

University building bridges with community

MACKENZIE BARTELS
Contributing Writer

Many South Floridians who have sat through Miami traffic can see why it is one of the cities leading the country in highway congestion and dangerous metro areas for pedestrians.

Perched between Florida State Road 836 and the City of Sweetwater's main street, Southwest 109 Ave., Modesto A. Maidique Campus is one of the major destination points in Miami-Dade county. However, UniversityCity Alliance's research shows that within the past

five years there have been 18 traffic accidents at the U.S. 41 and Southwest 109 Avenue intersection and 20 traffic accidents at the U.S. 41 and Southwest 107 intersection. The lack of safety in the roads discourages many students from venturing off-campus grounds.

This is why the University has joined with the neighboring City of Sweetwater to propose building a pedestrian bridge. This bridge is said to cross Southwest Eighth St., otherwise known as Tamiami Trail, and will connect MMC with Sweet-

SEE TRAFFIC, PAGE 2



COURTESY OF STEPHAN SAULS

A mock up of proposed pedestrian bridge connecting FIU and Sweetwater.

Textbook prices vary among online stores and FIU

RAUL HERRERA
Contributing Writer

The semester has just begun, and so has the rush of getting textbooks on time. College students are always looking for the right book at an affordable price.

"It's been going crazy, I've been looking [...] for the cheapest price," said Roger Paz, junior management major.

There are three popular vendors that FIU students use to obtain their books for their classes: Amazon, the popular online retailer; Chegg, the textbook rental and online student service organization; and the Florida International University Bookstore located in the Graham Center.

Students surveyed at random were divided between the three as to which was the best option.

Paz believed that the University Bookstore's prices were expensive.

"Here in the [University] bookstore, of course, it's a little bit more expensive [than Amazon or Chegg]," said Paz.

Paz believed that price is the biggest difference between the three vendors.

"The prices are a little bit more [in the University Bookstore] because it means they can get more and more for their pocket," said Paz, "But it's not convenient for the students, because we want money too; we don't want to spend [so much money]."

Michael Sloan, an undeclared freshman, agreed on the cost.

"Probably Amazon," said Sloan when asked which of the stores he thought was the cheapest.

"I've only used Chegg so far. I haven't looked at Amazon," said Christy Mercado, another undeclared freshman, who had already purchased one of her books through the service.

"The Everyday Writer" by Andrea A. Lunsford is a book that many freshmen need for their ENC 1101 and 1102 classes. The University Bookstore lists it as being \$26.75 for a used copy of the book – with e-text and an access code included – and \$35.65 for a new copy. On Amazon, the book alone is listed as being \$47.49 or higher for a new copy, and \$45.45 or higher for a used copy. Chegg has it at \$38.49 to rent a physical copy, \$33.99 to purchase the ebook version and \$62.99 to purchase a physical copy.

While this data shows that this particular textbook is more expensive in Chegg and Amazon than in the University Bookstore, information on prices for another ENC 1101 and 1102 book, Ramage's "The Allyn and Bacon Guide To Writing," shows that the prices are around the same range, save for rental on Chegg and Amazon, which cost less for students. (See graphic below.)

Despite his conjecture, Paz did not dismiss buying from the University Bookstore.

"So far, I've had to buy one book here because it comes out cheaper, but the other [books] come out cheaper on Amazon," Paz said.

Although he believed that Amazon was cheaper than the University Bookstore, Sloan said that he preferred on-campus convenience to price.

"It's the convenience of this store, that it's right there. [I can] get my books right here. Amazon takes like a week," said Sloan.

Mercado said that she did not have any particular prefer-

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Observatory to attract more than just physics students

AILYS TOLEDO
Staff Writer

For more than a decade, students interested in astronomy have been confined to a small, limited patch of concrete located behind the Graham Center. This restricted space was used as an observatory for students and professors to gather information about cosmic and earthly occurrences.

"We finally have a building in FIU that's dedicated to astronomy and the science to be able to know what's beyond the earth," said Astronomy Club President Andres Medina. Andres, a senior in physics and biomedical engineering, is looking forward to visiting the observatory with his friends.

Dr. James Webb, a professor in the physics department, has taken initiative in the creation and development of a new observatory. Since 1991, Webb has designed almost every aspect of the observatory, using inspiration from

visits to multiple observatories, like the Imiloa Science Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, around the world.

The Stocker AstroScience Center is a four-floor structure, complete with a telescope control bridge and an original glass-tile mosaic by Clayton Bryant Young. Webb said having the opportunity to construct a science center of this magnitude was a lifelong dream.

"It took a long time to come up with the money because the state canceled their program to match all donations," said Webb. "But eventually we put it on the PECO list, where legislatures can vote on whether a university should be funded for a facility, and came up with the money."

Webb also said that along with the assistance through a donation by Dr. Carl Stocker, a retired physics professor, the science center received close to \$2.4 million from state and private funding.

The observatory was designed to appeal

to students who already have an interest in astronomy, while reaching out to those who are not as involved.

"Half the part of science is getting people interested," said Webb. "They are usually afraid of the math and physics involved, but if you get them interested, they learn about the math and physics issues that go along with it without even realizing it."

"A place like this can do that for you," said Webb.

"This will inspire other people to learn astronomy as a career and learn about space," said Danielle Roberts, a senior physics major and treasurer of the astronomy club.

The Stocker AstroScience Center has all the features of a legitimate observatory, built upon a separate foundation so that the vibrations do not disturb the telescopes on the top deck. Also located on the other floors are faculty offices, teaching labs and a student area. "Without a facility, it's like doing a chemistry lab in a bath-

room. Sure, you've got the water and the drain, but it's not very pleasant," said Webb.

