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Florida International University

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Fistfuls of Tech: Top ten advances in the last decade

PAGE 7



Golden Panthers lose by wide margin to No. 1 Gators

PAGE 12



SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

SGC-BBC moves forward to have University Wide senate meetings.

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

Guest speaker will give students the 411 on scholarships and internships opportunities for all majors.

EDITORIAL PAGE 6

Mid Year Report – *The Beacon* reflects back on SGA's accomplishments so far.

OPINION PAGE 6



Universities are losing sight of their cause through how much they pay their presidents.

OPINION PAGE 6

The Fort Hood shootings have tainted the image of Muslims and other followers of Islam.

LIFE! PAGE 7



New John Mayer album a unique blend of sounds of Dylan, Petty, and Clapton.

LIFE! PAGE 7

Radiate Hip Hop Director defies stereotypes, loves Biggie.

SPORTS PAGE 12

Volleyball reaches conference championship but falls short in four set match to MTSU.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Preksha Meditation Club, Nov. 23, 4 p.m. Get centered and join this club meeting happening at GC 314.

Movie Showing - Border Town, Nov. 24, 6 p.m. The Women's Studies Student Association presents: Movie Night at GC 140.

80's Prom, Nov. 25, 10 p.m. Get pretty in pink and steal your dad's classy convertible to get to this event happening at the Vagabond!

– Check out more events for this week in our Life! Calendar on page 8.

WEATHER



MONDAY
Mostly Cloudy
LOW: 73 HIGH: 84



TUESDAY
Isolated T-Storms
LOW: 73 HIGH: 83



WEDNESDAY
Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 71 HIGH: 79

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GIVE IN TO GIVING

Food drives, events make it easy

**ALEXANDER MILLER
MATTHEW RUCKMAN**
Beacon Staff

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, students will have the chance to get in the spirit of giving by participating in events and food drives.

Students who stay on campus will be offered a Thanksgiving dinner by the Residential Hall Association and the Student Government Association.

Dubbed "RHA and SGA Presents: Thanksgiving Dinner," the event is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 24 in the Graham Center Ballrooms in the Modesto Maidique Campus.

The dinner will be free for

housing students and friends. Tickets are needed and can be found at the housing desks.

The event was put together by the RHA and funded by SGA. It cost \$2,300.

Miguel Ovalles, RHA president for University Park Apartments, helped organize the event.

"We're going to have comedians, we're going to have dancers for entertainment and we're going to have food," Ovalles said.

The event will serve traditional Thanksgiving food, which is expected to run out as the night wears on.

There is also going to be a raffle and students who bring canned goods can participate. Prizes range from gift cards to Sports Grill, T.G.I. Friday's,

movies and video games.

At the end of the night, there will be a yet-unknown mystery grand prize for one lucky dinner guest.

Canned goods collected at the dinner will be donated to Camilus House, a local Miami charity who helps homeless people.

The event is aimed at international students who are not familiar with Thanksgiving, exposing them to the American holiday, according to Ovalles.

"A lot of our residents can't go home for Thanksgiving, so it's always nice to have something for them where they can come and be with their family here at FIU," Ovalles said.

For students at the Biscayne

THANKSGIVING, page 2

DONATIONS AND EVENTS

EVENTS

- MMC** Thanksgiving Dinner by SGA and RHA
Nov. 24 at 7:30 p.m.
GC Ballrooms
Free tickets for students and guests at the housing desks
- BBC** The Impact Movement's banquet
Nov. 25, at 6:30 p.m.
Wolfe University Center Ballrooms
Free for students and the community

DONATIONS

- MMC** Graham Center entrance, pit
Campus Life office, GC 2240
Women's Center, GC 2200
Office of Multicultural Programs and Services
GC 265
University Park Apartments, Building A
- BBC** Wolfe University Center Information Desk
Campus Life office, WUC 141
Women's Center, WUC 256
Office of Multicultural Programs and Services
WUC 253

TAGGING



LINDA LEE/THE BEACON

STREET ART: Marissa Hill (top left), art major, works on a graffiti mural in the Graham Center piano room. Beginning on Nov. 3 until Nov. 12, the mural was a two-week project for Professor Gretchen Scharnagl's Advance Drawing class. The assignment was to create a legal graphite mural. The mural was covered the following morning.

GLOBAL LEARNING INITIATIVE

New program to launch, test new courses

MELODY REGALADO
Staff Writer

Beginning next semester, three new classes will let students learn how to better analyze social media, study global food production, and explore the dynamics of marine science. But in each class, students will be taught and graded by more than one professor.

Through the University's new Quality Enhancement Plan, called "Global Learning for Global Citizens," three new courses will be tested in Spring 2010, and students can take them as electives that will count toward their degrees.

The program is the newest addition by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the organization which accredits public universities in the southern U.S.

The Quality Enhancement Plan is required for the 2010 reaccreditation of the University. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools recently added this program as a requirement for reaccreditation.

The three classes will be added to the University's Core Curriculum, and incoming freshman for Fall 2010 will be required to take two classes that fulfill the "Global Learning" requirement, including one class to satisfy their UCC to meet graduation eligibility.

QEP, page 5

SGC-MMC Autiello made chief of staff, switches with Sanchez

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

The Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus announced Nick Autiello as the new chief of staff on Nov. 18.

Autiello, the deputy chief of staff, switched positions with Drew Sanchez, chief of staff.

Sanchez said the decision was due to "time commitments" on his schedule.

"The big issue was the payment and office hours," Sanchez told Student Media.

Struggling to meet the hours, Sanchez said he and SGC-MMC advisor, Jose Toscano, discussed finding a way to meet minimum hours. Sanchez, however, rejected the notion.

"I didn't feel comfortable with that," Sanchez told Student Media.

The position of chief of staff is one of the highest paid positions in all student government. According to the Student Government Association constitution, a chief of staff can make up to 32 percent of what a

SGC-MMC, page 3

FOR THE CAUSE



PHOTOS BY CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON



FIU's Asian Student Union and Music Saves Lives put together an event called "Typhoon Benefit Relief Show" to raise money for the recent typhoon that hit the Philippines. Some artists included Krystie "Krystovalina" Caraballo, Brand Name Punk and acoustic performances from members of the Asian Student Union.

TOP: Members of Tokyo Love Bots break dance to a variety of top hits.

LEFT: Juan "Nacho" Londono, lead singer of *Arboles Libres*, performs a song from their upcoming debut album.

Free banquet to feature Christian hip-hop, reggae

THANKSGIVING, page 1

Bay Campus, the Impact Movement, a campus ministry group located mainly at BBC, will be hosting a free banquet for students and the community on Nov. 25. The event will be held in the Wolfe Center Ballrooms at 6:30 p.m.

The Impact Movement is comprised of students whose goal is to take the Gospel to the community, the campus and the world.

"It hasn't been difficult planning for the event and working with my club members has been great because they are cooperative," said Impact leader Sterling Georges.

Georges said the banquet will include numerous forms of entertainment, including Christian rappers, spoken word poets, ministering, dancing and Christian hip-hop and reggae.

"We talk to everyone who is willing to hear us and produce leaders," said Diana Laforest, Impact president.

Student organizations are also gearing up for food

collection drives.

The Haitian Student Organization, in collaboration with the Omicron Theta chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho sorority, will be collecting non-perishable food items in the days leading up to Thanksgiving.

"We are obligated to take opportunities like this to give back," said Bruno Phanord, HSO president.

Collection boxes for non-perishable food items will be placed at the Campus Life offices of both MMC and BBC, the Graham Center at MMC, the Wolfe University Center at BBC, the Women's Center of both campuses, the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services in both campuses, the University Park Apartments, Building A at MMC, and in each of the housing quad buildings at MMC.

"We are where we are today because someone gave back to us," Phanord said.

The HSO has held hurricane drives in the past, but it is the first time they are organizing a Thanksgiving drive.

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Anime club elects new president

JORGE VALENS
Asst. News Director

After the president of FIU's Anything Goes Anime Club resigned, members of the club voted during a Nov. 19 meeting to replace all sitting members on the club's executive board, according to some members.

Luis Defana was appointed president of the club, replacing the sitting president, Chelsea Franco, formerly AGA's vice president who became president after Pedro Cortes'

resignation.

