

11-18-2009

# The Beacon, November 18, 2009

Florida International University

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## Students and faculty invited to annual National Geographic event

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## Volleyball takes unbeaten streak into conference tournament

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As scholarship awards are cut, students are finding it difficult to pay to live on campus.

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Lesson plans that educators draft can fetch a pretty penny.

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Project Nur aims to enlighten students by dispelling stereotypes regarding the Muslim community.

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**Pop and Circumstance:** Towers' list of the top ten albums of the decade.

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Duo from Puerto Rico's last chance to make postseason noise together.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Music Saves Lives, Nov. 18, 12:30 p.m.** Join in on this general meeting for free and find out how to make a difference. Meeting will be held in GC 314.

**Students for a Free Tibet, Nov. 19, 1 p.m.** Join in and find out more about the cause during their free general meeting being held in GC 343.

**Division of Human Resources, Nov. 19, 2 p.m.** The Department will be holding a free workshop in GC 340.

—Looking for things to do? *The Life!* Calendar runs every Monday for weekly events and Friday for weekend events.

#### WEATHER



**WEDNESDAY**  
Partly Cloudy  
LOW: 70 HIGH: 81



**THURSDAY**  
Partly Cloudy  
LOW: 70 HIGH: 82



**FRIDAY**  
Partly Cloudy  
LOW: 69 HIGH: 82

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## TIBETAN MAGIC



PHOTOS BY MEGAN KELLEY, COMPILED BY ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

**PATIENCE:** (1) Starting with a religious ceremony of prayer and blessing on Nov. 4 during Target Wednesday After Hours at the Frost Art Museum, Tibetan monks began creating a Tibetan mandala.

(2) After the ceremony, they started to draw out the mandala, which includes iconography of geometric shapes and multiple ancient spiritual symbols. The sand-painted mandala is used as a tool for re-consecrating the Earth and its inhabitants.

(3,4) For the following two days, monks layered colored sand by pouring it into funnels called chak-pur held in one hand while running a metal rod on the funnel's grated surface.

(5) The mandala was finished on Nov. 7 at 3 p.m. followed by its consecration (6). The mandala will be on display until Jan. 6, 2010, when the monks come back for the final ceremony and disperse the sand into the lake behind the museum.

## Groups to raise funds online

### United Way partnership helps students give back

MEENA RUPANI  
Staff Writer

An easier way to reach out to students today is through the Internet, according to Sandra Gonzalez-Levy. With this in mind, the University is launching an online campaign to raise funds for United Way.

The Student Online Campaign was initiated this year through a partnership between the University and United Way. Launched on Oct. 27, it is expected to attract students to help make a

difference in the community.

The campaign will make it possible for student organizations to raise funds online.

Each group will compete with each other and by the end of the campaign, set for Dec. 4, the group that raises the most funds will be rewarded with Council for Student Organization points, funds for their organization and tickets to the FIU vs. UF football game.

Within the SOC, students in accordance with their own student organizations will be

allowed to create their own page to collect donations online and watch their group's contributions grow as they compete with other groups.

Creating a page for every student organization is not difficult, especially since most of the students these days are technically savvy, according to Eric Arneson, Campus Life director.

Sanyo Mathew, the assistant director at the PantherCARD ID Office, is in charge of creating the page for every student organization that wishes to get involved.

According to Mathew, the organization just needs to give him their full name, an abbreviated name for their organization, a picture and a fundraising

CAMPAIGN, page 3

#### SGC-MMC

## Senate allocates \$1,840 for law event

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA  
Staff Writer

In the hopes of building the brand of the University's College of Law, the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus senate allocated \$1,840 to finance a law society's trip to a national competition.

The FIU Sports and Entertainment Law Society will use the money to pay for the registration, airfare and hotel accommodations for four members to attend the third annual National Baseball Arbitration Competition in New Orleans.

This vote to allocate funds for a competition trip, however, comes after the senate's Finance Committee voted down some similar requests throughout the year.

SELS President Philip Bennett told the senate that he hopes events like this will allow the college to get its name out and gain some more clout in the community.

"Networking is everything," said Adam Johnson, sponsoring senator from the College of Arts and Sciences.

According to Bennett, the SELS has never gone to a national competition before.

"We are going to try and represent FIU well," Bennett said.

Senator for the Honors College Vignesh Doraiswamy said he was concerned about the precedent set by the senate earlier in the year when they denied equivalent requests for money to go to conferences.

Throughout this semester, when the senate's Finance Committee voted down some requests to fund conference trips for some students or student clubs and groups, the reasoning was that the event would only benefit one student. Sometimes this was stated in the application for funds from the requestor.

SELS's application stated that the conference attendance will benefit around 125 students, the approximate number of their members.

Business Senator Hector Mujica called the price tag a "very high window." However, a motion to lower the amount from \$1,840 to \$1,500 did not pass.

Finance Committee chairperson, Marcos Oyola, explained to the senate that the actual amount "to the penny" SELS will receive will be based on the

SGC-MMC, page 2



## NEWS FLASH

## FIU

## Professor to give lecture on U.S. foreign affairs

FIU professor Marifeli Perez-Stable will be speaking at the final Honors College Colloquium for the Fall semester.

The Nov. 19 lecture is titled "Intimate Enemies: The United States and Cuba after the Cold War." Perez-Stable has authored various books on Cuba and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and an associate of the Mexican Council on Foreign Relations. She also writes a column for *The Miami Herald* every other Thursday.

The event will be held in DM 100 at 3:30 p.m.

## LOCAL

## Corrupt banker's boats auctioned

Three boats owned by corrupt banker Bernard Madoff have been placed for auction.

According to *The Sun-Sentinel*, the boats, Little Bull, Sitting Bull and Bull, are being auctioned by the U.S. Marshals as part of a restitution sale to pay back some of the people who lost their investments as a result of Madoff's fraud.

The U.S. Marshals did not disclose the starting bids for these boats. Madoff is currently serving a 150 year sentence for perpetrating a \$60 billion Ponzi scheme.

## NATIONAL

## USPS proposes no Saturday delivery due to billions in debt

The U.S. Postal Service has reported record losses at the end of its 2009 fiscal year.

According to CNN, the USPS has posted a \$3.8 billion loss for its year ending in Sept. 30. In order to cope with the losses, the service has reduced expenditures by \$6 billion.

The USPS is expected to formally propose to Congress in 2010 that it stop its Saturday delivery service in order to save money. According to USPS Chief Financial Officer Joseph Corbett, that, along with reduced payments to employee retirement plans, will help the service restructure for the future.

- Compiled by Jorge Valens

## Workshop hones writing skills

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA  
Staff Writer

The Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus partnered with the Center for Excellence in Writing last week to mutually gain exposure.

The center provided a workshop, while SGC-MMC provided their Graham Center chambers, Room 150, and some snacks.

SGC-MMC vice president, Mykaelle "Myka" Figueiredo, said this is a new way to reach out to the concerns of the student body.

"Unfortunately, in the past, forums have failed dramatically," Figueiredo told Student Media. "Forums never work."

She added that students get nothing

out of it if they don't already have a problem, but workshops offer an opportunity to poll students.

Entitled "Exposed! 10 Secrets to Writing a Smashing Paper," the workshop on Nov. 20 attracted around 60 people, mainly freshmen and sophomores currently taking ENC 1101 and ENC 1102.

The presentation was done by Enzu Castellanos and Courtney Just from the CEW.

"We think it's important especially for ENC 1101 and ENC 1102 students," Just said.

Castellanos described the collaboration with SGC-MMC as "organic" as some members, like Figueiredo, work at the center.

"It became a natural fit," he said.

Last month, the center partnered

with SGA to present a workshop for graduate school applicants on how to write a personal statement.

Those in attendance this month were treated to a table of drinks and snacks.

According to the vice president, the food only cost around \$120.

SGA also had a comment card with the promise of a personal response to any question from the vice president.

Figueiredo later told Student Media that she received mainly comments.

"The main purpose was two-fold: one, to let students know the center is there, and to remind students that writing a paper is a process," Castellanos said.

Figueiredo said she is open to any organization that would like to form a partnership with SGC-MMC.

## Court rejects disputed book ban

JESSE J. HOLLAND  
LAURA WIDES-MUNOZ  
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — The Supreme Court is staying out of a dispute in Miami between school officials and civil libertarians over a book about Cuba that depicts smiling children in communist uniforms but avoids mention of problems in the country.

The justices on Monday rejected an appeal from the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida that sought to prevent Miami officials from removing the book "Vamos a Cuba" and its English-language version, "A Visit to Cuba," from library shelves.

The Miami-Dade County School District board wants to ban the book, intended for children ages 5 to 8, because it does not mention limits on civil liberties in Cuba, political indoctrination of public school children and food rationing among other issues. Board members voted to remove the book after a parent who

spent time as a political prisoner in Cuba complained.

The school district would not immediately comment on the decision.

Frank Bolanos, a former Miami-Dade school board chair who championed efforts to remove the book, said he was pleased.

