

10-14-2009

# The Beacon, October 14, 2009

Florida International University

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## Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with salsa party

PAGE 5



## Offense fuels big weekend wins over conference rivals

PAGE 8



### SPOTLIGHT

#### OPINION PAGE 4

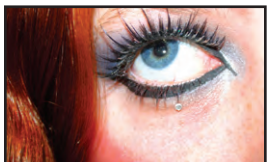


**Point/Counterpoint:** Should Obama really have won the Nobel Peace Prize?

#### OPINION PAGE 4

A New York school finds itself with more admitted applicants than anticipated.

#### LIFE! PAGE 5



Students compete in Delta Lambda Phi's *Divas* pageant to see who is the ultimate "diva."

#### LIFE! PAGE 5



**Venejer:** Students juggle extracurricular activities, school work, and playing gigs.

#### SPORTS PAGE 8



Top 25 team too much as men's soccer gives up 5 first half goals in 7-1 loss.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Golden Idol Auditions, Oct. 14, 12 p.m.** Watch fellow students or try out for FIU's golden idol and see if you've got what it takes to be a star, in the GC pit.

**Funkshion Miami Fashion Week, Oct. 14, 8 p.m.** Watch the latest trends in fashion before anyone else at the Setai Hotel. The event will be free.

**French Club Movie, Oct. 15, 3:30 p.m.** Spend your afternoon lost in the cinematic culture of France by watching a free movie in GC 140.

#### WEATHER



**WEDNESDAY**  
Partly Cloudy  
LOW: 78 HIGH: 90



**THURSDAY**  
AM Clouds/Pm Sun  
LOW: 79 HIGH: 90



**FRIDAY**  
Isolated T-Storms  
LOW: 77 HIGH: 89

#### CONTACTS

Editor in Chief ..... 305-348-1580  
chris.necuze@fiusm.com

MMC Office ..... 305-348-2709  
news@fiusm.com

BBC Office ..... 305-919-4722  
bbc@fiusm.com

Tips & Corrections ..... 305-348-2709  
tips@fiusm.com

Advertising ..... 305-348-6994  
advertising@fiusm.com

## Tech fee brings in \$5 million

### Students, staff encouraged to send spending suggestions

MIRIAM BLASCO  
Staff Writer

The University's administration is currently accepting student and staff feedback on how to implement the money generated from the technology fee.

The new fee, which added 5 percent of students' total tuition cost to their bill, was approved at the beginning of Fall and generated \$5 million for the University.

The objective of the technology fee, authorized by the state legislature and approved by the Board of Trustees, is to have a new stream of revenue specifically geared toward improving the use of technology in the classroom and around campus to enhance student learning.

As stated in the Florida Statutes (Section 1009.24), the technology fee can be up to 5 percent of the tuition; the amount is left to the discretion of the institution implementing the fee.

The deadline for the proposals is Oct. 16. Proposal forms can be

State Resident Components	FEES	
	Continuing Student Undergraduate Courses (0000-4999)	New Undergraduate Student (0000-4999)
Tuition	\$88.59	\$102.33
Building	\$2.32	\$2.32
Capital Improvement Trust Fund	\$2.44	\$2.44
Athletic Fee	\$6.90	\$6.90
Women Title IX	\$0.30	\$0.30
Athletic Football	\$7.31	\$7.31
Activity and Service Fee	\$11.60	\$11.60
Technology Fee	\$4.42	\$4.42
Student Financial Aid	\$4.42	\$4.42
<b>Total Florida Resident Rate/Credit Hour</b>	<b>\$128.30</b>	<b>\$142.04</b>
Non-Resident Fee	\$393.62	\$393.62
Non-Resident Student Financial Aid	\$19.68	\$19.68
<b>Total Non-Resident Rate/Credit Hour</b>	<b>\$541.60</b>	<b>\$555.34</b>

found and downloaded from the Division of Information Technology Web site, <http://it.fiu.edu/techfee>.

"We expect to receive more proposals as the deadline

approaches," said Min Yao, chief information officer and vice president of DIT.

The Student Government Asso-

**TECH FEE, page 2**

## New courses add global outlook

DAVID BARRIOS  
Staff Writer

Members of the University community are continuing more than two years of work to implement the new Quality Enhancement Plan.

The QEP, entitled "Global Learning for Global Citizens," calls for the creation of new curriculum requirements for all FIU students.

Incoming undergraduate students, starting in the Fall of 2010, will be required to take two classes that fulfill a newly created "Global Learning" requirement, including one class to satisfy their University Core Curriculum to meet exit eligibility.

"The purpose of the QEP is to provide every FIU undergraduate with

the educational opportunities to achieve the knowledge, skills and attitudes of global citizenship," said Hilary Landorf, director of the Office of Global Learning Initiatives.

A new Global Learning menu will be placed in the UCC for lower division students to select from newly created classes that fulfill the objective of the new QEP, which includes raising global perspective, engagement and awareness among students.

"Six of these foundation courses were developed this summer by teams of three faculty members each. They are interdisciplinary courses that address global problems and give students the opportunity to solve these problems from an

interdisciplinary point of view," Landorf said.

Upper division students will be required to take one other Global Learning class offered within a discipline, though it is not mandated that the course be from their discipline or major. "Each academic discipline is submitting a model in order to meet this Global Learning requirement within their discipline," Landorf said.

Each department is given the choice of revising their curriculum in order to meet the Global Learning requirement, developing new curriculum within their areas or having their students take Global Learning classes outside of the discipline.

Beginning in Fall

2011, exit requirements for incoming transfer students with an AA degree from a Florida institution will include two upper division Global Learning courses.

Incoming transfer students without an AA degree from a Florida institution will be required to successfully complete one Global Learning course in the UCC and one in the upper division curriculum.

Students already accepted in the University will not be affected.

Four of the six foundation courses for the UCC will be offered in the Spring of 2010.

The QEP is a required part of the University's bid for reaccreditation in 2010.

**QEP, page 2**

## DJ charged with killing freshman

RICK MARTINEZ  
FIUSM.com Editor

Former FIU student and South Florida disc jockey Juan Carlos Portieles was arrested for the murder of FIU freshman Jaelyn Elisse Torrealba on Oct. 11.