Cortes, who was appointed president in 2008, voluntarily stepped down from the position in the aftermath of a recent assault case involving Cortes and AGA executive board member Carla Slon.

"I've grown up with this club," said Cortes, who has been a member of the club for almost six years. "When I say that this has been the source of my happiness for five or six years, I'm not joking."

Cortes added that his time as pres-

ident has taught him how to run organizations and deal with people.

Council for Student Organizations' integrated marketing and communications director, James Richardson, said that AGA has had "one of the most active memberships on campus."

According to OrgSync, a social networking site used by clubs and organizations, AGA has 58 members.

CSO requires clubs on campus to use OrgSync.

Plan calls for bi-monthly meetings

SGC-MMC, page 2

president makes. The president's salary is \$10,000 each year.

A deputy chief of staff position was added last semester. The job is to assist the chief of staff and it is a non-paid position.

According to Sanchez, Autiello had already assumed many of the day-to-day responsibilities of the chief of staff position both inside and outside the office, including traveling.

"Everybody comes to him for meeting times," Sanchez told Student Media. "He is the person in the office."

Sanchez said he and his experience will still play a vital role in the cabinet, and he will be dedicated to the student services aspect while Autiello will be "taking care of everything else."

"We always saw it as a team anyway, so it's just a shift," Sanchez said.

At the same cabinet meeting, speaker of the senate, Helena Ramirez, announced a plan to have the senates from Biscayne Bay Campus and MMC meet bi-monthly.

"Every two months, we would be meeting with our counterparts to be aware of University-wide issues,"

Every two months, we would be meeting with our counterparts to be aware of University-wide issues.

Helena Ramirez, speaker of the senate
Student Government Association

Ramirez said.

The plan is being implemented in both campuses by having each senate pass a resolution calling for it.

The MMC senate briefly brought up the resolution in their last Nov. 16 meeting, then tabled it for the next meeting.

The resolution makes reference to the call for

more unity between the campuses, prompted by the controversial Restructuring Resolution passed beforehand, which called for the two councils to remain separate due to "two different cultures at each campus," states the text.

The resolution calls for a joint forum on a bi-monthly basis, "in person or via teleconference, to address issues preminent to the University as a whole."

Senators are scheduled to vote on the resolution on the Nov. 23 meeting.

CORRECTIONS

In the issue Nov. 18, the article titled "Groups to raise funds online," the co-chairs of the United Way campaign are senior vice president of External Relations, Gonzalez-Levy, Dr. Thomas Breslin, chair of the Faculty Senate and Ruth Hamilton, executive director of the Graham Center.

The Auction and Recognition Event will be held on Dec. 4 at 4 p.m. in the Graham Center Ballrooms.

THE BEACON



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NEWS FLASH

TECH

Google releases Chrome OS

Google announced its new Web-based operating system, Chrome OS, on Nov. 20. The system is dependent on Google's Web applications, such as Gmail, Google Docs and Google Calendar.

According to CNN, the operating system will rely on flash memory to run, storing information on "the cloud," or on Internet servers rather than a local hard drive.

Chrome OS will not be available to download and install on its own. Google is currently working with computer makers to create a line of Google branded computers. The first computers are expected to hit store shelves during the first quarter of 2010.

INTERNATIONAL

Leaked e-mails question climate change data

A breach to a computer server at a British university revealed hundreds of private e-mails exchanged between American and British climate researchers.

The e-mails show that scientists conspired to exaggerate human influence on climate change, according to *The New York Times*.

The e-mails, which question the quality of climate change research, include discussions on whether scientific data should be released, and some derisive comments aimed at climate change skeptics. In one e-mail, a scientist writes of using a "trick" to hide a decline in temperatures in a chart.

The breach is currently under investigation by police, who stated they could not confirm if all the material circulating the Internet is authentic. But *The New York Times* contacted several scientists who confirmed they were the recipients of specific e-mails included in the breached files.

At least one scientist speculated that the timing of this incident is not coincidental with an international meeting in Copenhagen to prepare an international climate accord.

However, the hacked documents are unlikely to weaken the overall climate change argument, according to *The New York Times*.

-Compiled by Jorge Valens and Carla Garcia

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GLOBAL CONNECTION



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON



SERGIO MONTEALEGRE/THE BEACON

WEEK'S RECAP:

Top: Selina Gumbs (right), Cassandra Nicolas (center) and Cherise Hernandez (left), senior hospitality majors and exchange students from Curacao, gave out food and pamphlets on Curacao during the Cultural Fair on Nov. 16.

Bottom: Abigail MacBain, a coordinator for the Consulate General of Japan (right), tells Diana Grijalba, junior hospitality major (left), about the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme, at the Venture Abroad Fair in Panther Square on Nov. 17.

SGC-BBC

Senate votes to have U-wide meetings

MAUREEN NINO
Staff Writer

Following a suggestion by senators at the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus to have University-wide senate meetings, SGC-Biscayne Bay Campus passed a resolution to make those meetings plausible.

The motion to pass the resolution was made by Zahra Arbabi Aski, lower division senator, during the senate's weekly meeting on Nov. 18. It was passed unanimously.

"The resolution made to have University-wide collaborative meetings with both senates was passed, but no schedule has been confirmed," said Natalya Cohen, SGC-BBC speaker pro-tempore and senator at-large.

The original motion to have University-wide senate meetings was first made during the University-wide Council meeting on Oct. 23 by Mykaelle Figueiredo, SGC-MMC vice president.

"I think it would be very good for both counterparts of the senate to have reports and know what they are each doing," she said at the UWC meeting.

But motions and resolutions cannot be made during University-wide meetings, so the motion was tabled for further discussion. The motion needed to be made and passed by the senate of both campuses to take effect.

The SGC-BBC senate already passed the resolution, but it will not take effect until SGC-MMC does the same. According to Helena Ramirez, SGC-MMC senate speaker, the resolution will be voted on during the senate's weekly meeting on Nov. 23.

"We want to check on the logistics and make sure it will work properly," she said.

Ramirez agreed that the resolution may be helpful for both senates because it would create constant communication between them.

"These meetings will help create unity between the senate members and enhance

communication between both campuses," she said. "The meetings will let us know what our counterparts are doing."

Acknowledging the past resolution made by SGC-MMC to restructure SGA and have one president for both campuses, Ramirez believes that improving communication between both campuses "is going to be a step in the right direction."

SGC-BBC Speaker of the Senate Tania Williams says the meetings will be beneficial to both the council and the students.

"This will create cohesiveness between both senates," she said. "The senate will be on one accord, and we will be one University. Students will look at the campuses as one instead of different entities."

Even though there aren't University-Wide senate meetings yet, Cohen said that to help keep both senates on one accord, Nickolay Chikishev, SGC-BBC lower-division senator, manages a system where resolutions are e-mailed out, edited and sent back.

"The Web site, linked to Hotmail, consists of all our folders and files. We all [SGA members] have access to them," said Cohen. "We use it to view, comment and edit each others' work."

In addition to the Web site, SGC-BBC senate members often have brief meetings with their MMC counterparts.

"In these meetings, we present what we are doing and have completed on both sides. It helps us to be more cohesive as a University-wide council," Cohen said.

The University-wide senate meetings, according to Ramirez, are considered working meetings, in which no motions or resolutions can be made, but will provide the senate an open platform to discuss the overall improvements needed for the University.

If passed by the SGC-MMC senate, the resolution will establish bimonthly University-wide senate meetings that could possibly begin January 2010, according to Ramirez, but no time and date have been set.

"This communication will be vital for SGA and the students," Ramirez said.

Diplomat to give insight on scholarships, job opportunities

Students will mingle with official at ice cream social

LORENA ESTRADA
Staff Writer

Students of all majors are in for a treat. The International Relations Association is inviting students to its Fall Ice Cream Social on Nov. 24 to meet with the University's Diplomat in Residence Hilarion "Lari" Martinez, while eating some Ben & Jerry's ice cream.

The social will take place in the Wolfe University Center, Room 157 at 2 p.m.

Martinez will talk to students about career opportunities, internships, scholarships and fellowships available to them, and will explain what it's like to be a diplomat in residence.