"I support the author's right to publish the book as incomplete and defective as it may be," he said, "but we're simply not required to pay for it with taxpayers dollars," he said, although the district already spent money to buy the book. Bolanos said the case sets precedent for districts to back parents' rights in future cases.

The ACLU disagreed.

"These books were removed under the guise of 'inaccuracies,' but the real reason they were removed was because the books ran afoul of the political orthodoxy of a majority of the school board members," Florida director Howard Simon said in a statement Monday.

"If that is to become the new standard for censoring books from public library shelves, the ACLU may be immersed in censorship battles for years to come."

A federal judge in Miami ruled that the board should add books of different perspectives instead of removing offending titles. But the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta said the district wouldn't be infringing on freedom of speech rights by removing the book because it presents an inaccurate view of life in Cuba.

The 2001 book by Alta Schreier contains images of smiling children wearing uniforms of Cuba's communist youth group and celebrating the country's 1959 revolution. In discussing daily life, the book says children work, study and play the same way children in other countries do.

The case is ACLU v. Miami-Dade County School Board, 08-1564.

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## Resolution honors Walker

## SGC-MMC, page 1

actual receipts the SGC-MMC gets back from the society.

Senator at large and member of the Finance Committee Yuniel Molina reminded the senate that they have not used even half of the \$25,000 allocated this year to the committee.

The money used by the Finance Committee to allocate funds to clubs and various other projects comes from the Activities and Services fees all students pay in their tuition.

"What are we trying to do?" asked Johnson to the senate. "Make our programs better? Or are we just trying to save money for some reason when this is what the money is supposed to be used for?"

The appropriation passed with a vote of 20 for and five against.

The senate also passed a resolution to honor senior vice president of Research Development and Graduate Education and theoretical nuclear physicist, George E. Walker.

"He developed standards of service indicators that have showed continual improvement over time in the responsiveness of that office to the needs of research faculty," reads the resolution.

According to the Office of Research Web site, Walker was voted by his peers as a "Fellow of the American Physical Society."

The senate's vote was unanimous.

"FIU has benefited immensely by [his] contributions," reads the resolution.

## CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated Nov. 16, the "Home Sweet Home" photo spread's caption incorrectly identified University President Mark Rosenberg's wife. Her name is Rosalie Rosenberg.

In the same issue, the article titled "Magazine recognizes law dean," incorrectly stated that R. Alexander Acosta has served as U.S. attorney for 30 years. He was appointed by George W. Bush in 2005.

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

# Modern doctors now 'tweet' from operating room

**NIRVI SHAH**  
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — In the waiting room, the patient's family members circled a Blackberry. About every 15 minutes, Dr. Carlos Wolf of Miami Plastic Surgery gave them a few keystrokes of information about how the patient was doing.

"M is asleep," one of Wolf's nurses typed at 9:13 a.m. on June 3. "We will start surgery soon."

Less than an hour later, the nose job was complete.

"Beautiful," the nurse typed. "She's going to love it."

Twitter, Facebook and YouTube aren't just for entertainment anymore. Wolf and doctors around Florida and the rest of the country are using the social networking tools to bring patients' families and the general public into operating rooms, sometimes sharing step-by-step medical procedures. They favor the real-time updates and videos as a way to reduce the fear factor of surgeries and educate people about the realities of certain procedures, especially new ones.

Earlier this year, surgeons at a Detroit hospital used Twitter to report the blow-by-blow steps of an operation to remove a kidney tumor. In any given month at JFK Medical Center in Atlantis, Dr. Beth-Ann Lesnikoski likes to use Twitter as an educational tool during surgeries to treat breast

cancer. Last month, anyone with Internet access could watch live as Dr. Harlan Selesnick repaired a knee ligament at Doctors Hospital in Coral Gables, courtesy of the Baptist Health South Florida Web site, which posts webcasts of surgeries on a regular basis.

Some physicians, such as Dr. Camil Sader, a South Florida surgeon, have gone so far as to create their own iPhone applications.

Wolf says he masks patients' identities by using just one of their initials, and the posts are vague enough that strangers may have trouble figuring out what kind of operation is being performed.

"At this point, it's really to make those patients, family and friends feel comfortable," said Wolf, who has been practicing for more than 20 years. "We don't have a two-way conversation. The most important thing is for me to concentrate on what I'm doing."

And if something were to go wrong in surgery? Wolf said he or a nurse would step out to speak with the family — just like in the past.

"People think of social media as being cold," said a South Florida mother whose teenage daughter lay on the table when Wolf performed his first surgical tweeting session. "Although I couldn't see it, I felt like I was close to my daughter. It's modern-day bedside manner."

But not everyone is comfortable with physicians posting updates from the operating room — especially when tweets and webcasts are available for public consumption.

"If it doesn't serve the patient, using it is unacceptable," said Dr. Erika Schwartz, an internist and medical director of the South Florida-based health insurance agency Cinergy Health. "Sometimes, we all get carried away with the novelty of something."

Still, Schwartz has a Facebook page and encourages patients to communicate with her via e-mail. She says she has cut some of her patients' health care costs by answering questions electronically instead of requiring office visits.

"The Internet is a great opportunity to create a better connection between doctors and patients," Schwartz said. "I'm a big fan of social networking. It reaches people. There's a lot of information that can be shared. But it's got to be done with respect to the doctor-patient relationship."

When a patient sent her a medical question using Facebook, Schwartz said, she made a point not to answer it there.

At JFK Medical Center in Palm Beach County, Lesnikoski's inaugural tweets were designed to contrast the effect of breast cancer on a woman in her 40s and a woman in her 90s; she was operating on one of each that July day.

The only information she revealed about the patients was their age.

Before the surgery, Lesnikoski prepared a series of facts about breast cancer that could be tweeted to her 70-plus followers, along with basic information about the surgery, from her account, drbethjfk.

Lesnikoski, who has a background as a medical educator, said every surgery is a highly prescribed process, so there are traditional stopping points that can be used to tweet without interrupting the operating team's concentration. She says the hospital is now looking into tweeting during surgery as a way to keep families informed about a patient's progress.

"Surgeries can last from 45 minutes to 2½ hours," Lesnikoski said. "These families will get updates every 20 minutes. The patients we've done our focus groups with have loved this concept."

Dr. Donna Bilu Martin of South Beach Dermatology has been sharing skin facts and product information this year with her Twitter account followers. It's a compressed version of information she might send out in an e-mail — but tweets don't clog up someone's inbox or get stuck in a spam filter.

"We can do this without being annoying," said the dermatologist, who tweets under the user name drbilumartin.

"The risk of melanoma — the

most deadly form of skin cancer — increased by 75 percent in people who started using sunbeds regularly before age 30," she tweeted last month.

In another post, she shared information about a drug recently approved to hide wrinkles.

While Twitter identities are the latest tool in some doctors' medical bags, Dr. Camil Sader now considers his iPhone a medical necessity.

Sader, who specializes in laparoscopic surgery in Broward and Palm Beach counties, sometimes visits 180 patients at four hospitals in a single week. Tracking which patients he saw, their prognosis and other details about their care had become a paperwork nightmare.

When Sader couldn't find a simple and secure database program, he created one. It's an iPhone app called "Dr. Rounds" and it debuted in July. The information now stored in it can be formatted into an e-mail and be sent to his office manager for billing. Or it can be sent to other physicians watching over Sader's patients.

"It makes all the difference. At the end of the week, I press a few buttons and I get a report of what I did rather than shuffle through seven to 12 pieces of paper to see 'How many times did I see Mr. Smith?'" Sader said.

## Fundraising goes online

CAMPAIGN, page 1

target.

Gonzalez-Levy, the senior vice president of External Relations, is in charge of the campaign along with Desiree Rodriguez, campaign manager and chief of staff of External Relations.

"Students will see the importance of giving back when they begin to get involved," Rodriguez said. "Since the internet is the way students communicate these days, it will be a simple process for them."

This is the only charity that President Mark Rosenberg requested to work with this year, according to Gonzalez-Levy. She said he wanted to coordinate all efforts into one charity.

The campaign is a great way to personalize and computerize the fundraising process, Arneson said.

He said that the FIU/United Way partnership is especially important this year because under the guidance of Rosenberg, FIU wishes to be a more student-oriented university.

"This is a student-friendly way for students to get involved in the campaign without having to spend their own money. Students have the opportunity to feel good about giving back to their community and partnering with FIU and the community at the same time," Arneson said.

The advertising of the SOC and the other activities within the United Way campaign are being managed by Arneson and two student government representatives: Helena Ramirez, senate speaker for the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus and Anthony Rionda, president of SGC-MMC.

An auction will also be held when the campaign ends. Students, faculty and staff are all invited to participate.

"The students should come out to the

auction, there will be a great opportunity for them to receive great prices on great items such as airline tickets, art pieces, tickets to football games, and many others," Gonzalez-Levy said.

In terms of whether the SOC will be repeated, this will be left up to the feedback the University receives from students.

However, Gonzalez-

Levy is confident that the campaign will do well.

"As years go by, we expect the campaign to get better and better. Giving back to the community should be an ongoing process for the students," Gonzalez-Levy said.

