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## NEW AND IMPROVED



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

Senior Lisa Daly, a nutrition major, browses a wide variety of drinks at the newly renovated Panther Stop in the Graham Center on Thursday, July 8. The renovations began at the start of the summer session and ended on Wednesday, July 7 when the convenience store reopened its doors.

## Green Energy Fund to go before Board of Trustees

**GABRIEL ARRARÁS**  
News Director

A total of 296 students came out to vote during the Green Energy Fund referendum and constitution amendment special election on Wednesday June 30.

According to Luis Robayo, the newly appointed Student Government elections commissioner, out of the 296, 201 students voted for the amendments to the Student Government constitution while 46 voted against it and 49 abstained.

The Green Energy Fund passed with 222 students voted for it, while 46 students voted against and 10 abstained.

The Green Energy Fund is a Florida student-led initiative with the goal of giving students at individual universities the right to vote on and approve a minimal fee to generate large sums of money for campuses to spend on energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

Cara Cooper, president of Students for Environmental Action, is thrilled with the show of support from the Student Body for the Green Energy Fund, and is now anticipating the process in which they will take the official turnout numbers and present them to the Board of Trustees for approval.

“What happens now is that SEA and the Sustainability committee go to the Board of Trustees and make their case,” said Helena Ramirez, Student Government at Modesto Maidique Campus president.

The Green Energy Fund will be presented by SEA and the Sustainability Committee in September, at the first BOT meeting during the fall semester. If the BOT approves the fee, it would then be taken to the State University System Board of Governors for final approval.

“The Board of Governors last year was given the power to create a new fee or to give fees to the Universities through the legislature,” Ramirez said. Once it gets to the BOG, they may choose to approve it or deny it.

If the BOG approves the new fee, the University would have to hold another referendum in which students would vote on whether or not they truly want the fee, and if so, how much money they would be willing to pay.

According to Ramirez, the final student vote on the Green Energy Fee would present voters with a number of options. Students may vote yes and select if they would like the fee to be 25 cents, 50 cents, 75 cents or \$1. Students may also vote against the fee altogether.

Ramirez stresses that this initial referendum was “basically a student consensus” for SEA and the Sustainability Committee to present to the Board of Trustees when they make their case for the fee in September.

When asked why SGA chose to hold the elections during the Summer B semester, when there

## Some majors worse off than others, graduating students rethink careers

**MIGUEL CHATELOIN**  
Contributing Writer

Recent information from the Career Services office shows that some majors will be doing significantly worse than others in South Florida when it comes to finding jobs right out of college.

Traditional majors such as philosophy, English, history, journalism and political science are going to face challenges as the job markets in those fields have been decreasing, according to information compiled by Career Services from U.S. news and the Department of Labor Statistics.

This news has caused several graduates to rethink what they will do with their degrees.

Christopher Lee Reyes received his Bachelor's in Arts degree in political science and international relations Spring 2010. While he would love to see himself working as a congressional aide and analyst in Washington, the 23-year-old is now taking a preparatory course for the Law School Admissions Test.

In the face of a tough job search, Assistant Director of Career Services Jairo Ledesma says that it is important to stay persistent, network well, intern as much as possible, be willing to move, and be “willing to explore outside the box” by sacrificing the

search for an ideal job and working in another that makes use of the same skills.

While still being thankful for his education at FIU, Reyes notes that coming out of a public university makes it tougher for him to find a job on the national level because employers create emphasis on college prestige. “Right off the bat, you can't do much,” said Reyes. If he finds no success with law, he hopes to find a lower end government agency like the USDA as a backup plan.

The “trade-off” concept is something that Peter Thompson, economics professor and chairperson at the Economics Department, says will likely be inevitable for graduates looking for jobs in South Florida's harsh economy, stating that it may be smarter to actively search for an ideal job, while working at a stable one.

Thompson also stressed that the success in job searching depends more on geographic mobility, saying that while 75 to 85 percent of the FIU student body lives in South Florida, only 55 percent of them will actually work in the region 5 to 10 years after graduation. “FIU's history is sort of [about] opening up doors to students, but those doors aren't necessarily local,” said Thompson.

While smart job searching is impor-

tant for all fields of study, Ledesma believes certain majors will be better off as Florida moves slowly out of the recession.

Job markets such as nursing, engineering, computer software, computer engineering, information technology, occupational therapy, special education, and financial advisement are now seeing increases by as much as 26 percent.

More jobs are promised in environmentally related fields. Emily Eisenhauer, a research associate at the Labor Center's Research Institute on Social and Economic Policy said that “there's a lot of interest in anything that promotes green and environmentally friendly areas; everything from trades and constructions related jobs.”

Another option for students to consider is the Federal Government. Ledesma states that the FBI is known to hire those with accounting, finance, law, law enforcement, investigative experiences, military, foreign languages experience and more.

Florida's unemployment rate, which has been above the national average during the recession, decreased from the highest in its history at 12.3 percent in February, to 11.2 percent in June, according to the Federal Bureau

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## NEWS FLASH

## WORLD

**Swiss government declares Roman Polanski a free man**

Switzerland declared Roman Polanski a free man on Monday after rejecting a U.S. request to extradite him to be sentenced for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl, CNN reports. According to the Swiss government, this decision was based on the U.S. authorities failure to address defense arguments that the filmmaker had actually served his sentence before fleeing the country three decades ago. The Swiss Justice Ministry stated that U.S. officials should have backed up their request by supplying confidential testimony about Polanski's sentencing procedure in Los Angeles. This striking decision could potentially end the United States' pursuit of Polanski.

**Al-Qaeda claims Uganda bombing killing 74 people**

A dangerous al-Qaeda inked militia claimed responsibility for twin bombings that killed 74 people in Uganda during the World Cup. According to CNN.com, the claim by Al-Shabab, whose fighters were trained by veterans of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, creates worldwide security repercussions. Despite the fact that this ultraconservative Islamic group often compared to the Taliban has long threatened to attack Somalia's borders, the Sunday attack is the first time they have actually gone through. The U.S. State Department has declared Al-Shabab a terrorist organization in the midst of reports of possible future attacks in Kenya, Djibouti and Ethiopia, along with Burundi. The United States administration now worries that Somalia could become a terrorist breeding ground.

– Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

# Gulf oil spill prompts action from FIU researchers and student groups

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO

Asst. News Director

While the British Petroleum oil spill continues to wreck the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, researchers and environmental organizations at FIU are taking the helm of crisis aid and prevention research across the state.