While most students who are not involved in the physics department are unaware of the observatory, the silver dome has caught the eye of passersby.

"I think that the AstroScience Center will be a really big step for progress for FIU, not only for the Astronomy and Physics department," said Jennifer Medina, a sophomore physics major.

The Stocker AstroScience Center will host its grand opening Nov. 12-16, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and live music, which will be free for the FIU community.

"It doesn't look like any other building I have seen on campus," said Doris Gonzalez, sophomore biology major, as she was headed to the chemistry and physics building for class. "I will definitely go inside it and check it out once it is open to the public."

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WORLD NEWS

Oxford Dictionary caught “twerking”

The word “twerking” has officially gone mainstream and it has the English dictionary entry to back it up -- literally. Britain’s Oxford Dictionaries will add the word to its publications as part of its quarterly update under the entry: “Twerk, verb.” The full definition? “Dance to popular music in a sexually provocative manner involving thrusting hip movements and a low, squatting stance.”

NYTimes site victim of Syrian Army

Readers who tried to click on the New York Times’ website on Tuesday saw nothing but error messages in its second major disruption this month by a group calling itself “The Syrian Electronic Army.” SEAS has taken credit for attacks on media targets that it sees as sympathetic to Syria’s rebels, including the Washington Post, Al-Jazeera English and The Associated Press.

Iran to debate suing US

Iran’s parliament has approved debate on a bill that seeks to sue the U.S. for its involvement in the 1953 coup that overthrew the country’s democratically elected prime minister. Lawmakers will begin deliberations Wednesday over how to launch a formal complaint accusing the U.S. government of intervening in Iran’s internal affairs and inflicting damage on the Persian state. The 290-seat house approved the debate of the bill.

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

CORRECTIONS

In Volume 25, Issue 7, “Projected starting running back kicked off team following arrest” incorrectly stated that Jakhari Gore was the Panthers starting running back.

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

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Pedestrian safety is a priority

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water along 109 Ave.

“FIU is its own little island. Even crossing the street seems like such a mission,” said senior business major Kathryn Velez.

FIU and Sweetwater have partnered with Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade Expressway Authority, International Business Machines Corporation and the Florida Department of Transportation in a project called UniversityCity Alliance with the goal to combine university life with the surrounding communities.

The project’s goal is to attract more pedestrian foot traffic and increase the amount of public transit riders to the area.

Funded by a mix of U.S. Department of Transportation’s Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery funds, UniversityCity will build a pedestrian bridge that links students to Sweetwater’s urban center, providing a safe connection to the new 15-story,

student-oriented housing complex that is already underway across Southwest Eighth St.

The University has increased enrollment by 25 percent in the last five years,

“FIU is its own little island. Even crossing the street seems like such a mission...”

Kathryn Velez
Business major

according to Stephan Sauls, vice president of Governmental Relations.

“We will continue to grow and become a major economic driver for this area,” said Sauls. “This [project] is a piece of that puzzle.”

In addition to this pedestrian bridge project, a Smart Parking Garage has been

approved for construction next to the Red Parking Garage on campus. This Smart Parking Garage will serve as a transit terminal, providing a centralized location for passengers to transfer safely between bus routes.

“As a student who’s been living at school without a car, I only wish campus had something like this sooner,” said junior psychology major Laura Aguilar.

“The integration of design is part of UniversityCity. We’re planning this together, for the safety of students, the development of the university and the economic development of Sweetwater,” said Sauls.

During the Master Plan meeting, President Mark B. Rosenberg said keeping the external surrounding community in mind, not just the physical location of the FIU campus, is important.

“Students without cars can still get out of the FIU campus bubble and see the area,” said Aguilar.

“The idea is to plan what happens here and plan the streetscape activities so

that they all combine,” said Sauls.

Sauls said this includes conversations with transportation entities.

The pedestrian bridge has been approved by the Metropolitan Planning Organization and has the support of the FIU congressional delegation.

However, the university is still facing a specific pending proposal before the US Department of Transportation.

A decision will be made in September by Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx.

“[The secretary] can award part of it, all of it or none of it,” said Sauls. “We have had two tries, and we’re trying for the third time. Each time it gets better and we’ve been encouraged to continue the effort.”

This project has been in the plans since 2010. If the proposal is approved, the project will begin fall 2014.

Sauls said, “We’re pushing the envelope. This is a world’s ahead agenda.”

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Online sites offer competitive pricing

TEXTBOOKS, PAGE 1

ence as to where to buy books.

In all three of the vendors, there are multiple acquisition options offered to each student for an order. Each offers a rental option, a used option or a new option, depending on the availability

of the book.

According to Paz, it all depends on the subject material.

“I prefer to buy it [if it is] on my career. If it is outside of my career, then I’ll rent it, because it comes out way cheaper than buying,” said Paz. “I don’t really need it, I’ll just bring

it back. [Books] in my career are good, because I can go back and use a reference.”

“I prefer rental or used,” said Sloan, “because it’s definitely cheaper. [I’d only] use new if it’s mandatory.”

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BOOK PRICES

• SLS 1501 Book is \$29.50 USED, and \$39.35 NEW at University Bookstore.

1. In Amazon, prices are unavailable for this book.

• Everyday Writer (may include package content) is \$26.75 USED and \$35.65 NEW in University Bookstore.

1. NEW on Amazon is \$47.49 or higher, USED is \$45.45 or higher.
2. Chegg has it for \$38.49 as a rental price and \$62.99 as a purchase price. The e-book is \$33.99.

