doing. I liked listening to the poetry readings, and the short stories were very detailed. I’m a regular at the Luna Star, and I will definitely sit in on any future readings they might have,” said Donald Clemens, a cafe regular.

Luna Star Café’s Manager Alexis Sanfieldo enjoys the entertainment that the students bring to the place.

“This is the first time this particular group held a reading here, but we’ve had previous FIU groups hold readings here. The last one was about a year ago,” Sanfieldo said. “I think this is a good way for young writers to display their talents, and I’m glad we get to enjoy these events in our café.”

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'09 Football Preview



TOUGH MIND

Against Arkansas St., Hilton fumbled a hand off with less than two minutes left. He picked it up and threw the game winning touchdown pass.

GREAT HANDS

He led the team in receptions with 41.

STRONG HEART

Hilton will be the main return man on special teams and the team's No. 1 receiver. He said his stamina is strong, and he is used to playing several roles.

THE MAKING OF AN ALL-AMERICAN

Last season, T.Y. Hilton completely rewrote FIU's record book as a Freshman All American. Headed into his sophomore year, the coaches who helped him develop as a player expect him to contribute even more. Here's their perspectives.

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

Coaches are not in the business of making guarantees.

When coaches do make guarantees, they open themselves up to being boiled by the media's pressure cooker and frowned upon by opponents if they fail.

Sometimes, however, they take the risk.

Miami Springs High football coach Alex Pacheco does just that when he talks about his former standout athlete, T.Y. Hilton. Pacheco believes Hilton will improve despite Sun Belt Conference defenses placing an imaginary target on his back.

"I think that's going to up his game even more," he said. "He is going to step up to the challenge, I guarantee it."

Pacheco does not coach Hilton anymore, so the expectations of the Golden Panthers standout to get even better are placed on Coach Mario Cristobal and his staff.

But one can imagine what side Cristobal is on. The third-year coach has no reason to believe Hilton

shouldn't continue to string together a highlight tape for FIU. Before he went on to set an FIU record for receiving yards, Hilton called Cristobal to inform him that he committed to play football for FIU, and he made a guarantee himself. Hilton told his new coach that the first time he touched the ball for FIU he would score. At Kansas on Aug. 30, Hilton was true to his word with a 74-yard punt return for a touchdown.

What Cristobal describes as "God-given gifts" are on display every time the Golden Panthers hit the field.

SAVVY

Besides the athletic ability, Hilton's instincts have helped make him an All-American. But if there was one part of Hilton's game that was raw coming into FIU, it was his route running.

"Well last year, it was all very new to him," Cristobal said. "He was coached by a great staff in high school but when he got here it was a very different offense, so you could see the talent but his route running needed a lot of work."

The 5-foot-10 Hilton has been able to improve that aspect of his game, and Cristobal agrees with Pacheco that Hilton will get better, especially with the surrounding talent.

"Toward the end of last year, he was a great football player and a good route runner," he said. "Now I think he's a great route runner as well as all the things he's doing in football."

Pacheco believes his football IQ is off the charts.

The Golden Panthers will continue to make their dynamic All-American a big part of what they do in hopes of their first winning season since becoming a part of the FBS. Hilton has never broke any of Pacheco's guarantees, and this season figures to be no different.

"Phenomenal. His football savvy is phenomenal. I mean all three phases of the game, offense, defense and special teams," Pacheco said. "He played cornerback for me and had eight interceptions as a sophomore. He played both ways and also had over 700 yards receiving that year. And on special teams, he's just ridiculous."

T.Y. Hilton

SPEEDY LEGS

This offseason, Hilton ran a 4.32 40-yard dash. As one of team's fastest players, he led the Golden Panthers in receiving yards (1,013), touchdowns (7), and kick return yards (1,107).

Contents:

Team Breakdown, pg. 6-7
Paul McCall feature, pg. 8

Anatomy of a Contender

by Jonathan Ramos

2009 Football Preview / Wednesday, September 9, 2009

QUARTERBACKS

FIG. A
PAUL MCCALL
THE BRAIN



McCall runs the offense with the confidence and poise of someone who's been there before and knows just what he's doing. He set school records in 2008 for touchdown passes and fewest interceptions thrown.

It's finally Paul McCall's job. McCall enters his senior season with the luxury of not having to look over his shoulder or battle a teammate for the starting position. After some early season struggles in 2008, McCall set a Golden Panther record for touchdown passes with 15, and had only four of his nine interceptions in the last nine games. McCall will have to improve his completion percentage (52.5), but he has looked in command of the offense going into his second year as a starter. Younger, a speedy junior, gives FIU an experienced backup. Chris Schirripa will likely be the third option.

Fig. A

DEFENSIVE BACKS

FIG. B
ANTHONY
GAITOR
THE MOUTH



If you happened to miss the tipped pass in practice or a game and you don't know who was responsible, you'll know it was Gaitor because you'll be able to hear the junior corner, the team's vocal leader, from anywhere in the stadium.