MARTINEZ

Each year, the U.S. Department of State assigns a senior foreign service officer to a certain university or school. Martinez is one of 16 senior diplomats to become diplomat in residence.

He has been the University's diplomat in residence for the past three years, and as such,

he is responsible for informing students about career opportunities throughout the region.

Martinez described what he does as "a pleasure in itself" in a previous article by *The Beacon*. He said he enjoys helping students find new and exciting opportunities and often spends his free time working with them.

Since his arrival at the University in 2006, Martinez has made a difference in the lives of several students.

"Lari has been an enormous asset to FIU because of his excellent education and experience in the U.S. Foreign Service," said John Clark, professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations.

According to Clark, Martinez has helped students win major national scholarships to top universities such as George

Washington University, and has also helped students get internships with the U.S. Department of State.

Martinez has been a diplomat with the U.S. Department of State for 22 years.

He immigrated to the United States from Havana, Cuba in the 1960s and was raised in Miami.

The Cuban-American graduated from Duke University in 1972 with a degree in mathematics.

He then went to law school at the University of Florida, where he was managing editor of the *Florida Law Review*.

Martinez was the chief of the U.S. embassy in Lima, Peru, a deputy consul in Belfast, U.K., special assistant to the consul general at the embassy in London, and became the first U.S. consul to Bosnia.

U.S. official to advise on students' future goals

MARTINEZ, page 4

In an article in the *Hispanic Times*, Martinez said he was the "object of curiosity" upon arrival in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"They couldn't get over the idea that someone not even born in the U.S. can become the U.S. consul and represent the country overseas," he said.

"It was a great lead to explain to a former Soviet-affiliated nation that just ended a bloody war sparked by ethnic tension that America is really a nation of nations, and with all the troubles it has, it should serve as an example of how so many people of different races, ethnic groups, and religions can live together and attempt to work out their differences peacefully."

Martinez was not available for comment by the deadline despite several attempts by *The Beacon*.

New curriculum to focus on globalization

QEP, page 1

Current students will not be affected by this change.

"The goal is to enhance student learning so they become better global citizens," said Stephanie Doscher, associate director of the Office of Global Learning Initiatives. "These classes are really interactive and not lecture-based in order to keep students active in learning to solve real-world problems, working in teams and engaging in self-reflection."

There are no prerequisites for these interdisciplinary courses, which are modeled after the Honors College courses.

They are taught by teams of three professors in order for students to gain different perspectives on the same subjects. Since the classes are designed to be interactive, students will mainly work in groups.

The first class is "How We Know What We Know," or IDS 3993, and will take place Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 4:40 p.m. in the Charles Perry Building at the Modesto Maidique Campus. It will have a capacity of 56 students.

The course will be taught by Fred Blevens, professor at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication; Ben Lauren, professor in the English Department, and George Pearson, a librarian at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

"We all have different perspec-

tives but a shared interest in this topic," Pearson said.

He said they will analyze how information is accessed and learn how to access it better, particularly in social media.

Their goal is to help students become more critical consumers, while assessing content in order to become more aware of the actions that affect their environment.

"The purpose is to try to teach students skills and raise awareness of how information works in the world across all different platforms," Blevens said.

He said he hopes this class will help students become better researchers by giving them the skills that will be critical to the future of any career.

"International Nutrition, Public Health and Economic Development," or IDS 3994, will take place Mondays and Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. in the Charles Perry Building at MMC and will have a capacity of 56 students.

It will be taught by Mahadev Bhat, associate professor of Environmental Studies; Adriana Campa, associate professor at the Department of Diabetics and Nutrition, and Frederick Newman, professor of Healthcare Policy and Management.

Doscher said this course explores the relationships between health and nutrition, food production, population growth, the environ-

ment and economic development.

"Students will work together to address the same problems governments and nongovernmental organizations face in managing the causes and effects of nutrition-related problems, and how they relate to public health, hunger and

in the Department of Biological Sciences.

"In this class, we will incorporate themes about marine science and socio-economic issues surrounding marine science," said Vega-Thurber. "We will focus on issues both local and coastal with an overall theme of Florida and South Florida."

She said this course would be beneficial even to non-science majors because of the different topics it will cover, such as anthropology, sociology, literature, geography and law.

Students will learn how humans affect the coast and how the coast affects humans, and they will be encouraged to learn how other people think to gain an alternate perspective, she said.

The three new courses will be supplemented by co-curricular activities, which are still being planned but will likely include service-learning projects, lectures, tours, field trips and films. Students will be able to get class credit for attending these activities, said Hilary Landorf, director of the Office of Global Learning Initiatives.

"We are working closely with faculty members to ensure that even when courses are at full capacity, they won't turn into lecture-based classes," she said. "They will be using online technology in order to keep students active and engaged."

These classes are really interactive and not lecture-based in order to keep students active in learning to solve real-world problems.

Stephanie Doscher, associate director
Office of Global Learning Initiatives

economic development in different countries," she said.

"Our Coastal Environment from the Bay to the World," or IDS 3995, will take place Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. in Academic One at BBC. It will have a capacity of 60 students.

The course will be taught by Peter Craumer, associate professor of Politics and International Relations; Hugh Gladwin, associate professor of Global and Socio-cultural Studies, and Rebecca Vega-Thurber, assistant professor

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 - »» Red Bar ««
 - »» Havana Dreams ««
 - »» Japengo at the Hyatt ««
 - »» Ecco Lounge ««
 - »» Finnegan's River ««
 - »» Mekka (3 Stages) ««
 - »» La Guaracha ««
 - »» Artoconecto...pug in at Macy's ««
 - »» Wallflower Gallery ««
 - »» Blue Martini ««

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MMF



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THE BEACON | Editorial

While transparency still an issue, SGA makes notable achievements this semester

It has been a busy semester for the Student Government Association. Both councils have been working hard to tackle complex issues ranging from council unification to the filling of council vacancies.

As the current student government prepares to start its final stretch, it is important to reflect on what was promised and what has actually been accomplished.

Transparency was a key tenet of both council's presidents' platforms during the election, and can be achieved through an updated Web site where students have access to minutes and video or audio feeds of meetings, as well as senate votes. Both councils have had limited success in reaching their goals in this aspect.

SGC-MMC has had its Web site redesigned and is kept relatively up-to-date with council events. While SGC-MMC is making more of an effort, many of the links to council meeting minutes are broken, as is the link to senate votes, as of press time.

SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda also sought to provide students with video and/or audio feeds of meetings. *The Beacon* still considers this a laudable goal to work toward, however no visible progress has been made.

SGC-BBC, meanwhile, has struggled in keeping students aware of its affairs, at least as far as its Web site is concerned. For several months, the site did not even have an accurate list of council members. Meeting minutes and senate votes are simply nowhere to be found on the SGC-BBC site.

Sholom Neistein, SGC-BBC president, vowed to have an updated Web site by the end of the summer, according to a *Beacon* candidate questionnaire submitted last Spring. While *The Beacon* understands the difficulties in running an SGA site, as the sites are controlled by Campus Life, there is no excuse this far into the school year.

Both presidents had also promised to use social media as a tool to reach out to students and increase student input. In this aspect, both councils have made progress. Despite some missteps earlier in the semester, the SGC-MMC and SGC-BBC Facebook groups have up-to-date information regarding SGA and student events, as well as providing a channel for students to voice their opinions.

Neistein has also delivered on his promise to bring back free printing to BBC at the beginning of the Summer term. Students at BBC now have the opportunity to print 250 all-black pages or 80 all-color with a swipe of their Panther IDs at the second-floor computer lab of the Wolfe University Center. *The Beacon* feels Neisten worked swiftly and efficiently in accomplishing this goal.

One goal Rionda has fulfilled is the renovation of the Graham University Center. While the argument has been made that SGA should not spend its funds on such cosmetic endeavors, it is important for the students to have an exceptional student center. This was particularly a good year to make these improvements as the University is currently seeking SACS reaccreditation. Upgrades include popular new study lounges and updated signage throughout the building.

While SGA has taken steps in the right direction regarding pivotal issues, *The Beacon* feels that SGA must refocus its efforts on being more transparent and make it more convenient for students to keep track of its daily business.

This editorial is part one of a two-part series. The second part will be published Nov. 25.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Presidents' salaries soar in recession

ANA AROCHA
Staff Writer

While students struggle to find ways to pay for their ever-rising tuition, the presidents of some of the nation's major private research universities are receiving steep increases in their compensation.