Portieles, 30, went to police and confessed the murder while Torrealba's body was in his car parked outside the police station.

Portieles, known as DJ Seasonz, arrived at the Miami-Dade Police Midwest Station on Sunday and told the desk officer he had murdered his girlfriend and was arrested immediately.

According to the arrest affidavit, Portieles and Torrealba, 18, were in a romantic relationship for approximately two years.

The couple was, according to the affidavit, involved in a "heated verbal altercation" and Portieles beat and bit Torrealba. When Torrealba retaliated, he choked her until she was motionless.

Portieles was charged with second-degree murder.

Torrealba was reported missing during the weekend by multiple FIU students on the social networking Web site Facebook.

Torrealba was a class of 2009 graduate of G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School, in Miami.

According to friends, she was very involved in high school and was a star student. She was a cheerleader, part of the dance team and several honor societies.

Kristen Guzman, FIU sophomore, was Torrealba's peer advisor this past summer and attended high school with her.

"You know that one girl in high school that gets along with everyone? That was Jackie," Guzman said about Torrealba. "She loved [FIU], she loved being here."

Portieles had been arrested before with charges of burglary with assault and battery when he was 18, in 1997. Records show he violated his probation in 2000.

When Portieles was at the University he acted as promotions director for the student radio station, Radiate FM (WRGP).

The cause of the fight is still unknown.



TORREALBA



PORTIELES

# Students bring up wireless connection problems

## TECH FEE, page 1

ciation is also engaged in hearing students' suggestions.

Nicholas Autiello, Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus deputy chief of staff and member of the advising committee for the technology fee, said that students who wish to submit a proposal can make an appointment with either

him, Senator Altanese Phenelus, Senator Loren Fraute, and at the Biscayne Bay Campus, contact Comptroller Robert Chung or Irene Hats.

Until today, they have received a few proposals but they still get many phone calls and e-mails asking questions about the form.

The advising committee for the technology fee will meet on Oct. 23 to study

and rank the proposals.

The money will be invested on the highest ranked proposals, according to Yao, even though the provost has the final decision.

Yao asked students and the FIU community to be patient as they have to make decisions before taking action to fix and enhance the instructional technology, wireless access and computer labs.

Students, faculty and staff can address their questions or concerns by e-mailing [techfee@fiu.edu](mailto:techfee@fiu.edu).

The tech fee process began in 2007. Before the fee was approved, there was the intention of distributing a survey among students

to hear their opinions but instead, as Yao explained, a town hall meeting was held last Spring in order to answer the questions raised by the students on this issue.

The initial concern brought up at the meeting was that students would have to pay an extra fee.

"Once the students understood the purpose of the fee, they just wanted to make sure that the money would be spent for its stated purpose, that is, for the benefit of the students," Yao said.

Students also complained about having to pay both a technology fee and a fee for online courses.

Yao explained that

the technology fee is not destined for the support of online courses.

"It wouldn't be fair for students who don't take online classes," he said.

The slow internet connection in some open areas and especially at the Green Library was also a concern brought up by students and the IT staff at the library.

The increase in the number of laptops on campus has made the wireless access points become obsolete.

The solution would be to increase the number or wireless access points as well as their quality. The intention is to get newer, faster and more powerful access

points to be combined with the old ones, according to Yao.

"We don't have a completely wireless campus, let alone some of the more advanced technologies you find at better funded universities," Autiello said.

Even though the University was authorized to implement a technology fee, FIU authorities seemed reluctant to establish it at first, considering the current economic situation.

An advising committee was then established to decide the future of the fee. Students from both campuses were represented by six student government members.

## NEWS FLASH

FIU

### The Miami Heat sign FIU player

Former Golden Panther basketball player Carlos Arroyo has been signed by the Miami Heat.

According to Athletics, during his time at FIU, Arroyo was the second player in FIU history to achieve at least 1,600 career points, 459 assists and 179 steals.

The Miami Heat, per their policy, did not disclose the details of the agreement. He will be wearing the No. 8.

### Last day to drop classes is Friday

The final day for students to drop a class with a "DR" or drop requested grade, is Friday, Oct. 16.

Students can request a drop through the University's student Web site, [my.fiu.edu](http://my.fiu.edu).

LOCAL

### Seventh-grader set on fire in Deerfield Beach

A Deerfield Beach seventh-grader was doused with accelerant and set ablaze.

Fifteen-year-old Michael Brewer was attacked on Oct. 11 at the pool of his apartment complex. Officials believe that the incident was intentional.

According to the *Sun Sentinel*, Brewer was transferred from Broward General Hospital to Jackson Memorial Hospital's burn unit. He suffered burns to over 75 percent of his body.

-Compiled by Jorge Valens

## CORRECTIONS

The article titled "FIFA contest for soccer enthusiasts set for Hispanic Heritage Week" on Oct. 12 issue, should have stated that the game will be played according to traditional soccer rules with 45-minute halves.

## THE BEACON

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## QEP, page 1

The program is the newest addition made by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the organization which accredits public universities in the region. The other major portion of the reaccreditation process is the compliance certification report, a statement by the University on its compliance with the core requirements, comprehensive standards and federal requirements involved in reaccreditation.

"The membership felt the old criteria were too rigid and prescriptive and more flexibility needed to be built into the system," said Belle S.

Wheelan, president of SACS in a 2008 interview with *The Beacon*.

To meet the regulations of the QEP, the proposed plan must display broad based involvement in choosing the topic and its implementation, while being focused on student learning. The institution must also be able to demonstrate its capability to support the plan with all goals for the QEP being identified with the ability to assess these goals.

"The goal of this plan is to enhance student learning, not to put a burden on them," Landorf said.

The new QEP will also call for new co-curricular activity to supplement in-class work. The activities, planned by

student affairs organizations, are still being planned as of press time.

Among the newly planned activities will be "Tuesday Times Talks," a weekly discussion forum for students to discuss articles posted in *The New York Times* on global matters.