Since the April 20 Deepwater Horizon explosion, which resulted in the death of 11 workers, millions of gallons of oil have spilled into the Gulf, resulting in severe devastation to wildlife on the shores and in the ocean. The ongoing destruction has prompted action from FIU student groups and faculty members alike.

Dr. Michael Heithaus, the Director of the School of Environment and Society, is mobilizing research and providing public education about the impact this oil spill will have on the human and environmental society.

Heithaus has corralled a team of FIU researchers to study the current water quality and biological communities of southern Florida. By understanding the state of ecosystems before oil arrives,

Heithaus and his team expect to be able to effectively document the effects of the spill.

Through the efforts of the school's researchers and Dr. Heithaus, FIU is involved in numerous fronts aiming to improve the current situation in the Gulf and spread education that will reduce a demand for oil.

Aside from the teach-in conducted by a panel of experts on May 15, FIU is also collaborating with other universities involved in the State University System's Oil Spill Academic Task Force, hoping to appoint the most equipped team to bear on the problem in the Gulf. By doing so, it is the hope of Heithaus and FIU researchers that they can prevent another disaster like this from occurring—especially after witnessing the damage being suffered by the Gulf's ecosystems.

"Huge areas of marsh that provide habitat for many species of fishes, birds, invertebrates, and other animals have been destroyed or damaged. It is going to take years or decades for the areas ecosystems to recover," states Heithaus.

It is this ecological destruction that

has sparked such fevered involvement from one of FIU's prominent environmental voices, Students for Environmental Action (SEA). The organization has hosted several events across campus, and is currently working with a non-profit organization, Matter of Trust, focusing on the collection and creation of hair booms.

According to SEA President, Cara Cooper, "Hair booms are essentially nylon panty hose stuffed with hair clippings. They are extremely efficient at removing oil from water as well as off the beaches."

While any student can offer assistance by visiting the Students for Environmental Action Facebook page, SEA is now urging students to contact their elected officials and voice their support for energy alternatives.

Heithaus gave another suggestion that he believes will create a more permanent effect.

"Probably the best things that most people can do is to reduce their use of energy so that there is a reduction in demand for oil. That will reduce the chances of something like this happening in the future."

## No set plans as to what Green Fund will provide

REFERENDUM, page 1

are far less students enrolled in comparison to the Spring or the Fall, Ramirez explained that the amendments to the constitution had to be brought up before the start of the fiscal year, which is July 1.

Other major Florida universities which have passed a green fund include University of Florida and Florida State University; both included it in their Student Government general elections ballot. According to Sandy Vernon, the UF-SGA office manager, their green fund passed in spring of 2007 "with 5,838 votes in favor and 1,632 against."

FSU included it in their general elections last February, and according to FSU-SGA Advisor Joyce Howard, 3,241 were in favor of green energy fee, while 1,627 were against.

Initially, the green fund was supposed to be included on the ballot for SGA general elections this past spring semester, where around 1200 students came out to vote; however, due to complications with the voting system used by SGA, Votenet.com, the fee was left out of the ballot.

"Last spring what ended up happening was that when coming up with the wording for both these articles, we had to turn it into the online company, but the online company said 'I'm sorry you're actually a couple of days late' and they wouldn't let us open it up again," Ramirez said.

Ramirez's Vice President, Nick Autiello, recently told Student Media that he was against the fee and that he believes "this is not the appropriate time to be assessing fees on the student body for things that the university should be

doing anyway."

"I feel that students realize the important of this fee. They can understand where their money is going to go to," said Cooper in response to Autiello's comments.

Cooper went on to say that there is no specific plan as to where the funds received from the implementation will go; however, she says it "has to be used for energy efficiency and clean energy technology."

According to Dean Williams, the SGC-MMC press secretary, the fee could generate around \$900,000 which would be allocated by a committee for projects that will reduce energy costs on campus. Members of the committee would be chosen by University President Mark Rosenberg and SGC President Ramirez.

The Student Green Fund website provides sample project ideas for the fund including: energy monitoring systems, weatherization of old buildings, and solar energy projects.

When asked on her thoughts on adding another fee when students are already facing a 15 percent tuition increase, Ramirez acknowledged that it "isn't ideal."

"I recognize that not all students will be able to afford this fee. Although it's a quarter to a dollar a credit, it's a quarter to a dollar more that they would be paying; fifteen dollars maximum per semester that they could've used on gas, food, or other things that they really need. To some students this isn't a necessity," Ramirez said.

If the Green Energy Fund gets approved by the BOT and the BOG in the fall, Ramirez believes the final vote on the fund "would be matched up with SGA elections" next spring.

## Florida economy faces slow recovery

MAJORS, page 1

of Labor Statistics, hinting at the start of a recovery.

Economists are now saying that while the state and the nation's employment is recovering, it is going to be a long time before pre-recessionary rates are seen. The Federal Reserve predicts an 8.1% to 8.5% unemployment rate by the end of 2011.

"This is going to be a very slow recovery and it's turning out to be even slower than what the pessimists said," said Thompson, "If we're lucky, we might be down to 9% by next year."

The slow decrease in unemployment can be attributed partly to hiring practices as RISEP Research Intern Carlos Sanchez said the economy exits the recession, employers will find ways to increase productivity, such as giving employees more work hours, before seeking more employees.

While the unemployment rate can be discouraging, the biggest mistake, Ledesma says he sees, are people who are not as persistent in their career path and end up working at a well paying job that they dislike and suggests "don't do what's in the demand, follow your passion."

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

LEBRON JAMES

## AN UNCOMFORTABLE REALITY

### Expectations of loyalty from athletes is unreasonable

The idea of team loyalty, or hometown loyalty for that matter, doesn't exist in sports anymore.

With the recent departure of LeBron James from the Cleveland Cavaliers to our Miami Heat, we saw an ugly side of the average NBA fan.

Fans from the teams who thought they had the chance turned to the Internet to voice their displeasure.

Furthermore, the haterade flowed heavy in Cleveland, where fans took to the streets to burn his jersey and protest the departure of their hometown hero. The pyromaniacs in the streets, though, did not commit the biggest trespass of all.

That evening, Cavs owner Dan Gilbert wrote a scathing open letter to fans criticizing James' decision.

"This shocking act of disloyalty from our home grown 'chosen one' sends the exact opposite lesson of what we would want our children to learn. And 'who' we would want them to grow-up to become," wrote Gilbert in a font fit for a child's birthday invitation.