Both Gonzalez-Levy and Rodriguez want to emphasize that the FIU/United Way SOC is a great way for the entire University community to come together to support one great cause.

"It is important that we all live united," Rodriguez said.

**This is a student-friendly way for students to get involved in the campaign without having to spend their own money.**

Eric Arneson, director  
Campus Life

**FORTUNE 100 BEST COMPANIES TO WORK FOR 2009**

**IDEAL**

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## National Geographic invites school to yearly event

### Volunteers to collect all kinds of bugs, plants for 24 hours

LATOYA BURGESS  
Staff Writer

Students, faculty and staff from the University can spend 24 hours chasing, collecting and identifying insects, bugs and cockroaches for the National Geographic.

The National Geographic Society, one of the world's largest non-profit scientific and educational institutions, invited the University community to next year's BioBlitz, a 24-hour event in which teams of scientists, volunteers and community members join forces to find, identify, and learn about local plants and animal species.

The event will take place from April 30 to May 1, 2010 at Biscayne National Park located at 9700 SW 328 St.

Professors from the Department of Biological Sciences and student volunteers will be able to register for the event March 2010, according to Stuart Pimm, BioBlitz expert and professor of conservation ecology at Duke University.

Apart from the species-chasing marathon, other activities at the BioBlitz include public presentations about biodiversity, field exer-

cises with K-12 classes and teachers, demonstrations of field technology and exhibits ranging from global biodiversity to local nature photography.

Suzanne Koptur, professor of plant ecology of the Department of Biological Sciences at the Modesto Maidique Campus, said she is already excited.

"I have already e-mailed the National Geographic telling them that I am interested," Koptur said.

University professors will guide students from K-12 classes and teachers, student volunteers and public volunteers to identify and photograph species, then collect and prepare specimens for preservation and maintenance.

Last year's BioBlitz took place in Los Angeles, Calif. at the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, where the public found and identified more than 1,700 species and organisms, plus several that have not yet been identified.

"The BioBlitz is a neat program that focuses on one site of the globe," Koptur said. "This is our first opportunity for this event to come to South Florida, and experts

in every field are coming to this event. The eyes of the world will be on this place and it's in our own backyard."

The term "BioBlitz" was coined by National Park Service Naturalist Susan Rudy while assisting with the first BioBlitz at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Washington D.C. from May 31 to June 1, 1996.

The 1996 BioBlitz was organized by Sam Droege of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, a center that researches and provides information needed to manage the nation's biological resources, and Dan Roddy of the National Park Service, a United States federal agency that manages all national parks.

This BioBlitz inspired other organizations to host a BioBlitz of their own.

According to Koptur, students with a science background are especially encouraged to volunteer, but students from all majors can register for the event.

"Anybody who is the least bit interested can help. It's a way for people to get more interested in biology," said Koptur. "Most people will be amazed at the diversity. There are so many plants and insects and we may even discover a new species."

The University's faculty will not be getting paid for the event, but Koptur describes it as a "volunteer-fun-thing".

"We do it because we like it, my specialty is studying pollination and flowers and I love looking at plants and bugs," Koptur said.

Pimm, who is a special contributor for

**It's an amazing opportunity to bring in students from Miami to see an amazing variety of life we have in the field and it's right under our noses.**

Stuart Pimm, ecology professor  
Duke University

NatGeo News Watch, an online news service about developments in the fields of science, nature and culture, said this is his fourth BioBlitz and he believes students have a lot to gain by participating.

"It's an amazing opportunity to bring in students from Miami to see an amazing variety of life we have in the field and it's right under our noses," Pimm told *The Beacon*.

Meals will be provided during the 24-hour inventory and team leaders will take the stage and announce what they have found.

For more information about BioBlitz and to register go to [www.nationalgeographic.com/bio blitz](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/bio blitz).

#### FOODGASM

## Create new family traditions with these holiday recipes

Tradition is defined as a belief or custom that is handed down, and I am a sucker for tradition. I think it is something really special that you can share with family.

Since I am a first-generation American, though my Thanksgiving traditions are lacking, I had to start building up traditions from scratch. Sure my family knew all the basics: there should be a turkey, lots of sides and a plethora of desserts, but none of the recipes were ours until a few years ago when I started building the Thanksgiving foundation for my immigrant family.

Today's *Foodgasm* is about how to make Thanksgiving yours by putting a spin on recipes that will become family traditions. The following three recipes are classic turkey day dishes with a twist.

#### JALAPEÑO CORN BREAD (makes one loaf)

The existence of corn bread at our holiday spread shows you how cookie cutter my Thanksgiving is.

How many Spaniards do you know who pass down corn bread recipes? I know none, so I modified a simple corn bread recipe to make it my own.

I only make this on Thanksgiving; it is our special treat. Don't be afraid of the jalapeño. It does not add unbearable spice, but rather color and texture.

Serve this with some homemade honey butter and your guests will really feel like they're in a southern home.

#### COLUMNIST



BIANCA ROJAS

- Sift together 1 1/2 cups of both flour and yellow cornmeal, 3/4 cup of sugar, 2 teaspoons of baking powder, 1/4 teaspoon of baking soda and 1/2 a teaspoon of salt.

- Next, mix in 3 large eggs by hand, one at a time, until they are incorporated in the batter.

- Follow this with 1 1/2 cups of milk and then 1/4 cup of melted butter.

- Finally, add 1/2 of a seeded and fine diced jalapeño to the mix.

- If you want to add more sweetness, color and texture, add a small 6 oz. to 8 oz. can of corn to the batter.

- Let the batter rest for 30 minutes. Use your time efficiently. While you wait, start another Thanksgiving task.

- Bake at 375 degrees for 30 minutes, and let it sit for 10 minutes before you slice it.

#### LINDA'S HOLIDAY MASHED POTATOES

(makes a heaping holiday serving, over 5 lbs.)

Mashed potatoes are essentially my favorite part of the meal.

The potato can do no wrong in my eyes. This holiday twist on the classic spuds is a great way to add color to your table and trick youngsters into eating their veggies.

My mother-in-law, Linda, makes holiday mashed potatoes that are your basic mashed potatoes with broccoli, carrots and cheddar cheese mashed in as well. You

end up with a heaping bowl of orange and green flecked potatoes that are gooey, delicious and somewhat good for you, too!

- Peel and dice 5 lbs. of potatoes and then boil them in salted water for 7 minutes, along with 3 peeled and chopped carrots and only the chopped stalks of one head of broccoli.

- At the 7 minute mark, add the rest of the broccoli, the florets, for a mere 3 minutes. These cook quickly.

- Drain your vegetable medley and place into a bowl for mashing.

- Mash the mixture and add 2 tablespoons of butter, 1/2 a cup of milk and 1 cup of shredded cheddar cheese.

- Once everything has combined and created the heaven sent mashed potato goodness, season to taste. We like to add salt, pepper, and some hot paprika or cayenne pepper.

#### BIANCA'S CRANBERRY APPLE PIE (makes one 9-inch pie)

This recipe is my Thanksgiving baby. It is so easy, I can do it blind.

It is sweet from the apples, tart from the cranberries and in touch with the holiday and fall themes.

Use store bought pie crusts to save time and sanity, and serve this traditional twist a la mode – with ice cream. I promise your family will "ooh" and "aah." Mine does.

- Cook 1 1/2 cups of fresh cranberries, with 1 1/2 cups of peeled, cored and sliced cooking apples in half a cup of water over

medium heat. I use a granny smith for tartness and a golden delicious for creamy sweetness.

- Once the cranberries start to pop, stir in 1 cup of sugar. Don't freak out! This will cause your tight apple cranberry mixture to loosen and get watery. It is OK; that is supposed to happen!

- Let your pie filling slightly cool while you prepare your pie crusts.

- Fill your pie crust with the apple cranberry mix. Then cover with the second pie crust. You can either make a lattice – criss-crossed strips of pie crust – or just cover the pie with a crust and cut little ventilation slits at the top. Crimp the edges.

- Finally, make an egg wash by whisking one egg with 1/4 cup of water, and brush it on the pie crust. This helps the crust brown evenly and get nice and crispy – no one likes a soggy pie. Sprinkle with sugar as it goes into the oven at 450 degrees for 10 minutes.

- Finish the pie by lowering the heat to 350 and baking for an additional 30 minutes. If your pie crust is getting too dark at the edges, gently place a ring of foil around them to prevent burning.

These are just some of the ways my family makes Thanksgiving special. Create your own traditions with the flavors you enjoy. Whatever you make, remember Thanksgiving is the ultimate foodgasmist's holiday – eat, drink and be merry!

Need help with a recipe or finding a place to eat? Bianca is here to help! Send any questions, comments or "Foodgasm" ideas to [bianca.rojas@fiusm.com](mailto:bianca.rojas@fiusm.com)



# Events on campus come with foreign influence

**LAURA DE LA FE**  
Staff Writer

Biscayne Bay Campus students will continue to celebrate International Education Week with an array of events as an introduction to the University's global learning initiative.

