



University promises more parking spots in next few semesters

DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS
Staff Writer

University community members who complain about a lack of parking on campus will now have some news to relish.

Parking Garage Six is planned for construction west of Red Parking Garage, where a parking lot is now present.

PG6 will resemble Parking Garage Five architecturally, housing approximately 2,000 parking spaces and 30,000 square feet of retail space.

What separates PG6 from other garages, however, is its potential to be used as a transit hub for Miami-Dade County buses.

According to Lissette Hernandez, director of Parking and Transportation, PG6 could become a stop linking 142nd Ave., the University and the Miami Intermodal Center.

The MIC is a mass transit hub east of Miami International Airport built by the county set for completion in late 2013.

"It will alleviate some of the parking situation in the north quadrant of the school," said Hernandez when asked how the garage will affect the University's parking infrastructure.

Hernandez said there is also talk about including classrooms in the retail space and bike lockers for commuters.

The Florida Division of Bond Finance, a state agency that issues bonds for or on behalf of state agencies, will issue a \$35 million bond with the total cost of the project remaining to be determined.

As for future garages, Hernandez plans on building one at a time.

"We definitely have other areas to look at in the future as we continue to grow, but we have to address that area at that time," said Hernandez.

Students can fight over PG6 parking spots beginning August 2015.

-diego.saldana@fiusm.com



DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS/THE BEACON

Members of the women's soccer team: Chelsea Leiva, Nicole Diperna, Crystal McNamara and Ashleigh Shim dine at Fresh Food on its reopening day.

Fresh Food Company serving more than new food

AILYS TOLEDO
Staff Writer

After a complete shutdown for the summer, Fresh Food Company reopened in time for move-in day and welcomed customers into its renovated restaurant on Friday, Aug. 23.

This is the first time Fresh Food received a total renovation since 2004.

Fresh Food is the main dining facility on Modesto Maidique Campus, accommodating housing students — who are required to purchase a meal plan if they live in buildings without kitchens like Panther Hall and Lakeview dorms — to commuter students that need a place to eat in-between classes.

"Normally, this kind of project would take at least six months," said Jeff Krablin, assistant vice president of business services.

"But this place has to be open throughout the year, so there really is no good time to renovate the main dining facility on-campus. That's why [it

was cut into] two phases."

Changes to the restaurant commenced at the end of the spring 2013 semester and continued up to the first day students moved into housing. The project was divided into two phases: phase one, which was completed last summer, that moved and expanded the entrance to Fresh Food; phase two renovated the inside of the facility to accommodate more diners.

According to Felecia Townsend, director of business services, the total cost of expenditures for both phases was approximately \$3.5 million. The budget allowed for a revamp of the interior and dining menu.

"We've added new stations, equipment and menu items," said Roger Clegg, resident district manager. "We design our menu for a large and diverse student population, including vegan and gluten-free diets."

In a previous interview with Student Media, students expressed a negative attitude towards the restaurant.

"When I was a freshman,

people didn't really like the food because it was fattening and greasy," said Shekinah Harper, a senior journalism major.

Since the reopening, students have changed their opinions in a more positive light.

"It looks fresh, it looks nice," said Fabian Mahecha, a sophomore finance major. "There's a lot of new food. I like the pizza and the sandwich station is really good."

Mahecha and his friends were congregating in the lounge area, a feature added in the renovations.

Brittany Davis, a senior education major both work at Fresh Food, said she can see also see a change in the attitude of chefs and staff members.

"It's really different... different is good," said Davis. "There is more to offer and the food tastes so much better. You can tell the chefs are happy and are excited about the change."

For the full story, head to fiusm.com.

Housing 100 percent full for fall

ALYSSA ELSO
Staff Writer

New and returning students arrived on-campus with their luggage and personal belongings, ready to settle into their dorms for the next few months, hoping to call campus their home.

With five residence halls and an apartment complex at Modesto Maidique Campus, and one Residence Hall at Biscayne Bay Campus, on-campus housing is full for the fall semester.

The Office of Housing and Residence Life received more than 4,000 housing agreements for the fall and spring semesters but only has 3,454 beds on campus, according to Interim Executive Director Lynn Hendricks.

The Office of Housing and Residential life does not stop accepting housing agreements, but they communicated to students that anyone who submitted an agreement after Aug. 1 would automatically be placed on a waitlist. As of Aug. 16 the waitlist had more than 200 students.

"It is likely that we will have students who do not show up during check-in and we will continue to assign students to spaces as we confirm these vacancies," said Hendricks.

O'Brien Johnson, senior international relations major, knows first hand what being on a housing waitlist is like.

In his freshmen year, Johnson was given the choice of living at Bay Vista, the BBC residence hall, or waiting for a spot to open up at MMC. He chose the latter and it worked in his favor, he said.

"My freshmen year I was placed on a waitlist and two weeks after school had started a space opened up on-campus for me," said Johnson. "I did not want to live at Bay Vista and commute to MMC, but for some students it is their only option."

This semester, the Housing saw an increase in the number of returning, transfer and graduate students seeking on-campus housing.

The newly constructed Parkview Hall at MMC, an upperclassmen residence hall, may be part of the reason students like Cartier Murrill, senior criminal justice major, are returning to on-campus housing.

"I have lived on-campus all three years, and now as a senior I got first choice in where I wanted to live," said Murrill. "I am excited to move in and see what it looks like."

Students not as fortunate as Murrill and Johnson in securing on-campus housing can remain on a waitlist or seek off-campus housing.

The Office of Housing and Residential life has partnered with CORT, an external company that specializes in off-campus housing solutions, to ensure that students find an apartment or house close to campus.

"Even though housing is full, students should not be discouraged," said Murrill. "The Office of Housing is pretty good at accommodating students and securing them a place to live."

-alyssa.elso@fiusm.com

Pi Kappa Alpha suspended after Facebook posts

MADISON FANTOZZI
News Director

Pi Kappa Alpha international fraternity has been suspended after screenshots from the fraternity's private Facebook page about drugs, hazing and cheating on exams were shared with the University by an anonymous source.

The screenshots were sent to University officials, advisors of Greek Life and presidents of both the Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic Council, as well as media outlets, including Student Media, on Aug. 21 in an email titled "FIU pikes caught hazing and more [sic]."

One member posted to never leave a "Pike trail," but the Facebook page did just that.

Seventy screenshots revealed posts by fraternity members about the "Pike Pharmacy."

One post advertised the study drug Adderall for \$10, \$15 for "non-brothers."

All members with linkages to these illegal and illicit activities will be pursued for expulsion from the fraternity as well as the University.

The international fraternity wrote in a press release on Aug. 23 that it will continue to work with the University and police investigation and provide any information to hold individuals accountable to the fullest extent of the law.

-madison.fantozzi@fiusm.com

Registrar working longer hours to resolve enrollment issues

REBECA PICCARDO
Staff Writer

Students enrolling for classes can face several obstacles: unanticipated holds, capped classes or server crashes.

“Registration week is hectic and the server crashes a lot,” said Jessica Butters, junior psychology major.

Butters said keeping fall registration open during summer may resolve enrollment frustrations.

One Stop Enrollment Services Coordinator Jennifer Halpern said enrollment is closed during summer to run statistics to evaluate what courses should be offered.

These statistics can then be used to determine what courses students need for fall.

“It’s all about reporting and making sure that we are prepared for the fall semester so that we know what the students need in terms of classes,” said Halpern.

Because enrollment closes

while summer is in session, the registrar opens a multi-term registration in April and fall registration in August.

Another common issue: classes with prerequisites.

According to Stephanie Sepulveda, a junior journalism major, she had problems enrolling into classes with prerequisites.

“Even if you are taking those prerequisites, the server won’t let you enroll until the semester ends and grades come out,” said Sepulveda.

Halpern agreed that prerequisites have been an issue, but she explained that the office of the registrar does not have the authority to verify prerequisites and override the server. Academic departments can help resolve issues with prerequisites.

“I have seen, in my professional experience, that they have sent a communication, either to our office or to the transfer credit processing center, letting both offices know the student has met

the requirement,” said Halpern.

Permission numbers, which makes students take longer to enroll and secure their spot in that class, also annoy students. However, the registrar does not issue the permission numbers, and they do not have the authority to override them.

“My understanding is that anybody in the academic department should have access to either provide the student with the information or even give them the permission number themselves,” said Halpern.

According to Francesca Rosario, a junior journalism major, an issue she had when registering for her fall 2013 classes was a hold on her account, which prevented her from enrolling into her classes until that issue was resolved.

“However, when I called, it was removed and taken care of within 15 minutes,” said Rosario.

Not every hold can be caught, however, which is when referral

to academic units makes sense.

“We can see what holds are placed in the student’s account, and we can help refer them to the right department so that they can get that hold released,” said Halpern.

Patricia Amorim, a senior international relations major, was unable to register for her classes when her enrollment appointment opened due to a hold that did not get resolved on time.

“I couldn’t enroll on time because they didn’t remove the insurance hold, even though I paid it already,” said Amorim.

Students also brought up the issue of inconvenient enrollment dates and times, which are set by the registrar’s office technical support.

“I don’t know what goes into the thought of the enrollment dates and the times,” said Halpern.