According to *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* annual executive compensation survey of the 2007-8 fiscal year, a number of university presidents at private institutions are raking in a 5.5 percent increase from the previous year.

Of the 419 universities included in *The Chronicle's* survey, 110 schools awarded their presidents a package exceeding half a million dollars – 23 of which are above the million mark. While these numbers only apply to private institutions, the study also shows that a growing number of public university presidents are also demanding hefty six-figure salaries.

This all comes at the heels of another increase in the economics of academia.

The previous year, the cost of attaining a university education rose 6 percent; exceeding inflation, wages and, more importantly to the struggling college student, the financial aid that would help fund their education.

The other side of this problem is the dismal faculty salary increases in the past few years. The College and University Professional Association for Human Resources conducted a National Faculty Survey for the 2008-2009 academic year, which indicated that the median faculty salary increase was 3.7 percent, down from last year's 4 percent increase.

So tuition is up, faculty salary is down and meanwhile the administration is swimming in money.

I was under the impression that the university is about the students and professors

engaging in research to enhance their field of study. I thought the administration was there to serve the university, to make sure that it receives the proper funding and runs smoothly.

Apparently, I was way off; according to this trend among these colleges, the heart of the university is no longer its faculty and students.

I can only hope FIU does not follow the same path.

This new "university" system seems to be purely a business arrangement where the faculty are the employees, the students are the clients and the administration is the fat man that signs the checks behind the safety of his big mahogany desk, basking in his victory over the system as his wallet grows ever so steadily.

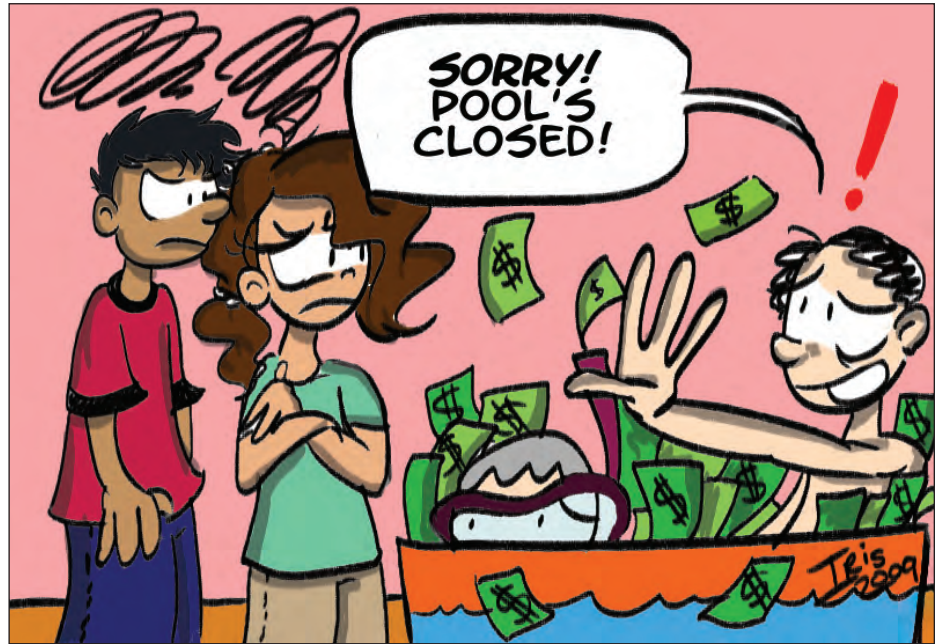
The only slight, redeeming factor of the increased compensation is that the pay packages were set before the floor of the economy fell through last fall. Perhaps this year presidents will take pay cuts to assist the situation.

But even so, the cost of tuition has yet to reach a standstill. University officials have cited various reasons for the rising costs of university education.

A popular excuse is that the costs of running a university are rising faster than the consumer price index. Also, some colleges have been raising tuition to generate funds to provide financial aid to their students. But the College Board said that even after subtracting the financial aid factor, tuition has still risen at least 2 percent faster than inflation over the past decade.

A substantial portion of the money allocated for paying these presidents should be directed toward stagnant faculty salaries or, if tuition increases are destined to continue to rise, toward more financial aid students.

Private research university presidents should not receive a median \$627,750 when students and professors are struggling to make ends meet.



Fort Hood shooting mars Muslim beliefs

CHRISTIAN R. BAUMAN
Staff Writer

Hectic and horrible were the first two words coming to the mind of Sergeant Eric Duplissa, stationed at Fort Hood on the day of the shooting. A friend had stormed into the room alerting him of the situation. Upon arrival to the shooting location, the duo offered assistance to the wounded.

There were people in uniform struggling to breathe through the shrapnel in their bodies. Seeing the hurt was harsh, but entering the building proved to be a more sobering sight for Sgt. Duplissa.

"... about 10 dead bodies totally shot to [expletive] and gone ... The one shooter I know of who I personally saw was Maj Hasan, and by his body that was getting

treated was his weapon, an FN 5.7 with about 16 30rd mags, about 10 of those spent ..."

It came to our knowledge later on that the blood was spilled over a case of Islamic extremism. And with Sept. 11 still on the minds of every American, it's possible this tragedy could have some revisiting anti-Islamic tensions.

One's extreme beliefs led a commissioned officer to turn his gun against his brother in what was a horrific and treasonous action.

"It's the fact that they can turn because of their belief system, and not all will, but some have, and it has been devastating for us," Duplissa said.

Islam is a religion of 1.57 billion people. That is a number far too great for us to write off as a cult that preaches genocide against

Americans.

Mahira Khan, president of the Muslim Student Association at FIU, issued the following statement: "American Muslims are deeply saddened for the loss of our soldiers in the Fort Hood tragedy. We condemn any acts of violence, whether they are terrorist or not.

The religion of Islam teaches peaceful and civil relations between human beings. This tragedy has brought American Muslims into the limelight due to uncertainty and stereotypes.

We are more than willing to communicate with others in order to clarify the various misrepresentations of Muslims, as well as the fact that Islam does not promote these types of acts."

A rotten fruit has fallen from a branch with desire to taint the very

tree of liberty that grew it. We are a better society than the reactionary ones that would rather wield an ideological axe to hack away the height of the tree and grind the stump of beliefs to shreds scattered through the short blades of the grass around it.

We cannot allow these fears to cheapen our thoughts. Those who commit these acts want us to fear Islam. Their chief demand for their ideological warfare is for there to be a war itself.

They want us to look in the eye of every honest Muslim American in the military with an untrustworthy glance.

We cannot cast shadows of shame on the grave of every Muslim soldier that served and died for our country. We have to be American.

EDITORIAL POLICY


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


QUOTATIONATION

"Some people say all the kids get together... and that's a lot of exchange of warmth and love, but a little exchange of viruses, too."

Dr. Anne Schuchat,
Center for Disease Control Prevention

WINNER/LOSER

 A 91-year-old Lake Worth man fended off a would-be burglar with nothing but his dog and a shotgun. The World War II veteran leapt out of bed in his birthday suit and captured the criminal and held him at gunpoint until the police arrived.

 President Obama announced last week that he would miss his January deadline for closing Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba. Instead of replacing the deadline the president refrained from setting any new benchmarks for closing the maximum security prison.

YES SIR, SHE CAN

Radiate FM's hip-hop director talks rhythm, rhyme, reason

SERGIO BONILLA
Staff Writer

When Krista Lo left a party a few months ago, a group of men drinking near her truck didn't want her to get home quite yet.

As they sat on her truck, she nervously turned on the radio, which played *Enter the Wu-Tang 36 Chambers*.

Suddenly, the men changed their tone with the 5-foot-2 Radiate FM hip-hop director and engaged in a conversation about their favorite hip-hop albums.

"I told them I loved Wu-Tang Clan and *Ready to Die* was, beginning to end, one of the best albums of all time," Lo said. "Surely enough, one of them had 'Ready to Die' tattooed on his chest."

The 19-year-old has to convince hip-hop heads that she is a credible source who understands the genre well.