FIU will enjoy the play of arguably the best safety tandem in the SBC in Jeremiah Weatherspoon and Ashlyn Parker. Parker returns from a knee injury that sidelined him most of last season. Chuck Grace and freshman Jonathan Gyprien are the backups should injury strike either of them.

In addition, All-Sun Belt cornerback Anthony Gaitor will look to lock up opponents' best receivers. He had five interceptions and returned two of them for touchdowns in 2008.

Dezariah Johnson will start opposite Gaitor but Jarell McGee and Emmanuel Souarin are part of a group attempting to replace departed senior Robert Mitchell, who started and had two interceptions last season.

Fig. B

Fig. C

RECEIVERS

FIG. C
GREG ELLINGSON
THE HANDS



No Golden Panther has better hands, and no Golden Panther has had more receptions over the last two seasons than the lanky junior from Tampa, who ranked second on the team last year with 35 catches. Ellingson's tall frame provides McCall with an excellent possession receiver and a big target in red zones. He became a big play target when defenses began keying in on T.Y. Hilton. Over the final four games of the season, Ellingson had 20 catches for 392 yards and two scores.

In what is the deepest position on offense, the Golden Panthers have size and speed in their deep receiving core. Electrifying sophomore T.Y. Hilton will look to follow up a freshman All-American season and continue to be one of the best players in the Sun Belt Conference. McCall feels that he and Hilton will link up just as often or more in 2009.

"We are always on the same page, and that's more important than routes, timing or anything else to me," McCall said.

Hilton will work the slot, and Junior Mertile and Greg Ellingson will start alongside him to provide McCall with adequate passing options. Ellingson had 18 of his 35 receptions last season in the last three games, and Hilton and Mertile were timed as the two fastest players on the team in July. An infusion of talented freshmen (Wayne Times, Rocky Vann, Larry McCoy, Jarius Williams) will challenge veterans Marquis Rolle and Ty Frierson for snaps on the second team.

Times has been the most impressive of the young group in camp. At the tight end position, Eric Kirchenberg will get the nod, but there will be a revolving door. Jonathan Faucher and junior college transfer Dudley LaPorte are also in the mix for playing time. LaPorte, the fastest tight end on the team, was a four-star recruit according to rivals.com. He was the nation's leading junior college tight end in receptions (30), yards (500) and touchdowns (4) in 2007.

Fig. E

Fig. D

LINEBACKERS

FIG. D
SCOTTY BRYANT
THE HEART



The emotional leader of the defense and two-time Sun Belt Conference honorable mention pick has started each game the past two years and led the team in tackles each year as well.

Solid senior Scott Bryant will anchor a position with plenty of depth that played a large role in the Golden Panthers strong rushing defense last season. Bryant was tied for ninth in the SBC in tackles last season with 89, and he will line up on the strong side.

Junior Toronto Smith will likely play weak side and Tyler Clawson should get the nod in the middle. Freshman Larvez Mars, the highest rated defensive recruit in Golden Panthers history, will be in the rotation along with Aaron Davis and Winston Fraser, among others on the deep group.

DEFENSIVE LINE

FIG. ?
DEFENSIVE LINE
THE GREAT
UNKNOWN

With just four spots available on the line, no less than 10 players will be in the mix for FIU at the point of attack. The team held an open competition in camp but nobody truly stepped up to earn a starting spot, so the team will be going with a rotation. With so much parity, it will allow the line to stay fresh without a huge dropoff, but the team has to be worried about not being able to dominate in the trenches on the defensive side of the ball once again.

FIU will look to get more sacks in 2009 after last season. Armond Willis, Kambriel Willis, Jarvis Wilson, Thatcher Starling and Cody Pellicer will try to provide an improvement to the team's 18 sacks last season. Coach Mario Cristobal has major expectations for Armond Willis.

"It's one of the best stories in college football because he's a guy that showed up and walked on," he said. "He is a phenomenal student who comes out and earned himself a scholarship. He is assignment conscious, playing with good pad level and using his hands well."

Jonas Murrell and Andre Pound should emerge at the defensive tackle position, but Joey Harris, Josh Forney and Reginald Jones will also be clogging up the hole for FIU. Sophomore Jonathan Jackson, who was expected to contribute, is ineligible this season.

OFFENSIVE LINE

FIG. E
BRAD SERINI
THE BACKBONE



The most decorated member of FIU's offensive line, the junior has twice been named to the Rimington Award watch list as one of the top centers in the nation.

With all five starters returning, FIU expects to see improvement on what was the weakest link on the offense last season. The Golden Panthers were last in the SBC in rushing offense, in large part due to a lack of push by the unit. Junior Center Brad Serini is the most celebrated member of the group, and he will be surrounded by guards Mario Caraballo and Joe Alajajian and tackles Ula Mataavao and Andy Leavine. Freshman Rupert Bryan out of Glades Central High has been the most impressive young lineman in camp, and could challenge for playing time throughout the course of the season.