According to Jessica Pascual, a sophomore criminal justice major, her registration times tend

to open in the middle of the day while she is in class.

“It’s a struggle to try and enroll in my classes when my registration opens while at the same time trying to pay attention to the class I’m already sitting in,” said Pascual.

Although the subject of inconvenient enrollment times has not come up in meetings she has attended, Halpern said that it was a valid point and that the office of registrar will look into it.

In the weeks before the beginning of a new semester, the office of the registrar extends their hours from two days a week to five days a week to help solve the issues that come up during enrollment peak times.

“We always extend our hours before the semester starts, but fall is our biggest one,” said Halpern.

-rebeca.piccardo@fiusm.com

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Unemployment rate, an uncomfortable reality

RAUL HERRERA
Staff Writer

Mariella Roque graduated spring 2013 with a Bachelors of Science in Communications and Political Science, and is one of the 16 percent of youth having difficulties finding employment.

“I’ve had no luck,” said Roque. “With no internship it makes job finding much harder. A degree doesn’t mean you know what you’re doing.”

She said that her degree in communications did not prepare her well enough for a future job.

“I learned a lot of theory but almost no practical work,” said Roque.

Generation Opportunity, a non-partisan youth advocacy organization, recently released a “Millennial Jobs Report” for July 2013 that pointed to a 16.1 percent unemployment rate among 18-29 year olds.

While this data is non-seasonally adjusted, meaning that it does not take into account seasonal trends in employment, it presents what the organization sees as a problem for many university graduates.

The study also points out that only 43.6 percent of 18-29 year olds are employed full-time. One in six youths are out of work entirely.

However, some believe that this should not hold students back.

“Perhaps one of the greatest mistakes job seekers make is that they ‘assume’ that there are no jobs available, consequently many do not apply diligently for jobs,” said Darren Gregory, assistant director of FIU Career Services.

These statistics can often discourage the new grad, said Gregory.

The study also points out that many young adults have turned to temporary or part-time jobs to suit their needs.

President of Generation Opportunity Evan Feinberg said in the study that 18-29 year olds are getting stuck in a cycle of part-time and temporary jobs, some of which are unrelated to their degree.

Roque is an example.

“I freelance, translating from German to English,” said Roque. “[It] pays badly, and I get very few assignments.”

Generation Opportunity’s study also indicated a 12.4 percent national

unemployment rate for 18-29 year old Hispanics, and a 20.9 percent rate for African-Americans.

However, Gregory said that this should not dishearten students.

“The reality out there right now for all students, regardless of race or ethnic background, is difficult,” said Gregory. “The vision of this University moving forward is that as we continue to develop, educate, and graduate a diverse and experienced student body, those numbers will continue to decline.”

According to Gregory, the latest graduation survey indicated that four weeks prior to graduation, 55 percent of FIU students are employed full-time in their field, and 21 percent are pursuing higher education.

The survey also captured students working part-time, military service and students not currently seeking employment.

Employment in the city of Miami, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, has grown since last year, with a rate of job gain increase at 1.2 percent, compared to the national increase of 1.7 percent in that same time frame.

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity’s data showed that in July the state’s unemployment rate is at 7.1 percent, with Miami Dade’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate at 8.2 percent, compared to 8.8 percent in June.

There are also ways to make oneself more likely to be employed, according to Roque and Gregory.

“Intern with a company as a student so that you can get hired right out of college,” said Roque.

Gregory agreed and also suggested utilizing University resources including Career Services, career fairs, professional development workshops, student leadership groups and organizations.

Meanwhile, Roque has a plan.

“I might die a freelancer or I might look into other career options like corporate communications departments,” said Roque. “I’m open to everything at this point.”

-news@fiusm.com

University Police reports decrease in crime rates

DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS
Staff Writer

Forty-two arrests, 49 thefts, 40 traffic citations and nine burglaries have been reported by the University Police Department since the beginning of summer C.

Out of the 42 arrests, 21 were for narcotics. University Police Chief Alex Casas said that narcotics remain a common reason for arrest.

Casas also said that thefts are “crimes of opportunity.”

“Someone leaves an item unattended and someone else

will pick it up,” said Casas.

As of July 19, there have been 242 crimes reported by the University Police Department. That is 26 less compared to last year, according to Casas.

Casas noted three particular crimes that have increased from last year’s reports: arson, rape and vandalism.

Arson and rape have increased by one case each, while the latter has had seven more cases than last year at this time.

This brings the total year-

to-date number of vandalism cases to 35.

On the other hand, vehicle theft has dropped from last year’s report.

Three vehicles were reported stolen this year instead of 13.

“Our increase in staff and our ability to keep officers has transferred into a larger presence on campus, which I believe has a deterrent effect,” said Casas.

-diego.saldana@fiusm.com

SUMMER 2013 CRIME RECAP:

- 49 thefts
- 42 arrests
- 40 traffic citations
- 21 arrests for narcotics
- 9 burglaries
- 3 vehicles reported stolen

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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What you missed this summer

Kedrick Rhodes arrested, dismissed from football team

FIUSM STAFF

Running back Kedrick Rhodes was ready to begin his senior year for the FIU football team until he was arrested on Saturday, July 13 at 7:30 p.m.

According to the arrest affidavit, Rhodes was charged with possession/discharging of a firearm on school grounds, improper exhibition of a firearm, discharging a firearm in public and discharging a firearm under the influence of alcohol.

According to the affidavit, a witness observed Rhodes exit Everglades Hall and run towards his vehicle, parked in lot six, in anger over an unknown cause. The same witness observed Rhodes pull out a firearm, step out of the vehicle and yell, "Get the f—k back!"

Rhodes then proceeded to fire approximately three to four rounds in the air from his .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol, leading the witness to flee for his safety. Rhodes was then arrested and taken to Miami Dade County jail where he provided a written confession that he was under the influence of alcohol while discharging his firearm.

The situation escalated when Rhodes lost

a play fight with a teammate, according to multiple witnesses. This was later verified by University Police Chief Alexander Casas.

"I don't know if it got to a real fight, but Rhodes got upset because he did lose a play fight," Casas said.

FIU Athletics has announced running back Kedrick Rhodes has been dismissed from the football program due to a violation of team policy, according to a statement released by the Athletics Department.

This is not the first time that FIU has had a problem with a football player and firearms; in 2004 three FIU players were arrested, including one who was charged with attempted murder for firing a gun into an occupied car.

Rhodes is now the fourth player to be arrested for the use of a firearm. Corner back Everett Baker was charged with attempted murder for firing into an occupied car. He also was charged with two counts of armed robbery, possession of a weapon on school grounds and two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, all felonies.

Read more at fiusm.com



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Royal Caribbean expected to lease Bay Vista

BRANDON WISE
Editor-in-Chief

Starting next summer, students who want to live at Bay Vista will need a back up plan.

The University is in the final stages of negotiating a land lease to Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, which will allow the company to house their on-board performers in the Bay Vista Housing on the Biscayne Bay Campus.

In September 2012, FIU published an invitation to negotiate with the company to build and operate a production, rehearsal and performance facility at BBC. Royal Caribbean responded to the public invitation to negotiate, according

to the Board of Trustees agenda meeting from June 12, 2013.

Royal Caribbean's entertainers and performers are currently housed around the Hollywood area and their training centers are dispersed, according to Mohammad Qureshi, associate dean of the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

Seeking to consolidate the performers' housing and training to one area, Royal Caribbean has its eyes on BBC.

As far as the students that currently live in Bay Vista Housing, FIU believes that most students would want to move to Modesto A. Maidique Campus' new housing facilities.

"MMC is finishing up new housing facilities this fall and will have more supply than demand, which is different to previous years when there has always been more demand," said Qureshi.

Larry Lunsford, vice president of student affairs, said that the demand for housing at BBC has been on the decline for some time now.

"There is an important business aspect to University Housing, and it is important that the demand is there to keep it operational," Lunsford said. "The cost of renovations needed to improve Bay Vista Housing most likely would result in the facility being cost prohibitive for our

student residents."

Bay Vista can hold 272 students and six resident assistants, according to the housing website.

"New housing is on the master plan for BBC," Lunsford said. "As decisions are finalized regarding the future of BBC housing, we will communicate these plans to students."

Royal Caribbean will renovate BBC's current housing facilities and begin building a 45,000 sq. foot training facility, all at no cost to FIU once the deal is completed.

"FIU is hoping that with the money from the land lease, we can then use those funds to start a new housing project for the students in the BBC campus," said Qureshi.

For those students who do not wish to move to MMC, the University is negotiating with outside companies who provide temporary housing for students.

Deiondra Skinner, a sophomore public relations student, is a resident assistant at Bay Vista Housing who recently moved to BBC from MMC housing to be closer to the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

"I don't think it would fair to the students who have their courses here. If they're at MMC, that would be an additional \$5 a day for them to commute using the shuttle," said Skinner.

Read more at fiusm.com

Low Academic Progress Rate scores cause problems for Panthers

PATRICK CHALVIRE
Staff Writer

As the men's basketball team begins their off-season workouts, one question still arises on campus: How will the men's basketball team get through a postseason ban?

As expected for over a year, once the 2011-2012 Academic Progress Rate scores became official, the Panthers received a ban for next year's postseason and a reduction in practice time. The Panthers scored a dreadful 750, way below the NCAA average, which would later drop the four-year rate down to 858 from 909.