• Allyn and Bacon: FIU has it (book alone) at \$75 USED, \$100 NEW.
1. Rent on Chegg is \$22.99; buy (new) on Chegg is \$113.49. E-Book rental is \$48.14
2. Amazon has it on \$89.06+ for a NEW copy, and \$22.50 or higher for a rental.

SOURCE: amazon.com, chegg.com, FIU Bookstore

Obama wins GOP against shutting down government

JULIE PACE

Associated Press

Casting an eye toward upcoming budget fights, President Barack Obama on Friday warned Republicans against trying to defund his signature health care law, vowing to protect spending on education, scientific research and America’s infrastructure.

Taking questions from college students in central New York, Obama decried the Republican approach as “penny-wise and pound-foolish,” predicting the U.S. will fall further and further behind other nations in decades to come unless it prioritizes creating opportunities for young people.

“When Congress gets back to Washington, this is going to be a major debate,”

Obama said during a town hall at Binghamton University.

Obama said it’s the same debate he and lawmakers have been having for two years and that the difference now is that the U.S. has made progress in cutting deficits.

“My position is going to be that we can have a budget that is sensible, that doesn’t spend on programs that don’t work, but does spend wisely on those things that are going to help ordinary people succeed,” he said.

These and other contentious issues will come to a head in the fall, when Congress faces deadlines to increase the federal government’s borrowing limit and to continue funding the government.

Obama reserved some of his harshest comments for GOP lawmakers seeking

a government shutdown over his health care law, arguing that those lawmakers are not offering an economic plan. More than a third of House Republicans are urging their leader to take such a step this fall.

Instead, those lawmakers should focus on the “pocketbook, bread-and-butter” issues that affect Americans, Obama said, citing college affordability as one such issue.

Despite the deepening crises in Egypt and Syria, all 10 questions posed to the president focused on domestic issues, mainly education. While the questions were not screened, Obama’s advisers have aimed this summer to keep the president’s public agenda focused on domestic priorities, even as international issues compete for his attention.

Chelsea Manning: A brave woman

BOBBY JOE BRACY, JR
Contributing Writer

Chelsea Manning, formerly known as Bradley Manning, now wishes to be recognized as a woman, and, regrettably, there is still so much unawareness about what it means to be a transgender man or woman.

Michael Pearson, writing for CNN, posted an article about the news of Manning's transition while repeatedly referring to her using the male pronoun "he." CBS, USA Today, Politico and the Wall Street Journal all made the same abusive error in their coverage about Manning's public announcement—though that list is not exhaustive, it is exhausting.

When someone informs you of their gender identity, you have a duty to respect their gender identity as they choose to express it, just as you would expect them to respect yours. If your name is Bobby, even if people say "but you look like a Fred," that doesn't give them the right to call you "Fred" or even "Bobfred". Similarly, no one has the right to refer to Chelsea using male pronouns when she has made it abundantly clear that she is not a man. To understand this, we need to forget everything we think we know about what it means to be a "man" or a "woman." This is not about being "politically correct,"

but about giving transgender men and women the same dignity and respect we must give to anyone we meet.

Yet, there still exists widespread stigmatization of transgender people as "freaky," which prevents us from seeing them as human beings deserving of equal treatment. Reading any mainstream coverage of Manning's transition is like walking through a minefield of transphobia.

And, contrary to what Dan Savage has told us, it gets worse. The reality is that Chelsea will face more abuse because of her gender identity since, as the Sylvia Rivera Law Project notes, "[n]ot only do transgender people in prison have problems accessing healthcare, but they experience a heightened level of gender policing...[a]ny deviance from norms can lead to violence at the hands of corrections officers or other people who are incarcerated."

Mis-gendering someone perpetuates that violence by reinforcing the notion that transgender women and men are less than human.

And it gets worse. Because transgender people are often denied access to hormone therapy, the denial of such treatment can lead to severe psychological distress, which causes crippling anxiety and, in many cases, suicide. The American Civil Liberties Union, in taking a stand for Chelsea, notes that "the official policy of the Federal Bureau of Prisons and most state agencies is to provide medically necessary care for the treatment of gender dysphoria [sic], and courts have consistently found that denying such care to prisoners based on blanket exclusions violates the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution." So, denying access to healthcare necessities

“When someone informs you of their gender identity, you have a duty to respect their gender identity as they choose to express it.”

for transgender people is "cruel and unusual punishment," which is explicitly prohibited by the U.S. Constitution.

Therefore, if we denigrate transgender folks by refusing to respect their true gender identities, we, too, become guilty of compounding that same cruel and unusual punishment. Despite existing constitutional protections of transgender people, there still lacks sufficient protections for transgender people in public and private places: since Florida is an "at-will" employment state, people can lose their jobs for any reason, like not conforming to your boss's expectations of gender.

Years from now, we will wonder how a society could be so oppressive toward gender norms. I may not live to see that day, but I hope that we can help each other imagine it.

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DOOR TROUBLES



GIOVANNI GARCIA/THE BEACON

Registration problematic at FIU

MOISES FUERTES
Staff Writer

The road toward higher education is an arduous one to follow, yet one that is meant to pay off in the long run.

Students come to FIU in hopes of acquiring a degree which will help them lead better lives and, for the most part, this is what a university is meant to help its student body achieve.

At FIU, however, the student body must deal with clunky registration programs that, at their best, actually aid in registering the student body for courses, yet at their worst, delay students from graduating on time.

I'm talking about Panthersoft and its course registration section.

Since I transferred to FIU after acquiring my Associate of Arts degree, I have seen errors in the prerequisite section during the registration process in certain courses every semester. While this on its own isn't completely irri-

tating, combined with the potential of class cancellation, it certainly becomes a huge problem.