RUNNING BACKS

FIG. F
DARRIET PERRY
THE FEET



The sophomore is being charged with revitalizing the Golden Panthers rushing attack, which hasn't finished higher than 87th in the nation since 2004. He showed glimpses of greatness in limited action late last season, but will need to keep defenses honest with his fancy footwork.

When a slew of injuries hit Golden Panthers' ball carriers late last season, they turned to a freshman who had yet to play in a game. On Nov. 29, Darriet Perry sparked the team with two touchdowns and 115 yards in a near upset of Florida Atlantic.

His strong finish to last season gives the Golden Panthers a primary option at the position coming into 2009. Veteran backups Daunte Owens, Kendall Berry and Trenard Turner will compete for the rest of the carries with freshman Darrian Mallary, who has impressed in camp.

The running back is expected to produce more than last season, when the team rushing attack averaged less than three yards a carry. Julian Reams and Almod Ned, who combined for 746 yards last season as the main pieces in the backfield, graduated.

Fig. F

Paul
McCall

Anthony
Gaitor

Fig. G

SPECIAL TEAMS

FIG. G
CARLOS MUNERA
THE BOOT



The special teams gets a boost with the return of Munera, who averaged 41 yards per punt last year. He had 21 punts downed within the 20 yard line and gives the team a huge advantage in the field position battle.

Hilton assumes return duties for the team, and will try to once again earn a chunk of his total yards there. The slick return man scored two touchdowns via special teams last season. Mertile and Times took a lot of reps as returners leading up to the season as well and will be in line to take kicks back as opponents likely will kick to the opposite direction of Hilton as often as possible.

The Golden Panthers are elated to have All-Sun Belt punter Carlos Munera back, who was granted a fifth season by the NCAA with a medical redshirt. Dustin Rivest will be the kicker, and freshman Justin Griffin will back him up.

Picking the Brain's Brain

QB shares memories, state of mind during games

1

"Obviously the 23-game losing streak was the lowest of the low here at FIU, but you know we came out of it a better team. We were able to survive it. And coming home from that last week of the Orange Bowl, with the North Texas game, it was pretty much the best moment of my life on the football field and it makes you cherish every win."

2

"I remember when we were younger and my parents owned apartments. So at 6 a.m. on Saturdays, we would be up mowing yards, installing hot water heaters and ripping up carpet when people moved out. So you definitely have to have that sense of work ethic that you really aren't entitled to anything; you have to earn everything you get."

3

"You're really in a state of mental focus where at that point nothing else seems to matter except your brothers and your friends and your teammates out there on that football field."

4

"... You have a shot when you have guys like T.Y., Darriet Perry and the guys blocking for you up front. You also have guys making plays for you on the outside like Junior Mertile and Greg Ellingson, the shots come a lot more often when the guys are out there. The blocking of the offensive line has evolved so much. They are accountable for everything that we do and they take pride in the fact that after most of our game, my jersey doesn't have too many grass stains on it."

In the pantheon of FIU football, Paul McCall's a pretty special player.

He took over the team's starting quarterback spot at the nadir of their 23-game losing streak, stepping in for an injured Wayne Younger during a rout by rival FAU in the 2007 season, undoubtedly the program's low point.

But McCall led the team from the bottom, notching a win in his very first start the next week against North Texas¹ and tied the school record for wins in a season last year, with five.

During the 2008 season, he set a school record with just nine interceptions thrown, and his preparation and work ethic,² along with his decision making and focus,³ allow him to play the quarterback position efficiently and effectively.

But despite his on-field exploits, he isn't considered to be the true star or playmaker of the team on the field.⁴

One of the big reasons he is a special player for the football team is what he does off the field, whether it is helping teammates in the classroom or in the community.⁵

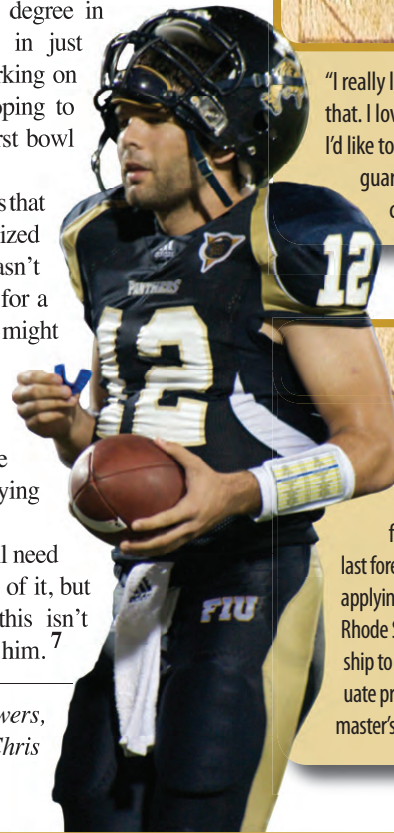
While some athletes sit in the back of the class and try to skate by, taking the easiest possible

course to NCAA eligibility, McCall has already earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in just three years and is working on his master's while hoping to lead the team to its first bowl eligible season ever.⁶

McCall understands that a potentially undersized quarterback who hasn't put up huge numbers for a small-time program might not have the opportunity to take his game to the professional level, so this may be his last season playing football.