The Student Government Association, *The New York Times* and the Office of Global Learning Initiatives will sponsor the Times talks events.

The Times talks meetings will be held in GC-220.

Members of SACS will be making an on-sight visit to FIU from March 9-12 next year. They will be assessing the QEP along with the overall state of the University.

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cated in GC 210  
and WUC 124.

## Author sheds light on abuse

### Speaker teaches students how to deal with violence

**MAUREEN NINO**  
Staff writer

Distraught by the stories of battered women, Ada Alvarez decided to take a stand against the struggle of domestic violence and wrote her first book *Lo Que No Dije* (What I Didn't Say) at the age of 16.

"It's a story that lets you get into the mind of an aggressor and a victim, like a personal diary and psychological description of both," said Alvarez, a mass communication graduate student.

October is annually recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and promotes the participation of the entire nation to recognize the important issues of victimized women and their struggle to find a voice.

It evolved from the Day of Unity, created by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, in October 1981. The Day of Unity was extended to monthly awareness in October 1987, and was created to support domestic violence programs and educate victims on a national level.

This collaborative effort is recognized as the Domestic Violence Awareness Project, which is a collaboration between several organizations that "supports the rights of all women and girls to live in peace and dignity," according to its Web page, [www.dvam.vawnet.org](http://www.dvam.vawnet.org).

Domestic violence is a

pattern in which one of the partners in a relationship shows aggressive and controlling behavior toward the other. Such abusive behavior can be expressed physically or emotionally through verbal abuse. An abuser also controls his or her victims financially, isolating them from others.

"They take away their power and usually that happens because there is a low self-esteem issue," Alvarez said.

Alvarez, who was born and raised in Puerto Rico, started writing at the age of 14 as a volunteer for her school newspaper, where she was assigned an article about domestic violence.

When she interviewed battered women for the story, she decided to educate victims with her book, which can now be found at the University Bookstore.

"I saw statistics that showed that almost 51 percent of the victims were 12 to 25 years old. This alarmed me, and I wrote the article noticing some signals in my boyfriend," she said. "One day, I came up with a poem and decided to write: 'The greatest sorrow I feel in this farewell is what I didn't say on time.'"

With that poem, she started her novel, which was published when she was 19, making her Puerto Rico's youngest novelist, she said.

Alvarez also created a blog and Web site, [www.loquenodije.com](http://www.loquenodije.com), which offers

quizzes to help visitors evaluate if their relationships are violent or abusive.

According to Alvarez, nobody took the then 16-year-old author seriously, but she never backed down. Since turning 19, she has spoken at more than 70 conferences in the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

"I'm proud to help women from all over the world, and it all starts with determination and information, which I have no doubt gives us power, especially in both languages," she said.

Domestic violence is an issue that can lead a victim to live in isolation, fear, pain and poverty. In 2003, among all female murder victims in the U.S., 30 percent were slain by their husbands or boyfriends, according to a 1996 U.S. Uniform Crime Report released in 2003. Yet, according to an FBI report published in May 2000, two million men per year continue to beat their partners, and every nine seconds, a woman is battered.

"It's sad to see that they had to hit a celebrity like Rihanna in order for dating violence to get some spotlight in the media, but that is how things are, and now at least people are hearing about it," Alvarez said.

Alvarez speaks at conferences and lectures to teach students how to prevent abusive relationships from forming, and how to escape if they are already in one.

"A lot of things are made for intervention, but a few are done for prevention, and that is why I have done it," she said.

Domestic abuse is respon-

## BODY ART



SERGIO MONTEALEGRE/THE BEACON

**HENNA TATTOOS:** Nursel Erkin, an artist from Bayside Market Place (left), gives Zakina Ogbourne, a graduate student in higher education administration, a henna tattoo of an ank during Hispanic Heritage Week in Panther Square on Oct. 12.

sible for two female deaths each week, an estimate from the U.S. Department of Justice. It is the reason why three out of four women will experience some kind of violence in their lifetimes.

About 75 percent of all abusive men watched their fathers batter their mothers, and 79 percent of violent children have witnessed violence between their parents, according to the Family Prevention Fund.

According to [www.find-counseling.com](http://www.find-counseling.com), a Web site that helps people find therapists, physical violence is estimated to occur in four to six million intimate relationships each year in the U.S.

Yet, according to *Psychology Today*, a Web site that provides health information about emotional issues,

there are 1,900 women shelters compared to the 3,800 animal shelters in the U.S., and only 5 percent accept women with children. Fifty percent of homeless women and children are on the street because of violence in their homes, based on a 1998 National Survey of Shelters for the Homeless.

Students experiencing abusive relationships can get help at the Counseling and Psychological Services Center located at the Biscayne Bay Campus in the Wolfe University Center, Room 320, or at the Modesto Maidique Campus in the University Health Services Complex, Room 270. Victims of abuse can also go to the Victim Advocacy Office at MMC UHSC, Room 210. Students can also contact the 24-hour hotline, 305-348-3000, or visit [www.vac.fiu.edu](http://www.vac.fiu.edu).

"Everything here is confidential. They don't have to say their name, and it could be totally anonymous," said Raquel Henry, a junior psychology major and office assistant. "We are a support guide."

Students can also reach out for immediate help through The National Domestic Violence Hotline, 1-800-799-7233, and The Dating Violence Hotline, 1-866-331-9474, which offer assistance and shelter referrals.

"The first step is recognizing you are in an abusive relationship and having at least one support that will remind you that you are worth it, and you need to get out of there. All the aggressor wants you to do is to keep quiet," said Alvarez. "Don't become a victim of silence."

## THIS WEEK:

All events to be held at Panther Square from 12 - 3 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

### Wednesday:

- Wellness Center Open House from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Wolfe University Center, third floor
- FIFA tournament
- Dominoes
- Prizes and giveaways

### Thursday:

- Panther Power Pep Rally
- Late Day Latte from 4:30 - 6 p.m. at Academic I
- SPC Reggaeton Block Party at 9 p.m. in the WUC Ballroom

Free food all week!

