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Pre-Law Fraternity boasts presidential pedigree, preparation for potential litigators.

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In its final home game of the season, the volleyball team beat FAMU 3-0.

UPCOMING EVENTS

"The Sugar Babies" Film Screening, Dec. 2, 8 p.m. This free film screening will be held in GC 100.

Service for Peace, Dec. 3, 4 p.m. A free lecture and film will be held in the GC Panther Suites.

Students for a Free Tibet, Dec. 3, 1 p.m. Join in on this general meeting being held in GC 343.

Caribbean Student Association, Dec. 3, 5 p.m. Join in on this general meeting being held in GC 100 for free.

—More events can be found in our Monday and Friday issues in *Life!*.

WEATHER



WEDNESDAY
Isolated T-Storms
LOW: 75 HIGH: 84



THURSDAY
Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 67 HIGH: 79



FRIDAY
Showers
LOW: 63 HIGH: 76

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SGC-MMC

Senate puts off bill until Spring

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

The senate of the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus brought forth a council bill during its Nov. 30 senatorial session that calls for the creation of an Elections Committee.

Sponsoring senators Vignesh Doraiswamy of the Honors College and William-Jose Velez of Engineering and Computing stated to their colleagues that they were only presenting the bill to the senate for consideration and did not have intentions of getting the bill passed during that session.

Some senators said that the proposed Elections Committee, however, could harm the already-in-place Elections Board and its role.

Sponsoring senators made it clear that the new committee would not duplicate the role of the board because it would deal with only the legislations pertaining to elections.

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SACS ACCREDITATION

First review points out faults

JORGE VALENS
Asst. News Director

The University received high marks in an off-site review report for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, according to an e-mail sent to the University community.

FIU's Compliance Certification Report stated that the University abided by 84 of the 89 principles of accreditation, according to a statement from University Provost Douglas Wartzok.

"The off-site review team indicated that all proper policies, procedures and structures were in place," Wartzok stated in the e-mail.

The five principles not satisfied by the University include failure to submit an audited report on the University's finances for the 2008-09 year and two issues regarding the wording of conflict of interest policies in the University's Board of Trustees.

Wartzok said that the issues were not going to be a problem for the University.

"While we are very proud of this accomplishment, we will not rest on our laurels but will continue vigorous preparations for the off-shore site visits that will occur in January and the on-campus site visit that will occur in March," Wartzok said in a written statement.

He added that the Quality

Enhancement Plan—Global Learning for Global Citizenship Project will be a focus of the University in the months approaching the on-site accreditation in March of 2010.

"Our success on these principles is a tribute to the faculty in all degree programs who have placed a high priority on assessment of student learning," Wartzok said.

Every 10 years, SACS conducts a thorough assessment of bachelor's, master's, and doctorate's issuing universities in the southeast United States.

The full report is available on accreditation.fiu.edu.

twittered

Social media engage, inform students

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
Staff Writer

Facebook and Twitter aren't just about keeping up with friends and family as many colleges and universities throughout the nation have taken advantage of these social media networks to ease communication with their faculty and students. FIU is no exception.

FIU's Social Media Directory, an informal Web site used by the marketing department to keep track of the University's presence online,

lists 22 official FIU Facebook accounts, 13 FIU student organization Facebook pages and 41 FIU-related Facebook groups. It also lists 23 official FIU Twitter accounts as well as 10 FIU student organization Twitter accounts.

"It is important to note that we do not control or manage all the pages and accounts in the directory," said Eduardo Merille, the director of Marketing and New Media at the University. "We are keeping this as a means to keep track of what is out there."

Some of the features that these social media projects offer are keeping up to date with campus events on FIU Campus Life's Facebook page, reading school news on FIU News'

Twitter page and keeping up with what's good to eat on Panther Dining Services' Twitter page.

Even FIU's librarians have turned to these social media Web sites to make it easier for students to access all of the library's

resources while maintaining a closer relationship with the students.

George Pearson, a University librarian, said social media has a huge impact in academia in general, and libraries in particular.

"I think the library currently sees Twitter, as well as a lot of other social media, as a marketing tool, a way to get the word out and stay in touch with our users," Pearson said.

Pearson, as well as professors Fred Blevens and Ben Lauren, will be co-teaching a Global Learning Initiative class called How We Know What We Know in the Spring, in which they say they will attempt to include Twitter as a component of the class.

"The idea is to use Twitter during lectures, allowing students to interact with one another and the speaker, and make lectures more interactive and lively," Pearson said.

He believes the class will use Twitter effectively because it will offer more cohesion and connectivity for the students attending the class, which is

SOCIAL MEDIA, page 2

Law students call for refugee protection

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

Three law students concerned with natural disasters that hit Haiti during the last years filled a petition urging the federal government to grant temporary protection status to Haitians living in the United States.

The students, from the Carlos A. Costa Immigration and Human Rights Clinic at the FIU College of Law, filled the petition with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on Nov. 30.

In a press conference at the Rafael Diaz-

PETITION, page 3

INNOVATIVE ASSIGNMENT



PHOTOS BY LINDA LEE/THE BEACON

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: Senior Michael Fernandez, theater major, rehearsed for an end-of-semester assignment for his Directing 1 class, outside Deuxieme Maison. The act includes a solo actor performing to Andy Reves', economics major, beat.



Class to use Twitter to liven debates

SOCIAL MEDIA, page 1

expected to have around 160 students.