It's funny how quick things change when the guy you

herald as the king leaves your kingdom.

What was Gilbert expecting here? That James would suddenly realize how much the Cavaliers love him and stay? This was a business decision. From the free agency timing with Chris Bosh and Dwayne Wade to the ESPN one-hour special, LeBron James made a business decision geared at advancing his career.

Moreover, where is Gilbert's tearful open letter after not bringing back free agent Zydrunas Ilgauskas?

Gilbert is completely broken-hearted and mad to see James walk off and form a powerhouse team, but for Ilgauskas, a fourteen-year veteran who averages about 14 points a game, it's all business. Where is the loyalty there?

This idea of team loyalty in sports today is a naïve assumption, both on a professional and collegiate level.

Whether the player leaves as a free agent, is out on the injured list, or is traded by the front office; sports is a business and in business there is only the bottom line.

College athletes stick to a team hoping that playing for that team will get them a

COMMENTARY



JORGE VALENS



AMY SANCETTA/AP IMAGES

LeBron James [above] announced he would join the Miami Heat on July 8, sparking backlash from mainstream me-

chance to go pro. Though the chances of a college athlete leaving their team is less prevalent than in pros, it has happened, and it has led to similar controversies.

In 2009, after former Golden Panther basketball coach Sergio Rouco was on his way out and Isiah Thomas was on his way in, Golden Panther standout Freddy Asprilla wanted to leave FIU,

but Athletics and its director Pete Garcia were having none of that, and didn't release him from his scholarship.

Garcia refused to comment on the matter, opting to not write an open letter to fans on FIUSports.com that looked like a child typed it up on PrintShop Pro. But it is safe to say that Athletics could have released this student from his scholarship, letting the star

center go on his merry way. Just saying.

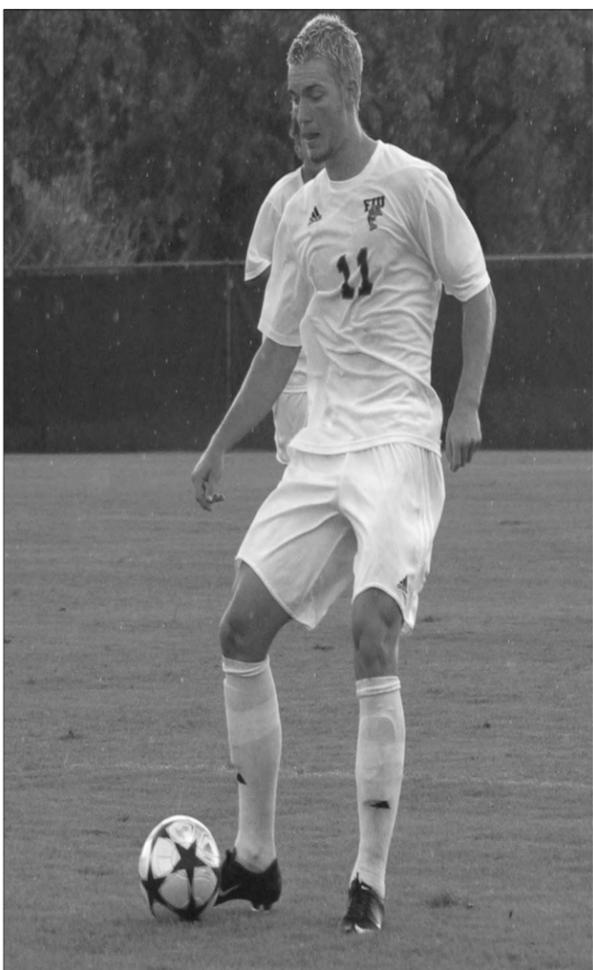
Whether it was personal or not, Asprilla's situation, and the University's decision to not release him from his scholarship was a business decision.

A sport in this country is a lucrative business; sometimes you win big and sometimes you lose hard. But people in the front office, people in the stands forget that, or rather

try to forget that the best they can.

In the end, LeBron James coming to the Heat, Freddy Asprilla playing for FIU is a great thing, but they aren't beholden to us. They are businessmen, doing what they think is right for them.

They don't want games or championships for us. They win for their legacies and their bank accounts.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Sebastian Frings [above] led FIU with nine goals in 2009.

#### MEN'S SOCCER: NOTEBOOK

## Coach Eketebi expects competition for numerous positions in lineup

JOEL DELGADO  
Assistant Sports Director

It has been an active off-season for head coach Munga Eketebi, who is confident that his team is poised to turn a corner after a disappointing 2009 campaign in which the team, plagued by injuries, struggled in conference play.

"We battled through a lot of injuries last season and we had to dress some guys who may not have been completely healthy," Eketebi said. "If we were healthy I believe this team could have won 10 games."

The team won four of its final six matches last season and will look to find a way to carry that momentum into the fall.

But losing Jair Cabas, who opted to go professional and sign with Miami FC of the North American Soccer League (NASL) instead of returning to FIU for his senior year, will leave the Golden Panthers searching for ways to replace one of the team's leading goal scorers. The Golden Panthers also have a

new gap to fill at the goal-keeping position after the departure of senior Phillip Lamarre, who signed a pro contract with FC Tampa Bay of the NASL.

Sebastian Frings, who led the Golden Panthers with nine goals in 2009, returns and is expected to carry the team on offense this fall.

"I hope he does have a bigger impact after have a pretty good year as a freshman," Eketebi said. "We are expecting even more from him this year."

#### REINFORCEMENTS

According to Rise.ESPN.com, the Golden Panthers received three 2010 commitments and may bring in even more players for the upcoming season, including goalkeeper Alex Bolowich from Chapel Hill, N.C. Bolowich, who played with Triangle United and attended Chapel Hill High School, earned the Adidas Golden Glove Award in 2008 and 2009 for his abilities as a goalkeeper.

"He is a very talented player who could challenge for the goal-keeping position right away," Eketebi said.

FIU also picked up midfielder Edgar Escobar, who attended North Broward Prep and played with South Florida Elite and earned an Honorable Mention in the Miami Herald's All-Broward selection. North Broward Prep played for the 3A state title earlier this year, but fell just short of delivering the school's first.

The Golden Panthers looked to bolster their backline with the addition of Jesse Henriquez, a defender from Langley, Va. who played for Langley High School and played with McLean Premier.

The team might also be bringing in some international recruits who may be able to compete for a spot right away when practice begins on Aug. 14.