For more information, contact SPC-BBC at 305-919-5280

## High school students clean campus for credit

**MICHAEL FARNHAM**  
Contributing Writer

Angelina Baglino is a sophomore at Alonzo and Tracy Mourning High School, but she comes to the University to help clean up the bay.

"We've found everything from old shoes to needles, and everything in between," she said.

Baglino is one of 20 high school students who partake in the monthly International Coastal Cleanup, a program that started Sept. 19 and lead by the Biscayne Bay Campus environmental coordinator, Jennifer Grimm.

The cleanup is part of Discover Your Backyard, an environmental awareness partnership between Alonzo and Tracy Mourning High School and BBC. The idea came about in one of the weekly leadership councils by BBC Vice Provost Steven Moll, the high school's principal, Sally J. Alayon and Grimm.

"We had our first coastal cleanup and the turnout was great," Grimm said. "We walked around with trash

bags gathering up the debris on the shoreline."

Keeping BBC's shoreline free of trash is just one of the current undertakings of Discover Your Backyard. The University is also working with the high school on a green initiative to plant mangroves inside the school's new greenhouse.

"Inside that greenhouse, we have planted 1,200 mangrove seeds in paper cups, and eventually those will be planted all around both campuses," Grimm said.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools paid for the greenhouse, according to Grimm, but the University provided tools for planting the seeds, like shovels and wheelbarrows.

"We're extremely pleased to be able to share it with the high school," she said.

Baglino is president of the Ecology Club at her school and has been involved in environmental activities since the sixth grade.

"I'm looking to major in marine archeology, and this [Discover Your

Backyard] is something that will benefit me in that field as well as show colleges that I was a well-rounded student," she said.

Participation in this program will benefit the students when applying to college, Moll said, especially because the University and the high school have a dual enrollment agreement.

"It's wonderful because not only do kids get to participate in their environment, but in the process they can earn college credit and be exposed to college courses and professors," he said. "That experience is only going to help them when they make that transition from high school to college."

The college credits in the dual enrollment program count in the University and other institutions in Florida. For students to qualify, they must have completed their freshman year in high school, have achieved a 3.0 unweighted GPA or higher, satisfied any course prerequisites and received approval of the high school principal, according to the University's Web site.

During a Sunny Isles Beach City Commission meeting on June 18, Alayon gave a presentation to the community, where she explained the partnership with the University.

"One of the beautiful things about being so close to FIU is we can have an exclusive partnership in dual enrollment," she said at the meeting. "This means high school students can take college courses on the FIU campus or professors from FIU can teach at our high school. We'll have many students coming through that will be geared and ready for a jump start to college."

Alayon was not available for comment as of deadline for this story despite several attempts.

For Moll, the relationship between BBC and the new high school was a responsibility.

"There are so many universities in this country that don't work with the neighboring high schools, we feel it's irresponsible," he said. "Environmental affairs are everybody's concern."

## GETTING SCHOOLED

### N.Y. school admits too many students

What would you do if FIU paid you to not come to class?

COLUMNIST



IRIS A. FEBRES

This is the case for entering freshmen at Ithaca College in New York this year, when the college found itself with an overabundance of accepted applicants.

In order to curb numbers (to be precise, 2,027 new students in the incoming class), the university is offering accepted students cash to defer their enrollment for a year, or even live off campus.

More than \$300,000 will be paid to 31 students in order for them to defer their enrollments. In addition, according to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, the college will dole out \$2,000 to upperclassmen in the hopes they will move off campus.

What will happen to the students who have to wait a year before enrolling at Ithaca?

Their plans of pursuing a degree are now put on hold, and now these students will have to take up jobs or find some avenue of work - which can be very problematic.

Getting a job in this economy will prove to be very difficult for a high school graduate, especially if they're currently not enrolled at a college or university. The experience young workers need come from the classroom first.

Otherwise, they face a dead end.

The college may be better off compared to its students. Luckily for Ithaca, according to the college's vice president for finance and administration, Carl Sgrecci, the over-enrollment will lead to "a modest surplus," instead of an "expected 2.5 percent operating deficit," according to *The New York Times*.

This was the result of lowering selectivity within admissions in order to compensate for a decline in enrollment the college faced last year; in 2008, Ithaca fell below 11 percent of its target enrollment of 1,600.

If I were a student at Ithaca College (and I was, almost - I was accepted in 2006), or an alumna, I would certainly not be pleased.

Selectivity should be valued, but it is understandable if it's placed on the back burner because of a tough economy. A university's admissions standards is an evident factor of its renown; the more difficult it is to get into a school, the more likely it is for a program to be respected.

*The Ithacan*, the school's newspaper, said in an editorial that the current admissions standards "could make an Ithaca college education less valuable."

It goes to show that a quick fix for a financial problem can lead to years of carrying a lackluster reputation.

Ithaca's irresponsible actions have forced the institution to be cast in a poor light, and I'm sure Ithaca graduates are slapping their palms to their foreheads now.

I can only imagine how such a debacle would be handled at our University of nearly 40,000 students. FIU is packed enough as it is. While students at Ithaca are forced to live in lounges, FIU students could be shoved into the Green Library. The Graham Center would literally be known as "FIU's living room."

Thinking about this possibility, one word comes to mind: chaos.

*Getting Schooled* runs every Wednesday.

## NATIONAL

### The debate behind Obama's prize

#### Opportunity arises through peace prize

BRIAN ALONSO  
Staff Writer

On Oct. 9, President Barack Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The cause for the award was "for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples," as listed on the Nobel foundation's Web site

The selection has caught many by surprise, including the president himself.

Since the presidential

action in Afghanistan - like pursuing the option of troop increases, which would be considered a compromise of the prize's principles.

This shouldn't be an issue. Many past recipients, including Henry Kissinger and Yasser Arafat, were forced to make tough calls on security dilemmas even after being awarded the Peace Prize.

However, for all the international popularity and support Obama enjoys, the reality is his approval ratings are down due to

**I believe Obama winning this award will bring challenges when conducting foreign policy, but benefits as well.**

election, there have been high expectations placed on Obama.