Anthony Evans, head coach of the basketball team, knew the repercussions going into his first year but is ready to start over.

"It was always in the background, whether it would happen or not," Evans said. "Now it's official, we're going to move forward with the plan in terms of working to build this program from the ground up."

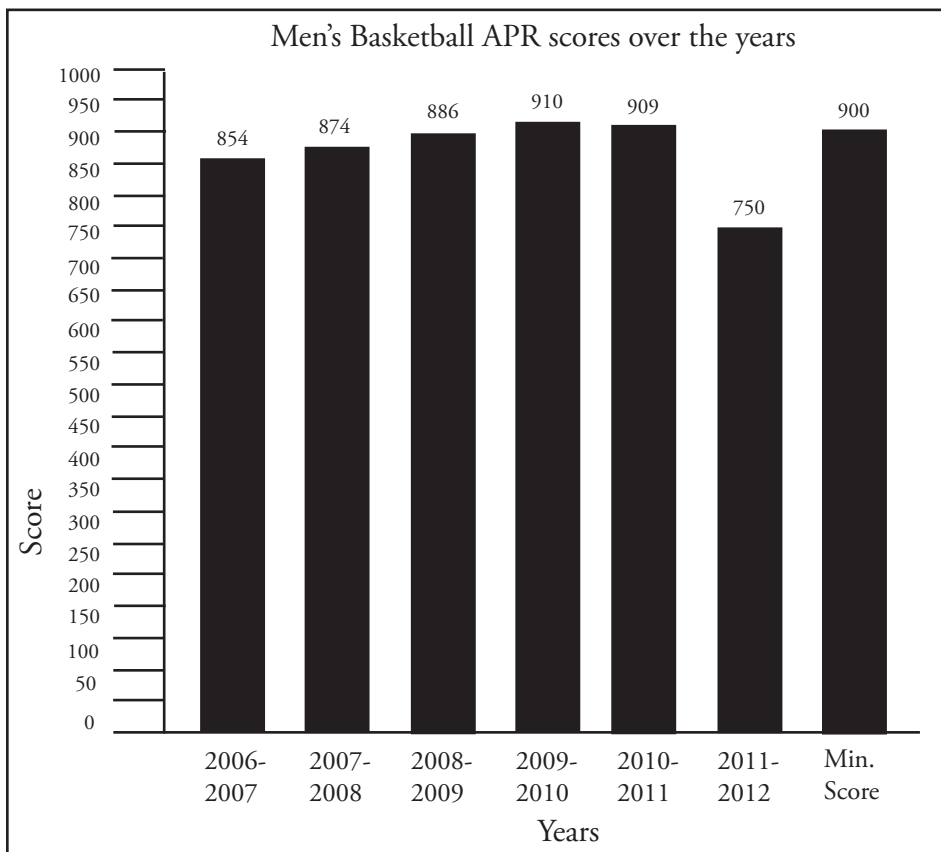
Unfortunately for the Athletics program, this isn't the first time it has faced the wrath of the NCAA. When Athletic Director Pete Garcia first took the reigns at FIU in 2006, his first duty on the job was to clean up an already tarnished Athletics Department.

During the 2002-2007 seasons, an investigation by the NCAA began once it was brought up that 45 student-athletes allegedly had misapplied enrollment and financial aid rules, transfer requirements and eligibility rules during the program's shift from Division I-AA to Division I-A.

The NCAA Committee on Infractions also noted that as FIU's Athletics program was expanding, the Compliance Office and Academic Advising was not.

As the expansions brought 100 student-athletes during the first four years of the football program, personnel were using an outdated software system incapable of following NCAA bylaws.

Read more at fiusm.com



Keeping an eye on yourself and your image

LAUREN BANA
Staff Writer

As my time in college draws to an end, I think about how nice it would have been if I were given a set of guidelines to follow at the start of my university career.

Of course, the kind of guidelines that I'm referring to are not at all like the ones we've all received at orientation. Instead, these guidelines would teach every college freshman how to blossom from their originally immature status as high school students to mature and dedicated university students.

If I were to write these instructions myself, I'd focus on the individual changes that college freshmen repeatedly undergo, usually beginning with a complete modification of a personal image.

I really believe that when you start college, it's always good to start fresh, unlocking new opportunities for your future in friendship and in your career.

I can personally say that I've changed my personal style several times and have undergone several different mindsets before I fully understood how I wanted to look and think.

Of course, this being the age of technology, changing your image also means making yourself look more presentable to the public eye via the Internet. One of the main things you should do is demonstrate a more mature version of yourself through the redecoration of your online pres-

ence on social networking sites, such as Facebook and Instagram.

“You're not changing who you are as a person in this process but are instead growing with the experiences that you have throughout your time in college.”

Nowadays, anyone can find anyone on the Net, and if you're looking for a job during your time in college, it's always best to have cleaned up your “high school” image beforehand. You want employers to see that you are a mature and hard-working person, and not the young and naïve child that we all were in high school.

For example, try to prevent posting pictures of yourself at a party with a drunken face and a mysterious red cup;

don't post those late night statuses of anger towards your ex either.

These slight alterations can make all the difference when someone is trying to get to know you through the Net.

Junior Melissa Del Toro said cleaning up one's online presence was in fact one of the points mentioned in her Human Resources Management course.

“We were discussing the recruitment methods of employers for new employees; one of the points we discussed was how employers are checking the Facebook pages of potential candidates, and how college recruiters have begun to adopt this method for the selection process of incoming freshmen,” said Del Toro.

Del Toro also mentioned that with this idea of evolving into a mature individual in mind, students should do their part in taking classes unrelated to their major or outside of their comfort zone.

“This is the time to explore new things and broaden their perspective,” said Del Toro.

If I were to truly write my own incoming freshman guidelines, I would make sure to remind our young freshmen that you're not changing who you are as a person in this process but are instead growing with the experiences that you have throughout your time in college. And in this short amount of time in college, you should make the best of it.

-lauren.bana@fiusm.com

Managing your time on campus and at home

ADRIANNE RICHARDSON
Contributing Writer

Being in high school as a senior is probably one of the most accomplished feelings one can have, knowing that you are about to graduate and will be seen as a young woman or man.

However, as college freshmen, you will soon find that high school was merely a method of practice used to help prepare you for what was to come.

College is in many ways different from high school.

One difference is the teaching methods and the amount of material you are expected to comprehend.

Depending on your professor, you may have one who spaces out assignments in an easy, come-and-go manner, as long as you don't procrastinate.

Sometimes, if you do procrastinate, you still have time to get the assignment done because your professor's syllabus is

just that flexible.

Then, there are the other professors that are great at teaching but strongly dislike slackers.

Their reason is probably that they offer help when needed so that all their students should be able to complete assignments by the due date.

Personally, these are the best professors because they teach you to take pride in your work and to heed to responsibility if you don't know how to do that already.

There is also the professor, that many students get, who can probably care less who you are or if you get the work done in time.

You earn your grade - pass or fail.

Another difference you will notice is the amount of “free time” that you seem to have available to you, especially if you decide to live on campus.

In college, there is no bell to tell you when to go to first or third period, there is no “block schedule” with lunch included.

You make your own schedule and your own study time. After a short 50 minute class, there is no study hall required; you decide what to do after class and on the weekends.

Usually, sleep is the most popular activity among college students during the week.

According to www.sleepphones.com, college students' biological clock is set to 26 hours instead of 24 like it should be.

For example, if you wake up at 8 a.m., then you should be tired by midnight. Since most of us have a biological clock of 26 hours, then we wouldn't be sleepy until 2 a.m., even though we have to wake up at 8 a.m. the next morning. Consequently, we deprive our body of sleep.

This is something to keep in mind when attending college, understanding that time management is the key.

One of the ways that I stay focused and organized while living on campus is by using Google Calendar; wherever it says

I am supposed to be at the hour, that is where I am.

Another way to manage time correctly is by utilizing campus resources and organizations like Academy of Leaders, Student Government Association, Students with a Goal, philanthropic organizations, Student Support Services, Multicultural Programs and Services and many others.

Through working with these organizations, you can form study groups and learn how other students manage their time and pass classes, maybe even the very class you struggle with.

Basically, living on campus takes a lot of maturity and common sense to avoid distractions and focus on what is really important.

You will have fun, undoubtedly, but do it the safe way and make yourself proud.

Thank me later.

-opinion@fiusm.com

How to survive college as an international student

SHANNON COPELAND
Contributing Writer

Welcome to a new world and a new school!

You probably have hundreds of questions and worries, but for a heads up, studying in a foreign country is not as worrisome as you might think.

I, too, am an international student, and these are a few tips that I can give from my experience.

First, don't be afraid to ask questions if you need directions. When you are in a foreign country, everything is probably new to you, and Floridians are aware that there are many tourists in Miami.

One of my biggest fears was to be lost in a foreign country and, considering Jamaica's size (4,244 sq mi), which is nothing compared to Florida (65,755 sq mi), I made sure I had markers (Burger King, Wendy's, etc.) whenever I went somewhere. Also, you can probably take a bus to go wherever you wish to go; just don't be afraid to ask for directions.