"This is going to be one of the more competitive camps we've had in two or three years," Eketebi said. "Now that we have our scholarships back we can keep bringing in players that will challenge for spots quickly."

## SPORTS REPLAY

# Thomas a potential candidate for return to Knicks

**JONATHAN RAMOS**  
Sports Director

FIU men's basketball coach Isiah Thomas has found his way back into the NBA rumor mill, whether he is seeking it or not.

This time, Thomas is being mentioned as a potential candidate to return to the New York Knicks in a front office capacity.

On July 10, The New York Daily News reported that Thomas traveled to Houston last month

to meet with team executives and watch team owner James Dolans band perform, drawing attention to Thomas and his relationship with the organization.

Although that was arguably a harmless gesture, ESPN sportswriter Chris Broussard later reported on his Twitter account that Knicks president Donnie Walsh told him Thomas would be a candidate for a general manager position should the Knicks choose to fill the position.

Thomas was a member of the Knicks from 2003-2008 as a head coach and president at separate times.

Thomas was reassigned in the organization after the hiring of Walsh in 2008. Thomas was hired to be the head coach of the Golden Panthers in the spring of 2009.

Thomas, who saw FIU go 7-24 last season, has stated as recently as the season that his desire was to remain with the Golden Panthers. Last April,

*"I like what I'm doing right now. I don't think you look any further than that. I love the challenge that's in front of me and we're on the right track."*

Isiah Thomas

FIU Men's Basketball Coach on Feb. 6



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Isiah Thomas [right] was mentioned over the weekend as possible GM candidate for Knicks.

## Jimenez will start over Johnson at all-star game

**JANIE MCCAULEY**  
AP Baseball Writer

Ubaldo Jimenez is always eager to share his accomplishments with a support system that runs from Denver to the Dominican Republic.

His home nation and adopted hometown will be tuned in when Jimenez takes the mound for one of his most memorable outings yet. The Colorado ace will start for the National League in the All-Star game, while the AL will counter with Tampa Bay's David Price.

In this year of the pitcher, Jimenez was a fitting pick Monday by Phillies manager Charlie Manuel.

"One of the great talents in baseball and he's a treat to watch pitch," Manuel said of choosing Jimenez over Florida's Josh Johnson. "This guy's 15-1. His record speaks for itself."

The NL will try Tuesday night to end a 13-year drought in baseball's Midsummer Classic. Jimenez has a 2.20 ERA in

18 starts and 127 innings for the surging Rockies. Price is 12-4 with a 2.42 ERA. Johnson is 9-3 with a majors-best 1.70 ERA for the Marlins.

Johnson signed a four-year contract last offseason to stay with Florida through 2013. At the age of 26, he has emerged as arguably the best in the game. This year, however, Jimenez got the nod.

"I said Jimenez from the beginning," Johnson said. "He was my pick."

Jimenez's parents will be in the stands at Angel Stadium, along with his host family from Colorado and other family and friends.

"Any little thing is going to be huge for your career," Jimenez said. "It's just a huge honor for me to be out here. Hopefully we can put everything together and break the losing streak."

Philadelphia slugger Ryan Howard will be the National League's designated hitter and bat cleanup for his regular skipper, Manuel.

"Not only is he my guy, he's got 119 at-bats against left-handed pitchers and 65

RBI's," Manuel said. "He can hit 'em. He's hitting .294. He's very capable of hitting fourth in an All-Star lineup."

There was some confusion, however, about Boston third baseman Adrian Beltre. AL manager Joe Girardi announced that Texas third baseman Michael Young would replace Beltre, who left Sunday's game at Toronto with a strained left hamstring.

But less than an hour later, Beltre said he planned to play.

MLB executive Phyllis Merhige said an announcement about Beltre's status was made prematurely. He planned to test his leg at the ballpark before making a final decision.

"They announced it without telling me," Beltre said. "I think I'm going to play and I'm going to be on the active roster."

Girardi is starting Evan Longoria of the Rays at third base, meaning Alex Rodriguez will come off the bench.

"Hopefully I can come in the middle of the game and get a big hit," A-Rod said.

Thomas' name came up in a report in The Chicago Tribune about the same job at DePaul University.

A few months before, foxsports.com stated that Thomas could join the Los Angeles Clippers, in which FIU team spokesman Paul Dodson said that no offer was made shortly thereafter.

"I like what I'm doing now," Thomas said after a loss to North Texas on Feb. 6.

"I don't think you look any further than that. I love the challenge that's in front of me and we're on the right track. We've got good recruits coming in in '10 and we've got good recruits coming in in '11 and, knock on wood, we'll have good recruits coming in in '12."

Incoming freshman Dominique Ferguson told Student Media last week that Thomas assured him during the recruiting process that he would not leave FIU before next season.

### VOLLEYBALL

FIU Volleyball Head Coach Danijela Tomic is set to begin the 2010 Coach Tomic Volleyball Camps, Inc., with the first summer camp scheduled to start on Monday, July 12, as Tomic and her staff prepare to host three All-Skills Camps and a pair of skill-specific clinics in July, according to fiousports.com.

Walk-ups will be allowed for all camps and clinics.

The three All-Skills Camps will be held on July

12-15, July 19-22 and July 26-29, while a Setter/Hitter clinic and a Ball Control/Libero clinic are each slated for July 17. All camps and clinics will be held at the U.S. Century Bank Arena on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

### BASEBALL

FIU infielder Garrett Wittels will find out if he won the ESPY award for best Male Collegiate Athlete today at 9 p.m.

The junior-to-be will be in attendance at the event, taking a break from his duties in the Alaska Baseball League.

He is stacked up against former Kentucky basketball standout John Wall and Alabama football star Mark Ingram, among others.



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## All Aboard!

### Hogwart's Express pulls into Florida theme park



KATHY PAZ/THE BEACON

**KATHY PAZ**  
Staff Writer

On June 18, the Islands of Adventure theme park in Orlando, FL opened its doors in celebration of the latest addition to the park's diverse quarters and reined in thousands from around the globe. What was capable of generating such massive attention and following? Well, that would be Harry Potter.

This one name describes the phenomenon that has gripped and captivated audiences worldwide

for over a decade. With seven books, soon-to-be eight movies, heaps of memorabilia and innumerable fans of all ages, it seems only fitting that the young wizard and story brought to life by the pen of J.K. Rowling be given a real-life world to inhabit. Such was the task undertaken by the executives of Universal Orlando. Three years and over \$200 million later, the fantasy became reality.