I believe Obama winning this award will bring challenges when conducting foreign policy, but also substantial benefits.

Having multilateral support on issues such as Iran's nuclear program will help distribute the burden of conducting high-level negotiations while opening the door to discuss new approaches to confronting various issues.

Some experts, such as former U.N. Ambassador John Bolton, feel that winning this prize will hurt Obama's ability to take decisive military

mounting unemployment numbers and the current debate over health care.

If President Obama can't capitalize on this international goodwill by building stronger alliances to share global responsibilities, then he may not have the time he needs to address pressing domestic issues. This would greatly hinder his chances of re-election.

Regardless of partisan politics, I believe Obama winning the Nobel Peace Prize is a good development for the country since it increases America's credibility abroad as the world continues to confront the challenges of the global century.

#### Award premature for Obama's actions

ERIC M. FELDMAN  
Staff Writer

It has been suggested that Barack Obama respectfully decline the Nobel Peace Prize which he was offered by the 2009 Committee, both because he doesn't deserve it and hasn't accomplished anything yet.

Obama, however, will gladly accept the award and join the ranks of former laureates such as terrorist leader Yasser Arafat, and heralds of righteous causes, such as flying around on

tigious honor as a nudge of encouragement is premature.

Nancy Gibbs on *Time.com* correctly asserts "by now there are surely more callouses on his lips than his hands," and that "many Americans are longing for a president who is more bully, less pulpit."

Indeed, it is words, not actions that earned this award.

This is not to say that Obama won't deliver on promises - but the committee should have given him a chance before

**Nobel nominations were due 12 days after Obama became president. Clearly, it's the thought that counts.**

private jets to solve global warming, like Al Gore.

It is noteworthy that Obama hasn't been inaugurated even a year, and that nominations for the prize were due only 12 days after Obama became president.

Clearly, it's the thought that counts, and Obama has all the right thoughts.

According to CNN, last year's laureate, Martti Ahtisaari, said he thought that the Nobel committee wanted to encourage Obama on the issues he has been discussing on the world stage.

While it's noble for the committee to encourage peaceful policies (no pun intended), awarding arguably the world's most pres-

declaring victory with an award.

To me, this whole celebration of nuclear nonproliferation (one of the policies Obama is lauded for) while there are still more nukes on earth than ever is akin to Bush's "Mission Accomplished" banner when a war was far from over.

Surely there was, and still is, a better choice: a "do-er" advancing peace in the world, and not from the pulpit of politics.

Have a something to say? Join the conversation and click on over at



#### SAY WHAT?!: Should Obama have won the Nobel Peace Prize?

*"It's strange. He hasn't done anything yet. Maybe in a couple of years, but not quite yet."*

Jon Gonzalez  
Senior, Computer Science

*"Obama deserved it because he inspired millions in this country and is actively working to better our international relations with other countries."*

Franco Caliz  
Senior, Political Science

*"He was going in the right direction but I just don't think he's done anything yet."*

Scott Sachowski  
Sophomore, English

*"He shouldn't have received it. If Americans aren't even sure why he's receiving a prize, he probably shouldn't have gotten it."*

Emily Penna  
Junior, Psychology

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#### QUOTATIONATION

*"This is really the first opportunity for so many people of my generation to take a stand for our equality and march for our rights."*

Kip Williams  
Co-Director, National Equality March

#### OPINIONPIECE

# 9,900

The major indexes in the stock market rose to a near year high on Monday. The Dow Jones nearly broke the 10,000 mark, signaling a recovering economy.

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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 or drop by our offices at either GC 240 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

#### DAILYQUERY

The University has hit the spotlight again with a celebrity appearance by CNN anchor Rick Sanchez. What did you think of his live broadcast in the Graham Center on Tuesday? Did you participate and if so, how did it go? Send responses to opinion@fiusm.com

## Fraternity hosts pageant featuring sorority 'divas'

AMANDA BATCHELOR  
Staff Writer

This week, an FIU fraternity is holding a beauty pageant – with a twist.

The fourth annual Divas Pageant, hosted by the gentlemen of Delta Lambda Phi, will take place tonight, Oct. 14 at Azucar night club, located at 2301 SW 32nd Ave.

"It's an unconventional pageant from an unconventional fraternity," said David Dial, a senior majoring in nursing and president of DLP.

The event's theme is "Call of the Wild." The women aspiring to be DLP's 2009 Diva will be competing in a series of rounds.

In one round they will have to represent Delta Lambda Phi, in another round they will need to represent their own organization and, in the final round, they will be representing the theme by dressing up as an animal.

The pageant will feature ladies dressed up as wild animals such as lions and peacocks. In each round they will represent animals with their outfit and explain why they chose to wear it and why it is significant to each of the categories.

This event will raise money for DLP's philanthropy, Care Resource, which is the largest and oldest HIV/AIDS research organization in South

Florida. Tickets are being sold in GC for \$7 or at the door of the event for \$10.

"We usually have sorority girls competing to be our female representation," said Christian Rodriguez, brotherhood director of DLP.

Students do not need to be in a sorority to compete, but they do need to be in an organization at FIU. The Diva's role throughout the year before the new DLP Diva is crowned is to support DLP in any way they can, whether it is helping them out with their philanthropy, helping to plan events or attending their rush events.

Last year's DLP Diva was Christy Fuentes of Alpha Xi Delta. She will host the event with a drag queen named Lilly Leigh. Last year's DLP Divas theme was "Femme Fatal," for which Fuentes chose to be the Batman character Poison Ivy.

"I feel a diva is a confident, beautiful woman who is not afraid to be who she is, who will stand up for whatever she chooses and does not let anyone or anything intimidate her. I see all these qualities in myself and in the gentlemen of DLP and that is why I decided to run for the title of their Diva," Fuentes said.

There will be drag queen performances in between the different rounds throughout the event.

## VOGUE



ISAAC SORIA/THE BEACON

**BRING ME TO LIFE:** Nelly Norell performed to "Going Under" by Evanescence on Oct. 5 during Delta Lambda Phi's weekly *So You Think You Can Drag* event at Trixies in Hollywood, Fla. DLP will host a beauty pageant on Oct. 14.