If it is, the team will need him to make the most of it, but McCall understands this isn't the end of the road for him.⁷

Story by Chris Towers, interview by Chris Sanchez



7

"I really love what I study, and I really enjoy that. I love football just as much, if not more. I'd like to pursue that first, but that's not guaranteed for anyone so I'd really love to continue studying."

6

"Everyone that plays football at the Division 1 level, especially, wants to go to the NFL and you follow that path for as long as it goes, but that doesn't last forever. If that doesn't work out, I've been applying for different scholarships like the Rhode Scholarships and the Full Bright Fellowship to actually go study and do another graduate program overseas, either a Ph.D. or another master's program."

5

"I try to go to church as much as I can. T.Y., myself, John Ellis and T.Y.'s father, Eugene Hilton, we've all have been doing so much community service within the last year, and that's really a great thing to be able to give back to your community. This community of South Florida has given us a great opportunity to play football for a Division I university, which isn't an opportunity that many people get."

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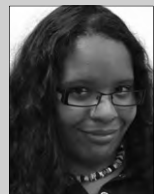
GETTING SCHOOLED

Americans relegating books to their shelves

We don't know how to read anymore. We skim, we skip and headlines are our best friends. We only have five minutes to spare. In the process of living, constantly rushing to beat our clocks, we forget to sit down with a book and delve into its pages.

The art of reading is dissipating because of our environment, and many factors contribute to this. A major factor involves are our own culture, which demands information to be instant and immediately available.

COLUMNIST



IRIS FEBRES

According to the National Endowment for the Arts, a study in 2008 found that "Americans are reading less" and that Americans between the ages of 15 and 24 "spend almost two hours a day watching TV, and only seven minutes of their daily leisure time on reading," on average.

We have become Generation E – E for "electronic." I find myself more and more drawn to the Internet or television instead of my bookshelf, which is a shame (I'm an English major!). Sometimes I'll make a point to grab a book, but instead I'm sapped away by stupid games and videos.

We lose time and opportunities to read because we turn to something much easier, and more accessible. Using the Internet is a passive act; the work is done for us.

Google was kind enough to list what we want and all it took to get it was a click of a mouse. Though we search, we no longer discover.

I suppose you could say that just as video killed the radio, the Internet is killing the book. Unlike browsing the Web, reading requires thought, time and investment in order to gain any reward from flipping through the pages of a novel, be it Stephen King or even an installment of Harry Potter.

I will concede, however, that our technology has welcomed the lost art of reading, reinventing it, sometimes elegantly; on our cellular devices. Now I can read Voltaire's *Candide* and literally flip through the pages with ease thanks to a touch-screen. I can set bookmarks and annotate paragraphs. I can read in the dark without a lamp.

And with the Internet we can find literature we might not see at our everyday libraries, bookstores and coffee shops. It serves as a gateway for genres we might not know.

But that's the thing: it should only be a gateway – not a replacement.

I wonder whether or not parents are instilling a love for reading into their kids as they grow up. As for me, the most memorable gift I received as a child was the complete Children's Britannica set.

The volumes were deep red and I, in my delightful youth, decided to mark the cover of one volume. I wrote something along the lines of "Iris' Book." My dad was not amused.

But we as individuals are part of a generation driven by electronics do something much worse to books than scratch its covers: we ignore them.

I'm not saying we should immediately become scholars and pick up every single novel by Charles Dickens or Oscar Wilde. In fact, we can start small: go read Harry Potter. Heck, read *Twilight*. As long as you read, you gain something that could never be achieved at a computer screen or a handheld video game.

We have to acknowledge the book as a staple. We read to learn, and though we can learn from a faceless blogger, a short news brief or even a Flash game, we lose that special bond we can achieve with books if we set them aside.

Students need more school pride

ROMNEY MANASSA
Staff Writer

Almost every time one hears the FIU name evoked, it is in a negative context – either preceding a complaint or as part of a grudging reply after being asked, "Where do you go to school?" Indeed, there seems to be such a pervasive sense of negativity among University students – and often even faculty – that many grievances have become ubiquitous in any dialogue about the school.

To name but a few common gripes: the long lines and bureaucracy that characterize the financial aid office, the abysmal parking (or lack thereof) and this general, underlying sentiment that the University is structurally flawed and mismanaged.