From the moment you walk through the arch exposing the entrance to Hogsmeade Village,

you're transported to another world. Cobble streets give way to tall buildings, each adorned with snow-cover rooftops and chimneys.

Anxious to greet all visitors is a replica of the famous Hogwart's Express, which blows steam and, on occasion, is accompanied by its conductor. If you happen to run into this chap, be sure to ask to see his pocket watch. You haven't seen a timepiece quite like this, folks.

In the center of Hogsmeade Village lies Ollivander's Wand

Shop. This familiar spot offers visitors an interactive experience where one person, usually the youngest in a large group, is chosen to find his or her wand.

Also present in Hogsmeade are Honeydukes and Zonko's Joke Shop. Zonko's offers a variety of practical joke items, and Honeydukes is a giant candy store selling notable treats from the series such as Chocolate Frogs, Sugar Quills, Chocolate Wands and Bertie Bott's Every Flavour Beans.

If you're on a budget, a

chocolate lover and looking to indulge your sweet tooth, give in to a Cauldron Cake. It's like a cupcake filled with mousse and it costs only \$3.95.

Okay, now for the main attractions: the rides, of course.

At the very heart of the Wizarding World rests a monumental landmark that eyes from all over the world can recognize.

Towering high in the sky and visible from multiple loca-

**POTTER, Page 6**

#### FISTFULS OF TECH!

## Microsoft's Kin: social project equals an epic social fail

Have you heard of the Microsoft Kin? Probably not.

After six weeks of sales, nearly two years of development and an estimated hundreds of millions of dollars in costs, Microsoft killed the Kin line of phones, a product that is far and away the company's biggest failure.

COLUMNIST



JORGE VALENS

The Kin was a project that Microsoft embarked upon after acquiring Danger, the makers of the famed Sidekick series of phones. These phones were aimed at a younger crowd by relying heavily on the cloud storage and social networking compatibility.

The Kin's flaws were many and mortal. The Kin One and Two were oddly designed and expensive. The operating system was closed, had a terrible browser, and it wasn't as social media-friendly as it seemed.

The Kin's main failure, and it's largest one, was that it was a dumb phone competing in a smart phone world. It required a lot of data bandwidth because it uploaded virtually everything to Kin Studio, the phone's cloud storage service.

This led the devices to be paired with a large monthly data fee that priced it out of the feature phone segment and put it against Verizon's impressive line of smart phones. Parents buying their kids a phone found better deals and more features in other Verizon smart phones like the HTC Incredible and the Motorola Droid.

The Kin's quick death, however, revealed something much more unexpected: turmoil inside Microsoft. Employees on the project were angry, morale was low, and they were giving tech journalists quotes of a lifetime as a result.

"We had a huge launch party on campus and I bet that party cost more than the amount

of revenues we took in on the product," an anonymous Microsoft employee told *Business Insider* regarding the Kin's launch party. "As an employee, I am embarrassed. As a shareholder, I am pissed."

Final sales of the Kin have been rumored to be anywhere between 508 units and 10,000 units nationally in the six weeks the product spent on the market. In the words of every hipster on the Internet: epic fail.

The Kin represents something more than just a product failure; it confirms my previous suspicions that Microsoft is having a hard time seeing its inner beauty.

In a previous *Fistfuls of Tech!*, I discussed a slew of Microsoft products that were absolutely brilliant and yet seemed to fly under the consumer radar. But this time, I am not going to be so forgiving.

Microsoft has a terrible habit of ignoring the good and marketing the bad. Microsoft killed the Courier project, a tablet PC that

screamed iPad killer and had consumers clamoring. The Courier was proof that Microsoft had the chops to innovate, and the power to squash that innovation.

In the world of technology there are a lot of hit or miss moments, and the Kin was a large miss. But Microsoft is a company that has the resources, the market share, and the talent to innovate and really create something.

The Courier, the Zune Pass music service, and Windows 7 Media Center are absolute gems in the company's line of products, yet they hide in the shadows or even worse: the morgue.

Microsoft is capable of making hits, and when backed up against the corner they create some of their best stuff. The Kin is not only a major failure, but it should be a major lesson learned as well.

*Fistfuls of Tech* is a weekly technology column.

# Wizards World of Harry Potter adds magic to Orlando

## POTTER, page 5

tions throughout Islands of Adventure is the castle, home to Hogwart's School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

The site is phenomenal, a spitting image of the castle seen in the movies and one that will have you staring up in awe for moments on end.

Hogwart's is actually two attractions in one: a tour of various areas inside the castle, starting with the Dungeons and ending in the Room of Requirement, and the location of the attraction, Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey.

If it's your first time visiting the park and you're a fan of the boy wizard, let's just say that the long lines inside the castle are entirely

worth it. You'll be so busy going camera-happy that you'll hardly notice. You may even be disappointed that you can't spend more time inside Dumbledore's office, Professor Binns' classroom or the Gryffindor Common Room.

The other two rides in the Wizards World are somewhat familiar to Islands of Adventure veterans, having been previous existing rides that were redone and redecorated to match the Harry Potter theme.

Formerly known as The Flying Unicorn, Flight of the Hippogriff is a fast-paced, miniature rollercoaster geared towards younger children and families. The surrounding area mimics the Hogwart's grounds and includes Hagrid's Hut.

Dragon Challenge uses

the same track designed for the popular Dueling Dragons attraction. However, the environment has taken on a Triwizard Tournament atmosphere with various items from the challenges visible from the queue.

Also deserving of mention are two spectacles known as Butterbeer and Pumpkin Juice. Brought to life from the books by the culinary team behind Universal, these two drinks are must-haves while visiting the park.

All in all, the Wizards World of Harry Potter pays extraordinary tribute to the series on which it was built upon and offers fans a remarkable, one-of-a-kind experience. Like a story-book come to life, it is filled with magic and delight.



KATHY PAZ/THE BEACON

The castle, home to Hogwart's School of Wizardry and Witchcraft in The Wizards World of Harry Potter in Islands of Adventure in Orlando, FL.

# Theatre festival features poignant play by Pulitzer Prize playwright Nilo Cruz

KATHY PAZ  
Staff Writer

The second installment in FIU's Alternative Theater Festival offered an intimate look at the life of a Cuban immigrant searching for freedom.

*A Bicycle Country* is a play written by Nilo Cruz, a Cuban immigrant whose family fled to Miami in 1969 following his father's incarceration for opposition to the communist government.

Upon his return to Florida in 2001, he became the playwright-in-residence for the New Theater in Coral Gables.