Ariel Rodriguez, a member of Alpha Omicron Pi, is one of the contestants competing this year to be the 2009 DLP Diva.

"After getting to know some of the members of DLP this year, I've really seen how great these men are and how much passion they have for their philanthropy. I would be honored to be their Diva, and I feel I would be a good choice as a DLP Diva because of my own passion for philan-

thropy as well as my fierce attitude," Rodriguez said.

Doors open at 9 p.m. There will be music and dancing all night long, so attendees are free to stay after the pageant and, if 21 or older, there will be drink specials as well.

"I set the standards high last year so I look forward to seeing the lovely ladies competing," Fuentes said.

## Students balance school schedules while making music and performing

HALI NEAL  
Contributing Writer

For three student musicians, balancing school, a job and other extracurricular activities takes a combination of practice and sacrifice.

Venejer is a five piece band which includes three students from FIU.

Finance major Christian Espinales is one-third of the rhythm section of Miami-based hard rock band Venejer. As the band's drummer, he balances class two times a week and an accounting and finance honors society, Beta Alpha Psi, with the band.

However, there are occasional difficulties, he said. Beta Alpha Psi has mandatory meetings every Friday along with various events like job fairs, business etiquette meetings and other social events. Sometimes it's hard to schedule shows because of these mandatory meetings, Espinales said. The band also has to arrange meetings with concert promoters around all their schedules.

"We have to pick the really important shows because we can't do them all with our schedules, especially with out-of-town shows, because of class or work," Espinales said.

It sometimes causes tension within the band, since both school and the band are of equal importance to Espinales.

For example, when he has exams for his Wednesday class, he studies

Tuesday morning so he can still go to practice in the afternoon. The tension comes in when they're trying to plan shows and can't because he values his school schedule so much. Though music is important to him, so is having a backup plan.

"I'm confident the band will be successful, but I want to get the bachelor's [degree] now so I can become a record executive later on," Espinales said.

Venejer started when business management major Jose Gonzalez, lead singer Juan Amato (who is not an FIU student), and Espinales were attending Miami-Dade College together in 2004.

They went through a lineup of different bassists and rhythm guitarists before they started performing with their current lineup. The band placed ads on both Craigslist and Band Mix – a classifieds Web site for musicians – for a bassist and a rhythm guitarist. Their call was answered by international business major and bass guitarist Diego Rossin and rhythm guitarist Oniel Laffitte.

When asked how they decided on Venejer as their name, Espinales laughed and said, "It's a trade secret." Upon further questioning, he revealed that there was no real meaning behind their name; they all just thought up words, picked letters from them and then combined them.

After performing on the club circuit for about three years, Venejer released their debut album, *The*

*Fourth Prime*. It was self-released in November 2007. It's available on iTunes for \$7 and at their shows for \$10. They are about to release a new EP produced by Paul Trust at Bieler Brothers Studios in Pompano Beach. According to Espinales, some songs featured on this EP are going to be featured on CBS NFL on highlight reels and replays.

When asked to describe their sound, Gonzalez said, "We're like Sevendust vs. Alice in Chains."

Venejer has opened for such acts as Static-X, Hurt, Framing Hanley, Egypt Central and Since October. They have also been recently confirmed as an opening act for Sevendust on Oct. 30 at Revolution Live in Ft. Lauderdale. Tickets are on sale now for \$24 on [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) and [livenation.com](http://livenation.com). They have also traveled to California and Tennessee to perform. When asked what they like about performing, Espinales, Rossin and Gonzalez all gave different answers.

"The crowd reaction. The adrenaline rush," Rossin said.

"When people come up to you and say 'that was ...amazing'. Having people listen to our music and enjoying it," Gonzalez said.

"The thrill. You know that fear people have of public speaking? I thrive off that and use it to perform well," Espinales said.

More information about Venejer can be found at [www.myspace.com/venejer](http://www.myspace.com/venejer) and [http://www.sonicbids.com/epk/epk.aspx?epk\\_id=145638](http://www.sonicbids.com/epk/epk.aspx?epk_id=145638).

## SPC-MMC

## Council plans salsa dance 'extravaganza'

ISABEL MAZA  
Staff Writer

The Student Programming Council at Modesto Maidique Campus has been celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month this year with several events in the GC Pit, a Latino comedy show, among others. On Oct. 29, they will continue the celebration by hosting "Salsa Magic."

Salsa Magic is a three-hour salsa "dance extravaganza" that will be held in the GC Ballrooms, according to SPC-MMC, which describes the event as an "interactive Latin dance party experience."

Students from organizations around campus will have the opportunity to register for, and compete in the event. The contestants will compete as couples and no previous dancing experience or training is necessary, as the first two hours of the event will be dedicated to teaching the couples how to dance.

"At 6 p.m. we will start the night off by teaching the students how to dance one of the hottest Latino dances known – salsa!" said SPC-MMC director, Ian Gonzalez.

The couples will also be taught merengue and some other popular Latin dances.

The organizations the partic-

ipants belong to are encouraged to attend and cheer on their members.

"The grand prize will be going to the winning couple's organization, so all students are welcome to come out and support," said SPC-MMC president and public relations major, Cristina Rodriguez.

The grand prize for the winners will be a pizza party for 50 members of their organizations.

"I'm excited to go and support the members of my organization and see if we can hopefully win," said sophomore advertising major Carolina Ferrer.

Attendees can expect a night filled with salsa and merengue music. SPC-MMC will also be handing out giveaways and more information about their upcoming events.

Those interested in participating are encouraged to sign up by Oct. 26. Applications and rules are available on the SPC-MMC Web site, [www.fiu.edu/~spc](http://www.fiu.edu/~spc).

Salsa Magic will take place on Oct. 29 in the GC Ballrooms. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and the event will last for three hours. All students and organizations are invited to attend and the event will be completely free.

# University's award-winning ensemble-in-residence performs

**ISABEL MAZA**  
Staff Writer

This Fall semester is packed with performances and concerts brought to our students by the School of Music. On Oct. 20, the school will host a special performance by the Amernet String Quartet.