"People are generally pretty skeptical. When I'm talking to big groups of people and I say I like hip-hop, sometimes I get a funny look," Lo said. "They usually say, 'You? You like hip-hop? No.' If you sit and have a conversation with me, I

promise you that I will be able to keep up with whomever you're talking about."

Lo became the FIU student radio hip-hop director roughly one month ago. She is responsible for approving all the hip-hop music sent to the station by record labels.

Despite her penchant for hip-hop, she does not limit herself to one type of music. She has a rotation show, "Yes Sir, I Can," which plays contemporary underground music.

"I can have a specialty show, but I just really love being able to throw in anything," Lo said. "If I want to throw in something from Ethiopia in the '60s and then throw in something that came in the day before from Brooklyn, I can. I love the fact that I have the opportunity to do that."

When asked if hip-hop was her favorite genre, Lo did not respond with an immediate yes, but had this to say:

"If you had to tell me to give up listening to a certain genre of music, hip-hop would be the last one I give up," Lo said. "It's the closest to my heart because I feel there is no other music like it. It's a truly original form of music that came out of nowhere."



Krista Lo

Radiate FM Music Director Ryan Morejon hired Lo because she is not biased toward one type of hip-hop or any one genre.

Some of her favorite artists include, A Tribe Called Quest, Nas, Big L, The Notorious B.I.G., The Velvet Underground and The Mars Volta.

"She would do well as any director," Morejon said. "She has a good general knowledge of every genre."

Lo did consider having a show where she played a specific genre of music, and it was not conventional.

"I was approved to have a specialty show basically consisting of jazz and music from

Africa during the '60s and '70s," Lo said. "But I can't give up my specialty show yet; it's too soon."

Only if one of the current hip-hop DJs leaves would Lo consider hosting a show of that variety.

Jason Kavanagh or DJ JB hosts "Supa Sounds" Monday nights, and he said he was impressed with Lo's level of hip-hop expertise.

"Her knowledge of hip-hop is vast. You can't judge a book by its cover," Kavanagh said. "Lots of the people her age don't know the stuff I play. In terms of people at the station who know hip-hop, she ranks right up there with me."

FISTFULS OF TECH!

Summing up the decade one tech advancement at a time

To sum up this decade in technology is no easy feat. So much has happened that it only serves to excite me for what we have in store for 2010 and beyond, or as it will be oddly referred to... "the 10's".

This list was harder than I thought, but with much deliberation and various trips to respected colleagues for advice.

These events or items have changed everything for us petty humans whether we've noticed it or not.

10 - THE XBOX, PLAYSTATION, WII, AND THE DAWN OF NEXT GEN GAMING.

These companies and consoles have come a long way in 10 years. Not only in the advancement of the hardware but in the progression of software as well. Developers not only used these next generation consoles to create, well, next generation games, they also created new gaming experiences.

The Nintendo Wii really achieved this first, with its motion

sensing technology. Though its dominance will be tested in the next decade, with Microsoft's Project Natal and a similar project from Sony, Nintendo gets the credit for creating it first.

9 - TURN-BY-TURN GPS FOR ALL!

Though GPS technology has been available for quite sometime, it began going mainstream in 2001. Not only is it standard on a majority of vehicles but in 2002 companies began integrating it into mobile technology, such as personal digital assistants and cellular phones.

Since then, companies like TomTom and Garmin have developed stand alone devices to compete with these phones. However, the next decade for GPS manufacturers will be an interesting one, considering they have a zero-cost competitor.

On Nov. 6, Google debuted free turn-by-turn navigation on the Motorola Droid, with plans to roll it out to other devices in the near future. But with Google's GPS, and

its propensity for openness, one can only wonder how GPS will be integrated into our lives in 2010 and beyond.

8 - THE NEW FORMAT WARS: BLU RAY AND HIGH DEFINITION STREAMING BATTLE FOR WORLD SUPREMACY.

The HD format wars of the mid to late 00's left HD-DVD in the dust. Blu-Ray technology, the winner, became the next evolution of DVD, featuring 1080P high-def video and sound. However its biggest hurdle comes from a company known for distributing Blu-Rays in a very unique way. Netflix has grown by leaps and bounds in the last few years. Its online streaming service is spectacularly implemented and is proof of concept that Sony's fight is not done yet.

Though online HD streaming via Netflix is still young, it's expanding at a rapid pace. Its expansion to video game consoles, set-top boxes and DVD players proves this. In the next decade, Netflix, and services like it, have a good chance to knock

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REVIEW: JONH MAYER'S BATTLE STUDIES

Heartbreak fuels Mayer's lyrically powerful album

ROSALYN DELGADO
Recruitment Director

Ladies and gentlemen, John Mayer has gotten his heart broken.

Surprised? Let me sarcastically say, "Me too." Want proof? Look no further than *Battle Studies*, a musical endeavor that aims to leave fans of the singer/songwriter craving for even more details about his latest breakup.

The lyrically intense *Battle Studies* is his most personal album to date, portraying Mayer as just a regular man who is going through the motions of a broken heart. The only difference is, he masterfully puts it into words and tune. OK, so maybe he isn't so "regular" - but we get the point.

In *Battle Studies*, Mayer downright spills, beginning with the first track of the album, "Heartbreak Warfare," in which he paints the big picture with soft guitars that set a backdrop for his breakup story.

Track two, "All We Ever Do is Say Goodbye," has Mayer reflecting on his freshly broken relationship with bittersweet

***Battle Studies* is his most personal album to date, portraying Mayer as just a regular man going through the motions of a broken heart.**

words: "I loved you more than songs can say, but I can't keep running after yesterday." Eric Clapton-influenced guitar solos fill the song.

The track "Half of My Heart" is a soft sing-along that shows an optimistic but still cautious Mayer, The song features Taylor Swift, but barely - she only sings background vocals toward the end.

The whimsical track "Who Says?" has Mayer lyrically and romantically throwing caution to the wind. This folksy number is yet another reflection track in which he asks himself, "Who says I can't be free from all the things I

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REVIEW: SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DRAG?

Talent neglected in favor of popularity

ISAAC SORIA
Contributing Writer

So you think you can drag? Apparently, Lady Jane, Raveena Sapphire and Evelyn Lyn did as they competed against each other for a \$500 cash prize at Trixie's in Hollywood, Fla.

The "So You Think You Can Drag?" competition was hosted by the Beta Delta chapter Delta Lambda Phi, as a fundraiser for future events. These performers, Danny Aguilar (Jane), Rashad Subhan (Sapphire) and Yoel Moreno (Lyn), battled it out for eight weeks putting on amazing performances.

Last Monday, Nov. 16, the finals were held.

In the first round, Lady Jane performed first. She danced extremely well with her "pops," "vogues," and "drops." Her outfit was a simple black top, short jean shorts, black heels and a long brown wig.

The second performer was Raveena Sapphire who lip-synched and belly danced to

"Give It Up to Me" by Shakira. Raveena Sapphire wore a blonde wig and a black vest that exposed her black and tan bra along with black shorts and gold high heels. Evelyn Lyn performed "Rumors" by Lindsay Lohan and started off with a black coat which eventually came off. Her dance moves were stiff, but the crowd enjoyed it.

In the second round, Lady Jane did another mix of songs, but wore the same outfit, which brought down her standing in the view of drag judges Jonie Spirito, Cassandra Hylton and Miss Noel. Lady Jane still danced amazingly well.

Raveena Sapphire performed after with "What You Waiting For?" by Gwen Stefani, and wore an elaborate outfit of a mad hatter hat, and a blue and white Alice in Wonderland dress. Raveena Sapphire lip-synched every word in the song accurately and imitated the Gwen personality impressively as she stripped down to her pink bra and

blue panties. The third contestant, Evelyn Lyn still performed stiffly and with little to no personality. Thankfully, her co-star, Ky Lexy performed with lots of emotion, taking on an angry teenage rock-star girl character.

The crowd was still pleased with their performance and tipped the contestant and her co-star plenty.

In round three, the three contestants and Ky Lexy had to perform "Lady Marmalade" (the 2001 cover version), which apparently was a surprise to them because they all seemed completely confused.

Raveena Sapphire was quick on her feet, doing Mya's part, and then after being directed by one of the professional drag queens, Evelyn Lyn did P!nk's part, Lady Jane Kim's, and Ky Lexy did Christina Aguilera's part. Raveena Sapphire again performed well, and Evelyn Lyn showed a little

bit more personality but was still stiff in her movements.