“The traditional lecture is a one-way conversation, usually a very passive experience for listeners. That’s not necessarily a bad thing, but we’re hoping to change the boundaries somewhat and bring more people into the conversation,” Pearson said.

Bringing more

“Many students find out about what is going on campus through Facebook or similar sites. For us, a mix of traditional communication avenues and online social networking is ideal since each channel supports the other. We launched the GoGlobalFIU profile about two months ago and currently we have about 700 Facebook friends who are mostly FIU students.”

... We’re hoping to change the boundaries somewhat and bring more people into the conversation.

George Pearson, librarian

Committee’s role generates confusion

SGC-MMC, page 1

“The committee will not serve the same purpose of the elections board,” sponsoring senator Velez clarified. “This will be only to revise the elections code and clauses in the constitution.”

The bill, entitled “Elections Committee Act of 2009,” states that any bill pertaining to elections must come through the committee before being presented to the senate.

It also states that the Elections Committee would be responsible for reviewing

and making recommendations for election procedures in the constitution, statutes and elections codes.

The bill was promptly postponed until the next senate meeting in the beginning of Spring.

The senatorial Elections Committee was first brought to light in July during a University-wide Council meeting, which consists of student leadership from both Biscayne Bay Campus and MMC.

The committee was meant to address the viability of holding special elections,

elections held to fill vacant seats outside of a general election.

Some in student government contended at that time that special elections were not cost-effective with the amount of student turnout.

SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda motioned to abolish special elections in that same July UWC meeting before withdrawing his motion in favor of the Elections Committee.

The committee, however, did not gain much traction in the senate.

In the September UWC

meeting, the council motioned to “force” the senates to create the committees.

At the time, SGC-MMC Senate Speaker Pro-Tempore Daniela Gonzalez told Student Media that she also did not see the motion as a lambasting of the senate’s effort.

The first official move to create the committee happened in the last senatorial meeting on Nov. 30.

The bill’s postponement, however, does not guarantee it will be passed.

people into the conversation is one of the main objectives of the Global Learning Initiative’s Quality Enhancement Plan.

Maria Cedeño, a graduate assistant for the Office of Global Learning Initiatives, believes that college students and younger generations favor interactive means of communications.

“Online social networking is a trend that is here to stay,” she said.

Dorothy Miller, assistant director of the Office of Emergency Management, sees social media networks as useful tools for warning the University community about on-campus emergencies, which could eventually lead to students receiving security alerts through some of these networks.

“If there is a major incident on campus, you can be sure the first thing students will go check is Facebook and Twitter to find out,” she said.

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated Nov. 25, 2009, in the article titled “Maidique awarded bonus,” trustee Jorge L. Arrizurieta was wrongly identified as chairman of the faculty senate. Thomas Breslin is the current chairman.

THE BEACON

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SGC-MMC

Senate recognizes deceased student

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

The senate of the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus ended their last meeting of the semester by considering a full plate of legislation that included a resolution recognizing a deceased FIU student, a resolution supporting U.S. involvement in the United Nations Climate Conference and an appropriation for a T-shirt giveaway at Saturday's home football game.

The SGC-MMC senate approved an appropriation of \$500 to fund T-shirts that will be given out during the Dec. 5 home football game.

The shirts are meant to promote the University's green initiative and Web site, gogreen.fiu.edu.

The funds will be used for approximately 72 shirts that will be tossed into the crowd. The back of the shirts features panther eyes inside a recy-

cling symbol along with the Student Government Association logo.

Some in the senate said that the relatively low amount of shirts and high-price tag are not cost-effective.

Graduate Senator Loren Fruate asked if fliers were a better route to go.

The allocation, however, passed with a vote of 14 for and 10 against.

The senate also passed a resolution in support of the U.S. participating in the United Nations Climate Conference. Citing former FIU President Modesto Maidique's pledge to the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, the resolution recognizes the challenges and opportunities climate change can bring to the country.

"Global warming and climate change are some of the biggest challenges faced by our generation," states the resolution before pledging its support to the active role the U.S.

and President Obama have taken by participating in the Climate Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. It passed with a vote of 22 for and four against.

The senate also sent its condolences to the family and friends of the late Jaelyn Elisse Torrealba through a resolution. Torrealba, a first-year student at FIU, was killed by her boyfriend on Oct. 11, 2009 after a "heated verbal altercation," according to the arrest affidavit.

The resolution praised her involvement as a "cheerleader, part of the dance team and several honor societies."

SGC-MMC senate will have its next meeting at the beginning of Spring semester. The senate meets every Monday at 4 p.m. in the Graham Center, room 150.

For more information on student government, visit www.fiu.edu/~sga.

Students go to Haiti, push petition

PETITION, page 1

Balart Building, the three student attorneys and other faculty members, including clinical assistant professor Troy Elder, stressed that recent natural disasters involving multiple hurricanes have left the poverty-stricken nation with destroyed infrastructure and hundreds of thousands without homes.

"In 2008, this small island country saw four devastating storms and they have yet to recover from them," said LaShawn Thomas, a third-year law student and one of the three collaborators of the petition. "We thought that with the implementation of a new [presidential] administration, a change would finally come but that change has yet to occur."

The students feel that under the circumstances of a natural disaster, Haiti should be granted a protected status by the U.S. government, just as countries like Nicaragua, El Salvador and most recently Honduras have obtained because of political turmoil.

A temporary protection status, known as a special brief protected status, is granted to non-criminal foreign nationals living in the U.S. whose countries of origin are unable to take in deportees because of political or civil unrest or natural disaster. Those who receive TPS are given work authorization.