The Amernet String Quartet is FIU's very own ensemble-in-residence, which refers to groups of musicians associated with a university who perform at the school and attempt to stimulate creative interest in their field.

The quartet gained international recognition in 1992 when it won the gold medal at the seventh Tokyo International Music Competition. The ensemble had only been in existence for one year before winning the award. Three years later, they won first prize at the Fifth Banff International String Quartet Competition.

Since then, the ensemble has received praise from several publications. *The New York Times* described them as "an accomplished and intelligent ensemble." The German newspaper, *Nürnberger Nachrichten*, was also quoted as saying the ensemble is "fascinating with flawless intonation, extraordinary beauty of sound, virtuosic brilliance and homogeneity of ensemble."

The quartet held residencies at

several universities across the nation before coming to FIU. They were named Quartet-In-Residence at the University in the Fall of 2004.

The ensemble includes two violinists, a cellist and a violist. The four musicians are Misha Vitenson, Marcia Littley, Michael Klotz and Javier Arias.

Misha Vitenson is a violinist from Uzbekistan. He began studying the violin with his father and then immigrated to Israel, where he won numerous scholarships and awards. He started gaining recognition internationally and then moved to the United States for his master's degree. He received his Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School and joined the Amernet String Quartet in the Fall of 2002.

Marcia Littley, the second violinist, is one of the founding members of the quartet. She also attended the Juilliard School where she received her Bachelor of Music degree. She has appeared as a soloist for orchestras across the nation and has been recognized with countless awards and honors. She currently teaches violin.

Michael Klotz, who plays the viola in the quartet, made his musical debut at the age of 17 with the Rochester Philharmonic.

He has collaborated with various artists and symphonies and joined the quartet in 2002. He was awarded a

double master's degree from the Juilliard School in both viola and violin. He teaches viola.

Javier Arias, the cello player, is the second founding member of the quartet. He was born in Mexico and has performed all over the world. He currently performs around the U.S. and has recorded with several different labels.

He received his Bachelor of Music degree from the Juilliard School, where he was awarded scholarships and awards. He serves as the chair of strings for FIU and teaches cello and chamber music.

The performance will consist of works from Franz Joseph Haydn, Steven Gerber and Felix Mendelssohn, and will feature a highly virtuosic violin part.

"The Amernet Quartet is an extremely talented and professional group of musicians and I would recommend everyone to go see the concert," said music education major and junior Elizabeth Cid.

The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center. Student tickets will be sold for \$5.



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## PERFORMERS OF THE WEEK



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**ON TARGET:** Senior kicker Dustin Rivest picked up his second Sun Belt Special Teams Performer of the Week award with his three field goal performance against Western Kentucky.



GREG ELLINGSON

Greg Ellingson made up for T.Y. Hilton's absence due to injury by picking up 132 yards on five catches with a touchdown. His 65-yard third quarter grab was the longest of his career, topping a previous long of 49.



DEANA ROSSI

Rossi, a sophomore forward, scored her first goals of the season in the team's 5-1 win over the Warhawks of Louisiana-Monroe. The pair of goals marked the first time she'd found the back of the net since an August 2008 match vs. UM.



APRIL PERRY

For the third consecutive game, April Perry provided the Golden Panthers with a spark. Dating back to Oct. 4, the sophomore has scored four goals in three games, including a goal effort in the Golden Panthers rout of the Warhawks.



JOVANA BJELICA

The 5-foot-10 freshman outside hitter recorded a career-high 18 kills in the Golden Panthers 3-0 (25-22, 25-22, 25-23) win over North Texas. She also recorded the team's two service aces in its 3-0 win (28-26, 25-20, 25-23) over Denver.

# Golden Panthers exhibit offensive prowess with 8 goals

## SOCCER, page 8

goalkeeper with 11 minutes left in the half, increasing FIU's lead to 2-0.

Roughly three minutes later, ULM cut the lead in half when Amy Porch connected with Ashleigh Fitterer off of a corner that rebounded off of Gambill who had slid across the goal to keep the ball from going in.

In the second half of the match, sophomore Cortney Bergin gave Rossi the ball, allowing her to record her second goal of the game while giving Bergin her first career assist.

"I've got to say, we're really happy to see Deana get on the board," said Coach Thomas Chestnutt. "She's been working awfully hard and for her to get two is awesome."

With only 11 minutes left in the game, Rose

drew out the ULM goalie on a shot, allowing Perry to capitalize on the rebound for the empty netter, giving FIU a 4-1 lead.

However, FIU was not done, as a flurry of substitutions late in the game brought fresh players onto the pitch.

With approximately 4:30 left in the match, Pappas sent a corner kick right to the goal, giving freshman Kelsey Rene the opportunity to

head her first career goal.

For senior Amy Jackson, the recent success can be attributed to changes in formations, and she hopes it is a catalyst for future wins.

"We have to be aware to get back in time to defend, and therefore I think the midfield has their work cut out for them," said Jackson. "It's starting to be beneficial already. You haven't seen the best of us yet."

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## WOMEN'S SOCCER

# Team blows out opponents in weekend series

**CHRIS GREEN**  
Staff Writer

The women's soccer team outscored two of its opponents 8-2 in a weekend that saw the greatest back-to-back offensive outputs for the Golden Panthers since October 2003.

With the victories over Louisiana-Lafayette and Louisiana-Monroe, the Golden Panthers' record improved to (6-5-3, Sun Belt 4-1-1).

### FIU 3, ULL 1

The Golden Panthers took on the lowest ranked team in the Sun Belt Conference on Oct. 9.

The Ragin' Cajuns came into the game winless and one tie on their schedule as FIU limited ULL to only two shots in the first half. FIU on the other hand took nine shots and 30 minutes into the game, FIU's Thaisa Moreno found the back of the net for her third

goal of the season. This was the beginning of a 3-1 win for the Golden Panthers.

Three minutes after her goal, Moreno tallied her first career assist as she aided April Perry's goal that gave the Golden Panthers a 2-0 lead.