The Office of Global Learning Initiatives, an interdepartmental committee that includes several departments within the University, such as the Department of International Student and Scholar Services, Multicultural Programs and Services, and the Office of Campus Life & Orientation, organized a series of events to celebrate International Education Week, which started Nov. 16 at BBC.

International Education Week is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education to promote opportunities for cross-cultural exchange and to celebrate the benefits of international education, according to the IEW official Web site.

Nov. 19 will be "Internation-

al Career Day" at BBC.

There will be an International Job Search Strategies Workshop at 11 a.m. in the Wolfe University Center, Room 157. The workshop will help students learn tips on finding jobs in the international market. After this, there will be an Engage Workshop on global leadership, which will feature a panel discussion with the International Student Club at 1 p.m. There will also be a Job Search Strategies Workshop for international students at 3 p.m. Students can also get a free latte and cookies at 4:30 p.m. in Academic I in celebration of International Late Day Latte.

International Education Week ends Nov. 20 with the "International Film Festival Day." International movies will be shown throughout the day in the WUC's Mary Ann Wolfe Theater. The movies begin at 12:30 p.m. with *Arusi Persian Wedding*, a film that chronicles an Iranian-American's return to Iran as he travels with his American wife to have a Persian wedding ceremony.

They explore his lost heritage as they discover the land on their own terms, thus offering rare glimpses into modern and traditional Iran.

The 2002 hit comedy *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* will be shown at 2:30 p.m. The movie follows Toula, a 30-year-old Greek woman, who falls in love with a non-Greek man and the turmoil that ensues as her family tries to accept their engagement.

The final movie of the day, *Touch of Pink*, begins at 6:30 p.m. It is the story of an Ismaili-Canadian named Alim, a gay man who lives with his Caucasian boyfriend in London. His life begins to unravel when his mother shows up to find him a Muslim girlfriend, and to convince him to return to Canada for his cousin's wedding. This movie was provided by the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival to Stonewall 2 BBC, a student club on campus that supports and represents the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

All events are free, and everyone is welcome to attend.

## FACES OF THE WORLD



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

**UNMASKING CULTURES:** Donna Goldstein, event planning specialist (right), shows her collection of masks to Jessica Henriquez (left), a senior hospitality management major, at the Wellness Cooking Demo in Panther Square on Nov. 16.



**FIU** Student Government Association  
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

"The Main Foreign Policy Challenges Facing President Obama: Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq and the Threat of Nuclear Weapons"

Friday | November 20th, 2009  
Wertheim Performing Arts Center | WPAC 170

**CAROL GIACOMO**

THE NEW YORK TIMES - EDITORIAL BOARD

Carol Giacomo, a former diplomatic correspondent for Reuters in Washington, covered foreign policy for the international wire service for more than two decades, before joining The New York Times editorial board in August 2007. In her previous position, she traveled over 1 million miles to nearly 100 countries. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. In 1999-2000, she was a senior fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace, researching U.S. economic and foreign policy decision-making during the Asian financial crisis. She has been a guest lecturer at the U.S. National War College, among other academic institutions.

**FIU** Global Learning **The New York Times**

Presented by the Student Government Association (SGA) • www.fiu.edu/~sga, Division of Student Affairs, FIU / MMC. Qualified individuals with a disability requesting an accommodation to attend this event must make the request no less than five working days in advance by calling 305.348.2121 or TTY via FRS 1.800.955.8771





## Cuban bloggers unlawfully beaten

**JULIO MENACHE**  
Special to The Beacon

On Nov. 6, Yoani Sanchez was briefly abducted and beaten by two plainly clothed men of the Cuban / 'government's police force.

Sanchez, along with her friend, Orlando Luis Pardo, were badly bruised and beaten. Sanchez, 34, must now walk with a cane and deal with back pains sustained from having her head banged against her abductor's car door.

The irony of it all was that Sanchez was headed to a protest against violence.

Now you might be thinking to yourself, what could trigger such a violent act by state security officers?

It's simple. Sanchez has had the courage to speak out against her oppressors.

She is an independent blogger inside Cuba, who chronicles the daily struggle of Cubans living under the dictatorship of Fidel and Raul Castro.

Her blog posts range from a variety of subjects, but she is most known for her scathing criticism of the lack of freedom inside the island.

While her blog, *Generation Y*, is difficult to access in Cuba because of rampant censorship, it has given the world a view of life in Cuba that contradicts the monopoly of information held by the single-party government.

A government is meant to secure the rights of its people, not order hits against its own citizens like a mob boss. It is meant to shield its citizens from pain and suffering, not instigate it.

And yet attacks against those who dissent from the island's Communist system are commonplace in Cuba. The government's Committee for the Defense of the Revolution regularly harasses peaceful human rights protesters.

According to Human Rights Watch, Cuba has the largest number of political prisoners in the western hemisphere, many of whom, like Sanchez, were arrested for merely speaking out against the lack of human rights on the island.

The FIU Free Cuba Foundation denounces the attack against Sanchez and Pardo. Sanchez, as well as the hundreds of other bloggers on the island, should not be treated as "enemies of the state," but rather be entitled to the same rights guaranteed to any other person living in a free society.

Yet this courageous woman has not let this attack deter her from continuing to post her blogs. In her home country, Sanchez has stood out like a sore thumb.

Now, because of her bumps and bruises, she'll stand out even more.

*Julio Menache is a junior political science and journalism major and is the co-chair of the FIU Free Cuba Foundation.*

## Dorm life a costly venture Students struggle to pay

**FRANCESCA COSTA**  
Contributing Writer

I just recently logged on to my PantherSoft account and realized I owed over \$7,100.

My next immediate thought was, "Where on earth am I going to get this money?"

I am not alone either. As Spring semester approaches, a number of students are finding themselves short of money.

Many haven't even finished paying off their balance for Fall semester and we are already being asked to pay another \$4,000 to \$5,000 just for room and board.

It's safe to assume that more and more students are finding it harder to afford college.

For the 2009-2010 school year, room and board fees have increased by 5.4 percent at public colleges and 4.2 percent at private colleges. That is an average of \$8,193 and \$9,363.

Here at FIU, most incoming freshmen like myself pay well over the average.

Out of the seven public universities in Florida, according to the College Board, our University is the most expensive when it comes to room and board, with an average of \$11,946.

Second on the list would be Florida Atlantic University with an average well below ours of \$9,582. We even top the University of Miami (\$10,800), a private institution.

Shockingly, these numbers are considered cheap to some.

Students in the Eugene Lang College in New York, for example, are paying \$15,990 just for room and board. Suddenly I find myself feeling lucky.

At the same time, scholarships and funding programs are being cut. The amount of scholarship money available to students is slowly disappearing.

The amount of money coming in is decreasing while expenses skyrocket.

For example, most Florida high school graduates count on

of tuition anymore, even if you have earned the Academic Scholars grant.

Out-of-state students who do not have the luxury of Bright Futures face double the tuition fees plus room and board, which averages to be about \$28,926 a year.

So what's happening now? Students, if possible, are turning to their last resort: loans.

I have been swamped with loan papers to fill out, even though I never planned to take out a loan until graduate school.

I am also rethinking of where exactly am I going to live next

*“Out of seven public universities in Florida, our University is the most expensive when it comes to room and board.”*

one of the state's two Bright Futures Scholarships.

The Florida Medallion Scholars grant is said to cover 75 percent of tuition expenses, while the Florida Academic Scholars grant is supposed to cover all tuition.

However, the program has been severely altered for this academic year.

Bright Futures now only awards a flat rate per credit and has cut all forms of college-related expense allowances.

This means Bright Futures does not even cover 100 percent

year because at this rate it surely cannot be on campus.

I know of others who have been less fortunate and have already been kicked out of their rooms.

The numbers are only going to go up.

Universities that have already released student fees for the 2010-2011 school year have admitted that their prices have yet again increased.

If FIU ever hopes to become more than just a "commuter school," their room and board prices need to come down.

### GETTING SCHOOLED

## Plans for purchase: Teachers should have right to sell lessons online

When I was in seventh grade, I remember sitting in front of my teacher's sometimes-cluttered desk, getting ready for the lesson of the day.

His desk was often filled with a variety of workbooks, a small green notebook with our grades and notes he scrawled for himself for future classes. While I wasn't aware of it, the structure of the classes he taught were incredibly concise and linear. At this age, I had no idea where his lessons came from or how they were created.

I've since kept in touch with my teacher (and subsequent mentor), and on one occasion I went with him on a trip to Get Smart, a

store entirely devoted to materials for teachers in elementary and middle school. He needed new workbooks for his lesson plans, which he had to finish by the end of the day.

### COLUMNIST



IRIS A. FEBRES

While it occurred to me that these lesson plans could be recycled for year-long classes and tweaked for different age groups, I had no idea that lesson plans could be sold to other educators. I never saw lesson plans as a commodity.

An article from *The New York Times* indicates that more teachers are taking their lesson plans to the Web in order to make extra cash to pay for bills, mortgages and even cover other

materials and treats for their students.