Lady Jane was filled with lots of energy and also took on the part of Li'l Kim accurately, and Ky Lexy also channeled Christina Aguilera well even though she started off a little perplexed. That was understandable, since it was her first time performing and in any event, she was not a contestant.

After "Marmalade" they performed "Hush, Hush" by the Pussycat Dolls for fun and professional drag queens hopped on stage to join in. Minutes afterward Gemni Stone announced Raveena Sapphire runner up, and Evelyn Lyn the winner because she got the most tips from the audience.

This was a poor way of choosing the winner in my view, because it turned the event into a popularity contest instead of a talent contest.

Beacon reviewers receive no free food or services in exchange for positive reviews.



LADY JANE

RAVEENA SAPPHIRE

EVELYN LYN

PHOTOS BY ISAAC SORIA

Fourth album boasts stirring guitar work

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use to be ... Who says I can't rewrite my history?"

The song that follows, "Perfectly Lonely," reassures the listener that Mayer is not this man going through the motions of denial as he sings, "I'm perfectly lonely 'cause I don't belong to anyone ... and nobody belongs to me." This song is a jazz-infused track that is sure to make you want to listen again.

The blues cover "Crossroads", with guitar rhythms that twist and turn all over the track show the skills that made us turn our attention to Mayer way back when *Room for Squares* was released, showing talent that has only improved with each album since.

After this detour, Mayer returns with "Edge of Desire," which is easily one of the album's most personal tracks. His relapse song, if you may, paints the picture of a nearly desperate man who may still be clinging to those maybe-this-is-meant-to-be thoughts in the back of his head.

As fast as his desperate attempt comes, it swiftly leaves with the song "Do You Know Me?" in which he yet again reflects on his once beloved romance.

Mayer closes his album with "Friends Lovers, or Nothing." Filled with his signature sound that takes us back to the *Continuum* days, his last song signs off with a message to his former lover: it is time to choose. With that, Mayer finds what we hope is closure.

John Mayer's latest efforts puts him on a scale right before Clapton's guitar skills, right next to Tom Petty's vocal chops, and reaching toward Bob Dylan's songwriting level. But remember, it is only his fourth album. So for all you newly wounded single souls, grab some tissues, a journal and a pen and get ready for your battle studies.

Beacon reviewers receive no free food or services in exchange for positive reviews.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2009

PREKSHA MEDITATION CLUB



WHEN: 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 314

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CLUB Dinners

WHEN: 5:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 243

MR. AND MRS. DANCE MARATHON

WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Ballroom

BAHAMIAN STUDENT ORGANIZATION

Come to this general meeting to learn how you can get involved with this club.
WHEN: 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 305

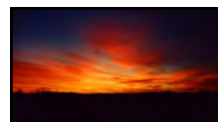
MOVIE MONDAYS: THE MIGHTY BOOSH-A-TION SEASON 2



Watch this cult UK comedy show for free!
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Sweat Records

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2009

TRUTH FOR LIFE



General Meeting
WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 343

FIU SHALOM

A Hero In Heaven (Movie)
WHEN: 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 140

PAGLIACCI & SUOR ANGELICA

WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts

CHOSEN GENERATION - GENERAL MEETING

WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Annex

WOMEN'S STUDIES STUDENT ASSOCIATION



WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 140

CAMPUS BIBLE FELLOWSHIP



WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Annex

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2009

FIU YOGA CLUB



Kirshna Banquet Event
WHEN: 11 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Ballroom West

CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY



Mass
WHEN: 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 150

LEND A HAND

General Meeting
WHEN: 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 340

BLACK STUDENT UNION - THANKSGIVING DINNER

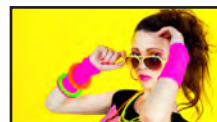
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 243

MEGADETH



Performing w/ Machine Head & others!
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$33
WHERE: Revolution Live

80's PROM



WHEN: 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: The Vagabond

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2009

THERE'S STILL LIFE



Psychadelic Furs' Richard Butler, shows off his artwork!
WHEN: 11 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Harold Golen Gallery

TURKEY TROT

5K & 10 K races
WHEN: 7:30 a.m.
HOW MUCH: \$25-30
WHERE: Tropical Park

OPEN MIC



WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Nakava Cafe, 140 NW 20th St. Boca Raton

THANKSGIVING NIGHT

Pangea at Hard Rock
WHEN: 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: 5711 Seminole Way, Hollywood, FL

WINTERNATIONAL THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE



WHEN: 10 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: 125th St between 6th & 12th Ave

-Compiled by Mariana Ochoa.

Got an event you want featured? Send an e-mail to mariana.ochoa@fiusm.com.

Tech! counts down the top ten tech feats of the decade

TECH, page 7

out the big “blu” defending champ.

7 – THE DEATH OF PHYSICAL INTERACTION AT THE HANDS OF FACEBOOK AND TWITTER.

Social media has defined a large part of this decade. Facebook, Twitter and, up until a few years ago, MySpace, have transformed into services that connect users together. But, more importantly, they have redefined the way we interact.

Facebook has gone from a closed community of college students to more than 200 million users, effectively becoming a new competitor for e-mail.

Twitter has become an endless stream of information. In a world driven by information Twitter is a powerful tool. Leo LaPorte, tech guru and head of TWiT, described Twitter as the “central nervous system of the Internet.” If you want to see what people’s interests are and what is happening in the world in real

time, Twitter will give you that, and that is a true definition of the power of information. If you don’t believe me, just type #IranElection in Twitter and see what you find.

6 – THE APPLE IPHONE AND IPOD TOUCH: “YES, YOU CAN TOUCH YOUR PHONE.”

You thought I was going to put this at No. 1 didn’t you?

Apple debuted the iPhone in 2007 and the world’s jaw collectively dropped. This phone was sci-fi meets reality, with a large touch screen and multi-touch technology.

Apple has advanced the iPhone since then – both in hardware and software – and, though its development platform is still closed and strictly monitored, that hasn’t stopped it from selling more than 10 million units or “inspiring” other companies to create something similar.

The iPhone really captivated the market, and was proof positive that the Apple hype machine was amazingly successful at

creating, selling and marketing a major product. It was a new mobile experience, one that will get better over time.

5 – THE RISE OF ONLINE VIDEO

When YouTube was created in 2005, it became an instant platform for self-expression, education and guys getting hit in the crotch. YouTube gave birth to instant access video, something that has revolutionized learning and creativity. YouTube videos have contributed so much to society, both in entertainment and in news media, that it has really given the end user an omnipresence that could never be achieved. Whether you’re using YouTube, Viddler, or Vimeo, streaming video will leap forward in 2010.

4 – ONLINE MUSIC AND THE DEATH OF THE COMPACT DISC.

Online music services such as Amazon Music and iTunes have really changed the way we buy and listen to music. These services have become popular, instant music channels where people can legally buy tracks from their favorite artists and bands. This whole idea of “a la carte” music, or buying just a couple of tracks, was pretty revolutionary, delivering on something that has been in demand for a while. The past decade really killed the compact disc and solidified mp3 as the wave of the future.

3 – GOOGLE

Google is No. 3 because you really can’t pick just one thing they did that changed the decade. Google’s search engine is just a scratch on the surface. Google has used the

Internet to compete with hardware, pushing forward the idea of cloud computing, which will play a huge role in the next 10 years. Their collection of online apps such as Gmail, GoogleDocs and Google Calendar are some of the most used on the Internet. Their efforts and developers have really pushed for the advancement of the Web and, with new beta projects every day such as Chrome OS and Google Wave, Google is still innovating and still trying to take on the big players like Microsoft and Apple, using the Internet.