This is unacceptable, quite frankly. It's irritating as a student to do everything on time, contact my advisor, select my courses, make sure I'm on track toward graduation, only to find that a course I needed has been canceled due to insufficient students enrolling for it.

According to the registration office at the Biscayne Bay Campus, 75 percent of the class capacity is what the University looks for when deciding whether or not to cancel a course for a semester.

There are, of course, variations to that. The Multimedia Production II course currently holds six students, and it is still being taught. Similarly, capstone courses like Advanced Multimedia Production tend to be taught regardless of the number of students that are assigned, since the students taking a capstone course usually graduate that semester.

Courses build upon one another.

As such, many have prerequisites. By the time we are all reaching the end of our undergraduate careers, our choices in the courses we can take naturally become limited. This is where the above issues become a huge problem. If one of these last courses is canceled, they have the potential to set back a student a semester, or potentially a full academic year, if the course in question is a prerequisite to another course.

There are some ways I believe the course cancellation issue can be resolved, at least in the case of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. SJMC is situated at BBC.

Naturally, most courses are offered on that campus. The first step, I believe, is to have more courses taught at the main campus, Modesto Maidique Campus. As the campus with the most circulation of students, courses at MMC tend to fill up

much faster than those at BBC.

The second step is to make sure there are no errors in the prerequisites shown in Panthersoft, as this delays the entire registration process for any student wishing to take that course.

Finally, the third step is to have the student take action and make sure they are constantly checking the courses they need to take and whether or not one of the courses he or she enrolled for is dropped.

Perhaps the best advice I can give students is to memorize his or her advisor schedule.

Students can also contact your advisor through email in the My_eadvisor section on Panthersoft.

I'm fairly confident your advisor will do everything he or she possibly can to fix any problems.

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to jonathan.szydlo@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.

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FIU-Tsinghua team finishes fifth in solar decathlon

YANAISIS COLLAZO
Staff Writer

The Solar Decathlon is about more than just building efficient solar houses for a mere competition; it educates students and the public on a new, comfortable, eco-friendly, money-saving opportunity. According to solardecathlon.gov, it is demonstrating to the public the comfort and affordability of homes that combine energy-efficient construction and appliances with renewable energy systems available today.

The 2013 Solar Decathlon China, held Aug. 2 through Aug. 10 in Datong, China, hosted 20 teams from around the world, including FIU who teamed up with Tsinghua University, to challenge themselves in designing and constructing energy-efficient, solar-powered houses.

The steps the FIU-Tsinghua University team took began with careful research of the best available solar and environmental systems technology.

“Armed with that knowledge, we entered extensive discussions with manufacturers, suppliers, and builders,” said Marilyns Nepomechie, professor of architecture at FIU. “Additionally, original research based on extensive in-house experimentation, fueled the team’s work. “We were fortun-

nate to find tremendous institutional and community support, interest and goodwill to advance the team’s efforts.”

The Decathlon consisted of 10 competitions: five of them measured through instrumentation and five through a jury of panel experts. The team earned top honors in four of the five measured contests and placed first in Comfort Zone among the other teams.

“The Comfort Zone competition measures combined temperature and humidity levels inside the house. The O-House was well positioned to control both – through excellent environmental systems controlled by sensors, weather station, real time monitoring and instrumentation,” said Nepomechie.

“Furthermore, the house was designed with a well-calibrated building envelope – including insulation, ventilation, shading elements, among other project features,” said Nepomechie.

Although both universities are diverse in language and cultural differences, they still managed to work well together for the last two years and become a strong, unified team.

“There is no doubt that the multidisciplinary and multicultural teamwork experience will have positive impacts on students’ lives and careers,” said Cheng-Xian

“Charlie” Lin, associate professor in the department of mechanical and materials engineering.

Over the course of the competition, FIU faculty and students made three in-person visits to Beijing and Datong, while one of the Tsinghua faculty members visited FIU last spring. Aside from those interactions, the team did long-distance project reviews and critiques via Skype, Dropbox and email.

Because FIU-Tsinghua University won fifth place in this year’s competition, the team has developed new methods, ideas and opinions to finish next year’s competition at a higher position.

“If there is anything we can do better next time, I think it will be how to ‘show and tell’ the solar house designed by the students to the judging experts,” said Lin. “Our team has done a great job in building and showing the house. At the same time, we feel that making every student understand the competition rules or where points are is always important during the competition.”

The team is satisfied with the results and the hard work they have put for the last two years. According to Nepomechie, the process of selecting 20 finalists in an international competition that draws hundreds of applicants every cycle includes researching,

also sought to incorporate challenges unique to our specific geographic and cultural contexts,” said Nepomechie. “In 2013, our team took on the complexities of bringing solar technologies to the high-rise, high-density context of China, while in 2011 our FIU team addressed our hot, humid, hurricane-prone South Florida climate as well as the growing demographics of an aging population.”

When asked if they will construct a solar house, meeting and working with new faces and the competition again, both professors agreed wholeheartedly with a “yes.”

“The SD China put FIU in an international stage. We are very proud to be one of the winning teams. I will be very excited to do it again,” said Lin.

Nepomechie agreed. “The experience was invaluable on so many levels. Our project began as a conversation about important next steps in the evolution of this international intercollegiate competition and in the evolution of sustainable construction around the world. Who could ask for more?”

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“There is no doubt that the multidisciplinary and multicultural team work experience will have positive impacts on students’ lives and careers.”

Cheng-Xian “Charlie” Lin
Associate Professor
Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering

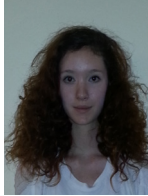
designing, building, transporting and operating a full-scale solar house. Accomplishing this is already a victory for everyone involved.