Second, the best way to get used to being in a foreign country is to learn the language. Find a friend that speaks English and a native from your country, so if push comes to shove, you'll have two people to assist you.

Third, don't be afraid to let your professor know that you're an international student, since you might not

be used to having a full lecture in English. Professors here are more than happy to answer your questions and there are various tutoring services available in the Green Library. Never forget, in America, all you have to do is ask a question if you are uncertain.

In addition, the International Student Scholar Services is here to serve all international students; every now and then, events with free food and other activities take place at FIU. So, take this as your opportunity to go out, meet new people and enjoy your first class ticket to a beautiful country and even more beautiful people.

-opinion@fiusm.com

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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Building a stronger relationship with your professor

ADRIANNE RICHARDSON
Contributing Writer

Building a relationship with the professor is the least of our worries; most of us don't even think about it – we just want the grade.

If the class is lecture style, more than likely, there are about 100 plus students in attendance for the class. Having had experience in a class such as this, I know that most of the students only show up on exam days and barely know their professor. Others, like me, make the effort to come to class and may end up dozing off from time to time because of the night before.

Well, what if I told you that building a student-teacher relationship can actually help your grade? Would you attempt to build relationships then?

Some advantages of making the

effort to build a relationship with your teacher would be having a heads up about what will be on quizzes, leniency towards you and your assignments and sometimes tips about how to improve if you are not doing so well in the class.

With this extra help, you can improve your grade and your GPA all through building a relationship.

I am not saying that every professor will do this because some professors are not willing to deal with students on a more social level; they are strictly “the professor,” which is understandable. But there are more that are willing to help you than those that are not.

Some ways to start building is through office hours, email, and in-class participation. Also, your seat in class speaks volumes about you as a student. If you sit near the front, then your professor can

make eye contact and recognize your face versus someone who sits in the back.

Personally, I remember struggling in my Algebra class and not knowing what to do. MyLabsPlus calculates everything and my grade was already a C-. I knew I needed help but pride got in the way.

Eventually, after talking it over with my parents, I approached my instructor and let her know that I was struggling and needed help. She told me about her office hours and how she would be more than happy to go over the material with me.

Through this, our relationship became a more personal one, and she was extra careful when reviewing and putting in participation grades so she wouldn't make any mistakes.

She always gave me updates and it's because of this I can honestly say I passed the class.

Student-teacher relationships can make or break you; you have to learn to use your resources as a student and only practice makes perfect. Observe and pay close attention in class. If you don't have a question to ask them, then make up one! There is no harm in that. Trust me, the more interest you show in the subject, the more attention your professor will show towards you, whether they realize it or not.

I strongly believe that you need others to help you succeed, and professors are definitely an important figure in educational success at a University. Please adhere to the advice given and begin to view your professors as tools for success.

Who doesn't want to succeed?

Thank me later.

-opinion@fiusm.com

Make sure you take enough time out, see your folks

ADRIANNE RICHARDSON
Contributing Writer

“He never does anything with the family,” a friend told me once of his brother. “For every holiday and every event, he never stays for more than a few minutes before he goes out with his friends.”

Most of us know at least one person who is just like this.

We can always count that for New Years and Thanksgiving, he or she will be partying with friends or crashing another family's dinner.

Weekends are spent away from home, and on weekdays, that person spends all day in school and at work.

Family is rarely a priority within their packed schedules.

It's not unusual for college-aged students to want to be off doing their own thing away from family. College is a time to really go through a process of self-discovery.

And a sizable portion of us does so by going off to school away from our hometowns for complete independence.

Spending your time enhancing your social life and extracurricular activities is a positive thing, but it's also very important to ask yourself this question: Am I depriving myself from really spending time with my own family?

The Huffington Post recently highlighted a new and unsettling website called seeyourfolks.com.

The site uses information such as how often you already see your parents throughout the year, their age, life expectancy statistics based on the World Health Organization, and where your parents live to determine how many more times you're going to see your mom and dad before they die.

“We believe that increasing awareness of death can help us make the most of our lives,” the site says in its mission statement. “The right kind of reminders can help us to focus on what matters, and perhaps make us better people.”

In the chaos of our busy lives, it's easy to forget that our parents aren't always going to be there.

Many students would prefer to party every weekend rather than take mom out for dinner.

A family vacation might not seem more important than Electric Daisy Carnival Orlando with a group of friends.

But when we take a step back to really consider how limited our time with our parents is, every spare moment becomes precious.

I have an estimated 7,717 more visits with my mom and dad. It's a very generous number compared with those that live away from their parents, but it's a number that makes me take a step back and re-prioritize.

I can't remember the last time I sat down to watch a movie with my dad.

And while I see my parents every day because I still live at home, the quality of my time with them has diminished to

a distracted hello when they come home from work and a hurried goodbye as I get ready to go out for the night.

My time in between then is usually filled with tweets and iMessage chats, homework, Instagram and Netflix.

We cannot forget that spending time with our parents doesn't mean just being in the same room with them.

As seeyourfolks.com has pointed out, our time to really get to know our parents

is slipping away by the day.

Instead of groaning at the thought of family time, what we should be doing is really sitting down and laughing and talking and enjoying our parents before the day comes that we simply can't anymore.

-opinion@fiusm.com

SURVIVAL GUIDE



COURTESY OF CAROLINA GUILLOT

SURVIVING THE YEAR

Dates to keep your head above water

- Sept. 2: Labor Day, no school
- Sept. 3: Last day to drop/add, fall tuition payment due
- Sept. 20: Last day to apply for fall graduation, last day to withdraw with a 25% tuition refund
- Oct. 4: First day to apply for spring graduation
- Oct. 6-12: Homecoming week
 - Oct 6: Panthermonium concert
 - Oct 12: Homecoming parade and game
- Nov. 4: Last day to drop with a DR grade, spring registration open by appointment only
- Nov. 11: Veterans Day
- Nov. 28-29: Thanksgiving, School closed
- December 9-14: Finals Week

Your last resort: textbooks

When purchasing your books for the semester, we suggest leaving the FIU Bookstore as your last resort and check out these money-saving resources first.

Bookfinder.com allows you to find any book you need at the lowest price possible by searching through all vendors. Just type in the title of the book and the author, and the search engine finds all online sites that are selling that book and lists them from lowest to highest selling

price.

Half.com is also a great resource for books. Students will have the choice to buy new or used books, or to rent them. Additionally, it provides students with seller feedback and comments on the condition of the books. It's easy, fast and economical.

But before you purchase your books, ask your professors if you can buy an older edition of their requested texts since they are often cheaper.

Staving off starvation

Chili's Too

Located in the GC dining area

Einstein Bros Bagels

Located outside GC near the GC ballrooms

Barnes & Noble Café

Located right above the Barnes & Noble Bookstore

Moe's Southwest Grill

Located at MMC and BBC
PG5 Market Station at MMC
Wolfe University Center at BBC

Pollo Tropical

Located in GC dining area

Surviving the parking wars

Commuters, get your decals: Students can request a decal by visiting the Parking and Transportation Department at PG5-Market Station or Wolfe University Center room 353. Students can also request a decal online at parking.fiu.edu.

Take advantage of temporary parking: If you're not an early bird, don't expect parking in the Gold Garage. However, there are over 2400 additional temporary parking spaces! Park at the northeast corner of campus, east of Parking Garage V-Market Station; Tamiami Park, just east of FIU Stadium and south of Lot 6; and Fair and Exposition, just east of the Wertheim Performing Arts Center and south of Lot 5.

Catch the shuttle: Access shuttle times online at parking.fiu.edu/transportation or through the FIU Mobile App, and add money to your FIU One Card at the office located in the Gold Garage.

Welcome to the jungle

September 6 against UCF: This game marks the first home game for FIU against the University of Central Florida. The beginning of what seems to be a new in-state rivalry.

October 12 Homecoming: On Oct. 12 the Panthers will host the University of Alabama of Birmingham. This game will be the homecoming game for FIU and is always one of the biggest events that FIU holds.

*All games are free to students with a valid student ID.

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- HONORS COLLEGE (1)
- JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION (2)
- BROWARD PINES CENTER (1)
- LOWER DIVISION (3)

JUDICIAL:

- JUSTICE (4)

EXECUTIVE CABINET:

- CLERK OF COUNCIL
- ELECTIONS COMMISSIONER
- DIRECTOR OF LECTURES
- INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES COORDINATOR
- DIRECTOR OF INTERNAL RELATIONS
- DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
- INTERNSHIP COORDINATOR
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 Division of Student Affairs

WEEK OF WELCOME

**FALL 2013
 AUG. 25TH - 31ST**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25TH

Freshman Convocation - 2 PM | MMC - US Century Bank Arena
 BBC Library Bus pickup times: BBC to MMC - 12:30 PM & MMC to BBC - 5 PM
President's Welcome Reception - 3 PM | MMC - US Century Bank Arena Plaza

MONDAY, AUGUST 26TH

Ask me Info Tables - 9 AM to 4 PM | Library & ACI Area
Welcome BBQ: Food, Fun & Entertainment - 11 AM to 2 PM | WUC Ballrooms

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27TH

Ask me Info Tables - 9 AM to 4 PM | Library & ACI Area
Blue & Gold Breakfast - 9:30 AM to 11 AM | WUC Ballrooms
Mission IMPROVable Comedy Show - 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM | WUC Ballrooms
 Enjoy free pizza and participate in this hilarious theater game!