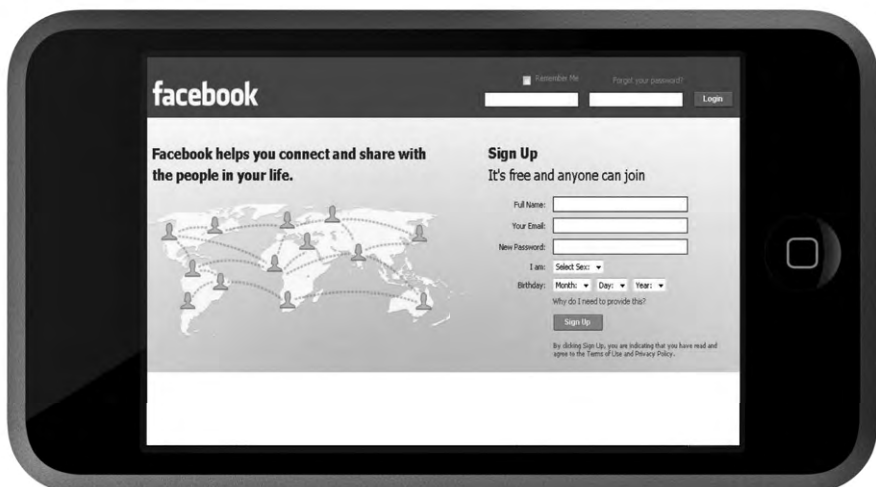
2 – THE APPLE IPOD

The iPod is the electronic device of the decade. Launched in 2001, the iPod is currently the No. 1 media player in the world, holding more than a 70 percent market share. The iPod has shaped the decade not only because of its popularity, but because of its strong content portal, iTunes, and a long list of accessory makers that have created everything from iPod powered stereos to toasters with iPod docks – yes, toasters.

Much like the iPhone, the iPod stylistically broke the mold in terms of design and will continue to do that for some time. It’s elegant, it holds attention and it changes every year.

At the end of the day, an iPod is just as much a fashion accessory as it is a powerful media player. The reason the iPod is No. 2 is because it paved the way for things like the iPod nano, and, ultimately, the iPhone. It was the beginning of a new Apple, and proof that something beautiful can be useful.

Next on Fistfuls of Tech!- Find out who clinched the No. 1 spot on The Top Ten Tech Advancements of the Decade.



Tuesday Times Talks

Open Discussions of Global Current Events
12:00pm-1:00pm · GL 220 · Refreshments served

Oct. 27 "Cell Phones: The Missing Link to Progress for Rural Africa?"
Moderators: Fred Blevens, Journalism; Ben Lauren, English; George Pearson, Libraries

Nov. 3 "Pharmaceutical Research: Medicine or Marketing?"
Moderator: David Cohen, Social Work

Nov. 10 "The Arts: I Know What I Like and I Like What I Know"
Moderator: David Dolata, Music

Nov. 17 "Women and Islam: Whose Marriage Is It Anyway?"
Moderator: Aixa Perez-Prado, Education

Nov. 24 "Online Learning: Will Schooling Ever Be the Same?"
Moderator: Brian Peterson, History



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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Roberts leads the way in home win

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

FIU won its second consecutive game of the season last Friday against North Carolina Central 83-73 at the U.S Century Bank Arena. After losing three games in blowout fashion to open the 2009-10 campaign, the Golden Panthers (2-3, 0-0 Sun-Belt) are enjoying the comforts of home.

"We want to make sure this is a tough place for teams to come and win at," FIU coach Isiah Thomas said. "Our players are really starting to get used to playing in our building. Once we get all the fan support and everything else this is going to be a tough arena to win basketball games in."

With the help of a balanced offense and an undersized but stingy defense, Thomas won his second career game as a college coach.

Marvin Roberts led the Golden Panthers with 21 points and 10 rebounds, including a pair of rim-rattling dunks. FIU had three players in double figures besides Roberts, as Thomas kept a tight rotation of seven players against the eagles.

Roberts was glad to get the crowd going with his aerial displays.

"You have to have a turning point sometimes," Roberts said. "I try to get my team in it with a couple of dunks here and there."

The Eagles were led by a pair of 20 plus point scoring efforts from C.J. Wilkerson and Vincent Davis, but FIU pulled away with a dagger 3-pointer by Roberts with 5:06 left in the game to extend the lead to 74-65.

ASPRILLA'S DOINGS

Former FIU center Freddy Asprilla, last seasons SBC freshman of the year, has announced where he will play basketball next season. The 6-foot-10 Colombian will head to the Big 12 conference to play for Frank Martin at Kansas State.

Asprilla averaged 14 points and 9.3 rebounds in his last year at FIU before heading to Miami Dade College this season after FIU declined to release him of his scholarship.

Winnable game on the horizon

You can't say much about what happened on the field Saturday.

FIU took the 300 mile trip up the Turnpike to Gainesville and see if they could do what nobody else has done in 20 tries: beat Urban Meyer and the Florida Gators.

Predictably, the 3-7 Golden Panthers didn't put up much of a fight against the top ranked Gators falling 62-3, but quite frankly, it wasn't to be expected.

It was a game FIU fans had circled on their calendar since it was announced in 2006. So many of the students here grew up as fans of the Gators, and they are consistently one of the most entertaining and explosive teams in the country.

So it was an experience for the fans who got to make their way to The Swamp decked out in blue and gold (or, orange and blue, which might have been more likely), but there's not too much that can be taken out of the game itself, which was an exercise in dominance by the Gators.

FIU has played two of these games now, facing arguably the two top defenses in the country in Alabama and Florida, and in

both of them you try to draw what positives you can when you can.

COMMENTARY



CHRIS TOWERS

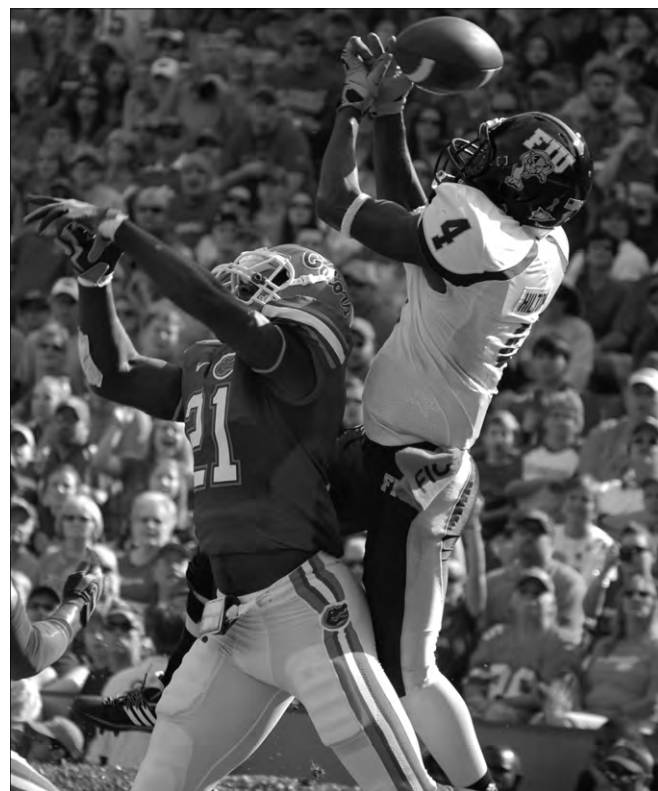
Against Alabama, FIU showed some fight and played them to a close first half before the Crimson Tide ran away with it. You could take something out of that as a fan, but at the end of the day, it didn't tell you much about this team, which has struggle pretty consistently since.

It would be nice if, in the future, FIU began scheduling games they could be more competitive in with their out of conference schedule.

Sure, the fans get the experience of playing against the UF's and Alabama's (and Penn State's of the past), but it's hard to argue if there is any tangible benefit other than the big paycheck the team receives for being one of Florida's designated cupcakes.

Next season, the Golden Panthers have out of conference games against Duke and Maryland of the ACC and Texas A&M of the Big 12 conference, and those are more along the lines of what the team should be looking for.

They will still be extremely tough matchups, but you're not putting yourself in the position



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

NOT QUITE: T.Y. Hilton cannot come down with a pass against the Gators in a 62-3 loss.

where anything more than "We didn't get run off the field" is seen as an accomplishment, and unfortunately, that is the type of mindset the fans tend to take going into these types of games.

Building a fan base would be helped along by playing more winnable games and having the opportunity for some upsets against big recognizable names.

BAD TIMING

When you play a game like this, you hope to just get out of the building without any major

injuries, but unfortunately for FIU, a senior may have taken his last snap.

On the first drive of the game, a UF defender rolled into punter Carlos Munera's left, non kicking leg, leaving him lying on the ground in significant pain.