Most distressingly, there seems to be an inferiority complex among students and outsiders alike that places FIU on the bottom rung of universities: a school without the prestige and tenure of the much vaunted Ivy Leagues or the other more established and well-regarded institutions of Florida, such as the University of Florida or the University of Miami. Its image as a "commuter" or "fast-track school" – where students just go in and out to get their degrees – certainly doesn't help foster pride either.

Moreover, we all need to focus on the positive as well. There is so much talk about what goes wrong at FIU, yet scarcely any about what goes right. The University

has come a long way since its founding, and its current problems are actually often symptoms of massive growing pains from its success.

FIU began with a little less than 6,000 students when it first opened only 37 years ago. Today, its student body is close to 40,000, making it the fourth largest university in the state. We've expanded one campus with five buildings to three campuses in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties, as well as foreign sites in Beijing and Italy.

Besides expansion, we've acquired academic honors: we're the youngest university to be awarded a chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa society, the oldest of its kind in the country. Our College of Law, only a few years old, is already No. 1 in Florida in terms of passing rate for the bar exam.

Meanwhile, the College of Business is in the top 15 percent of its class in the whole country.

As recently as last year, our University was the most selective in Florida, taking in freshmen with an average GPA of 3.8 (and only two years ago we attracted more valedictorians from South Florida than any other school). The list of achievements goes on, but the point is to show that we've got quite a bit more to be proud of than we think, especially being less than 40 years old.

At this rate, just imagine where FIU will be by the time our kids will be old

enough to attend.

Now, this is not to say that FIU is perfect – no university is. But talk to many students from other universities and one will find an awful lot of similar issues – we're not particularly unique at being dysfunctional, though it does not excuse any of these problems. In fact, all these concerns are well-founded and certainly need to be addressed.

There is a clear distinction between being critical about something and despairing over it, and many times the sour mood about FIU seems to fall under the latter.

If these issues are so problematic to so many people, why not rally together and make a bigger, collective statement, as opposed to grumbling about it to one another? Students are as accountable to the functioning of schools as faculty and staff, so we're every bit as responsible for what transpires at our own University.

Perhaps if we showed more interest in campus affairs and activities, there would be more incentive on the part of our administrators – who certainly hold blame as well – to respond to their constituents and get cracking.

But cynicism and apathy aren't going to get us anywhere. Nothing was ever accomplished without enthusiasm, and we certainly didn't get this far this quickly without some gusto – and neither did other top-notch schools that once started from scratch, too.

TEXTING SERIES: PART 1 OF 2

Friends don't let friends text and drive

ERICK VELANDIA
Contributing Writer

Many of you might have heard about or even seen the new public service announcement regarding the dangers of texting while driving.

The advertisement was released in the United Kingdom last month in an effort to minimize the number of people sending text messages while they drive, an initiative with which I completely agree.

Overall, cell phone use while driving is a danger which I am sure most of us are aware of, but haven't necessarily grasped the reality of just how much danger we put ourselves and others in whenever we whip out that BlackBerry, Sidekick or, worse yet, iPhone (due to lack of actual buttons).

For the last few months, states have been trying to pass distracted driver laws in order to minimize the use of

cell phones and in turn minimize accidents caused by inattentive drivers. According to *DrivingLaws.org*, 14 states and Washington, D.C., have already banned texting while driving, and others are following suit.

The laws prohibit either those under the age of 18 from general cell phone use or those above 18 from the texting function while operating a motor vehicle (details vary from state to state). They are strictly enforced by a fine averaging about \$75 for the use of a phone while driving and \$200 for those whose conversations cause accidents.

Though Florida has no laws defining the use of cell phones for texting purposes, there have been efforts to pass bills that would prohibit texting. I, for one, am glad for these initiatives.

We need laws that protect us from others' inability to focus on the road. I cannot

tell you how many times I have almost been cut off at a turn because some idiot had to send a text or make a call that could have easily waited.

I don't know about you, but I don't want to be involved in an accident caused by something as simple as a trivial text message.

The use of such fines as those that other states are imposing would be beneficial to us; not only would it save lives, but it would also prevent injuries.

Of course, public service announcements aren't enough to deter irresponsible drivers. Stringent fines, like those seen in Washington, D.C. and other states, are necessary to encourage drivers to keep their eyes off their cellphone screens.

It's the same approach for seat belts: PSAs were aired and people were warned to wear their seat belts for their own safety, but it wasn't

until law enforcement officials tagged a \$30 fine onto the offense that seat belt laws were respected. It's ironic how people seem willing to pay the price with their lives, instead of the price specified on a small, yellow piece of paper.

If we all just take the time to reach our destination before anxiously responding to or sending a text message, serious regret could be avoided.

I know nobody is perfect, I even find myself texting while driving sometimes. We're young adults – what can we say? Just avoid the situation where you would be using this excuse to justify a three-car pileup due to a text message.