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28TH

Restaurant & Business Fair - 12 PM to 1:30 PM | WUC Ballrooms
50 Days 'til Homecoming - 1:30 PM to 3 PM | ACI Area
 SPONSORED BY HOMECOMING COUNCIL

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29TH

Freshman Luau - 11:30 AM to 2 PM | WUC Ballrooms

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30TH

Kayak on the Bay - 1 PM to 3 PM | Kayak Launch
 SPONSORED BY RECREATION CENTER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31ST

Retro Series Triathlon: Pool swim, Bike & Run - 8 AM | Aquatic Center
 SPONSORED BY RECREATION CENTER & TRIATHLON CLUB



**INVOLVEMENT
 Week 2013**

FALL 2013 | SEPTEMBER 3RD - SEPTEMBER 6TH

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND
 Labor Day (University will be closed)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD
Involvement and Volunteer Fair
 Clubs, Councils, Departments and Volunteer Organizations
 SPONSORED BY CAMPUS LIFE & THE CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE
 11 AM - 2 PM | WUC Ballrooms

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH
Student Government Association Day
 11 AM - 2 PM | ACI Area

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH
Recreation Expo
 SPONSORED BY RECREATION CENTER
 11 AM - 2 PM | WUC Ballrooms

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH
FIU Day at Alaska Coffee Roasting Co.
 BRING YOUR FIU ID TO 13130 BISCAYNE BLVD IN NORTH MIAMI AND ENJOY A FREE CUP OF REGULAR COFFEE!
 8 AM - 10 PM | Alaska Coffee Roasting Co.



CampusLifeBBC | 305.919.5804 | WUC 141

RE COMING TO BBC!



Students join in efforts to 'give kids the world'

NICOLE AGUIAR
Staff Writer

This past summer, FIU students made their way to Central Florida to bring a dose of inspiration and hope to kids who might be running short on both. Give Kids the World is a non-profit organization that's sole purpose is to fulfill the wishes of children with life threatening illnesses.

The man with the vision to give kids the world is founder Henri Landwirth, who went through his own struggles as a child, having been held in a concentration camp for five years during the Holocaust. He was a hotelier in Central Florida who was working to have a terminally ill child named Amy and her family stay at his hotel for free while she visited the parks.

Unfortunately, the hotel took

too long to have the arrangements made and Amy never got her wish. In order to prevent a child's wish to ever go unfulfilled again, Landwirth founded this organization.

GKTW serves children between the ages of 3 and 18 who wish to visit all the magic offered in Central Florida with its many amusement parks and attractions. They can accommodate a child and their family within 24 hours if necessary.

"It is all built on volunteers who not only want to give back, but love it so much that they continue to come back to help keep this organization going" said junior Isabella Corzo.

The organization brings kids from across all 50 states as well as 74 other countries to lodge in what is called "The Village." The 70-acre village is filled with 140 villas, fun entertainment, a



NICOLE AGUIAR/THE BEACON

Sophomore Elizabeth Ceidera prepares to pamper kids at the Give Kids the World spa.

hula-hut, an ice-cream palace, and a gingerbread house.

The Village is designed to truly

cater to kids and make every day special, because to these children

every day has great value. Every

day of the week is themed such

SEE KIDS, PAGE 11

Campus Life welcomes students back with Week of Welcome

JESSICA VALERIA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

With a new semester in sight, Campus Life and student leaders are preparing for the University's annual Week of Welcome.

WOW consists of a week full of events that make going back to school a

will host another show with magician Jay Mattioli, and last, on Friday there will be the BSU open mic night and a movie screening of "Fast & Furious 6."

Jane Rodriguez sees the hard work that has been put in towards preparing WOW as she works closely with the Campus Life staff and is VP of programming for SPC.

"We strive to bring fresh and new ideas so students will be interested enough to attend or participate," said Rodriguez. So far she has seen many students involved and sharing in her excitement. "We try to make college enjoyable and make sure that students are having a good time."

For senior public relations major Laura Bustelo this is her last WOW and she plans to enjoy it.

"I'm definitely going to be attending the comedy show. I went last year and had an amazing time," says Bustelo.

She jokes about taking advantage of everything FIU offers as it is her last year and then continues by saying, "I really hope a lot of people come out and show their Panther Pride, I know each year it grows more and more."

-life@fiusm.com

"We strive to bring fresh and new ideas so students will be interested enough to attend or participate.

Jane Rodriguez
Vice President of Programming
Student Programming Council

little less painful.

Campus Life has posted the full schedule online for anyone who is interested but the basics are as followed: on Monday there will be a comedy show hosted by Student Programming Council featuring Cris Distefano, on Tuesday the Sorority and Fraternity Life Welcome BBQ, on Wednesday there will be a club fair and the NPHC Yard Show, on Thursday the club fair continues and SPC

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Theta Chi plants red maple trees in appreciation

HOLLY MCCOACH
Staff Writer

For those who often frequent the Nature Preserve, peel your eyes for two new additions to the entrance of the area.

The Brothers of the Iota Omicron chapter of Theta Chi planted two Red Maple trees at the entrance of the FIU Nature Preserve as a gesture of appreciation to the University.

From 9 a.m. to noon last Friday, the Brothers spent their time in the Florida heat clearing the space of weeds and shrubs, shoveling, and moving the heavy trees into place.

Donned with the names Arthur and Frederick to represent the founders of Theta Chi, the trees were destined to be planted since this idea was formed about two years ago by David Tacoronte, the old Philanthropy Chair.

“It was [Tacoronte’s] idea. He since graduated, but I was kind of his right-hand man and once he graduated I kind of took it upon myself to go ahead and finish this project. It’s something that has been in the works for a couple of years now. I’m just really glad at this point to be able to get it done,” said Luis Cabrera, senior English major and Community Service Chair of Iota Omicron.

Theta Chi is a social Greek fraternity and prides itself on extending a helping hand and reaching out to the community.

As a result, not only is Iota Omicron planting two Red Maples to show their support, but they are helping to publicize the Nature Preserve as well.

Iota Omicron chose two Red Maple trees because the trees will

blossom with red leaves in the fall. Since Theta Chi’s colors are military red and white, the red leaves will symbolize the fraternity, and the chapter will have a stamp on the trees.

“In the beginning of fall they are actually going to put plaques in front of all the different types of trees that are within the Nature Preserve and when they do that there’s also going to be one that is going to go in front of the Red Maple Trees, Arthur and Frederick, that is going to say ‘Donated by Theta Chi,’” said Cabrera.

The event would have been impossible without the collaboration of the fraternity, The Department of Campus Life, and Ryan Vogel, FIU alumnus who works in the Office of Sustainability.

The trees will prove beneficial to the entire campus as well.

“Our office is charged with decreasing the carbon footprint of the University overall. And we work with students and staff to educate everyone at FIU what role they can play in reducing FIU’s carbon footprint. Carbon footprint entails electricity use, water consumption, waste production, carbon production from all of the vehicles that people drive to school and work every day. And what we’re doing here today is a tree planting event. These trees



OSCAR LIN/THE BEACON

The Red Maple trees are soaked before planting. As fall starts, the members of Theta Chi hope for the tree to produce red leaves and represent the fraternity colors.

will offset some of the carbon,” said Vogel.

Since Iota Omicron is often giving back to the community, they soon became highly acquainted with the Nature Preserve and the Office of Sustainability, even if they are a young fraternity on campus.

“Over the past year since their inception, they’ve been very interested in being a part of the nature preserve and they’ve had several volunteer days throughout last

spring, last fall, and then this past spring. So we had that connection already and they decided that they wanted to do something a bit more so they wanted to plant some commemorative trees in honor of the founders of their fraternity,” said Vogel.

On the day of the event, Theta Chi along with students and other volunteers collected by the Nature Preserve to support Iota Omicron.

“We put together this event

and we invited Theta Chi. There’s another about 30 FIU students here that are not part of the fraternity and we’re all participating in this tree planting event today,” said Vogel.

As for future events, Iota Omicron will be hosting their second philanthropy event in the fall, and their second annual Trees for Troops event in the spring.

-holly.mccoach@fiusm.com

Kids with life-threatening illnesses given ‘the world’

KIDS, PAGE 10

as “Christmas Thursday”, “Princess and Pirate Friday,” “Halloween Sunday” etc.

Because GKTW does not charge families for their stay, the organization does count on volunteers in order to continue making the wishes of these kids come true.

“Give Kids the World really is a unique service experience. The work is interactive and the children you serve are from all over the world” said sophomore Jessica Salani.

Being college students, giving back is usually way

at the bottom of the to do list, under studying, working, and our must do social appearances every weekend. However, volunteering at a place such as GKTW where one can see with their own eyes the difference they are making in someone’s life, is an opportunity that has the power to change not only a child’s life but yours as well.

“Families have only one week to take in the experience Give Kids the World village has to offer them. To know that you were able to be a part of their experiences in the most simplest of things such as saying hello, or serving food is rewarding and makes both the drive and time spent here all the more worth it” said sophomore Jennifer Ponce.