But eyebrows are being raised when the legalities are considered. Deputy Director of the New York State Council of School Superintendents Robert Lowry told the *Times* that it was "fair to ask whether the district should share in the proceeds" if or when school district resources are used.

The article also raises the concern that purchased lesson plans demean the education profession.

"Somebody asking 75 cents for a word puzzle reduces the power of the learning community and is ultimately destructive to the profession," said Joseph McDonald, a professor at New York University's Steinhardt

School of Culture, Education and Human Development.

If teachers are going to buy and utilize lesson plans from other teachers, in order to maintain their integrity as educators they must use their purchased materials as supplements. It's as if they're making and selling SparkNotes or CliffNotes; teachers are outlining a specific project – in this case, a class – in order to guide others through it.

If the lesson plans are of their own conception, then educators have every right to cash in. In the end, the goal is to educate, and perhaps the end will justify the means.

*Getting Schooled* appears every Wednesday.

### DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

### DAILYQUERY

While the advantages of living on campus are nice, it can be very expensive to live in a residence hall at FIU. On-campus costs can reach over \$5000 a semester. If you live on campus, do you find it too expensive? Send responses 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.

### OPINIONPIECE

# 1.5

In millions, the number of copies printed of "Going Rogue: The American Life," by former governor of Alaska Sarah Palin.

### QUOTATIONATION

*"The best thing we can say about the labor market right now is that it may be getting worse more slowly."*

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, on the recovery of the U.S. economy



## PROJECT NUR

### Group works to dispel Islam myths

IVAN FLORES  
Staff Writer

A group of students is working to improve the image of Islam as part of a project they call "Nur."

Project Nur is a national organization that has recently opened a chapter at FIU. Nur, defined in Arabic, means "enlightenment."

Project Nur is a student-led initiative of the American Islamic Congress. According to the Project Nur Web site, the AIC was created after the attacks that took place on Sept. 11, 2001 as a non-religious organization that would challenge the increasingly negative perception of Muslims.

The FIU chapter of Project Nur was started by Maryam Shakir, a senior philosophy major who is also pursuing a minor in biology. According to Shakir, she founded the FIU chapter of Project Nur because she "thought it was a great and relevant cause."

According to Shakir, the goal of Project Nur is to enlighten students about Muslims and dispel stereotypes in all parts of America, because even in a diverse atmosphere, ignorance is rampant. Currently, Project Nur has active chapters in 23 universities across America, and that number is growing steadily, according to Ghazal Yazdanparast, a Project Nur coordinator. Project Nur is aiming to have a total of 50 chapters by the spring of 2010.

Shakir alleges she had prob-

lems starting the FIU chapter of Project Nur because it was related to Muslims.

"One person came up to me, when I was starting the club, and said 'I have three words about Islam: Osama Bin Laden,'" Shakir said.

Samar Raad, the vice president of Project Nur at FIU, is also a senior majoring in biology and pursuing a minor in

and a cultural bazaar that was hosted Nov. 6 in the Panther Suite. The cultural bazaar was an awareness event that aims to demonstrate the global impact of Islam.

The bazaar showed the impact of Islam in terms of architecture, art, music and literature. According to Raad, the cultural bazaar had different booths set up and there was even Indian food.

While Project Nur is a secular organization and aims to fight prejudice and ignorance, some students remain skeptical.

"I'm OK with [Project Nur] as long as they don't brainwash the non-Muslims in the group," said Melissa Sasso, a senior psychology major. "I'm not against any religion, I believe religions get dangerous when they are extremists or fanatics."

However some students believe that organizations like Project Nur have a very positive effect because they allow students to learn about other cultures and religions.

Ricardo Hernandez, a senior who is majoring in chemistry, and an active non-Muslim member of Project Nur, joined because he does not believe that Islam is an extremist religion.

The club promotes an inter-faith dialogue as well as a moderate image of Islam.

Raad agrees.

"People may be discouraged to become involved in [Project Nur] because they may feel as though it is just promoting Islam," said Raad. "If anyone feels this way, their thoughts should be re-considered."

chemistry. Her involvement in Project Nur stemmed from the misrepresentation of Muslims and their culture. Raad strongly believes in Project Nur's ability to dispel negative statements and ignorant thoughts about Muslims.

Raad has also directly encountered ignorance, not only while living in Miami but also on the Modesto Maidique Campus.

While Raad was praying on campus, she received what she called looks of "accusation." In downtown Miami's Metro Mover she was accused of being a terrorist after divulging she was Lebanese.

Project Nur aims to bring students across all faiths together by hosting events such as meetings, movie previews



## Upcoming Hollywood sequels and remakes a terrible idea

It's official: Hollywood's movie industry has moved aside creativity in exchange for unnecessary sequels and cliché remakes.

According to *The Hollywood Reporter*, Paramount Pictures is considering making a sequel to the uber-successful *Paranormal Activity*. Philippe Dauman, CEO of the studio, said, "Our team will come up with the right creative and marketing approach."

In the Land of the Maple leaf, thousands of miles away, it was

revealed that the co-creators of *The Blair Witch Project*, Eduardo Sanchez and Daniel Myrick, are "seriously" thinking about making another sequel.

I wonder if that little nugget of information was shared after the reporter asked what he thought about the success of *Paranormal Activity*. Here is what was written in *The Toronto Star* about the *Blair Witch* sequel:

"They're now at the point where they're ready to do a *Blair Witch 3*, once again sharing writing and directing. They'd pick up from where the

original left off, pretending *Blair Witch 2* never happened. The duo recently went on a drive through their original *Blair Witch* haunts, about a half hour from Sanchez's Maryland home, looking for inspiration. They've worked up a treatment for a new story, which would involve original cast members Heather Donahue, Joshua Leonard and Michael C. Williams, albeit in smaller roles. 'We're at the step where we're about to pitch to Lionsgate, which owns the movie rights now. It's pretty much up to them. They can completely squash it or greenlight it.'

Seriously, *Book of Shadows*:

### COMMENTARY



STEVE MESA

### THEATER REVIEW

## 'Blithe Spirit' surprisingly realistic – as far as comedies about ghosts go

NATALIE LEVY  
Staff Writer

Walking into the theater at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center, two things caught my attention. First, it was cold – damn cold – and second, an eerie tune sung by an envious songbird was playing. The song, as I would find out, was by Vera Lynn and titled, "Jealousy." It summed up "Blithe Spirit" in a nutshell.

This was a play dominated by the ugly green monster: men jealous of past lovers, women jealous of ghostly apparitions, ghosts jealous of the living, but all done with the subtlety that the British are so famous for.

"Blithe Spirit," a play by Noel Coward, revolves around a British man, Charles (played by Fernando Lamberty) whose late wife returns as a ghost and torments him and his new wife.

FIU's production, directed by Professor Michael Yawney, was extremely British.

At first, this bothered me. I felt like they were speaking too fast and I could not understand the rhythm.

However, after the first few minutes I caught on and it was actually pretty enjoyable to listen to.

Living in Miami you tend to forget what the Queen's English sounds like; as strange as it seems, the accents made the play quite exotic.

For the most part the actors were all successful in their attempts at the foreign dialect. There were a few slips here and there but, with the high pace and physical comedy involved in a farce, it was not very noticeable.

The time and effort put in by the cast and crew did not go un-

noticed. Not only were these great performances by the actors, but the set and costume design was phenomenal.

There was an authenticity in even the minor details – from the tiny elegant bows on the back of Ruth's stocking and the sheer vibrance of Madam Arcati's purple gloves, to the glitter in Elvira's hair that gave her an other-worldly glow. Ms. Bradman's dresses were increasingly memorable. The elegance of the costumes, makeup and hair obviously took serious work (as anyone who has seen Lamberty's hair outside the theatre can attest to).

Yes, "Blithe Spirit" was all about the details. Having two intermissions was a great touch. Both breaks came and went at the right times; it made the play feel drastically shorter than it actually was.

One of my favorite bits of directing was the use of actual cigars and cigarettes in certain scenes instead of unlit props. Because I was in the front row (and sadly I was the only one in my row) I could smell a light hint of tobacco which added to the realism immensely. Instead of feeling like I was watching a play, I felt like I was in the room with the characters.

Because "Blithe Spirit" was written in the 1940s in the midst of World War II, there was a sense of foreboding surrounding the otherwise very funny situations.

It felt as if something awful could happen at any minute. It was noted in the playbill that in the original program there was a small passage that read: "If an air raid warning be received during the performance the audience will be

BLITHE, page 9

**If a sequel to Paranormal Activity is made, it will never live up to the success of the first film. There is no story left to be told.**

*Blair Witch 2* was generally disliked by critics, although it starred Jeffrey Donovan, who has now made a name for himself as the star of the Miami-based TV series, "Burn Notice."

Note to Mr. Sanchez and Mr. Myrick: the reason that movie did not really work was that there

was no more story to be told after the original film. Just leave it be because there is no more mythology to develop.

This statement is also addressed to Mr. Dauman and the other executives at Paramount. If

SEQUELS, page 9



## POP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

*Arcade Fire's 'Funeral' the best album of the decade*

This has been a fairly surprising and enlightening enterprise, I must say.