It doesn't take much effort to hold off on texting while driving until you are outside of the car. It isn't worth risking both your life and the lives of others in order to send an "omg where r u?"

WINNER/LOSER



The Human race: For being granted a reprieve from their futuristic, bloodthirsty robot overlords. The worsening Global recession has led to cut backs in robotic development, as well as a high rate of unemployment in the robotic labor sector.



Free speech: Two Azerbaijani men are facing up to five years in jail after posting a video of a donkey holding a press conference discussing how great it is to be a donkey in Azerbaijan. The ass was not harmed in the making of the video.

OPINIONPIECE

2,272

The average number of text messages teenagers send per month (Neilsen Mobile).

QUOTATIONATION

"Fire creates evidence as well as destroys it. We can follow fire progression back to the point at which it started."

Jeff Tunnell
Wildfire investigator, on the recent LA fires

SEND LETTERS

Have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts in to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 240 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

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.

BALLET BEAUTY



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

LADY IN WHITE: The Isadora Duncan Dance Ensemble performs at Target Wednesday After Hours hosted at the Frost Art Museum on Sept. 2.

Medical fraternity aims to prepare tomorrow's doctors

ISABEL MAZA
Contributing Writer

For students interested in the medical field, there is one fraternal organization on campus that caters specifically to them. Phi Delta Epsilon, a coed medical fraternity, offers students on the pre-med track opportunities and experiences that are related to their future professions.

Unlike most fraternities on campus, PhiDE is professional rather than social. It is a 105-year-old international medical fraternity that just recently began allowing pre-medical chapters. PhiDE is very selective when it comes to membership, as all initiates must hold a 3.0 GPA. Once initiated, membership in PhiDE extends throughout the years of medical school and beyond.

PhiDE's mission statement is to create physicians of integrity with a lifelong commitment to the guiding principles of philanthropy, deity and education through fellowship, service, mentoring and formal training in leadership, science and ethics.

"Phi Delta Epsilon has shown me the values and rewards of dedication, service and teamwork. All three are essential for the building of character as well as professional and individual growth," said Public Relations Chair, Cristian Ramirez.

Many of the organization's members have been able to gain experience and knowledge that will help them in pursuing their future goals in the medical field.

"PhiDE has offered me opportunities to visit various medical schools, participate in paid, on-campus research, get involved in volunteering and shadowing, attend national conferences and network with top medical school insiders, faculty and administrators," said Vice President of Recruitment Manuel Romero.

One of the main stated goals of the fraternity is to help its members become more competitive applicants to medical school. Through PhiDE, members are able to learn more about the intricacies of the medical school application process, therefore gaining an advantage when the time

to apply comes. Other advantages gained from joining the fraternity include building networking relationships, meeting other students and establishing connections in the field. Members are also given the opportunity to shadow doctors and participate in community service.

PhiDE hosts many events and programs and was one of the most active organizations on campus last spring. It recently visited the FSU medical school and works closely with other medical schools across the state. Along with visits to other schools, the fraternity makes its members aware of visits to FIU from top medical schools across the nation. PhiDE also participates in the UM Medical Mentoring Program, which pairs up pre-med students with medical students from the University of Miami. These opportunities provide members with vital experience that is necessary to their success in the future.

Some of its future events include recruitment, a new member barbecue and a silent auction.

Perhaps one of the most important advantages of being a member of PhiDE is the study groups it offers. These groups are a way for members to meet other students in their field and get help when it comes to studying and preparing for classes. The groups are broken down into four categories: biology, math, physics and chemistry. Information on free, on-campus tutoring is given to all members of the study groups. Apart from building excellent study habits, students in these groups gain the advantage of extra support and help during tough academic times such as finals and midterms.

PhiDE is also involved in several philanthropy and community service projects. The fraternity works with organization such as the Children's Miracle Network, an organization which raises funds for children's hospitals. In addition to its many philanthropic events throughout the year, PhiDE visits Camp Boggy Creek during spring break. Camp Boggy Creek is located near Orlando and caters to seriously ill children.

Students looking to get involved in Phi Delta Epsilon can visit its Web site at www.fiu.edu/~phide.

THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 9



OBAMA'S ADDRESS TO CONGRESS WATCH PARTY

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: GC 243



MUSIC SAVES LIVES GENERAL MEETING

WHEN: 12:30 p.m.
WHERE: GC 305

SSWA GENERAL MEETING

The Student Social Work Association holds its meeting for the month of September.

WHEN: 5:30 p.m.
WHERE: GL 482

FLAGS GENERAL MEETING

With community service on the mind, FLAGS welcomes new members to its first meeting.

WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHERE: GC 243

THURSDAY, SEPT. 10

ACTIVE MINDS GENERAL MEETING

Group concerned with understanding mental health issues gets active.

WHEN: 2:30 p.m.
WHERE: GC 140

IFTAAR DINNER

Break the Ramadan fast, fast.