The petition states that Haitians have been denied this status due to discrimination. By denying Haitians their basic human rights, they claim that the U.S. is violating the treaty obliga-



COURTESY OF LASHAWN THOMAS

SOOTHING WORDS: In Haiti, a group of people listen to three FIU law students' presentation on a petition that would grant temporary protection status to illegal Haitians in the U.S.

tions under the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man.

The students hope that the petition will be able to bring international attention to the issue.

Thomas added that granting TPS to Haitians already living illegally in the U.S. will allow them to send money back to their families in Haiti.

"We feel that if we can get money sent back to that country, and help build the economy and infrastructure, then they wouldn't have to leave," Thomas said.

As part of their research for the petition, students traveled to different areas within Haiti, such as the city of Gonaive and Cape-Haitian, in order to study the conditions of the communities affected by hurricanes.

During the trip, they gave a presentation to more than 80 people at the Universite D'etat, a university in Port-au-Prince, and

announced their petition on a Haitian radio show where they answered questions from numerous callers.

"We were able to observe some of the conditions down there to make our petition more impacting ... before that, we had just researched statistical numbers," said Justin Cramer, a third-year law student and fellow petitioner. "Now we were able to incorporate a little bit of the actual things we had witnessed."

The main counter-argument that the government could have against granting TPS to Haitians is the assumption that it would encourage an increase in immigration from the island to the U.S.

The petitioners argue the contrary.

"We feel that history shows that that is not the case," said third-year law student Julian Geraci, one of the student attorneys involved in the petition.

He said that in 1998, former President Clinton

passed the Haitian Refugee Immigration Act, which gave legal permanent resident status to 20,000 Haitians. The act cut down illegal Haitian immigration to the U.S. by two-thirds.

Once the petition gains enough signatures, it will be sent to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which will then send it back to the students along with any recommendations and concerns before finally notifying the U.S. government of its presence. The federal government will then give its position on the issue, giving students the opportunity to call for a hearing to address it.

The Immigration and Human Rights Clinic at the law school is a non-profit organization that allows law students to provide immigration services such as representation and learn about human rights issues through the cases that are brought to them.

NEWS FLASH

FIU

Honors College looks to recruit more student athletes

The FIU Honors College and Athletics Department have announced a partnership aimed at recruiting more student athletes to the college.

The college plans to evaluate the grade point average of all freshmen and sophomore student athletes. Those meeting the minimum 3.3 average will be invited to join the Honors College. Incoming athletes with a minimum 3.5 weighted average and an 1850 SAT score will also be asked to join, according to a University press release.

Currently there are nine student athletes in the Honors College.

NATIONAL

Department of Defense buys PS3 consoles to save money

The Department of Defense has purchased 2,200 Playstation 3 gaming consoles for the purposes of augmenting its super-computing infrastructure.

According to *Gizmodo.com*, the purchase was made to save the department money, as comparable IBM cell computers would cost significantly more.

The PS3 systems will be used primarily by the U.S. Air Force and will add to its current network of 300 PS3 consoles. According to a defense justification review, a single IBM super computer costs \$8,000, where a single PS3 costs \$299.

Pork meat now synthesized, currently inedible

Scientists have discovered the ability to synthesize pork meat.

According to *Gizmodo.com*, the pork meat was synthesized by scientists in the Netherlands and in its current stage is inedible, which has been dubbed "soggy pork." The current product is a piece of pork muscle that is not toned, though the scientists are trying to discover a way to "exercise" the muscle.

The same scientists predict that meat grown in a lab will become mainstream in five years.

-Compiled by Jorge Valens



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Lecture compares religious beliefs

Historian highlights early Jewish-Muslim interaction

SABRENA JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Muslims and Jews have come to blows over the years as tensions between the two faiths have collided. But what some may not know is that they were once able to live peacefully in the same land for centuries.

A scholar on Muslim-Jewish history came to the Biscayne Bay Campus on Nov. 25 to tell the audience about this time of peace.

The lecture titled "Funny, You Don't Look Jewish," was hosted by The Navon Program, a program part of the College of Arts and Sciences that provides academic training in Sephardic and Oriental Jewish Studies.

The guest speaker was Henry Abramson, dean of academic affairs and student services at Touro College, a Jewish-sponsored institution of higher education located in Miami. With a doctorate in history, he has done extensive research in the field of Jewish and Islamic history.

The purpose of the lecture was to discuss and compare the Jewish and Islamic cultures in earlier periods.

"What many people may not know is that Judaism has more in common with Islam than Christianity," Abramson said.

Abramson began the lecture with the history of the Muslim prophet Muhammad and how he established the Islamic faith. According to Abramson, Muhammad was born in 570 C.E. and was an orphan of a merchant family in the city of Mecca. One day during a time of prayer and meditation, he had a divine encounter with the Archangel Gabriel, who is considered to be the highest of God's angels, and was told that the letters of the Bible the Jews and Christians were using had flaws, and God wanted to give him the correct information.

This corrected version is what's known today as the Quran, he said.

"Part of the miracle of the faith is that Muhammad was illiterate," Abramson said. "This is why the Muslims believe that the message was given to him by the Archangel Gabriel."

He explained that after Muhammad's death, his followers tried to get people to convert to Islam.

"Their message was this, 'Convert to Islam or die.' This was called the 'Jihad War,'" Abramson said.