Another student volunteer, sophomore Neily Alonso, got a lot of the experience as well by “learning to feel comfortable around ill children after working with them hands on and understanding not all illnesses are apparent physically.”

Anyone from the ages of 12 and up can volunteer their time to GKTW. The organization needs to fill 1,400 volunteer shifts every week. Volunteers can apply individually or in groups of eight or more. If you want to get in on the action and be a part of the experience, visit givekidstheworld.org and apply to be a volunteer.

-nicole.aguiar@fiusm.com

‘Prince Avalanche’ is a surprising, bittersweet work of art

COLUMNIST



JUAN BARQUIN

Director David Gordon Green’s had a strange career over the years, kicking off with some rather interesting dramas and then taking a turn for stoner comedies like “Pineapple Express” and “Your Highness.” It’s now, with a mixture of the light and dark, that Green makes one of his best works, “Prince Avalanche.”

Taking place over the summer of 1988, the film follows two highway road workers, played by Paul Rudd and Emile Hirsch, who spend their time away from the world in the remains of nature once ravaged by wildfire.

Their isolation, their personalities, and their troubles with women begin to hammer away at them, forcing them to confront each other and themselves.

We’ve seen Emile Hirsch as the lone wanderer of sorts, looking to connect with himself in “Into the Wild,” but here the tables are turned, with Paul Rudd taking on that role in one of his best performances to date.

Even with a girlfriend back at home who he loves so dearly, his character Alvin longs for time to himself, spending his weekends in the woods thinking while Hirsch’s Lance heads off to the city for fun.

This results in just one of many Terrence Malick and Werner Herzog style segments where the score by Explosions in the Sky and David Wingo, as well as Tim Orr’s beau-

tiful cinematography, is out on full display.

Everyone’s work on the film comes together so nicely, with both of the actors really interacting with the nature surrounding them in the best way possible.

It’s undeniable that “Prince Avalanche” barely features any plot at all, making it hard for some to get used to its artistic and minimalist qualities, but it’s endearing to watch these two men fumble.

The way they reverse their roles as the story progresses and Hirsch’s man-child in particular grows showcases just what a solid study of two characters this is.

Compared to the insane and crude humor that came with his last few works, Green’s humor here is subtler and embedded into the bittersweet story he’s presenting.

It’s first and foremost a story of exploration and reflection, with themes of death and identity hanging over our heads throughout.

Ultimately, “Prince Avalanche” is a surprisingly refreshing film. As much as it’s marketed as a comedy, David Gordon Green’s film is a rather introspective and emotional work of art that will certainly surprise those who have only seen the director’s recent work.

-juan.barquin@fiusm.com

Panthers looking for another hot start

YOSVANY RODRIGUEZ
Contributing Writer

After getting off to a hot start last season, the mens soccer team started to find themselves as the talk of the University.

However, after going winless during conference games the Panthers found themselves out of the tournament hunt.

Under Arena's first, FIU posted its highest win total since the 2005 campaign (8-8-2).

The Panthers were able to achieve one of the nations top non-conference records at (8-1-1).

However, they weren't able to tally a single conference game victory (0-7-1).

"The level that we have to get to is the level that the best FIU teams are used too and that is competing for championships," Arena said. "The quality of our opponents wasn't as high as it should've been, so we tried to make our non-conference schedule a little tougher to better prepare us for the conference."

Arena knows that although last year was a disappointment, lessons must be learned and applied for the upcoming season.

"Last year we weren't prepared to deal with injuries to our team," said Arena. "We have helped that issue with a really solid recruiting class that includes transfers and freshmen."

Arena was able to add some depth to his roster with a very successful recruiting class.

In fact, TopDrawerSoccer.com list this class as one of five classes in the country with tremendous potential.

The recruits include 15 total players such as Freshmen Forward/Midfielder Jamar Campion-Hinds, who received First-Team Sun-Sentinel and Miami Herald all-county honors during his senior year at American Heritage.

Among the transfers is also Junior Midfielder Roberto Alterio who led the University of South Florida in scoring before transferring to FIU.

FIU also has some veteran stars on the team such as Junior Forward Quentin Albrecht who received C-USA Third-Team honors as a freshman and C-USA Second-Team honors as a sophomore. When asked what he needs to do to finally crack C-USA First-Team he responded.



BEACON FILE PHOTO

FIU men's soccer looks to start off the season as hot as they did last season when they went 5-1-2 in their first eight games.

"I hope to finally get to the conference tournament I think that was the major issue last year. I have to score more goals.

Last year I was third in the scoring rankings, this year I want to be first place. But most important you have to get to the tournament to achieve it."

With coach Arena having one year under his belt in the C-USA and the help of a stellar recruiting class as well as exceptional veterans FIU looks poised to make a run at the NCAA Tournament, but what will ultimately be the key to their success?

"The key is the mentality," said Albrecht. "We have to become a winning team we can't accept losing games."

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MEN'S SOCCER SCHEDULE

8/30 @ Loyola Marymount

9/1 @ San Diego State

9/5 @ Central Florida

9/7 @ Florida Gulf Coast

9/14 @ Florida Atlantic

9/20 vs. North Florida

9/22 vs. Jacksonville

9/27 @ Princeton

9/29 @ Penn

10/6 vs. Marshall

10/12 @ New Mexico

10/16 @ Alabama Birmingham

10/19 vs. Old Dominion

10/26 @ Kentucky

*Full schedule online @ fiusports.com.

Women's basketball begins year without Desma Thomas Bateast

STEVEN ROWELL
Contributing Writer

After seven years of serving as an assistant coach with the Panthers, Bateast recently accepted the head coaching position at nearby St. Thomas University. For the Panthers, it brought mixed emotions on Bateast's departure.

"It's a catch 22 thing," senior forward Arielle Durant said. "As I am happy for her, but at the same time, I am kind of sad."

"It's kind of bittersweet, I'm really happy for her because she is a really great coach and we all knew she would be a head coach eventually," senior point guard Jerica Coley said. "When she got the job we were just excited for her because we know she will do great things there, but of course I am sad because she is leaving."

Bateast was a standout at the University of Miami as a two time All-Big East third team selection, and was 11th in scoring all-time in the school's women's basketball program. She was key in the development of Coley. She helped mold Coley into a two-time All-American and two-time Sun Belt Conference player of the year and the nation's leading scorer last season.

During Bateast's tenure at FIU, along with Head Coach Cindy Russo, the Panthers amassed over 100 wins including 62 conference wins and 10 plus wins in the conference for the last three seasons.

Bateast had a hand in that success as she was regarded as the motivator on the team.

"She is very passionate and very knowledgeable of the game and always knew



BEACON FILE PHOTO

After the loss of assistant coach Desma Thomas Bateasy, the FIU women's basketball team looks to move forward in 2013.

when push us to be our best," Coley said.

"She was the motivator and the pusher on the team; especially in practice, she would push us to the limit to a level that we ourselves didn't think we could make," Durant said. "She would push us to be faster, to be quicker, to be better defenders and to be better scorers and to just be a better overall team."

Bateast also made impacts to some of the players on how to be off the court as well.

"Personally, she was like my second mom; she was one of the major reasons I

came here because we built a relationship just a recruit and a coach and she took me under my wing," Durant said. "You will be a better person individually, you will come in as a young lady but you will come out as a young woman."

With Bateast now at St. Thomas, according to Durant, it will be a tall task to find someone to replace Bateast on the sidelines.

"The things I will miss the most about her is her intensity," Durant said. "She was always upbeat, always loud. She wasn't the quiet coach and was on top of you 24/7 and

I don't know who is coming in next but they will have huge shoes to fill."

The fact that Bateast will be nearby will make it easier for the relationships that Durant and Coley built with the former assistant to be maintained. Coley and Durant plan to take full advantage that their former coach will be close by to stay in touch for future advice.

"Of course, I will still talk to her on a regular basis and try to get some games with her in the gym we are still close," Durant said.

-sports@fiusm.com

Threat of head injuries becoming larger in football

GIANCARLOS NAVAS
Contributing Writer

Before putting a bullet through his heart, former Chicago Bears safety Dave Duerson's last words relayed through a haunting text message to his wife. "Please, see that my brain is given to the NFL's brain bank."

Duerson paid a steep price for the self-destructing nature of football. It goes beyond hits to the head; it's the culture of football.

A game rooted in violence, played by many who come from inner cities, creates for a different kind of environment. It's not necessarily the violent nature of the sport that is the problem, but however, the culture that surrounds it.

"A little pain is just weakness leaving the body," FIU junior quarterback Jake Medlock said when asked about playing through an injury. It's the answer that speaks to the warrior-glad-iator mentality of the sport.

Players feel an obligation to get on the field no matter what.

They understand that a team is bigger than just an individual, and while that is a redeeming quality and what everyone wants in an athlete, selfless and humble, it's also what drives players to hurt themselves.

Something as benign as an ankle injury can exacerbate when exerted. "When you have a bad ankle, you can't turn as sharp or regulate speed and direction as well," FIU health care physician Dr. Ramon Castellanos said.

According to Castellanos, the physical limitations subsequent to in-game injuries heighten the possibility of a player, "getting tackled or hit hard" which could lead to more serious, secondary injuries.