WHEN: 6:45 p.m.
WHERE: GC Cafeteria Annex

ITALIAN CLUB MEETING

Italians do it better. Learn why at the club's first meeting.

WHEN: 3 p.m.
WHERE: GC 340

WOMEN'S STUDIES FACULTY/STUDENT MIXER



Get to know the Women's Studies faculty while learning about potential internships.

WHEN: 12 p.m.
WHERE: GC 243

Textbook rental Web site a money saving tool for some FIU students

ADRIAN ESPINOSA
Contributing Writer

Buying textbooks can often be very expensive and eat up much of a college student's budget. That's why one Web site is offering students a chance to just borrow their books – for a price.

Chegg.com is a textbook rental service. Students can both sell their books for money and rent textbooks at a rate that may be lower than the books' price at the on-campus bookstore.

The Web site markets itself as an affordable alternative to spending hundreds of dollars on books that are typically only needed for a semester. The site heavily advertises its sales claims all over its homepage. Instead of buying used books on sale or getting online versions for a semester or two, the site allows users to rent a book at 65 to 85 percent off the original price, according to the site's figures. They are the No. 1 textbook renting industry, although other sites like *Bookrenter.com* offer a similar service.

According to the site, users have saved well over \$43 million in text-

book expenses. The site also claims to be environmentally responsible: for every book that is rented, it plants a tree through an agreement it has with the American Forests Global ReLeaf Program. Despite the savings advertised by sites such as *Chegg.com*, some students are turned off by the idea of online book shopping and rental.

Stephen Nuñez, a freshman majoring in business administration, isn't fond of the idea, but has several friends who use *Chegg*.

"I like seeing the books in my hand when I pay for them. I have a few friends that use it though; they seem to really enjoy the lower prices," Nuñez said.

Nuñez bought all of his books at the FIU Bookstore in part because he said he enjoyed the convenience.

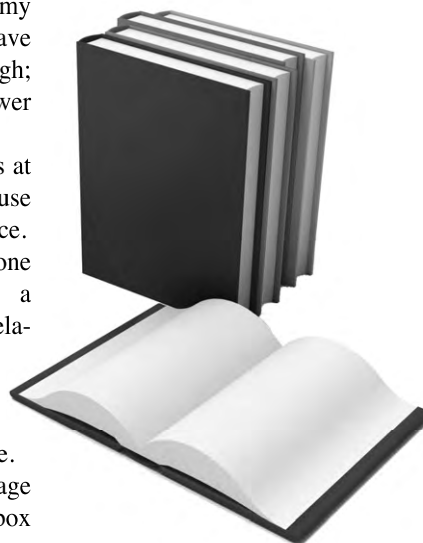
Many other students have done otherwise. Priscilla Roman, a freshman majoring in public relations, enthusiastically expressed her opinion of the site.

"I love that site," she stated. "I rented three books from there. It's convenient, I got the package and the box they send it in is the box you use to send it back."

The site has its supporters, but some students are unaware of the concept of textbook rental.

"Are you serious? So I can rent books for a semester at less than half the price?" said Jessica Rego, a senior majoring in psychology.

So, while there are a variety of options when it comes to saving money on purchasing textbooks, *chegg.com*, along with a few competitors, offers the book rental alternative, often at a lower price.



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SOUNDS OF THE CITY



Radio host keeps it fresh for Hip-hop fans in need of something new

SERGIO BONILLA
Sports Director

For one year, an inmate who called himself "South Philly" listened to Radiate's hip-hop show "Supa Sounds" as a past time while incarcerated. He sent fan mail to FIU's radio station - Radiate FM - telling DJ JB how much he enjoyed his "urban music show."

"I got fan mail saying, 'You got me through a whole year of being in prison,'" said Jason Kavanaght.

Supa Sounds is hosted by Kavanaght, or DJ JB, who says he welcomes all fans to hear his hip-hop mixes.



KAVANAGHT

"My fans are people who are tired of what they're hearing in mainstream. I have people in state, out of state. I appreciate the love wherever it comes from," Kavanaght said.

Since 2002, DJ JB has brought in old school hip-hop and mixed it with any type of urban sounds he can find every Monday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. DJ JB enjoys fusing different genres to create one track that flows.

"My show is an eclectic mix of urban music. No matter what you ask or request, I will play it and I will mix it into what I'm playing. So if you call me and ask, 'Can you mix some Jimi Hendrix into some Janis Joplin?' I will do it and it will sound good, believe you me," Kavanaght said.

The senior, who is a double major in international relations and psychology, said his show encompasses all urban music.

To him, any genre could be considered urban except maybe folk music.

"When I say urban, it's not limited to anything," Kavanaght said. "Rock is in the city too. Punk is in the city too. Reggae is in the city. I mean, if you live in a city and you listen to music, I might play it."