His other show, *Anna in the Tropics*, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Drama, becoming the first Latino play to earn that honor.

In *A Bicycle Country*, he focuses on capturing the same pressure felt by those in similar positions to his parents in Cuba. The story focuses around the idea of hope for a better life in a better place.

The show, which featured a brief intermission for changes, started off a few minutes late and lasted approximately two hours. It is directed by Marina Pareja.

Upon entrance into the studio, audiences were greeted by an intimate setting. Cuban music played in the background, and one of the actors was already in position.

The set, which remained the same for Act I with the addition of props, was simple yet effective. Furthermore, it was versatile, starting as a house and transforming into a raft for the production's second half.

Featuring only three actors, the opening scene introduces the characters Julio (Michael Fernandez), Ines (Victoria Collado) and Pepe (John Guzman).

Fernandez gave a strong performance throughout as Julio, a disgruntled man recovering from a recent stroke. His scenes were full of raw emotion and conveyed the frustrations, drive and struggles of his character.

Ines, hired to nurse and assist in Julio's recuperation process, is a lively character

full of passion with a desire for freedom from the environment she lives in.

Collado, though overshadowed by Fernandez in the first few scenes, bounced back almost immediately, delivering a solid performance with the right amount of attitude and sass.

Her dialogue, though funny on its own, was elevated by her range of facial expressions and tone.

Guzman portrayed Pepe, a loyal friend of Julio responsible for finding Ines, who joins them on their journey to flee the country.

Though originally seeming to be comic relief, perhaps because his lines felt forced during Act I, he improved tenfold following intermission and ended the play on a high note.

Overall, the show ran smoothly and was pretty good. The crew did an excellent job with sound and lighting and provided an organized set change during the intermission. The cast brought to life a play filled with metaphors connecting the sea to life in a tasteful manner.

Though there is room for improvement, in areas such as time management, the experience with the FIU Alternative Theater Festival is a positive one.

FIU's Alternative Theater Festival kicked off its summer season on June 23rd with Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls*.

This program, started in 2006 by professors Phillip Church and Marina Pareja, offers students the opportunity to experience what it would be like to own and run their own theater company.

All shows are held in the DM 150 theater studio and have a general admission for \$10. Of that money, \$1 of each ticket sale is donated to the Hope for Haiti effort.

The next production in the Alternative Theater Festival, Edward G. Excaliber's *"Prodigal: the Execution of William Spencer,"* directed by Scott Richard Hinz, opens on July 21st and runs until the 25th.



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

Michael Fernandez and John Guzman act out during *A Bicycle Country* on Wednesday July 7 in DM 150.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### JOBS

**BABYSITTER NEEDED IN DORAL:** Looking for a reliable sitter for our 12 year old daughter. After school hours. Monday thru Friday. Duties include: pick her up from school, help with homework and light leaning. Start mid August. Please contact Karina (305) 335-4853

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## THE BEACON | Editorial

### Green fee student input sets good example for the future

Despite missing a chance to bundle the Student Green Energy fund with its regular election, *The Beacon* applauds the Student Government Association for giving students the opportunity on an issue that will impact them directly.

University students passed a referendum on June 30 that approved changes to SGA constitution and expressed their approval of the Student Green Energy Fund. A total of 296 students voted. The green energy fund had 222 votes in favor, 64 against and 10 abstained. For the changes to the constitution, 201 were for them, 46 were against and 49 abstained.

The Beacon believes SGA should have followed the example of the other state universities and include the green energy fund on the Spring 2011 elections ballot instead of holding a special referendum in the summer. Doing this would have given SGA more time to properly inform students of the green energy fund.

However, we do applaud SGA in their handling of the green energy fund. The referendum was meant to gauge whether or not students wanted a green energy fund, not to impose it on them, which is what the administration is doing with the smoking ban.

The green energy fund is not exclusive to FIU as the other state universities are also taking steps to implement it.

SGA at the University of Florida included the fund in their Spring 2007 general elections ballot, said Sandy Vernon, SGA office manager, in an interview with Student Media. Florida State University's SGA also included the fund in their Spring elections, said Joyce Howard FSU's SGA adviser to Student Media.

The fund has not yet been voted on by students at the University Central Florida but Joshua Miller, senate president pro-tempore, said in an interview with Student Media their plan is to include it in the ballot of their Fall senatorial elections.

The green energy fund, which still has to be approved by the Board of Trustees before being implemented, will add a fee to students between \$0.25 and \$1.00 per credit hour that will be used for "renewable energy projects and student sustainability projects" according to the SGA resolution in support of the fund.

The green energy fund will now go to the University Board of Trustees which will send it to the Board of Governors of the state university system where it can still be voted down, but if approved will come back for a final vote by students. On the ballot will be an option for each credit per hour fee (\$0.25, \$0.50, \$0.75 and \$1.00) and a "no" option. This means students will have another chance to vote against this if they so choose, and vote how much the fee will be.

Going forward, the Sustainability Committee, which lead's the University's green initiatives, needs to be detailed in their explanation of how money from the green fund will be spent.

Although we think the University's push to be more environmentally friendly is a good thing, we question whether asking students to pay for things the University should be doing anyway is the right approach.

Helena Ramirez, Student Government Council president, said the constitutional changes had to be voted on during Summer B because the SGA constitution is tied to the University's fiscal year, which started on July 1. The constitutional changes include Article XII which gives students the ability to amend the constitution if necessary. These changes were proposed by the SGA judiciary during the Spring 2010 semester, and the legislature passed the green fund resolution on March 7.

Ultimately, *The Beacon* hopes student input will become the rule and not the exception.

## CABRALITICS

# Greene thinking outside the toy box

The solution to our nation's economic problems may soon be coming to a toy store near you, thanks to a brilliant plan outlined by U.S. Senate candidate and real American hero Alvin Greene of South Carolina.

### COLUMNIST



CHRISCABRAL

A plan as daring as his can scarcely be put into words, so perhaps its best to let the great man speak for himself: "Another thing we can do for jobs is make toys of me, especially for the holidays. Little dolls. Me. Like maybe little action dolls. Me in an army uniform, air force uniform, and me in my suit. They can make toys of me and my vehicle, especially for the holidays and Christmas for the kids. That's something that would create jobs. So you see I think out of the box like that... That's something that could happen, that makes sense. It's not a joke," Greene told *The Guardian*, a prominent UK newspaper.

And indeed it does make sense. Only a fool would laugh at such a plan. The solution to our problems, as Alvin Greene says, is Alvin Greene toys.