“The decathlon is a profoundly challenging, rewarding, life-changing project for students,” according to Nepomechie.

“I think I speak for all of us in saying that we are more than satisfied. Without a doubt, everyone contributed to the common task with enthusiasm. In our own case, the Solar Decathlon projects have

Starting off the semester with a fresh, new look

COLUMNIST



ASHLEY GARNER

It’s that time of year again: the beginning of a new school semester, and walking around campus the past few days you can definitely sense the fresh and positive attitude in everyone’s demeanor and see it in their attire. Many students started off the week decked out in their newest sartorial purchases.

Freshman business administration major Jonathan Jesion’s girlfriend bought him an eye-catching tropical print button down t-shirt. Paired with easy-going khakis and some worn-in Keds, Johnathan’s look was the perfect balance between professional and laid back for his first day of the semester.

Another student that was seen rocking crazy patterns was freshman education major Yifan Xu.

When I asked what made her decide to wear so many different prints all at once that day she ecstatically responded, “I love flowers a lot. Back at home I wasn’t able to wear too many different things because it was very conservative. Now that I’m here, I can wear whatever

I want.”

It’s stories like this that make me realize how lucky we really are to live in an area where expressing ourselves is not limited to just writing privately in our journal.

Junior business administration major Chris Concepcion Jr. was fully aware of the power that sartorial self-expression has. Waking up on Monday morning “feeling American,” he threw on his impossible-to-miss American flag shirt and paired it with some cut-off skinny black jean shorts and a ‘Lost Souls’ velvet cap.

Now, if that’s not honest and authentic self-expression then I don’t know what is.

Lastly, on Tuesday, I spotted one of my favorite stylish students on campus who knows nothing but honest and authentic self-expression, senior fine arts major Sierra Manno.

Though her outfit did not consist of recently purchased clothing, it represented her quirky ‘90s retro personality perfectly. So as you all move forward in your fall semester, try to make this year the year of unlimited, unruly, wild and experimental self-expression. Remember, you only live once so make it worth the while.

-life@fiusm.com



ASHLEY GARNER/THE BEACON

University students start off the semester decked out in their newest sartorial purchases.

Scott announces \$90m to help Everglades

AP STAFF

Gov. Rick Scott announced Wednesday that the state will spend \$90 million to further hydrate the Everglades and help lessen water woes plaguing southwest Florida.

During a stop in Fort Myers, Scott discussed a plan to construct a 2.6-mile bridge on Tamiami Trail in Miami-Dade County. A similar 1-mile bridge opened in March on that stretch.

Scott said that by building an additional bridge, more water will flow naturally through the Everglades. This will keep nutrient rich water out of the estuaries. He was joined during the announcement by local lawmakers.

“Adding additional bridge space to the Tamiami Trail will do a lot to keep nutrient rich water out of our communities,” said Rep. Matt Hudson, R-Naples, in a news release. “Every drop of water we send south is another drop that doesn’t make its way to our shores, which benefits our people and economy.”

The bridges replace the existing roadway, which has blocked the flow of water to the southern Everglades from Lake Okeechobee since its construction in 1928.

When the project is completed, an annual average of 210,000 acre-feet of water will be redirected.

According to Scott, the total cost of the bridging is about \$180 million.

CAMPUS LIFE AT BISCAYNE BAY PRESENTS

INVOLVEMENT Week 2013



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND

Labor Day (University will be closed)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD

Involvement and Volunteer Fair
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11 AM - 2 PM | WUC Ballrooms

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11 AM - 2 PM | AC I Area

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Recreation Expo

SPONSORED BY RECREATION CENTER

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH

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FIU ready for first season in C-USA

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

With all of the turmoil this offseason, there will be many new faces in key positions for the Panthers when they open up their first Conference USA season against the University of Maryland.

"I won't be looking at these guys as freshmen or first time starters or inexperienced by the time that kickoff happens in College Park," Turner said. "We expect them to do their job and we are not going to call anything that we [the coaching staff] or they [the players] are not comfortable with."

The Terrapins, who went 4-8 last season, look to bounce back from the loss of seven defensive starters over this offseason as they finish off their stint in the Atlantic Coast Conference. Some key returners for the Terps will be quarterback C.J. Brown on offense and linebacker Cole Farrand on the defensive side of the ball.

"We had a great training camp and are all fired up to play on Saturday. The game against Maryland will set a big tone for not only myself, but this whole team," Quarterback Jake Medlock said. "We are going to take the season one week at a time and focus at the task at hand, which will be the team who is on the schedule for that week."

The first home game for FIU this season will be on Sept. 6 and is the next chapter in the rivalry between the Panthers and the University of Central Florida. The Knights, who won the Conference-USA East division last season before moving to the American Athletic Conference in July, will look for a win in back-to-back years against the Panthers, as they won 33-20 in 2012.

The third week of the season will bring Division 1-AA Bethune-Cookman University to Miami. The two teams, which begin a two game



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Jeremiah McKinnon, above, and the rest of the Panthers are set to take on Maryland on Aug. 31 in the first game of the season.

series this season, have played twice before in 2002 and 2003 with the Wildcats winning both by margins of 31-0 and 24-14 respectively.

On Sept. 24, University of Louisville, led by former Northwestern High School teammate of quarterback E.J. Hilliard and currently one of the top quarterbacks in college football, Teddy Bridgewater, will host the Panthers in Kentucky. The Cardinals enter the season ranked ninth in the

country. The Panthers are 1-1 all time against the Cardinals with a win in the first meeting in 2011 24-17 with the help of 201 receiving yards by former Panther T.Y. Hilton.