He's mixed hip-hop selections with artist such as Guns & Roses, Pantera, Kenny Rogers, Dolly Parton and Whitney Houston.

"I'm not afraid of mixing anything," he said.

The station's general manager, Pablo Penton, met DJ JB in 2006 and said his show has had longevity due to its ingenuity.

"He's very creative and doesn't let the show get stagnant," Penton said. "He never mixes the same thing twice."

Music Director Ryan Morejon said "Supa Sounds" is one of the most well-produced shows Radiate FM has to offer.

He also mentioned the 32-year-old Kavanaght has never had trouble adjusting to any possible age gaps.

"He's always joking around with us. He's part of our community," Morejon said.

But for one year, Kavanaght had to leave the show due to fiscal responsibilities.

About DJ JB



Name: Jason Kavanaght

DJ name: DJ JB

Years at Radiate FM: 7

Show time: Mondays, 7-10 p.m.

Genre: Urban

Some of his favorite albums:

- Fear of a Black Planet - Public Enemy
- Only Built 4 Cuban Linx -Raekwon
- De la Soul is Dead- De la Soul
- The Chronic - Dr. Dre
- Death Certificate - Ice Cube
- Illmatic- Nas
- Ready to Die - Notorious B.I.G.
- Enter the Wu-Tang:
- 36 chambers:-Wu Tang Clan

"I had financial aid pulled up from under me like a welcome rug," he said.

He was unable to go to school from 2004-2005, but managed to save enough money to come back to school. DJing is not something Kavanaght wants to do the rest of his life.

"My dad says he hopes I'm not trying to be a lifelong DJ. DJing is not a career to me. You can't do it forever," he said.

After he graduates this fall, Kavanaght will not immediately stop being DJ JB. He will retain his show until the spring, then move back to Montreal where he developed his love for hip-hop.

He hopes to maintain a 9-to-5 job and spin on the weekends.

Once he leaves the United States, he will leave Radiate FM with several mixes and copies of all his music.

He wants to make sure his mixing style and music is not forgotten at the station.

"To me, if you come in and everything sounds the same and you can't be eccentric and go against the grain, I don't think you should bother making music," Kavanaght said.

MOMENT OF CLARITY

Jay-Z under much pressure

With great talent comes responsibility. With great performance comes expectation. But with neither should someone shoulder an entire genre.

When Jay-Z releases his 11th studio album, *The Blueprint 3* on Sept. 11, it will be the biggest hip-hop release of the year and could very well be the most important album in some time for the genre.

COLUMNIST



JONATHAN RAMOS

That is because some of the best have not been themselves of late. Since Lil' Wayne's commercial success has been inconsistent with the quality of his music lately, and Kanye West has not released a hip-hop album since 2007, Jay-Z is the most popular rap figure left. Not to mention Eminem's comeback attempt with his latest effort, *Relapse*, which did not generate anywhere near as much buzz as it should have. Besides the main acts, there have not been enough bright spots among the rest of the genre to take weight off of the best.

Jay-Z, 39, was probably better off staying retired after his 2006 album, *Kingdom Come*, which was not as critically successful as expected. Three years after his last record, he came back and delivered one of his worst albums in *Kingdom Come*, and he knew it. He proceeded to raise expectations and quiet doubters with his 10th album in 2007, *American Gangster*. At this point, Jay could have left it as he did in 2003 when he announced his first retirement and released the very good *The Black Album* with *American Gangster's* release two years ago.

The problem he has on his hands now is that there is the expectation of another great album to go along with a struggling time for hip-hop, leaving him to carry more weight than he ever has in his career. Jay-Z also has invited West to produce more songs on this album than any of his records in the past, further jamming expectations upward. I'm not the type to rush him out of the game for his older age, because if anybody deserves the benefit of the doubt it is he. But I don't want to see him around too long. It could be like Michael Jordan's comeback with the Washington Wizards. Or perhaps even like Brett Favre's return to the NFL with the Vikings. Actually, nothing is like Favre's string of indecision. Nonetheless, Jay is beginning to go where very few artists in any genre have gone - making nearly a dozen records.

Singles "D.O.A" and "Run This Town" are solid, but nothing spectacular. From a fan's perspective, you have to temper your excitement with nervousness. If his track record is any indication, the album should be above average and go platinum without a problem. But at this point in time, it would be better for the CEO of Roc Nation to put this album on par with his other three classics: *Reasonable Doubt*, *Blueprint* and *American Gangster*. At his age and at this point in his career, anything that is not very good or great will only hurt him and the entire genre in turn due to his stature in the industry.

Don't pay any attention to quotes from his peers, who will hype the album endlessly, or hardcore fans, who will not admit any of his work is subpar.

When Sept. 11 comes, it will be the defining moment of the year for hip-hop. More importantly, it can bring momentum and excitement back to the game if it is successful, and only hurt it if it is not.