The "Jihad War" forced the nonbelievers, pagans, to convert to Islam. But the Christians and Jews did not have to convert because they already believed in God. They were called the *Dhimmi*, which means the protected people of the book. But the *Dhimmi*s that lived under the rule of Islam had to follow the Pact of Umar.

According to Abramson, the pact gave certain rights to the Jews but not without restrictions.

Under the Pact of Umar, the Jews were allowed to keep their synagogues, but they were not allowed to build any new synagogues on Muslim land. They were allowed to practice their faith, but only in private. No public ceremonies were allowed. In order to prevent fraternizing, they had to dress and cut their hair differently than the Muslims.

Jews also had to pay a *Jizya* tax, which was a higher tax that was paid for the right to remain Jewish.

"It's like I always say to my students, when in doubt about why something happened in history, think money," he said, referring to the Islamic taxation.

Abramson ended the lecture

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HOLIDAY SPIRIT



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

AIMING HIGH: Gregory Olson, senior director of student affairs, places an ornament on BBC's Christmas tree in Panther Square on Nov. 30.

FOODGASM

Have a "Noche Buena" with a little mojo in the mix

It is hard to believe that 2009 is almost over, and the holiday season is here. Last year, I wrote about cheap foodie treats to give to your loved ones, but this year, I want to make you part of my holiday tradition - "Noche Buena."

"Noche Buena," when translated to English, literally means "Good Night." It's the Spanish way of saying Christmas Eve. In my culture, the Christmas celebration is really the night of Dec. 24. This is when family and friends get together to celebrate the season and eat a meal that gives Thanksgiving a run for its money.

The "Noche Buena" celebration originated in Spain as a late night feast before going to midnight mass, and included a menu featuring the best of Spain - tapas, hearty soups, and roasted lamb, but with Miami's Cuban culture, the menu has significantly changed - for the better.

Here, the "Noche Buena" spread usually consists of a rice and beans, yuca in garlic sauce - better known as *mojo* - and the star of the table, the roasted *lechón*. The word *lechón* is derived from the Spanish word *leche*, or milk, referring to a young suckling pig that is still feeding from its mother. In Miami, the traditional "Noche Buena" *lechón* is cooked using a *caja china*.

A *caja china* is basically a roasting box that cooks the pig by placing charcoal in a

large metal pan above the marinated suckling pig. This allows the heat generated by the charcoal to cook the pig slowly from above, trapping the heat in the large metal box. This method might take a long time, anywhere from six to 10 hours, depending on the size of the pig, but produces a juicy, massive roast for the celebration.

When the *lechón* comes out of the *caja china*, it's skin is crispy and moist with the pig's fat, and the meat that was marinated for 24 hours prior to roasting is dripping with Caribbean flavors like garlic, limes and sour oranges.

The only issue with this holiday celebration is that unless you have \$200 to \$400 for a *caja china*, and even more money for a whole pig to roast, and the *mima's* and *papi's* - Cuban grandmother's and grandfather's - to guide you through the traditional cooking methods, you will never be able to experience a true "Noche Buena."

Unless someone passes along a student budget-friendly "Noche Buena" substitute in the way of a foodgasm.

I know, this foodgasm is basically written in a different language and is intimidating, but try this recipe.

It is full of Miami culture and sabor - flavor.

Obviously, the first way you can save money is by changing the cooking method.

My student budget can't afford the initial investment needed for a *caja china*.

That is why I roast my pork the conventional way: in the oven. Next, you can save money by changing the cut of meat.

Instead of cooking a whole pig, roast a 6-pound bone-in pork shoulder, also known as pork butt, for a 12-person dinner party.

Finally, you can still get the *lechón* flavor by making a traditional *mojo*. In Cuban American households, *mojo* is made without measuring cups. Make sure to use your senses when making your *mojo*, and like I always say, use the flavors that turn you on. I love cilantro, so I throw some of that in my *mojo*, but if you are a mint lover, feel free to substitute and let your identity show through your food.

For the *mojo*, start with an olive oil base of about 1 cup.

Add six heads of garlic, minced - there will be no vampires present at "Noche Buena." Sorry, Bella. Follow this by whisking in two cups of sour orange juice. I use Badia, which runs for less than \$3 for 20 ounces. Since the sour orange is store bought, add another tangy punch that is signature to *mojo* by including some fresh ingredients like 1 cup of fresh lime juice, a splash of white cooking wine, and herbs like cilantro.

For spice, I add 2 teaspoons of cayenne pepper, 2 tablespoons of cumin, and 2 large yellow onions, diced. Finish your *mojo* by

seasoning it with salt and pepper.

To marinate the pork butt, place it in a shallow roasting pan, and cut deep 1-inch slits in 3 inch intervals. Next, pour half of the *mojo* over it.

Get personal with your food and rub *mojo* all over your pork, getting into the crevices you created. Let it sit in the refrigerator for anywhere from 12 to 24 hours. Reserve half the marinade for later use.

Now, it is time to cook your pork shoulder. Drain off any excess liquid, and place the roasting pan in a 450-degree oven for 30 minutes, then lower the heat to 300 degrees and continue cooking for another six hours. Finally, pull your pork out of the oven, and let it stand for 15 minutes. When you cut the pork and serve it, make sure to drizzle some of the reserved *mojo* onto it and serve the rest on the side - your guests will love to add their own during your "Noche Buena" festivities.

Serve this "Noche Buena" main course with other Latin side dishes and maybe a choice of a *Cuba Libre* - rum and coke with a twist of lime - or a classic Cuban *Mojito*.