Despite this, players still feel the need to self-sacrifice. Jake Medlock was preaching how he is "the leader of this team" and "as the quarterback I need to step up. I can't show weakness".

It's those kinds of answers that lead to the mistake of players playing through something that they perhaps shouldn't be played through.

Often times, athletes don't see the sacrifices they make.

Medlock really cares about the continuity of his team and continued to say how he couldn't show that he was tired and couldn't show that he was hurt.

"When the quarterback goes down, it could cause team disarray and I want to help my team no matter what".

This mentality is reminiscent of that of many athletes that have been pushed to their breaking points. Much like Duerson, many players could meet a tragic end.

"Players and doctors need to be aware of any injury or concussions," Castellanos said. "This is very serious and it's our responsibility to protect them."

While the culture of team and perseverance is admirable, its flaws are often very glazed over.

This is not a topic that is talked about enough and that is why players are so quick to dismiss their injuries so not to step off the field. It's a dangerous mentality that in its worst cases can be deadly.

Football has transformed into a modern glad-iator culture in which only the tough or strong survive. At least that's what the football players think.

In reality, it has actually been seen to be the other way.

The ones who are aware and take precaution are the ones who survive.



PHOTO CREDIT/THE BEACON

The violent nature of football has become second nature to both fans and players, but some medical professionals say something needs to be done.

Think back to Duerson. In the end, maybe he wished that he hadn't been so tough.

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BEACON FILE PHOTO

After finishing their fourth season with 10 or more wins, FIU women's soccer teams looks to continue its success with a new motto.

Success is no accident for women's soccer

VERONIKA QUISPE
Contributing Writer

Being selected fifth in the Conference USA preseason poll, FIU women's soccer team welcomed their 2013 preseason on full swing.

"It's a great squad and it's going to be another great year," head coach Thomas Chestnut said after ending last season 13-6-2.

The team picked up its second-straight Sun Belt Conference Tournament finals appearance and also finished their fourth-straight season with more than 10 wins.

This preseason the Panthers headed over to the west side to compete in two exhibition games in California against Long Beach State and Cal-Poly.

"We learned a lot from these exhibition games. Especially the game against Long Beach, that one helped a lot to know what we need to work on," says senior captain Nicole DiPerna. "We are motivated to work really hard on our own." Both games finished tied; Cal-Poly 1-1 and Long Beach 2-2.

For Chestnut, he feels that these exhibition games have brought the team closer.

"It has served as a great bonding experience (for the team), we visited the Santa Monica Pier and trained twice a day," Chestnut said. "Game by game we are moving forward and we are preparing physically and mentally."

This season they will go against top contenders such as Florida and Arizona State

whom they lost 3-0 last season. "We are working on possession and picking and choosing when to attack," says DiPerna.

"We are focusing on playing defense first, and it will be an evolution during the season," Chestnut said as he plans on continuing hard practices and learning from past games by watching game videos and "doing fine tuning to adjust to where we feel we are at."

From now on the Panthers will live on by one motto, "Success is no accident."

The Panthers will kick off the 2013 season Friday August 23rd at 7:00 p.m. on their home field against Arizona State.

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Panthers hoping to bounce back after year of injuries

STEVEN ROWELL
Contributing Writer

After a season when everyone but the coach was injured, the FIU volleyball team is hoping for a fresh start.

A new head coach, a conference and a schedule with many different opponents, FIU will have only four teams on their schedule this season from their former Sun Belt Conference. Those teams include North Texas, Florida Atlantic, and Middle Tennessee, who all have joined Conference USA this season.

Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett, who coached FIU sand volleyball in their first

season, isn't fazed of facing brand new opponents that C-USA will present.

"For me every team is new, and every year that is the mentality we have to have," Buck-Crockett said. "Every year the teams are different because they bring different players to the roster, some have different coaches, so for me every team we play is new as we are new too."

While Buck-Crockett downplays the factor of new teams, sophomore Lucia Castro and sophomore Gloria Levorin had mixed feelings about facing a new conference and many new opponents.

"For the new teams, thank God we have coaches who will do all the scouting and we can just listen to them," Levorin said.

Buck-Crockett's first season with the Panthers will start with four tournaments in which the Panthers will host two of them. The season starts with the Gamecock Invitational in Columbia, S.C. on Aug. 30. Then the next two tournaments will be at FIU with the FIU Classic on Sept. 5 and the FIU Invitational on Sept 12th, before traveling to West Lafayette, Ind. for the Active Ankle Challenge on Sept. 20th. Castro, Levorin, and Fouts look forward to the idea of hosting two tournaments as last year the team was on the road for all three of their tournaments last year.

"Those tournaments are very important, it is our preseason, and it's where we learn about our team," Buck-Crockett said. "We want to be

able to gain momentum as head into conference."

"I'm looking forward to being at home for two tournaments as last year we were away from home for a while and we couldn't have the support of our home fans," Castro said.

Some of the teams that the players look forward to include in-state teams FAU and Florida Gulf Coast, which is part of a four game home stand ranging from Oct. 11 to Oct. 18, in which they will also face UAB and Tulsa, two other teams that Levorin and Castro look forward to playing.

"Tulsa is tough, but the goal is to get it done,

SEE INJURIES, PAGE 14

Top pick Jordan not sure for season opener

AP STAFF

After sitting out most of practice for a second consecutive week, Miami Dolphins first-round pick Dion Jordan said Thursday he might not be ready for the start of the regular season.

Speaking to reporters for the first time since being sidelined, Jordan was asked whether he'd be surprised if he can't go on Sept. 8 at Cleveland.

"It's my body, so I know when I'm ready to go or when I'm not ready to go," said the first defensive player taken in the 2013 draft. "It wouldn't be a surprise at all."

Jordan hasn't taken part in a full practice since Miami's 27-3 preseason victory at Jacksonville on Aug. 9.

Jordan did non-contact work early in practice Thursday, before doing side work with a trainer.

Jordan underwent surgery for a torn labrum in his

right shoulder on Feb. 28 and began training camp on the non-football injury list.

He came off the list and began practicing on the third day of camp.

Jordan played in the Hall of Fame game against Dallas on Aug. 4, but was limited to seven defensive snaps the following week against Jacksonville.

"I tore my labrum last year; for me the most important thing is to get healthy," Jordan said.

"It's not a surprise to me at all. I want to get healthy. So I'm going to do what I have to do to make sure I'm there."

Jordan said he didn't have any idea when he'd be back at practice, deferring questions to coach Joe Philbin.

Philbin has a standing policy of not discussing injuries during training camp.

"Right now I'm just doing what I'm told," Jordan

said.

"Rest is really important right now for me, so I'm doing whatever I have to do get myself prepared for this year, this season."

"Anybody that's not able to participate, this is our livelihood, this is what we do. It's a little frustrating. You've got to be positive about things, understand the situation. I have to get healthy, so that's what I'm going to focus on — making sure I'm healthy and ready to go."

The Dolphins selected Jordan after moving up from 12th to third in the first round of the draft by making a trade with the Oakland Raiders.

Selected to help the Miami pass rush, Jordan got practice time at both defensive end and outside linebacker this summer.

"Our defense is very versatile," Jordan said. "I'll probably be doing a few things."

Putin bans rallies in Sochi

NATALIYA VASILYEVA
AP Writer

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a decree banning demonstrations and rallies for two and a half months in Sochi around the 2014 Winter Olympics. The Rossiyskaya Gazeta, the official government newspaper, published the presidential decree Friday, listing an array of measures tightening

security in the Olympic host city, including the ban on public assemblies. All "gatherings, rallies, demonstrations, marches and pickets" that are not part of the Olympics or the Paralympics will be prohibited in Sochi from Jan. 7 to March 21, the decree said.

The Winter Olympics is taking place in the Black Sea resort from Feb. 7-23 and the Paralympics are

being held March 7-16. Government-imposed protest bans across entire cities where Olympics are held are unusual. Putin's decree could be aimed at heading off demonstrations against Russia's ban on alleged gay propaganda, a new law that has been sharply criticized in the West. Among other measures in the decree were restrictions on vehicles entering Sochi.

Team ready for new year

INJURIES, PAGE 13

and if we are doing the things we are supposed to do then we can be a strong team," Buck-Crockett said.

"I'm excited about playing FAU because that is like our rival and we had two close games against them last year and I would like to do well against them this year," Levorin said. The longest stretch without a home game is 16 days. After Oct. 18th the Panthers won't see their home court again until Nov. 3 when they take on Rice. Then they close the season with three of their last four games on the road. Fouts doesn't see it being much of a challenge

at the end.

"I feel we will all pull together and just gut it out and the end of season it's more exciting and we have all our line-ups set already," Fouts said.

In total, excluding the tournaments, the Panthers have 16 games with nine on the road and seven at home with the nine road games all coming in sets of three straight at three different points of the schedule.

"We have to be consistent whether at home or on the road, that is the key for us," Buck-Crockett said.

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Complicated fun: Are theme parks going geeky?

TAMARA LUSH
Associated Press

Boasting obscure characters and detailed story lines, several new attractions opened at theme parks this summer in Central Florida. The new rides and areas are much different from those just a generation ago, when Dumbo the Flying Elephant was considered high tech.

These days, a ride involving a simple, blue elephant just won't cut it.