Prior to about my freshman year of high school, I was largely unaware of the music world at large. I was generally content to venture no further than the modern rock station on my radio dial, and my musical choices didn't go much further beyond that.

Sometime during that freshman year, I began expanding my reach due to a series of borrowed albums from a friend, and my interest in music has grown from there.

And yet, surprisingly, as I put together my top albums of the decade, rather than being littered with later decade releases, there isn't one from past 2006, and fully half of the choices are from 2002 or earlier.

**10. ILLINOIS (2005)**

Sufjan Stevens

I left this album in a friend's car by accident almost immediately after I listened to it. She put it in and told me she couldn't get past the first track. It was, of course, "too weird."

That is a fair assessment of Steven's chronicle of life in the Land of Lincoln, what with its eschewing of normal pop time signatures and reliance on instruments not normally found in a pop album.

However, despite all of those things, it is a brilliant pop album, going from the breezy "Chicago" to the haunting "John Wayne Gacy Jr."

**9. FOOD AND LIQUOR (2006)**

Lupe Fiasco

All things considered, I think the leaked version from 2005 that he decided to pull back is a better listen, but the official album is still better than just about anything else anyone in hip-hop did during the decade.

It might rely too much on falsetto choruses for hooks, but Lupe's ample talents as an emcee more than carry the brunt of the weight.

**8. SOUTHERN ROCK OPERA (2002)**

Drive By Truckers

A ballad for the misunderstood Ronnie Van Zandt, this is the logical progression of Patterson Hood's storytelling. Some of their other albums may have been more concise, but none can match the scope of this one.

**7. REINVENTING AXL ROSE (2002)**

Against Me!

Probably the best album ever made that sounds like it was recorded on a lo-fi boom box in a dorm bathroom on a warped cassette, and definitely the best I've ever heard to scream along to.

**6. LIFTED, OR THE STORY IS IN THE SOIL (2002)**

Bright Eyes

Conor Oberst might have matured as a songwriter on later releases, but he was at his self-indulgent peak here, blending his considerable talents with lyrics with a loose band that follows his every whim deftly.

**5. SEPARATION SUNDAY (2005)**

Hold Steady

Bruce Springsteen goes on a bender, gets into a 40 minute long bar fight with Angus Young and comes out on the other side a born-again Christian. With better lyrics and riffs.

**4. KID A (2000)**

Radiohead

Supposedly a cautionary tale about the life and death of the first cloned human child, it fits that this album sounds barely human. Thom Yorke (again, supposedly) crafted the album by writing down snippets of lyrics and grabbing them out of a hat, thus explaining the obliqueness of the lyrics.

This album excels in its ability to use electronically altered instruments and vocals to create something with real emotional depth at its core.

**3. LATE REGISTRATION (2005)**

Kanye West

Kanye was nervous and self-conscious on his debut and a little bit too full of himself by the time his third album came out.

Here, he strikes the perfect balance, both celebratory and self-aware. With the help of Jon Brion, he crafts a 16-song masterpiece that blends the club ready "Golddigger" with the seriously artistic "Gone."

And along the way he got Nas and Jay Z to stand shoulder to shoulder. Not a bad deal.

**2. YANKEE HOTEL FOXTROT (2002)**

Wilco

Avoiding the overtold and overblown story of this album's creation, what you have is the aural equivalent of America coming apart. If the songwriting isn't much different from what Wilco had done before, it is certainly better, and certainly more well arranged.

The tension between Jeff Tweedy and the late Jay Bennett (and eventually Jim O'Rourke) led to a compromise that sounds at once classic and forward looking. It is a brilliant folk album

warped and filtered through a crippling migraine and prescription painkillers and the breakup of a friendship.

**1. FUNERAL (2004)**

Arcade Fire

It was difficult for me not to put Wilco at No. 1, but when it comes to the emotional depth, nothing released in this decade can compete with the Arcade Fire's exhilarating debut.

Recorded in the wake of several family deaths, they turn their grief into ecstasy here, reminding you that even when terrible things happen, there is still the awe-inspiring majesty of music to hang on to.

It received a ton of press and hype, deservedly so, but if you get past that, you're left with a communal experience of grief through joy.

*Pop & Circumstance* is a bi-weekly column discussing all things pop music. For more "End of the Decade" retrospectives, top ten lists and other nostalgia, keep an eye on the Life! section for the last three issues of the semester.



## JOIN OUR STAFF!

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# Movie industry should learn from past failures

## SEQUELS, page 7

a sequel to *Paranormal Activity* is made, it will never live up to the success and expectations of the first film. There is no story left to be told.

We do not want to see a continuation of the first film, or a different couple being haunted by the same spirit.

Here are two examples of similar sequels that have been tarnished by the media and audience: *Son of the Mask* starring Jamie Kennedy and *Dumb and Dumberer* starring two nobodies.

Both films did not have their lead stars or original directors at the helm, which led to box office disappointment for the studios involved.

No matter what happens with the story, the formula for a successful sequel is the return of the original cast or lead star, sometimes the original director and a great story that lives up to the original.

Remakes are also often

terrible.

There have been a few diamonds in the rough with movies such as *The Ring* and *The Departed*.

These movies worked only because the original films were made outside of the United States. The American-based films that are remade are bad or mediocre at their best.

Look at three examples of the worst remakes ever made: Gus Van Sant's shot-for-shot remake of Alfred Hitchcock's masterpiece *Psycho*, director Jon Moore's mind-numbing remake of Richard Donner's 1976 horror film,



*The Omen*, and the Nicolas Cage movie famous for his character punching and kicking women, *The Wicker Man*.

Those movies, like the aforementioned sequels, added nothing new to the original film and stand as a testament to why similar remakes shouldn't be made.

Yet, within the next year, a new wave of crap-tacular remakes are approaching

including a remake of *Red Dawn* starring Chris Hemsworth, Isabel Lucas and Josh Henderson. Who? An even more shocking remake in the works will star action superstar Jackie Chan, Oscar-nominee Taraji P. Henson and Jaden (son of Will) Smith in a remake of *The Karate Kid*.

Note to Hollywood: if you want to make better films, I recommend you go to an elementary school and ask some kindergarten kids for some tips on creativity.

## Theatre Department makes due with little money, small crowds

### BLITHE, page 7

informed from the stage ... those desiring to leave the theatre may do so but the performance will continue." I found this especially funny considering air raids happened so often that the audience would not even be forced to leave.

By far my biggest gripe with the play had to do with the writing. Toward the end (spoiler alert) it is revealed that Edith, the maid, had been the one that brought the women in Charles' life back from the other side but it is never really clear how or why.

It left me a bit disappointed. After all the hullabaloo and searching and trying to figure it out I felt cheated out of my answer.

Regardless, it amazed me that with budget cutbacks left and right, "Blithe Spirit" managed to look and feel professional. The

special effects, from lightning outside a window to a swinging chandelier and doors that open and close on their own, were done seamlessly. Yawney, the cast and crew went a long way with just a little.

Something I find unfortunate time and time again is that great FIU events have to play to such a small audience. It is a shame that attendance is less than optimal, especially when FIU has great performances to offer its students.

For more information on FIU theater events call: (305) 348-3365.

*The Beacon and its reviewers do not receive free music, food or services in exchange for positive reviews. The views expressed in this article solely represent those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of The Beacon or its staff.*

## New 'Posse' program aims to help at-risk students adjust, stay in college

KATHY MATHESON  
Associated Press Writer

BRYN MAWR, Pa.— When Sharhea Wade arrived at Bryn Mawr College from a big-city high school, it seemed as if every other student on the quiet, leafy campus had graduated from an exclusive private school.

"I felt intimidated by them," recalled Wade. "Bryn Mawr is a different world."

Yet whenever she felt like a fish out of water, Wade could turn to her "posse" — nine other girls who, like her, had been recruited from struggling Boston-area school districts and sent on full merit scholarship to the elite women's college.

Wade's posse is one of dozens sent to top-tier universities each year by the New York-based Posse Foundation. The combination of monetary and social support is a model that experts say could help move the U.S. toward President Barack Obama's goal of having America lead the world in the percentage of college graduates by 2020. Next fall, the program hits the Ivy League when it debuts at Penn.

So far, Obama's focus has been on increasing access to higher education — especially for minority and low-income students — through expanded Pell grants and simplified financial aid applications.

But paying for college is only part of the battle. Keeping students in school by supporting their psychological and academic needs is equally important, said Laura Perna, an associate professor in the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education.

Posse founder Deborah Bial started the organization in 1989 after a once-promising inner-city

student told her, "I never would have dropped out of college if I had my posse with me."

Since then, Posse has sent more than 2,600 students to its partner campuses, including Vanderbilt University, Colby College and the University of California at Berkeley.

The program targets students in disadvantaged urban districts who have strong leadership skills but may lack the guidance to wade into what can be an intimidating college admissions process. Posse is not need- or minority-based, though many students fit both categories.

The demand for such help is dramatic, Bial said. Posse, which had been recruiting from six major cities, added Miami as its seventh this fall. The program received more than 12,000 nominations this year for 460 slots nationwide, Bial said.