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

Scholar talks about peace in world religions

LECTURE, page 4

with a comparison of Islamic and Jewish theologies.

"Islam and Judaism are orthopraxis, which means they believe in one set of practices," he said. "They focus more on what you do rather than a lot of different set of beliefs."

According to him, Christianity is a religion of beliefs, and those beliefs are split between different Christian denominations. Islam, he said, is characterized by egalitarianism.

"The nation of Islam is color blind. There are no racial separations, and African Americans are highly accepted," he said. "They treat everyone with equality."

Abramson also said that Muslim and Jewish interactions were generally stable for centuries with minimal ideological conflict, in comparison to Christianity.

"The similarities of the two faiths are very interesting. If they stopped fighting long enough, they would see that they have much more in common than their reasons for killing each other. But it will never happen because of politics and financial gain," said Elan Gomar, a non-student member of the audience, which was mainly community members. "It's really sad."

Abramson also showed the audience a picture of a cemetery in Russia that was built for Muslim and Jews. On one side of the gate was the Jewish Star of David and on the other was the Muslim Crescent Moon.

"So what changed? What caused the change in the relationship between these two faiths?" he said. "It is largely due to the impact of the 19th and 20th century period of national awakening."

Club hopes to increase graduate classes

MAUREEN NINO
Staff Writer

With hopes to increase the number of graduate classes, give graduate students a voice and help them with projects required for graduation, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication's Graduate Student Association held its first meeting Nov. 24.

GSA-SJMC founder and President Tania Williams said there was a need to create an organization to help fulfill graduate students' needs at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

"We have different needs from the students from the other campus. We want to help create a balance between administration and the students," said Williams, a graduate student and global strategic communications major. "We put this organization together because we realized the graduate students need a voice."

At the meeting, Williams introduced Fernando Figueredo, the organization's advisor and chair of the Department of Advertising & Public Relations.

She also introduced GSA Vice President Jodi-Ann Reid, Comptroller Jeannine Froget and Secretary Jennifer Salama, all student graduates in the Global Strategic Communication program.

"We're trying to create more network opportunities within the students," Salama said at the meeting.

Williams announced the association's first attempt to help students. She sent a request to SJMC Dean Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver to add four more sections to four existing courses: PUR 6935 Advanced Seminar, PUR 5406 Multicultural/International Communication, ADV 6805 Creative Strategy, and PUR 6406, Multi-Cultural Communications.

According to Williams, there has been a lot of talk among the students about there not being enough graduate classes and the need for new sections, but since money is a

factor, the additions cannot be made easily.

"When you open up new sections, you need a professor to teach, and you need the money to pay them," she said.

Williams also announced that graduate students in their final year will also have the opportunity to work in an in-house agency hosted by the association, which will count as an elective credit.

"It will be an in-house agency and will be a full-pledge public relations and advertising agency with a touch of journalism. It will be like an integrated marketing agency," she said.

We have different needs from the students from the other campus. We want to help create a balance between administration and students.

Tania Williams, President
GSA-SJMC

Williams said she plans to implement several workshops in the upcoming year to help teach members how to use Dreamweaver, Flash and Photoshop, among other programs.

"We're also working on a Professional Project Workshop. That is something that is surely needed and we will be implementing that in January, which will help those students graduating in April," Williams said.

The Professional Project Workshop, according to Williams, is an in-depth program that will offer students information on how to prepare for projects required

for graduation.

Other goals include creating solidarity within the graduate student community, Williams said.

"Now, you see all these people in your classes and the whole time while you are in the program, you wonder 'who are they?' You know their names, but you don't really know them or who they are," she said. "In graduate school, you are supposed to make connections because those are long-lasting ties."

Students interested in joining the association must be part of one of the SJMC graduate programs.

Members must pay a \$20 fee per year, which covers both the Spring and Summer semesters.

"As a new club here [at the University], we are funded by the SOC but not a lot, so we decided members will have to pay dues," Williams said.

GSA membership includes a free year of membership into the Alumni Association upon graduation, which according to Williams, is a new perk.

"By being a part of the association as a paid member, you will get a lot of freebies and perks at restaurants and with educational software," she said.

The club's first event will be Social Communication Week, which will be open to all students, not just members. Although the time and date have not been announced, the week of events will take place in February, according to Williams. The event will feature national bloggers, public relations agencies and entrepreneurs as guest speakers.

"There are people in our school that are very adept to all this school, and we should utilize them," said Williams. "We have brilliant people in our school. We need to use them."

For more information, e-mail sjmcgsa@gmail.com.

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THE BEACON | Editorial

Not too early to follow Rosenberg's progress

University President Mark Rosenberg has certainly had a lot to get used to during his first semester as president. While one cannot judge a man on one semester's worth of work, it is important to reflect on his progress so far.

Without question, Rosenberg has done an excellent job assuming the symbolic responsibilities of a University president, attending sporting events and other activities. These responsibilities should always come second to his duties as a guardian of the FIU Foundation, the University's hub that handles all donations and major funds for the institution.

On at least one recent occasion, this was not the case. Rather than taking a stand on former President Modesto A. Maidique's recent bonus, Rosenberg ducked out of the meeting to attend the volleyball team's championship game, right before the Board of Trustees voted to approve an additional \$50,000 for his predecessor. It is important for the president to take a stand on these issues, even when they are politically volatile.

Rosenberg has, however, clearly made his presence and ambitions known to the University community. From posters tacked up in the Graham Center to a Powerpoint presentation on his Web site, the president has taken steps to increase communication between the administration and the student body.