For the past few weeks, some have questioned whether surprise Democratic primary winner Alvin Greene, a political neophyte, had the expertise and vision to lead South Carolina. This plan proves he does.

As Greene knows, the best way to get our economy going is to get people spending

Students can stand in awe as they gaze upon a larger than life painting of President Rosenberg, riding a fiery horse, eating a turkey sandwich.

money again, and these dolls will prove irresistible to consumers.

Who wouldn't want to spend money on an Alvin Greene doll? There are so many of versions of Alvin Greene to love, from Lego Alvin to Tickle-Me Alvin. And since buying the toys would create jobs, it would be every citizen's patriotic duty to purchase the whole Alvin Greene product line.

In a way, Greene's job creation strategy has worked in dictatorships for centuries. Employment through the glorification of a nation's leaders has created countless jobs throughout the world, from the sculptors of Iraq who crafted statues of Saddam Hussein in the 20th century, to the artists who've crafted massive paintings of tyrants on the sides of buildings in countries like Iran.

Jobs like those could be created right here in the U.S. of A.

People can have jobs building statues, painting murals, and yes, manufacturing toys of leaders like the mighty Alvin Greene all over South Carolina. People will come from miles around to see the larger than life depictions of Alvin Greene. For America, "for the kids," this plan can work.

Our University could also implement such a strategy, to both generate revenue and

create jobs.

While the University has never been blessed with the presence of the Greene one, it has a fearless leader of its own in President Mark Rosenberg. The University could create jobs by making Mark Rosenberg Pez dispensers, Mark Rosenberg statues, perhaps even a gigantic mural of Rosenberg on the ceiling of the Graham Center, in the style of the Sistine Chapel.

Incoming freshmen and potential students can stand in awe as they gaze upon a larger than life painting of President Rosenberg, riding a fiery horse, eating a turkey sandwich. Rosenberg would probably object to this, yet perhaps he could be swayed by the words of the ever eloquent Mr. Greene.

With a little luck, Alvin Greene's employment strategy could work right here at FIU. Some may criticize him and his plans for being "unrealistic" or "completely insane."

Those naysayers just can't handle leaders who "think outside the box," or candidates who have been charged with public obscenity, as Greene has. Thankfully, the rest of America is smart enough to take a step back, listen to Greene's plan, and do what it takes to fix the economy: buy some \$#!\*ing toys.

# WikiLeaks safeguards accountability

## GABRIEL ARRARÁS News Director

Since it launched in July 2007, WikiLeaks has proved itself a precious resource to journalists, activists and citizens, all while being a thorn at the sides of governments and corporations across the world.

WikiLeaks does the world a great service by protecting whistle blowers, journalists and activists who have acquired "sensitive materials to communicate to the public." These materials tend to be information that governments or corporations do not want the general public finding out about.

The site describes itself as an "uncensorable system for untraceable mass document leaking" website that protects its sources by having no physical infrastructure and operating solely online through PRQ, a Sweden based company which provides "highly secure, no-questions-asked hosting services."

WikiLeaks maintains their

servers at undisclosed locations and uses military-grade encryption to protect sources and other confidential information.

Without WikiLeaks offering this level of protection to its sources, the general public would have been kept in the dark about items such as: the controversial e-mail correspondence between scientists of the Climatic Research Unit and most recently the Baghdad air strike video from an American Apache helicopter which shows the killing of two Reuters journalists.

In its three years of operating, the website has provoked official and corporate anxiety in its efforts to become "a global foe of excessive government secrecy while empowering citizen activists, journalists and others who seek to challenge the powerful."

WikiLeaks encourages its sources to practice "principled leaking," and has uncovered over 1.2 million documents doing so. Examples of principled leaking are ample throughout history,

and show the power of public perception.

In 1971, when former State Department official Daniel Ellsberg released the controversial documents that would later be known as the "Pentagon Papers" to the *New York Times*, the first thing President Nixon did was file an injunction to prevent the newspaper from publishing the documents.

The documents revealed that the United States government deliberately expanded its role in the war while President Lyndon B. Johnson was promising not to expand the war.

The case made its way to the Supreme Court, which ruled that "only a free and unrestrained press can effectively expose deception in government."

The release of the Pentagon papers did its job by shocking the world, exposing the government and helping to shorten the war and save lives.

This example of "principled leaking" is exactly why

WikiLeaks is needed more than ever today, in a world where authoritarian governments such as China and Iran do everything in their power to silence their activists and journalists. There is no greater power to hold a government responsible than the collective conscience of its people.

With the threat of being exposed to the public likely, no government official in their right mind would dare to make corrupt transactions. That is the type of pressure that WikiLeaks wants to apply to authoritarian governments, oppressive institutions and corrupt corporations around the globe.

Daniel Schmitt, one of WikiLeaks' five core directors, said to the *Washington Post*: "You can either be transparent, or transparency will be brought to you."

In its short lifespan, Wikileaks has made great strides. The Chinese government already actively attempts to block all traffic to the website, so they must be doing something right.

## PUBLIC REASON

A radio show gathering opinions and promoting discussion every Tuesday and Thursday at 12 p.m. on Radiate FM, 95.3 in Miami, 88.1 in Homestead, 96.9 in North Miami and streaming live on FIUSM.com.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The Internet's completely over...All these computers and digital gadgets are no good. They just fill your head with numbers and that can't be good for you."

Prince  
Recording Artist

## EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials, send them to [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com)

## SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Got a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts in to [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com) or drop by our offices at either GC 240 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

## THIS WEEK AT THE BAY WEDNESDAY, JULY 14

### BRING YOUR GLASSES



The Hope for Haiti Task Force asks for your old reading glasses.

WHEN: All day  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Academic Building 1, Room 295

## THURSDAY, JULY 15

### FITNESS ASSESSMENT



The BBC Wellness Center is offering free fitness assessment sessions for students.

WHEN: All day  
HOW MUCH: Free for students  
WHERE: The Wellness Center  
CONTACT: RSVP by calling (305)919-5620

## FRIDAY, JULY 16

### ECO-CAMP ACADEMY DAY 5



Children ages 6-17 learn about the environment and on this day about "big creatures of the sea."

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$225 per week  
WHERE: BBC  
CONTACT: Jennifer Grimm (305)919-5700

## MONDAY, JULY 19

### ECO-CAMP ACADEMY DAY 6



In week two of the Eco-Camp, children about mangroves in South Florida.