Posse provides academic support and help with college applications, but admission decisions are made by individual schools, which offer full merit scholarships. A University of Missouri study presented last week links merit aid to increased freshman year grade-point averages, particularly for minority and low-income students.

Students headed to the same universities are placed in posses of about 10 that begin meeting in high school. The meetings continue weekly at college, creating tight-knit groups where members can find motivation or comfort when they feel lost or frustrated.

"I have this incredible sense that I can succeed and take on whatever I want at school because I have this intensely supportive network behind me who believes in my potential," said Augusta Irele, 21, a member of Wade's posse at Bryn Mawr.

Research shows that integration into a community is important for college retention, Perna said. Having a posse of peers with similar backgrounds creates a bridge to the new institutional climate while helping maintain relationships at home, she said.

Matt Rivera, 20, said his posse helped him and other members through the culture shock of leaving their Chicago-area homes for selective DePauw University, set amid cornfields in Greencastle, Ind.

"Everyone calls it a bubble," said Rivera, a junior. "There's nothing for 45 miles." Some Posse scholars say their presence has spurred some uncomfortable but needed conversations about race and class on campus. Jenny Rickard, a Bryn Mawr administrator and Posse liaison, said the program has been mutually enriching for the school and the students.

"The scholars have really energized the environment at Bryn Mawr, really creating a culture that is more inclusive," Rickard said.

Overall, Posse officials say their students have a 90 percent graduation rate, compared with a 58 percent rate nationwide for bachelor's degrees within six years.

Bial, whose work with Posse earned her a \$500,000 MacArthur Foundation "genius grant" in 2007, said the ultimate goal is for scholars to take their diplomas from the Main Streets of college towns to the boardrooms of Wall Street and beyond.

"We're creating a new kind of leadership network in the United States," said Bial. "It's not a good-old-boys network, it's not the Greek system. You've got young people who represent the real diversity of this country."



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## PERFORMERS OF THE WEEK



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**MOMENTUM CHANGER:** Running back Kendall Berry (left) celebrates with T.Y. Hilton (right) after a touchdown. Berry was a big part of the Golden Panthers homecoming win over North Texas. The sophomore scored two touchdowns on 82 yards rushing.



MARVIN ROBERTS

Filling in for injured middle linebacker Toronto Smith, Davis had nine tackles, seven of which were solo. Two of the sophomore's tackles were for losses including key stops in the fourth quarter and overtime.



AARON DAVIS

The sophomore linebacker led the team in tackles with 13, nine of which were solo. He also recorded half a sack.



PETER RILEY

Down 28-14, the senior cornerback made a crucial interception in the third quarter to swing the momentum in the Golden Panthers' favor to help them secure a 35-28 win over North Texas on Homecoming.



YARIMAR ROSA

The All-American led the team in kills (13) during the Golden Panthers 3-0 win over the Florida Atlantic Owls. The win helped secure a perfect record in Sun Belt Conference play for FIU. The Golden Panthers head to the conference tournament as the No. 1 seed.

# Workouts with Pro Bowl RB helped push Frierson

FRIERSON, page 12

outs with his cousin, San Francisco 49ers running back Frank Gore. The Pro Bowl running back pushed his younger cousin through an array of physical challenges that Frierson believes helped him tremendously. One of those training methods included running hills before sunrise.

"One thing about him is that he never stops," Frierson said of Gore. "He keeps going, so you may be bent over but he's just like 'No, keep going.'"

### VERSATILITY

McCall said it has been a challenge to get Frierson the ball at times due to the fact that he often lines up in the same position as Hilton.

Frierson made sure that wasn't an issue by grasping more of the playbook in his third season.

"Being here in the same offense for two years, I have learned everything," he said.

Despite the competitive nature of the receiving corps, Frierson and Hilton maintain a close relationship off the field, and even though Hilton is the offenses' main cog, Frierson can boast one thing he has on him: blocking.

"If I catch a ball, he'll probably say something slick," Frierson said with a smile. "He does something and I say something. When we're blocking, we have a little cutting contest where all of us are competing at that.

Right now I'm the king, so he's trying to catch up to me."

# Golden Panthers sweep Owls to end 2009 season

VOLLEYBALL, page 10

The first set was a back-and-forth affair, as both teams traded leads and forced tie scores on various occasions until Yarimar Rosa and Jovana Bjelica helped FIU escape a potential pitfall, taking the first set 30-28.

The second set wasn't anywhere near as dramatic with FIU breaking away in the middle of the stanza and never looking back. The Panthers took a 2-0 set lead that would be too much for the Owls to overcome.

The third set proved to be just as competitive and close as the first set was, with both teams once again exchanging tie scores and lead

changes as both teams battled to the end of the set to try and earn the victory.

The Golden Panthers were able to come out strong at the end, and a couple of errors gave FIU a perfect Sun Belt Conference record.

Rosa led the way with 13 kills with Bjelica and Andrea Lakovic adding 10 and 11 kills of their own to the offensive effort.

Natalia Valentin also played an important role of her own, adding 43 assists and six service aces. Rosa and Valentin both led the team on defense with 11 digs each.

The Golden Panthers return to action in the Sun Belt Conference Championships in Bowling Green, Ky. from Nov. 19-21.

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# Rosa, Valentin's friendship extends beyond court

## Friendship led to 75-17 record while at FIU

**LUIS ESTRADA**  
Staff Writer

Attending FIU was an easy choice for volleyball setter Natalia Valentin.

She went where her best friend, Yarimar Rosa, was helping bring the volleyball program to Sun Belt Conference championships.

"I mean, Yari's like my best friend and she was already here, and what's better than having your best friend in college with you on the same team? So she was a big part of it," Valentin said.

Their cohesion has translated into a combined 75-17 past three seasons together at FIU, and have hopes of taking their teammates on a deeper run into the NCAA tournament this season.

play every time Valentin, a setter, makes a pass to Rosa, one of the best outside hitters in the country.

"Naty knows where Yari likes the sets, and their relationship is such that if they get frustrated with each other, Yari knows how to tell her things in a different way," Tomic said.

The girls each admit they never fight, and silly disagreements are quickly resolved.

Seemingly the only time they argue is on the court, when they are constantly pushing each other to play better.

"The only time she's ever said 'What's wrong with you?' is during a match when I make a mistake. We forget those very quickly," Rosa said.

### 'THAT LOOK'

After so many great moments on the court together, it was difficult for them to single out one favorite moment, but Valentin referred back to a match last year against Middle Tennessee, a team neither of the girls had defeated during their time at FIU.

"Last year's Middle Tennessee game. In a fifth set Yarimar has this feeling where she knows if we're going to win or lose. After the first point of the set I looked at her, and she gave me the 'we're going to win'



VICTORIA LYNCH / BEACON FILE PHOTOS

**SISTERHOOD:** Best friends Natalia Valentin (9) and Yarimar Rosa (right), will be playing in their final Sun Belt tournament together this season.

### TRUSTING EACH OTHER

Both players said their friendship is based around trust and honesty.

"We tell each other every single detail, no matter what it is," Rosa said.

"It's hard to find someone who you can trust so much, and I can tell Yari everything, and I know she will support me," Valentin said.

Coach Danijela Tomic has watched the best friends become two of the most integral parts to a successful program.

That trust comes into

look."

Valentin went on to explain the pressure while they trailed in the last set, but managed to come back to win. She mentioned Rosa's confidence, and how important it is to her to be able to look at her friend and know they're never out of a match.

"She's never given me the 'I don't feel it' look, and I love that. She always thinks we're going to win, no matter what," Valentin said.

Tomic understands the importance of having the

girls on this team together, and knows Rosa played a huge part in bringing Valentin to FIU.

"The main reason Naty picked FIU is because her best friend had started here the year before," Tomic said.

Even in practice, their bond is evident among a group of 15 girls.

They are constantly laughing, yet encouraging more effort.

Coach Tomic feels the best part about their friendship is how much Valentin admires Rosa.

"Naty is Yari's biggest fan. Nobody gets more excited than Naty when her best friend does something great on the court," Tomic said.

### REALITY CHECK

This is the last Sun Belt tournament they will participate in.

Even with hopes of having a family and playing volleyball in Europe or at a high level, Valentin is sure of one thing in her future.

"I will probably go watch Yari play in Europe," she said.

Rosa wanted to give Valentin a bit of a reality check.

"You're going to have to get some money," Rosa said to Valentin.

Even though this will be their last season together at FIU, Rosa was very confident in their ability to go separate ways and maintain a close bond.

"I will miss playing with her but we have to move on, and of course I'm going to support her no matter what she does and I know she will support me," Rosa said.

# 'We have the talent to win the tournament'

### SUN BELT, page 12

Tomic said. "We set our goals at the beginning of the season. We wanted to be undefeated after the regular season because we felt we had the talent to do that and I feel we have the talent to win the tournament. I'm going to feel that we under-achieved if we don't win the tournament."

The top eight teams in the conference, with FIU being the No. 1 seed, will meet at Bowling Green, Ky., the host site for the tournament this year.