Rosenberg has also sought to create new programs and increase the efficiency of those that already exist. This is evident through the Honors Accelerated Law Program, which allows students to earn their bachelor's degree and juris doctorate within six years. The program gives students an opportunity to not only enter law school earlier, but gain experience with mock trials and legal research.

In addition, Rosenberg understands the need to reform the University so that its curriculum reflects both local and global needs.

The University's Global Learning Initiative, pioneered by former President Maidique, has reaffirmed this goal. The GLI, a part of the University's Quality Enhancement Plan, encompasses a number of courses that students will take in order to fulfill University core curriculum requirements.

One of Rosenberg's goals included creating "financial security for the university in the short term," according to an interview with *The Beacon*. Financial security requires that the University be less dependent on state funds it can no longer rely on by appealing to its alumni base via the FIU Alumni Association. Rosenberg has set this in motion by seeking to drastically increase the membership of the association.

Unfortunately, our University president has inherited troublesome circumstances in regard to fundraising. Coupled with the shaky economy, Rosenberg has to face issues that currently plague the FIU Foundation, including Maidique's bonus, which totaled \$100,000 this year. The BOT voted to delay the payment of his bonus until the University saves enough funds.

Interim Provost Douglas Wartzok issued a memorandum on Nov. 30 that stated the University "ranked in the top three institutions" out of the 40 schools SACS reviewed.

Additionally, the preliminary report of the SACS review was made publicly available to the University community, reaffirming Rosenberg's aim to establish transparency. While it is too early to render a verdict regarding whether or not he has accomplished his stated goals, enough time has passed for his progress to be measured objectively.

Cameron's 3-D concept has been done before Too much hype for *Avatar*

DAVID A. BARRIOS
Staff Writer

What does someone do after producing and directing the highest grossing film of all time?

If you are James Cameron, you direct nothing for about 12 years.

Or at least you make it seem like that while you remain hard at work on *Avatar*, a science fiction adventure film whose plot is left in the dark to the general public until just months before its premiere.

It is one of the most hyped films of the decade that will change the industry as we know it. It may not be for the better.

I feel it has a chance at serving as a warning to the industry to not invest half a billion dollars into a film. It also has a chance at becoming the most revolutionary innovation in cinema since the introduction of sound.

According to a plot synopsis on the Internet Movie Database, the film is about human colonization of a planet called Pandora and a war pitted against its natives, known as the Na'vi. Shot on a "fusion digital 3-D camera system" invented by Cameron, the industry has been buzzing for over a year.

The trailer to the film was not released until Aug. 20. Currently on the IMDB message boards for the film, there are many posts by fans and an awaiting audience waiting for Cameron's follow-up to

1997's *Titanic*.

According to *The Guardian*, the film's budget has grown to \$237 million, though *The New York Times* estimates the film cost over \$500 million for advertising and global marketing expenses.

This concept of fusing actors into a 3-D environment is not original; Robert Zemekis has made his last three films with a motion capture animation system: *The Polar Express*, *Beowulf* and *A Christmas Carol*.

Zemekis made \$300 million on *The Polar Express* while *Beowulf* made \$194 million. *A Christmas Carol* is currently in cinemas and has made over \$100 million.

The downside is the amount of effort and time put into production which takes years.

The budgets for these films are also high. *The Polar Express* had a budget of over \$170 million.

And with those films, Zemekis had A-list cast members: Angelina Jolie, Tom Hanks and Jim Carey, among others. While *Avatar* boasts established actors such as Sigourney Weaver, Sam Worthington and Zoe Saldana, none of them have established themselves as huge box-office

draws.

Though there is a loyal fan-base peaked with curiosity awaiting the film, the general reviews of the trailer cited some disappointment.

Tim Robey of *The London Telegraph* said, "Brisk and a little perfunctory, the [*Avatar*] trailer itself is not a huge wow, but there's plenty in it to tantalize."

What does this mean for the future of cinema? According to a press release by Fox: "Cameron is breaking new ground with this film. Like all movie fans, the studio is excited by the prospect of such an original piece of entertainment."

Coupled with the resurgence of 3-D in cinemas with films like *My Bloody Valentine* or *Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs*, it could help leave a permanent place for a 3-D market.

Avatar has quickly become the gamble of the decade for Fox and Cameron. In the end, it brings to mind the rumors that surrounded *Titanic* before its release. Many predicted failure after looking at the \$200 million price tag.

Yet in a December 2008 interview with *The Associated Press*, Cameron said, "Whatever they think it's going to be, it's probably not."

Of course, we know how that story goes.

Though there is a loyal fan-base peaked with curiosity awaiting the film, the general reviews of the trailer cited some disappointment.

Swaying sides hinders Crist's Senate seat

CHARLES VILLARD
Contributing Writer

Republican and Florida Governor Charlie Crist is still under fire from fellow party members for comments made and actions taken in February earlier this year.

The actions in question: supporting President Barack Obama's \$700 billion dollar stimulus package and giving Obama a friendly hug at a major rally.

This hug has now started a debate between Republican pragmatists and conservatives about how to retake the Senate and if Crist is the man to do it.

I think Crist would make a competent governor, representing a new guard of bipartisan politicians that is highly needed today.

He holds many conservative views on social policy, but is still aware that a prag-

matic approach can sometimes yield more sound results.

Many conservatives wouldn't agree. As the GOP primary approaches for the Senate race, conservative Republicans feel that putting pragmatists, like Crist, in the Senate would only enable Democrats.