Following the Cardinals, the Panthers prepare themselves for their first C-USA game against Southern Mississippi University. The Golden

SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE 7

Offseason Timeline

Dec. 5, 2012- Mario Cristobal fired as head coach.

Jan. 4- Ron Turner hired as new head coach.

Feb. 6- Offensive lineman Prince Matt charged with misdemeanor marijuana possession, 20 grams or less.

April 25- With the 33rd pick in the 2013 National Football League draft, the Jacksonville Jaguars select Safety Johnathan Cyprien.

July 1- FIU officially moves to Conference USA.

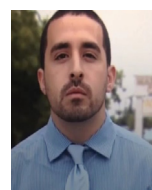
July 13- Running back Kedrick Rhodes was charged with possessing and discharging a firearm on school grounds, improper exhibition of a firearm, discharging a firearm in public and discharging a firearm under the influence of alcohol.

July 20- Miami-Dade Police responded to an anonymous call about the Panther Football team allegedly showering without their bathing suits in front of families and children on a field trip.

Aug. 25- Running Back Jakhari Gore was arrested on charges of robbery by sudden snatching and false imprisonment.

Season outlook grim after turbulent offseason

COLUMNIST



PATRICK CHALVIRE

A week into the new school year and the Panther football team has lost another weapon on offense.

Jakhari Gore, a transfer from LSU and possible starter, was dismissed from the team after being arrested on charges of false imprisonment and robbery by sudden snatching.

Definitely not the kind of year first year coach Ron Turner could have ever expected.

For all the die hard football fans who think the Panthers have a shot at a conference title this year, keep dreaming.

Let's just run down the list for those who may have short term memory loss; the Panthers are now without three of their "stars," all without playing a down.

Kedrick Rhodes was also arrested back in July after firing off shots in the air like he was Elmer Fudd.

Bad grades will keep top receiver Willis Wright off the team, wonder if Miami-Dade College is in the works of

starting a football team.

Big time defender Richard Leonard and now top receiver Glenn Coleman are also awaiting word on their grades, but from what some people close to the situation have told me, don't expect to see them Saturday against Maryland.

Low GPA doesn't just affect the player, but it also affects the team in the long run.

We all know by now the situation with the men's basketball team falling under Academic Progress Rate scores and receiving a postseason ban by the NCAA because of it.

The football team is getting dangerously close to the same fate.

APR is based on graduation rate and retention of student-athletes.

If either Leonard or Coleman, or both, have reached the end of their FIU careers because of grades, the team's single year scores may cause a drop in the already low multi-year APR score of 930.

So Leonard and Coleman, shape up or ship out.

SEE COLUMN, PAGE 7



BEACON FILE PHOTO

During the offseason, the FIU football team has found itself in hot water almost every month.

Men's soccer kicks off season vs Loyola Marymount

YOSVANY RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

After opening up with five consecutive wins, the men's soccer team started to cool off and finished last season winless in conference play.

The Panthers now look to bounce back in 2013 with a schedule that includes nine conference games; seven of them against teams that qualified for the 2012 NCAA Tournament, such as Florida Gulf Coast, New Mexico, UAB, Old Dominion, Kentucky, Tulsa and Charlotte.

The Panthers will be traveling most of the season, with 11 of the 17 regular season contests taking place on the road. However, this might prove to be beneficial to the Panthers, seeing as they posted a 6-3-1 record away from FIU Stadium, while only managing a 2-4-1 record at home.

"I'm looking forward to the first game," Head Coach Kenny Arena said. "We're going to take it one game at a time. We want to win every game we play but we are going to seriously focus on each team we play."

FIU will kick off its regular season with five consecutive road games. The first of which will be against the Loyola Marymount Lions on August 30th with a start time of 10:00 p.m. The Panthers will stay in the California area to take on San Diego State just two days later. This game will also have a 10:00 p.m. start time.

After California, the Panthers will head back to the Sunshine State, slowly making

their way down to Miami. The first game on the Florida road trip will be in Orlando against the University of Central Florida Knights on Sept. 5.

After facing the Knights, the Panthers will travel to Fort Myers to take on the Florida Gulf Coast Eagles on Sept. 7. The road trip will finally come to an end when the Panthers open up conference play against the Florida Atlantic Owls on Sept. 14. All games on the Florida road trip will have a 7:00 p.m. start time.

Panther fans will finally get a chance to watch their team play when they come home to take on North Florida on Sept. 20. The Panthers will play just one more home game against Jacksonville on Sept. 22, before returning on the road once again.

The Panthers will head out to New Jersey and Pennsylvania for a two game road trip. FIU will take on Princeton on Sept. 27 at 7:00 p.m., then two days later on Sept. 29, when they take on the University of Pennsylvania Quakers in a 12:00 p.m. matchup.

"All the conference games are going to be really important," Junior forward Quentin Albrecht said. "Last year we didn't win one game, so we really got to make it up."

The Panthers will then return to Miami as they begin a streak of eight consecutive conference games. FIU will first face off against Marshall on Oct. 6 at 6:00 p.m. Then the Panthers will go on the road to take on New Mexico on Oct. 12 and UAB



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Quentin Albrecht, above, and the FIU men's soccer team look to improve during Conference play in 2013.

on Oct. 16.

The Panthers will host Old Dominion on Oct. 19 at 6:30 p.m. before going to Lexington to face the Kentucky Wildcats on Oct. 26. After their match with Kentucky, they will come back home to face the South Carolina Gamecocks on October 30th.

The Panthers will travel to Oklahoma to play its final regular season road game

against 2012 NCAA quarterfinalist Tulsa on Nov. 3 at 5:00 p.m. Finally, they will end the 17-game regular season on November 8th at home against Charlotte.