Take World of Chima at Legoland, for instance. The attraction is based on a Lego building block play set and Cartoon Network show about eight animal tribes, a crocodile king, magical vehicles called Speedorz and a life force called Chi. There are epic battles over the Ancient Pool of Chi, set in a lushly landscaped tropical world.

Or look at Universal's Transformers ride. It isn't just inspired by the toy and the movie — it's a detailed, 3-D, "interactive battle" between the Autobots and Decepticons that has its own website.

Even the straightforward-sounding Antarctica: Empire of the Penguin ride at SeaWorld Orlando is about a penguin hatchling who grows up, leaves his mom, is chased by a leopard seal through a psychedelic-looking world and then reunited with his tribe of fellow birds. Real, live penguins appear at the end of the ride.

When did fun become so complicated?

Theme park consultants say attractions need to be more detailed in the age of video games, smartphones and 3-D TVs. And of course, parks aren't just competing with home entertainment; they're competing against each other for guests' time and money, especially in the I-4 corridor, a busy highway that runs through the Orlando area. The rise of the Internet means everyone is a critic — several theme park fan blogs are devoted to dissecting the geeky details of each new attraction.

"In the 1970s we could do quite a bit in theme parks," said John Gerner, the managing director of Leisure Business Advisors LLC. "Nowadays, it's hard to provide a typical music show. There just isn't that much of a thrill anymore."

Attraction designers have a difficult job: They must present a story to guests of all ages, from all walks of life.

"It's got to be layered and it's got to work on a number of different levels," said Phil Hettema, a California-based theme park designer. "It's got to work on the kids, the adults. It's pretty tricky. You're trying to convey a lot for those who don't know it. You have to give the newcomer enough clues."

With an established story like Transformers, many people have seen the 1980s TV cartoon, and many more the movie franchise. So even if Universal's intense, dark ride involves a new story or is incredibly detailed, most people can follow the narrative.

Same with Universal's Wizarding World of Harry Potter.

Many of the visitors are familiar with the story, either through J.K. Rowling's books or the blockbuster movies. Yet familiarity also has its pitfalls for theme park designers: Rabid fans know when a detail is out of place.

Scott Thomas, Cartoon Network's vice president of consumer marketing, says he's gotten emails from the under-10 set about inconsistencies and questions in the storyline for the Chima

cartoon. "Kids today have very high expectations," he said. "And the storylines are very complex in kids' media today."

Legoland worked with Cartoon Network writers and animators on the Chima attraction to sync details and distill the complex cartoon into basic elements. But they also recognized that not all guests have heard of Chima, said Candy Holland, senior creative director for the Legoland parent company Merlin Entertainment. So, for the uninitiated, designers used the queue line to tell the Chima story so people could be brought up to speed before boarding the water ride.

"It's a balance," Holland said. "There are some people who may not yet be familiar with the Chima theme. Some people come to Legoland, maybe haven't even played with Legos yet. And it's a great opportunity for the parents to understand why their kids are living in, and obsessed with, the World of Chima."

SeaWorld Orlando's Antarctica is a rarity in the attractions world: It's an entirely new story, not based on any movie, show, book or toy. "It can be done if there are some other innate aspects to the story," said Gerner. "Penguins as animal have innate appeal."

Smaller and regional parks often have attractions with simpler concepts, but internationally, large parks are also going for the complicated narratives popping up in big parks here. Universal's Transformers ride opened in Singapore before hitting the U.S., and a dark ride that opened in July at Lotte World, an enormous mall and entertainment complex in South Korea, revolves around a pack of dragons that descend on a castle. Riders must "seek them out and encourage them to leave," said Hettema, who worked on the ride.

It all comes down to narrative, theme park experts agree.

"As storytellers, we have to always be advocates for the guest," said Craig Hanna, owner and chief creative officer at the Burbank, Calif.-based Thinkwell Group. "We have to make sure that whatever story we're telling is easy for the guest to consume."

Hanna, who worked on several attractions for Universal, including the Men in Black ride, said attraction designers put a lot of thought into plot and character.

Attractions must be detailed and true to the story, he said, but not so detailed that they're confusing.

Theron Skees, who works in Orlando for Disney's creative corps, known as the "Imagineers," said the new and richly detailed themed areas in parks today are actually in line with what Walt Disney himself envisioned some six decades ago.

"Storytelling has to be relevant to the culture," he said.

Imagineers at Disney create a backstory when they first develop a themed area, complete with a hierarchical narrative.

No detail is too small to explore or discuss: lighting, architecture, sound, landscaping, costumes — all in hopes of creating an emotional connection with the guest. Often, that backstory stays backstage, and guests never see or hear about the creative process.

When Disney theme parks first opened in California in 1955, Western themed-stories were popular, and so was the resulting Frontierland attraction.

These days, Skees said, people are well-traveled and knowledgeable about worldwide trends — American kids are into Japanese anime, for instance — and the parks reflect this.

"We're dealing with a more sophisticated audience who are more globally aware of storytelling and genres," he said.

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Construction at WUC continues into new year

STEPHAN USECHE
BBC Managing Editor

The upcoming fall semester welcomes Biscayne Bay students with new routes to get to some spots around campus, as the Wolfe University Center continues the demolition phase of the renovation.

For the first week of classes, “Panther paws” will be placed on the ground to redirect students near and around the WUC. Information tables will also be found around Academic One and the Glenn Hubert Library.

“We are trying to create some things creatively to address the entrance aspect,” said Scott Jones, director of WUC.

AC1 will be the main entrance, but the back door entrance that leads through the gym will also be available and is being painted to give a more fresh look, according to Jones.

Ballrooms and meeting rooms are also undergoing wall painting because most of the student events will be taking place there this semester.

The renovation, which began June 21, should be finalized by the beginning of spring. According to Jones, the project is right on schedule with the conclusion of Project One: Demolition.

Jones said that the ceilings and sprinkler systems will have to be

redone, as well.

“There’s a lot right now running with conduit electricity, power, HVAC and all those kind of things,” said Jones.

Next is the Design Phase, where carpet and furniture will be selected.

This phase of the project will be led by Jones, along with James Wassenaar, director of Facilities Planning.

“This is the part of the project that I like because you are seeing finishes coming back together,” said Jones.

Options on the design will be given to the students to decide, so they can also give their input to make it a broad, community selection.

Pablo Hasper, former Biscayne Bay Campus president, is now Jones’ graduate student and will also be taking part on the design selections.

Even though pictures of what the final results of the renovation are posted around campus, Jones said they have made slight adjustments to the plans.

One of the other changes BBC students will experience when they arrive to campus is the location of the computer lab, which was on the second floor of the WUC, but is now located behind the game room.

-stephan.useche@fiusm.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT JONES

Construction at the Wolfe University Center began June 21 and will continue into the fall semester. Renovation plans include a new entrance, store front and interior design.

MAST Academy at BBC has officially opened

DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS
Staff Writer

On the morning of Aug. 18, the Maritime Science Technology Academy (MAST) at the Biscayne Bay Campus welcomed its first freshman class.

University President Mark B. Rosenberg and Miami-Dade County Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho commended the joint venture between the institutions. Rosenberg and Carvalho, followed by several members of the press, entered a second-floor classroom in Academic One

neering and math education, throughout the country and this is just another opportunity to provide our students with the leading edge so once they graduate from college, they’re going to be prepared for all the challenges that they are going to meet.”

The curriculum of MAST academy is STEM-oriented.

“We are an eight-period day. In addition to math, science, social studies and language arts, our students will be taking an extra science course; this year it will be marine biology,” said Lead Teacher Gina Koch.

Students will also be taking a course that will teach them how to research and write in AP style, and a virtual physical education course or another elective through Florida Virtual Schools.

The students will have an additional elective of their choosing that will provide them with the chance to interact

with University professors. “The professors that we have here [at the University] might be guests lecturers in our classes. It’s our goal to build a partnership so that we have those [University] professors coming in and providing experiences for the students,” said Koch.

Freshman Sebastian Suarez is a student

at MAST. The 14-year-old has plans to become a doctor and believes the program will accelerate him academically. “I can get further with the MAST program at FIU, a better education.”

Freshman Fedlyne Aristile aspires to become an FBI agent and shares similar views on MAST with Suarez’s.

“I think it’ll benefit me better because instead of going to a normal high school getting normal classes, they give us advance classes like geometry honors,

which actually guarantees us to have two years of college done once I’m in the 12th grade.”

When asked about their thoughts towards BBC, both students seemed to feel right at home:

“I think the campus is a very nice campus, it makes me feel comfortable,” said Aristile while Suarez commented, “I find this place beautiful.”

-diego.saldana@fiusm.com

“I can get further with the MAST program at FIU, a better education.”

Sebastian Suarez
High School Freshman
MAST Academy

full of freshmen MAST students, each with their own Microsoft Surface tablets. Both men welcomed and congratulated the students for being the inaugural class.

While speaking to WPLG Channel 10 reporters, Rosenberg made remarks as to the impact of MAST at BBC. “FIU is a leader in STEM: science technology, engi-



DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS/THE BEACON

MAST Academy’s inaugural class gather with President Mark B. Rosenberg and Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho to cut the ceremonial blue ribbon at BBC.