Each week, conservatives make noise; and pundits continue to analyze Crist's likely defeat to conservative Republican and former state House Speaker Marco Rubio.

In a recent post about Governor Crist, Erick Erickson, editor-in-chief of conservative blog *RedState*, reveals how Crist's conservative views have changed since his days as a state senator in the 1990s.

"Charlie Crist's actions prove him to be anti-family, anti-life, anti-gun and very much in favor of taxes," Erickson said.

Some instances have involved heavily-Republican topics such as euthanasia and gun control.

During the Terri Schiavo debate, Crist stood against a bill that would allow Schiavo's parents to take their case to federal court.

On the issue of gun control, Crist assigned circuit judge James Perry to the Florida Supreme Court, a choice aggressively opposed by social conservatives and members of the National Rifle Association.

Moderate Republicans, on the other hand, believe that putting more unorthodox candidates in the Republican seat would win over liberals and help win back the Senate majority.

Some people have even gone as far as to submit other ideas for Crist's career.

In a statement reminiscent of political Red Rover,

columnist James McCartney of *The Bradenton Herald* said, "Switch, Charlie. Become a Democrat."

When all is said and done, I don't think Crist would make the greatest U.S. senator.

However, I feel that what he represents is what this country needs most.

The deficit is setting an all-time high every day, with little end in sight, and the only statistic that seems to be rising in the positive are unemployment rates.

Crist has had a very shaky career, with a number of opinions swaying harder than palm trees in a strong wind.

I still think, however, its his kind of thinking - an understanding of pragmatic and conservative views alike - that can help this country in its time of need.

And if it doesn't work out, there's always a seat on the blue squad for you, Charlie.

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

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WINNER/LOSER



The Large Hadron Collider completed its first "low-energy collision" last week despite a year of setbacks. The Swiss device was shut down until last month after repairs. The collision was 1.18 trillion volts, about the equivalent energy of a mosquito.



A Virginia couple managed to slip past the Secret Service when they attended a White House dinner last week, even though they were not invited. The couple apparently wanted only to attend the gala and the resulting attention and there was never malign intent.

OPINIONPIECE

4.3

The percentage number of people afflicted with the flu this season in the United States, up from 2.3 percent.

LAYING DOWN THE LAW

Fraternity for future lawyers revived, has hopes of expanding

ISABEL MAZA
Staff Writer

There are many professional fraternities all around campus that cater to all types of students and majors. However, only one is designed specifically for pre-law students: Phi Alpha Delta.

Phi Alpha Delta was started in 1999 at FIU. It was founded by a group of pre-law students who wanted a group that would guide them through the rigorous law school process.

They decided to charter a chapter of Phi Alpha Delta, a national pre-law fraternity.

There was no such organization at FIU before, so membership flourished. According to their Web site, their mission was to help FIU undergraduates reach their goal of being accepted into the law schools of their choice.

But around 2004, membership declined and the chapter lost its strength, temporarily disbanding.

The fraternity was recently re-founded at FIU. Senior Danny Benchimol was able to reestablish the chapter and now serves on the executive board by reaching out to law schools all across the state of Florida. The Spring 2009 pledge class consisted of only 10 pledges.

The new members of Phi Alpha Delta worked to increase membership by attending freshman orientations, advertising through Facebook and networking with other fraternities on campus.

Phi Alpha Delta was able to achieve their goal of increasing membership; their Fall 2009 pledge class currently consists of 45 pledges.

The main goal of Phi Alpha Delta is to help its members reach law school.

It strives to accomplish this goal by hosting numerous workshops, speakers and tours.

Through the workshops, members have the opportunity to learn all the intricacies of the law school application process.

"This fraternity has helped me incredibly since I joined in Spring '09. There is so much you need to know before you decide to take the LSAT and even as an undergrad," said Christina Lapadula, the current recruitment chair of Phi Alpha Delta.

They are also able to receive discounts on LSAT tests and participate in mock trials.

The fraternity hosts a law school symposium in which representatives from all public and private Florida law schools meet at the FIU College of Law.

Additionally, members gain access to private law school tours and classes.

The fraternity also hosts programs to foster a sense of brotherhood and sisterhood among its members.

It works to make lifetime bonds between students who share the same interests.

"Members come from a variety of majors and each has a unique origin, but we all find in each other the commonality of that ultimate goal: reaching law school," said President Aleida Ortega.

Membership in Phi Alpha Delta continues through law school. There are no requirements for joining.

Those interested do not have to have a certain major, GPA, or year in school.

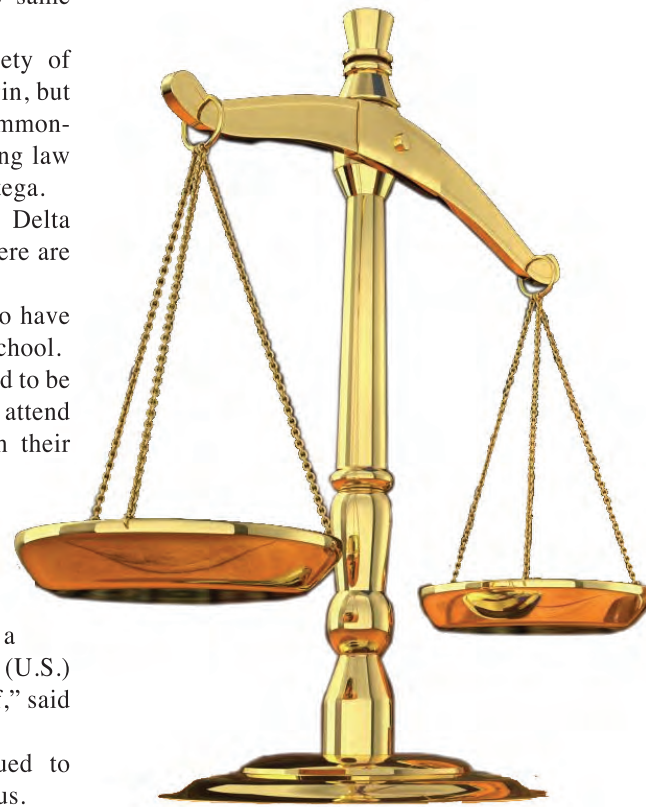
However, members are expected to be an active part of the fraternity and attend events that will help them reach their future goals, Ortega said.