The C-USA conference tournament is expected to take place from Nov. 13-17 at the University of Charlotte.

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Schedule highlighted by top-10 Louisville

FOOTBALL, PAGE 6

Eagles, who play two top 25 teams within their first four weeks, will be looking to improve from their 0-12 record a season ago.

The first homestand of the Panthers tenure in C-USA will start with the homecoming game against the University of Alabama-Birmingham Blazers on Oct. 12.

The Blazers went 3-9 in 2012 and only have one game against a current top 25 team in the country.

Following UAB, the Panthers will host Louisiana Tech,

then East Carolina University.

The next couple of weeks take the Panthers on the road against Middle Tennessee State University and the University of Texas at El Paso respectively. The Blue Raiders moved to C-USA this July as the Panthers did and were former opponents in the Sun-Belt Conference. The Miners of UTEP will be looking to improve from a 3-9 season last year.

The final home game of the 2013 season will be on Nov. 23, as the Panthers host the Thundering Herd of Marshall University. The Herd, who went 5-7 in 2012, will be led by third year quarterback Rakeem Cato, who is statistically another top quarterback in college

football this year and will look to be a factor in C-USA this season.

The final week of the 2013 season is another chapter in the rivalry between FIU and Florida Atlantic University. The game will be held in Boca Raton, Fla this season on Nov. 29.

Overall, Turner had one clear message about what the mindset of his team should be for this season.

"The focus for this week and every other week is that the guys do their job. Staying focused and do their job is what they need to work on the most and they have to trust their training."

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Defensive bright spots only glimmer of hope

COLUMN, PAGE 6

To add insult to injury, out of all the athletic programs, football is the second worst rated in terms of multi-rate scores.

A lot to take in. A team that was predicted to finish last in Conference USA, now without two, possibly four, guys.

How about we officially close the books on this season and look forward to next year. Save yourselves the time and money.

I love football as much as the next person, and I like to be optimistic, but

there isn't much optimism to take away from this squad.

With an O-line with no experience, a quarterback one big hit away from sitting on the bench, to the leader of returns not being able to make the grades, how excited can you be?

But there is a shining light hoping to make its way out of the darkness.

The defensive line is to be the only consistent group on this team.

Even with that shimmer of light, senior defensive end Paul Crawford was seen the last few practices with the second team defense.

So when your tallest guy on the field, healthy and expected to make a shot at the NFL according to assistant coach Andre Patterson, isn't even starting, sound the alarm.

Let's all just focus on our studies. With the Panthers facing top teams like Maryland and Sugar Bowl Champs Louisville, you won't miss much.

And one last reminder, this is a stronger Louisville team that took out the 11-1 Gators last year and sent them back to the swamp asking, "What happened?"

Without a doubt, the sport that

receives the most attention, or at least is mostly talked about at the water cooler, is this football team.

And unless this team can make a complete 180-degree turn and get on the right track, it will continue to be a long and bumpy road for everyone.

Then again, history shows people will still come out in full force just to spend their game days partying out in the parking lots.

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Dolphins should be more exciting in 2013

STEVEN WINE
Associated Press

Another training camp practice had just ended, and Miami Dolphins quarterback Ryan Tannehill walked toward a lectern to field the latest round

of media queries.

"Is this going to be good?" someone asked as Tannehill approached a cluster of microphones.

"It's going to be great," Tannehill answered with a smile, emphasizing the last word. "Real exciting."

Instead, the interview session was predictably humdrum. Tannehill and the Dolphins are saving any excitement for the season.

After four consecutive losing years, the franchise's longest such skid since the 1960s,

the Dolphins should be more fun to watch in 2013. They upgraded their unimposing corps of receivers by acquiring Mike Wallace and Brandon Gibson, and an already formidable defensive front seven became faster and younger with

the additions of linebackers Philip Wheeler, Dannell Ellerbe and Dion Jordan, the No. 3 overall draft pick. But an unsettled offensive line raises questions about the Dolphins' ability to run and protect Tannehill, which means they

may again have trouble moving the ball.

Last year Miami lost five games by a touchdown or less, scoring 21 points or less in all of them, en route to a 7-9 finish. A succession of low-scoring games is again likely in 2013.

Excursions take students to explore mangroves

JESSICA MESZAROS
Staff Writer

Today new and returning students have the opportunity to preview Biscayne Bay Campus' Kayak Day on the Bay.

The trail will just be a sample of what is to take place the last Saturday of every month for the semester. This first-come first-serve event is starting at 1 p.m. and will run until 3 p.m., lasting a total of 30 minutes per group of 20 participants.

Jonathan Torrey, office manager for the Recreation Center at BBC, will be leading the group along with two other lifeguards.

Torrey said the idea is to "just get the students out on the water, let them get a feel of how to maneuver on a kayak, maybe take them to Sandspur Island- let them get a feel of kayaking from one place to another place."

For the rest of the semester, the trail will be broken up in two parts. First, the group plans to kayak over to Oleta River State

Park's trail. Then, they will kayak to a sandbar in the middle of Biscayne Bay.

"Once we hit that area, that's usually our resting place. Students

campus. Torrey will take a group at 10 a.m. and another at noon. The total excursion time is estimated at an hour and a half.

Gustavo Arauz, Office

at the bulletin boards to see if it's available or not."

Paddle boarding is also offered for students this semester. The first Saturday of every month, Jonathan Torrey will take three trips with five students at a time around Sandspur Island. The times are set for 9:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 1 p.m.

"With this particular trip we only go around the island. We don't go to the kayak trail and we don't go to the sandbar," said Torrey. "As we're moving around the island, we take rest spots. We give students a chance if they want to just jump in the water and jump out."