For the first time since their season opener against Stetson, FIU held a multi-goal lead.

ULL looked to rebound from their bad start with a goal by Kelli Jestes five minutes into the second half.

However, senior Marina Pappas and Katrina Rose had other plans as Pappas came off the bench to assist Rose in her fourth goal of the season with 26 minutes remaining in the game.

It was the Golden Panthers' first home victory over ULL in nine years.

### FIU 5, ULM 1

The Golden Panthers showed that their talent in a



PHOTOS BY CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

**WEEKEND WARRIORS:** Midfielder Courtney Bergin (top) streaks up the field past Louisiana-Monroe defenders. Amy Jackson (bottom right) celebrates with teammate Deana Rossi after the Golden Panthers' 5-1 victory over ULM.

goal-fest that featured two first-time scorers for the season, including a freshman's scoring debut.

Coming off a four-game unbeaten streak, FIU looked to face the visiting Louisiana-Monroe Warhawks and continue their Sun Belt Conference success on Oct. 11.

The scoring started off as Jessica Gambill threaded the needle between two defenders and passed the ball to Deana Rossi for her first goal of the

season.

Rossi and Perry combined to score four of the team's goals as FIU sealed the 5-1 victory against ULM.

"I've been waiting to get my goal this season," said Rossi. "I think everyone as a team has stepped up a lot and we're doing a lot better all over the field."

Perry continued her scoring streak when she beat the ULM



**SOCCER, page 7**

## VOLLEYBALL

# Golden Panthers get 10th straight win

**JOEL DELGADO**  
Staff Writer

When the Golden Panthers ventured out west to face Denver and North Texas two years ago, the trip ended in disaster, with FIU dropping both matches.

This weekend, FIU returned the favor as they swept both opponents to remain undefeated in conference play.

### FIU 3, DENVER 0

The high-altitude in Denver didn't stop the Golden Panthers (16-2, 6-0) from riding high and sweeping the Denver Pioneers (8-11, 3-2) in three sets, extending their winning streak to nine games.

"Denver is always tough, especially when you play them in their gym," said Coach Danijela Tomic. "Not many teams beat them there in three sets."

The Pioneers hung in there with the Golden Panthers throughout the match, but FIU's ability to hang on and finish each set proved to be the difference.

Yarimar Rosa helped the Golden Panthers end the two-game trip out west with a victory, compiling a team-high 21 kills. Natalia Valentin had a strong performance with 37 assists and 12 digs, both team-highs.

It wasn't all good news for the Golden Panthers, as Sabrina Gonzalez sprained her left ankle in the third set, forcing her to sit out for the rest of the weekend.

"She's been struggling with that left ankle since freshman year and we want to be careful with it," Tomic said. "We think she'll be ready for next weekend."

### FIU 3, NORTH TEXAS 0

A low ceiling and little room to maneuver inside North Texas' arena

wasn't able to slow the Golden Panthers (17-2, 7-0) as they finished the Mean Green (7-13, 3-3) in three sets, returning home with their perfect conference record intact.

"This road trip is always tough," Tomic said. "With all the obstacles inside [North Texas'] gym, it's not an easy place to play in. But we overcame those obstacles."

North Texas kept each set close, but the FIU offense outlasted North Texas in each set to thwart the Mean Green's attempt to give FIU its first conference loss.

Yarimar Rosa led the offense with 19 kills while Jovana Bjelica had a career-best 18 kills to help propel the Golden Panthers to their 10th consecutive victory.

"It was huge," Tomic said concerning Bjelica's performance. "There is a bright future ahead of her."

## SUN BELT VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS

TEAM	CONF	OVERALL	PCT	STREAK
East Division				
FIU	7-0	17-2	.895	W10
Middle Tennessee	4-1	11-7	.611	W2
Troy	5-3	9-10	.474	W3
Western Kentucky	3-2	14-6	.700	W3
Florida Atlantic	2-5	3-12	.200	L5
South Alabama	2-6	11-10	.524	W1
West Division				
New Orleans	5-1	12-6	.667	L1
Denver	3-2	8-11	.421	L1
Arkansas State	4-3	14-7	.667	L2
UALR	4-3	10-8	.556	L2
North Texas	3-3	7-13	.350	L1
Louisiana-Lafayette	0-6	6-15	.286	L8
Louisiana-Monroe	0-7	3-19	.136	L4

\*All records and statistics up to date as of Oct. 12

## MEN'S SOCCER: UCF 2, FIU 1

# Late goal not enough to complete comeback

**ANA DIAZ**  
Staff Writer

The men's soccer team's comeback fell short when it scored a goal with three minutes remaining in the match against the Central Florida Knights.

Steven Jair Cabas' goal cut the lead to 2-1, but the Knights held on to win on Oct. 7 at FIU Soccer Stadium.

"We tried too late, we should have played the

whole time the way we did in the last 20 minutes. Our team came through too late," Cabas said.

The Golden Panthers (3-7-0, 0-3 C-USA) had a scoring opportunity two minutes into the game. The Knights' (4-4-1, 1-2 C-USA) Shayne Doyle came out of the box and received a call for a handled ball. This gave the Golden Panthers a free kick opportunity for a shot on goal. Diego Tamburus took the shot, but goalkeeper Shawn Doyle blocked it.

Early in the game, UCF's leading scorer,

freshman Nicholas Keon-Robson made his fourth goal of the season when a penalty kick was awarded to him after a foul was called on defender Jahbari Willis.

Shane Lopez missed the block, giving the Golden Knights a 1-0 lead.

"The defender made the right call. We committed a foul and later on we tried to equalize the score," said Coach Munga Eketebi.

With just three minutes left on the clock, Tamburus made another attempt, bending the

ball from the left toward the goal, but the ball soared high, keeping the score at 1-0.

In the 73rd minute, junior Yaron Bacher scored the second goal for UCF. Bacher was found in the middle of the box on a pass from freshman Jeffrey Simmons. The Golden Panthers followed up with Cabas' goal assisted by Sebastian Frings.

"Unfortunately, small mistakes can cost you the game, but that is soccer and that's life," Eketebi said.