The injury is a big blow for FIU, who will have to finish the season against FAU on December 5th without the Sun Belt's 2nd leading punter, and more importantly, it looks like it will end Munera's FIU career with just one game left.

Hilton leads Panthers in yards again

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playing against the No.1 team in the nation after playing No. 2 Alabama to open the season.

"I think we grew a lot, especially knowing how we did against the No. 1 team in the nation and how can we press on and move forward from it," T.Y. Hilton said.

Hilton had a one-handed grab for 26 yards to bring FIU close enough to score

a Dustin Rivest field goal at the end of the first half, but the Golden Panthers could not close out any other drives with points.

The Gators, on the other hand, quickly got on the board and didn't stop until FIU got a goal line stand and stuffed UF third string quarterback Andrew Blalock to end the contest.

Linebacker Brandon Spikes initiated the pounding with a 41-yard interception return with 13:10 to go in the first quarter, and Tebow ran for a career long 55-yard touch-

down to put the Gators up 14-0 early. The second quarter featured the most fireworks, as the Gators engineered three touchdown drives to give them a comfortable 35-0 lead before Rivest' field goal.

For FIU, the games only consolation was the experience of playing the best team in the nation and learning from it.

"Being a young team has its nicks and bruises," FIU linebacker Scott Bryant said. "Playing the No. 1 team in the nation is the opportunity of a lifetime. We played hard

Team still expected to receive NCAA tournament bid

VOLLEYBALL, page 12

Coach Danijela Tomic said of North Texas's performance. "But our team was very focused and we executed our game plan perfectly. We are peaking as a team at the right moment."

The Mean Green came close to erasing the FIU lead in the first set, but that would be as close as they would get to trying to spoil the Golden Panthers' season. FIU would jump out to large leads in the next two sets that buried North Texas for the match and ended their season.

"We started a little anxious, but then we were okay afterwards," Rosa said. "We are playing the best as a team right now. We want to win this tournament. This is our last chance."

In addition to Rosa's performance, senior Olga Vergun had 10 kills on offense as the team had a .311 hitting percentage for the match. Natalia Valentin had team-highs in assists (35) and digs (13) while Andrea Lakovic had a four blocks to help anchor the

defense.

The win set up a rematch of last year's first round match up against New Orleans, who knocked FIU out of the tournament in a sweep. In the lone matchup between the two this season, the Golden Panthers defeated them on the road in four sets.

FIU 3, NEW ORLEANS 0 (25-16, 25-17, 25-16)

The Golden Panthers advanced to the championship game of the tournament Friday night with a victory over the New Orleans Pioneers in three sets.

The win gave FIU their 23rd consecutive victory as they redeemed themselves from their defeat at the hands of the Pioneers in last year's tournament, where New Orleans swept the Golden Panthers at U.S Century Bank Arena in the first round.

"It's nice that we're in the finals," said Natalia Valentin. "Everyone's expecting a lot from us. And it's great this year that we don't depend just on Yarimar [Rosa]; we

"I said to them after the second set 'Where is my team?' This wasn't the team that won 30 games this year. Our serving wasn't very good, the tempo of our offense wasn't fast, our hitters weren't playing smart... Everything went wrong."

Danijela, Tomic, Head Coach
Volleyball

have a bunch of players that can put the ball down."

The Golden Panthers offense was on point throughout the course of the match as New Orleans proved to be powerless to stop Yarimar Rosa, Jovana Bjelica and Andrea Lakovic from posting double-digit kills. Lakovic, who had 10 kills for the match and a .750 hitting percentage, also had seven blocks on the night to help keep the Pioneer attack at bay.

"Our defense has been great; it has improved tremendously," Coach Danijela Tomic said. "I think Andrea played the best match of her career."

The Pioneers had trouble keeping up with FIU, falling behind in each of the sets and although they fought hard to keep each set close, the Golden Panthers would break free in each stanza to earn the three-set sweep.

Rosa led the team offensively with 14 kills while Bjelica added 11 kills and a team-high 10 digs in the victory.

The win earned the Panthers a third meeting with the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders, this time for the Sun Belt Conference championship.

"It's been a lot of fun watching this team perform," Tomic said. "We are a complete team. Everyone understands their role."

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VOLLEYBALL

STREAK IS OVER



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Golden Panthers fall short in quest for conference title

JOEL DELGADO
Staff Writer

The Sun Belt championship title has eluded the Golden Panthers for several seasons now, but with arguably the strongest season in FIU volleyball history, an undefeated conference record and a 23-match winning streak, all signs pointed to FIU finally regaining the conference crown.

All of that came to a screeching halt at E.A. Diddle Arena on Saturday as the Blue Raiders stunned Coach Danijela Tomic and the Golden Panthers in a four-set match to earn the Sun Belt championship and an automatic berth to the NCAA Tournament.

"We were not the team that we are," Tomic said. "Middle Tennessee played a great match and put pressure on us. They made us play out of character."

Both squads came out battling in the first set, and the Panthers overcame an early deficit to tie the first set at 15 apiece, but late in the stanza the Blue Raiders would pull away to take an important 1-0 lead.

"They played good, but we didn't show up as a team," said Yarimar Rosa. "We couldn't put the ball down."

The Blue Raiders would not let up in the second set, jumping out to an 8-1 lead and although the Golden Panthers tried to close the gap, FIU could not climb back and fell into a 2-0 hole.

"I said to them after the second set 'Where is my team?' This wasn't

the team that won 30 games this year," Tomic said. "Our serving wasn't very good, the tempo of our offense wasn't fast, our hitters weren't playing smart... Everything went wrong."

The Panthers would take the third set to keep their hopes alive, but the Blue Raiders would put FIU away in the fourth set to win the match and the conference title.

Jovana Bjelica led the team in kills for the match with 15, while Rosa would add 12 kills and 13 digs to the FIU effort. Natalia Valentin led the team with 39 assists while Lakovic recorded three blocks.

Despite the loss, FIU is still expected to earn an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament.

The Golden Panthers return home to finish the regular season on Nov. 28 against Florida A&M.

FIU 3, NORTH TEXAS 0 (25-17, 25-13, 15-15)

After a disappointing first round exit in last year's Sun Belt tournament, the Golden Panthers made sure that they did not repeat experience with a three-set sweep over North Texas at E.A. Diddle Arena at WKU's campus, the host site for this year's tournament.

The FIU offense, led by Yarimar Rosa's 16 kills, jumped out to early leads in each to help propel the Golden Panthers over the Mean Green, forcing them to play catch-up for most of the afternoon.

"They started playing very well,"

VOLLEYBALL, page 10

LETDOWN: Jovana Bjelica (right) and Andrea Lakovic look for a point earlier in the season.

FOOTBALL: UF 62, FIU 3

Team gets swamped by nation's top program

JONATHAN RAMOS
Assr. Sports Director

The Florida Gators are undefeated, are ranked No. 1 in the Bowl Championship Series standings, and boast a senior Heisman Trophy hopeful as they gear up for a national title run.

The injury-riddled Golden Panthers were overwhelmed from the start, in turn losing 62-3 at UF on Nov. 21. The 59-point loss is tied for worst in the young program's history.

The Gators pummeled FIU for 584 total yards on offense and they weren't selfish. Quarterbacks Tim Tebow and John Brantley distributed the football to nine different receivers for five passing touchdowns and 361 yards worth of devastating aerial attacks.

After Tebow did most of the damage, his sophomore backup Brantley finished off FIU

by tossing three of the touchdowns down the stretch.

The humbling loss gave FIU coach Mario Cristobal some perspective of where he sees the direction of his program going.

"I think that you look at building a program and you see what you really want to do," he said. "You want to build a place and be like a University of Florida. When you get on a big stage like this and you see every part of it, you see the alumni, the hype, the tailgating, a beautiful building and then when you go on the field and play against elite talent it really gets you fired up to what the possibilities are of building a program. You also realize how far you have to go to reach that status."

FIU's cast of youthful players got a taste of

FOOTBALL, page 10



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

TOUGH TO STOP: FIU safety Jonathan Cyprien looks to tackle UF wide receiver Deonte Thompson on Saturday. Thompson and the Gators racked up over 500 yards of offense.