Paddle boarding requires open waters and is slower than the kayaking, so there are more opportunities to observe fish and other wildlife.

Night kayaking will also be available at 7 p.m. on Sept. 7 and Oct. 5. Barry Tucker is the General Supervisor of the Aquatics Center. He has accompanied Torrey's night kayaking as

a lifeguard.

"Right now, we're in the process of making everything illuminated- the kayaks and all that. The goal is to have clear bottom paddleboards and kayaks so you can see nature more closely. There's a lot of stuff going on at night in the water," said Tucker.

Registration is at the BBC Fitness Center. The aquatic events are free to students and 10 dollars to members of the community who wish to join.

The BBC's first kayak was used as a department kayak for training purposes. Torrey pushed the idea to purchase more kayaks. They initially used them for the summer camp program here. The department then opened up use to students only. Now BBC kayaks and paddleboards are accessible to everyone.

"It used to be students only, but then we incorporated the community, so it's like a student-community activity," said Torrey.

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“We kayaked all around and we got close to the mangroves and we saw the environment; it was the best.”

Gustavo Arauz
Office Manager
Glenn Hubert Library

can get out, they can swim around. There's usually a boat that serves food. Most students are taking pictures or just kind of hanging out in the water," said Torrey.

They plan to stay at the shallow sandbar for about 15 to 20 minutes before returning to

Manager for BBC Library, kayaked BBC about two months ago.

"Basically we kayaked all around and we got close to the mangroves and we saw the environment; you know, it was the best," said Arauz. "I always look

MAST Academy students go unnoticed at BBC

MARIA BRITOS
Staff Writer

Last week, Biscayne Bay Campus opened its doors to the first high school freshmen class from MAST Academy. The high school partnered with the University in an effort to provide its students marine science courses and other university-related opportunities. With its first freshmen-only class, the school will add more grade levels until they reach the 12th grade in its fourth year.

According to Steven Moll, BBC Vice Provost, the MAST Academy students' presence shouldn't be noticed by FIU students because their classes have been assigned in an area where they're in the second floor of Academic One; the drop-off and pick-up bus area has remained the same way: unnoticed. "I haven't heard of the MAST students, not even that they had a bus drop off," said Alex Salazar, junior hospitality major.

Every weekday morning, several yellow public school buses make their way

to the BBC. Inside of them are the MAST Academy freshmen students riding to a normal school day.

The University has arranged a specific bus and car drop-off and pick-up location on campus.

The drop-off is located in the small roundabout in front of the Academic One building.

Julissa Castellanos, director of Operations at BBC, explains that the area was chosen to avoid any traffic confrontation.

"It doesn't conflict with regular traffic,"

said Castellanos.

According to Castellanos, the choice of having the students dropped off and picked up in that area was not specially arranged, however; it was simply a matter of space availability.

"The [MAST Academy] students arrive at seven in the morning and leave at 2:30 in the afternoon; there aren't too many University] students on campus at that time," Castellanos said.

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Involvement Week: a chance to 'make a difference'

ALYSSA ELSO
Staff Writer

With the fall semester underway, the Office of Campus Life at Biscayne Bay is offering students many ways to get involved and make a difference on campus.

Starting Sept. 3 the Office of Campus Life, along with the Student Organization Council, Student Programming Council, Panther Power and Student Government Association, will be hosting Involvement Week 2013.

Starting on Sept. 3, students will get a chance to learn about the many clubs, councils and organizations offered at BBC.

"Last year we had about 20-25 clubs and this year we will have more than 30," said Gary Santos, Campus Life graduate assistant.

Some of the new clubs students can expect to see include The Aquatics Club, The Gay Rights Club and the Comics Club.

Maria Abreu, senior journalism major, is looking forward to learning about some of the ways she can get involved in her last year at FIU.

"I did not really see the importance of being a part of campus life before," said Abreu. "Now as I find myself about to graduate and go out and find a job, I realize that any type of extracurricular activities are important in making me a well-rounded individual."

Sept. 4, students will get a chance to learn about the Student Government Association and the many ways they can help to represent the student body.

Thursday, Sept. 5 students will learn about the many recreational activities available to them like the gym,

pool, kayaking and even deep sea fishing.

To close off the week, on Friday, Sept. 6 students will be able to receive a free cup of coffee at Alaska Coffee Roasting Co. by presenting their Panther ID.

Along with the many events going on during Involvement Week, the Office of Campus Life will be giving out free food and giveaways.

"Everyone usually loves free food and we will also be giving away sunglasses and hats," said Santos. "Many of the clubs will also have their own special giveaways."

According to Santos, Involvement week is not only a great way for students to get involved in school activities, but also a good outlet for them to voice their opinions on what they would like to see at BBC.

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3rd Florida mayor arrested within the past month

CURT ANDERSON
Associated Press

The mayor of Homestead was hauled away from his home Wednesday in handcuffs on corruption charges, including accepting illegal compensation, becoming the third mayor of a Miami-Dade County city to be arrested in the past month.

Steve Bateman, 58, was secretly being paid \$125 an hour

as a consultant by a health care company seeking city and county approval for a sewer connection so it could build a clinic in Homestead, said Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle.

Bateman lobbied his own city officials and County Mayor Carlos Gimenez without disclosing his financial arrangement with Community Health Care of South Florida Inc., a non-profit firm known as CHI, said Fernandez Rundle.

"It's another very sad day for the people of Miami-Dade County," Fernandez Rundle told reporters. "At no time did Bateman disclose that these contacts were done for a private employer. That should have been done."

All told, Bateman was paid \$3,625 by CHI for his work, although the company had authorized as much as \$120,000 in payments for a year of work, according to an arrest affidavit.