WHEN: All day  
HOW MUCH: \$225 per week  
WHERE: BBC  
CONTACT: Jennifer Grimm (305)919-5700

## TUESDAY, JULY 20

### SUMMER DINING



A training session for students of the Advanced Foodservice Management class.

HOW MUCH: \$18 or 3 dates for \$45  
WHERE: HM building Rm. 129  
CONTACT: Roger Ledesma (305)919-4526

-compiled by Philippe Buteau

### SEAS

# Environmental school makes strides

## LEONARDO OBREGÓN

### Contributing Writer

Less than a year after opening its doors at Biscayne Bay Campus, the School of Environment and Society's interdisciplinary approach to solving the issues of environmental sustainability continues.

By approaching environmental issues, SEAS is not just teaching students what the problems and solutions are, but also extending community outreach to get lower grade levels and all people involved and excited about the environment, said Michael Heithaus, director of SEAS and associate professor.

"Understanding the problem is only part of it, people have to understand how humans interact with their environment and understand the value of protecting it," Heithaus said.

SEAS has recognized the economic and political human factors affecting climate change

and focused its research in wide range of subjects. In addition to the numerous degrees offered by the many departments affiliated with SEAS, students can add interdisciplinary study by enrolling in certificate programs such as Environmental Studies, Coastal Affairs, and Biodiversity Conservation.

New courses are also available within the College of Arts and Science that teach environmental effects and interactions within other areas of study.

As a direct result of the Gulf oil crisis, the University and SEAS organized a teach-in on May 15 at BBC. The event brought together a panel of experts from across the University to provide public education on the causes of the spill and its potential impact on the wildlife habitats of South Florida.

The University is continuing to document the current state of mangrove ecosystems in southwest Florida in anticipation of the potential impacts of the oil. Heithaus is serving as the University's representative in collab-

oration with other faculty from state and private institutions on the recently created Oil Spill Academic Task Force.

In April, SEAS students and faculty joined over 200 scientists from around the country in Biscayne National Park for a 24-hour "BioBlitz" to inventory over 800 species of plant, insect, fish, and other organisms, many new to the park's previous list of species. The marathon survey by National Geographic and the National Park Service is an example of one way students can get involved with SEAS to take responsibility and make a difference in their local environment.

Students interested in participating can take summer courses placing them in local environmental agencies and organizations for experience while earning credits, as well as internships and volunteer opportunities available through Jennifer Grimm, SEAS' environmental coordinator.

SEAS will be hosting an Eco-Camp Academy at BBC on July 12-23, where children ages six to 17 get their hands dirty

while learning about the local environment.

As part of the College of Arts and Science, faculty from many programs, such as biological sciences, English, global and sociocultural studies, politics and international relations and others are spread across both campuses. Some work in locations like the Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden and the International Hurricane Research Center.

Comprised of the University's Earth and Environment Department and the Marine Sciences Program, the school works with local research institutions, such as the Southeast Environmental Research Center in Biscayne National Park, Everglades National Park, and the Florida Keys.

"It's going to take more than just science, but also people from hospitality to writing to communicate and give perspective to the importance of the environment," Heithaus said.

For more information, visit the SEAS website located at [casgroup.fiu.edu/SEAS/](http://casgroup.fiu.edu/SEAS/)

# Panther Power brings pride to campus

## SANDY ZAPATA

### Contributing Writer

Although most University activities, like sports and homecoming, happen at the Modesto Maidique Campus, Ana Perez is making sure Biscayne Bay is not without school spirit.

Perez, a senior journalism major graduating this summer, is the president of Panther Power, an organization on campus that focuses on student involvement in athletic school pride. She has been president since Spring 2010 and "is the source of Panther Power's new and innovative ideas," such as new giveaways and tabling events at BBC.

The goal of Panther Power is to enrich the students' experience at the University by getting them involved with campus activities such as football games, homecoming, and pep rallies among other activities.

Perez says that her main goal as president at BBC is to help students realize the amount of events and relationships they can build from this campus alone.

However, BBC has a reputation of being a commuter campus, meaning most students come to class and then leave. Students never really take advantage of all that the campus has to offer, Perez said.

From the pool and Recreational Center to the Student Programming Council and Panther Power, BBC has a lot more to offer students than they are aware of and Perez is dedicated to making that known.

Perez and her new executive board members have new events in the works - including "Panther Wonderland," a ballroom dinner with dancing being held Thursday before the last football game of December honoring graduating seniors, as well as bringing back "Wet Flicks," a drive-in movie theatre themed idea that takes place at

BBC's pool - the team behind Panther Power is ready to take Fall 2010 by storm.

As a high school student, Perez said she was always involved in school activities and had a passion for school pride. She dreamed of coming to FIU and "rocking the blue and gold."

Perez already knew that she wanted to build a home at the University. However, she also believes students come to the University and don't really concentrate on making

**All I want is to come back in ten years and for people to come up and tell me that Panther is the powerhouse of student life.**

Ana Perez, President  
Panther Power

college their home away from home but rather a place they "need" to be in order to get by.

"Life shouldn't be about just getting by," said Perez, considering it one of her life philosophies.

Perez is also a 2010 Peer Advisor and Alternative Breaks director for BBC. With so many campus-oriented organizations on campus, Perez talks about getting Panther Rage, Panther Power's counterpart at MMC, involved in doing things together to help get students involved in what will be the next few years of their lives.

"Getting involved in anything gives students a new sense of leadership: how to run, host an event, work on socialization skills," Perez said when she talks about the freshmen students to who she is Peer Advisor.

One of the organizations successes was getting students excited for the Golden Panthers football game against the University of Florida Gators last year when talking about her plans for Panther Power. Perez said for the first time the shuttle bus that drives students to home games was packed for a drive all the way up to Gainesville.

Perez wants figure out a way to have every shuttle bus to both home and away games packed to capacity. She said that even for students who don't know much about sports or don't really like sports, this is a way to meet new people.

"My motto is: you're here, you might as well love it," Perez said.

Gathering students is not so simple, though. According to Perez, freshmen and transfers are the hardest target audience and hopes that with free food at every Panther Power event and giveaways, students will be drawn in to see and learn what the University and Panther Power are all about.

Perez is filled with enthusiasm and hopes that her successor will be the same. The one thing she hopes to accomplish, years after she's graduated and left the University, is for Panther Power to be bigger and better than how she left it.

"All I want is to come back in ten years and for people to come up to me and tell me that Panther Power is the powerhouse of student life," Perez said. "I want it to be the best."