Broward College

Financing done easy with Peter Bielagus

SABRINA PAZ RIESO STAFF WRITER

College students have to pay thousands of dollars per year for their tuition. This makes it really easy for them to get caught into student loans. Some of these students declare themselves bankrupt during their high-level education.

For Peter Bielagus, this situation is avoidable with the knowledge of a better personal financing.

Bielagus, who is a financial coach, speaker and author, led a talk at the Student Life Activity Center of Central Campus on Oct. 8.

"I got myself into a lot of credit card debt and I screwed up my financial life when I was 19 so I started learning how to dig my way out," said Bielagus, who is trying through his talks to help people who are experiencing debt situations and to prevent them.

Bielagus stated that college students are going through a decisive age for their financial lives since they are "young in general" and they "get exposed to lots of different things at once".

He thinks that "there is never a good time to focus on your financial life," so he recommends college students to focus on their



Peter Bielagus gives financial advice to Broward College students during his financial seminar.

financing right away. Bielagus emphasized that the amounts does not matter, the important thing is to know how to manage the little or big amounts that you have.

"If you are taking out student loans, you have to know what your monthly payments are so ask that question at the Financial Aid Office every semester because that number will get bigger and bigger and you have to know what that number is compared to the career of your choice," said Bielagus.

He also recommends applying for scholarships even if the student does not meet all the requirements, but always tell the truth.

"Scholarships to me are a numbers game, which means the more you apply for, the better your chances are of getting them," said Bielagus.

Bielagus not only did a general talk with Broward College students, but he also was able to do one-on-one talks. He was really impressed about the quantity of one-on-ones since he did not stop receiving students from noon until 7p.m.

"There is never going to be a good time to get started on your financial life so you might as well just get started today," said Bielagus.