For some of the players on the team, this will be their last chance to win the Sun Belt tournament after coming up short the last few seasons.

"We are very excited about going back," Tomic said. "I know our three seniors are excited. They

have something to prove. Our motto all season has been 'Finish Strong' and this is our chance to finish Sun Belt play with that attitude."

The Golden Panthers will play the first match on Nov. 19 against the North Texas Mean Green, whom FIU defeated earlier this season in three sets on the road.

If the Golden Panthers win, they play on Friday against the winner of the New Orleans/Arkansas State match. The championship match takes place Nov. 21.

"We just need to play our game," said Yarimar Rosa who will be playing in her final Sun Belt tournament this weekend. "We don't have any doubt that we can't win in three sets against North Texas."

Despite the tournament being away, Coach Tomic

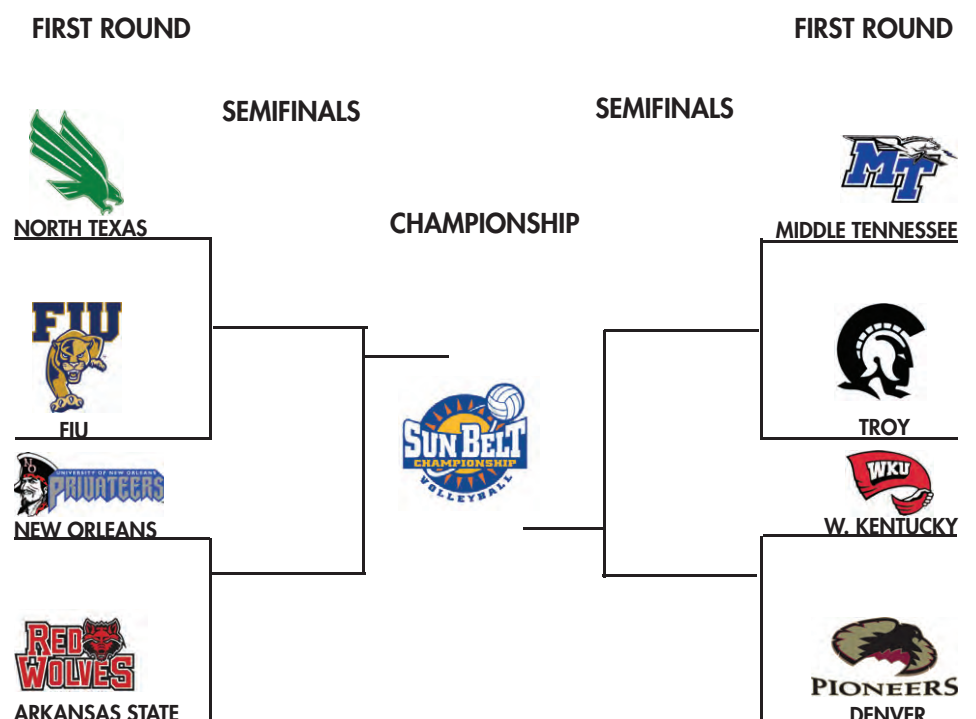
actually considers that to be an advantage, alleviating the team from the pressure of playing in front of the home crowd.

"Whoever we play, we have to win three matches," Tomic said. "We play well on the road. I'm actually glad we are playing on the road after last season. I think the pressure of playing at home got to us."

The team knows that they cannot take any of these teams for granted, since this will be the last opportunity for most of them to earn a bid to the NCAA tournament.

"This is their last chance, so they're all going to give their best," Rosa said of the teams playing in the tournament. "Every team is going to go there and play their best to try and win. There are no surprises, we're ready for everything."

## SUN BELT CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT VOLLEYBALL BRACKET





## SEASON'S PERFECTION

### No. 1 seeded Golden Panthers turn their focus to Sun Belt tournament

JOEL DELGADO  
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers volleyball team has gone 21 consecutive games without a defeat. They have gone undefeated in conference play. They have pretty much secured a spot in the NCAA tournament in December.

But for Coach Danijela Tomic

and her squad, the goal from the very beginning has been about this one weekend.

And it's about finishing something that they set out to do from the very beginning: win the Sun Belt Conference tournament and become the conference champions.

"We know what's on the line,"

**SUN BELT, page 11**



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

### Win over FAU completes perfect conference record

JOEL DELGADO  
Staff Writer

The last time a Golden Panthers volleyball team went undefeated in Sun Belt Conference play was 1990, when FIU went 3-0 against conference opponents before the University ever had thoughts of joining the conference.

Nineteen years later, history would repeat itself.

The Golden Panthers (28-2, 17-

0) defeated crosstown-rival Florida Atlantic (6-20, 4-13) in three sets to secure an undefeated record in conference play as they prepare to go to the Sun Belt tournament as the No. 1 seed.

But the Owls were not going to roll over and came out matching the Golden Panthers as they tried to play spoiler to FIU's season.

**VOLLEYBALL, page 10**

**FLAWLESS VICTORY:** The Golden Panthers recorded their second perfect conference record since 1990.

## Tulsa extends men's basketball losing streak to three

JEFF LATZKE  
The Associated Press

The towering Tulsa Golden Hurricanes blew out the Golden Panthers 81-49 on Nov. 16.

Already undersized, FIU played without forward Nikola Gacesa due to a knee injury.

Marvin Roberts had 18 points and nine rebounds, leading the team in scoring, and Stephon Weaver added 9 points.

Ben Uzoh had a game-high 20 points and 4 assists to lead Tulsa.

The size differential between the two teams

led Tulsa to the dominating win against coach Isaiah Thomas's Golden Panthers. Tulsa has no player on the roster less than 6 feet and has 10 players that are over 6-foot-5, while FIU has an average height of 6-foot-2.

Midway through the second half of, Thomas motioned toward Tulsa coach Doug Wojcik as if to ask when he'd take his starters out.

A few minutes later, he got vocal with his request, shouting a few words in the direction of Wojcik. At that point, FIU (0-3) was down 63-25 with 8:59 to play.

"It's a 40-minute game. If you want the truth

of it, go back to the Carolina game Monday night, when Carolina was pressing them with 3 minutes left," Wojcik said. "I don't press, and I don't embarrass anybody."

Wojcik, who was putting Uzoh back into the game, looked back at Thomas and shrugged his shoulders. He pulled 7-footer Jerome Jordan shortly thereafter and Uzoh with more than 5 minutes remaining.

Wojcik explained that he had only eight scholarship players available, with Glenn Andrews out with a knee injury and Bishop Wheatley serving a four-game suspension. Two

other players are sitting out under NCAA transfer rules, and Wojcik is redshirting another.

Thomas, saying his team had a flight to catch, took only three questions in his postgame news conference - and he dodged the one asking about his interaction with Wojcik.

"We weren't as good as we would have liked to have been, and they were really good," Thomas said before heading toward the door.

On his way out, he added: "By the way, I'd like to invite them back to play us next year. I hope he accepts. Good luck."

Staff writer Joey Cruz contributed to this report.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**JUNIOR REBOUND:** This season junior wide receiver Ty Frierson has posted a career-best in catches and yards.

## Frierson a sure-handed receiver

JONATHAN RAMOS  
Asst. Sports Director

In the third quarter at Western Kentucky on Oct. 10, the Golden Panthers led the Hilltoppers by three points and were in the midst of driving in WKU territory looking to extend their slim lead.

Since star receiver T.Y. Hilton left the game in the first quarter with a knee injury, FIU had to look elsewhere for a big play.

On the next snap, quarterback Paul McCall found his target deep in the end zone. The play was called for junior wide receiver Ty Frierson, and he came down with the catch to give FIU all the scoring it would need to earn their first victory of the season. Just as Frierson stepped on the sideline, Hilton was there to greet him with words of encouragement.

"He already knew when we called the formation that the play was coming to me

so he told me to go out there and make the play," Frierson said of Hilton's words.

With the way the elusive Frierson has been steady all season, Hilton isn't the only one complementing the Coral Gables High product.

"He's really dedicated himself to being a better football player since the second half of last season going forward. He's got a knack for getting open and finding the football," said Coach Mario Cristobal. "He's played outside and inside, not only because [Hilton and Greg Ellingson] are injured, but because he was getting and earning more playing time as it was."

Frierson has already stacked career best in receptions (27) and yards (328) this season, on top of taking over punt returning duties for the banged up Hilton. Frierson committed himself to improving after falling out of the rotation and posting a disappointing season in 2008.

### 'BLAME IT ON ME'

Frierson had just 10 catches last season, a year after becoming a consistent target and leading the team in grabs in 2007. As a freshman, he made the Golden Panthers coaching staff look wise for offering him his only Football Bowl Subdivision scholarship, but a sophomore slump ensued.

"I blame it on me, for my work ethic and workouts," said Frierson. "I came back the next year and did things totally different than the year before. My summer workouts and the workouts in January, I worked hard and I put more effort in what I did."

Part of the dedication Cristobal and Frierson talk about include intense workouts at FIU, but Frierson said the biggest challenge of the offseason was his work-

**FRIERSON, page 10**