The fraternity has produced many prominent alumni, including former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

"It's an honor to represent such a prestigious organization that past (U.S.) presidents have also been a part of," said sophomore Daniela Gonzalez.

Phi Alpha Delta has continued to increase its involvement on campus.

It recently participated in Homecoming with Alpha Kappa Psi, a business fraternity. In 2010 it will be participating in philanthropic events such as Dance Marathon and Relay for Life.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

'Chic' eatery offers variety of tasty flavors



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

If there is any reason to be happy about Miami's constant sweltering heat and high humidity, it would be the motivation it produces to seek out delicious ways to cool down. One such way can be found at Chicberry Frozen Yogurt at 1687 SW 107 Ave., a self-service yogurt parlor that gives Dairy Queen a run for its money.

COLUMNIST



JASMYNE ELLIOTT

The inside of Chicberry conveys a bright, futuristic aesthetic with its lemon and lime-colored walls, clear Lucite seats and white countertops with holographic panes. The self-service station is set up with an eye for efficiency, as the cash register is the last step before heading out of the door. The five yogurt dispensers churn out 10 different flavors chosen daily, ranging from the traditional favorites - vanilla, chocolate (the two also avail-

BERRY, page 8

Hollywood stars shine in the decade's top ten cinematic performances

STEVE MESA
Staff Writer

Narrowing down the thousands of great performances on film from the past 10 years is no easy feat. Nevertheless, the following performances stood out above the rest, portraying unforgettable characters both real and imagined.

10) JAMIE FOXX AS RAY CHARLES - RAY (2004)

Even though he did not do the singing himself, Foxx simulated the legendary Ray Charles' body language and speech pattern. He also managed to capture the dark side of Charles with his battle with addictions to drugs and sex. During the making of the film, Foxx studied Ray Charles very carefully to better mimic him before the musician died on June 10, 2004.



9) CATE BLANCHETT AS KATHARINE HEPBURN - THE AVIATOR (2004)

Cate Blanchett worked with legendary director Martin Scorsese in *The Aviator* where she played legendary Hollywood actress Katharine Hepburn. Blanchett is simply stunning as Hepburn and steals every scene she is in. Her look, mannerisms and speech perfectly matches the screen legend to a tee, so much so that she was awarded the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress.

8) CHRISTOPH WALTZ AS COL. HANS LANDA - INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS (2009)

In his American film debut, Christoph Waltz manages to deliver the best performance of 2009 as Nazi Col. Hans Landa. Given the name "The Jew Hunter" for his ability to locate those hiding from the Gestapo during WWII, Landa is portrayed by Waltz as an evil, brutal - though at times charismatic - villain.

7) JOHNNY DEPP AS JACK SPARROW - PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: THE CURSE OF THE BLACK PEARL (2003)

From Edward Scissorhands to Raoul Duke, Johnny Depp has played many different charac-

ters throughout his career. His most memorable role to date is that of Jack Sparrow. Inspired in part by the Rolling Stones' guitarist Keith Richards, Depp plays Sparrow as an eccentric pirate who seems to get drunk and/or get in trouble most of the time. Sparrow could be considered the anti-Errol Flynn by taking the cowards' way out whenever he approaches a dilemma. Despite several flaws in the sequels' storylines, part of the reason that this movie and the sequels have been successful is Depp's performance.

6) FOREST WHITAKER AS IDI AMIN - THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND (2006)

Before Forest Whitaker got this role, he was generally typecast as the nice guy in such movies as *The Crying Game* and *Phone Booth*. In *The Last King of Scotland*, Whitaker turns in an outstanding performance by playing against-type as the ruthless Ugandan dictator who rose to power in the 1970s. Whitaker does not portray Amin as merely a bad guy, but as a multi-faced person who can be vicious one second and friendly the next.

5) CHRISTIAN BALE AS PATRICK BATEMAN - AMERICAN PSYCHO (2000)

PERFORM, page 8

Great actors in villainous roles dominate decade on film

PERFORM, page 7

Before he rose to A-list star status for his role as Bruce Wayne/Batman, Christian Bale took the role of Patrick Bateman, a yuppie Wall Street broker who goes on a murdering spree. Bale embodies the character as a man bewildered by his environment and desperately wanting to fit into his surroundings. Bateman may appear normal on the outside with his fancy business card and a nice apartment but, on the inside, he has an uncontrollable urge to commit homicide and an absence of compassion for fellow human beings. Bale is an actor who was willing to accept the risk of looking ridiculous for a role that requires him to perform the most inane acts ever committed by a character on film.

4) KATE WINSLET AS CLEMENTINE KRUCZYNSKI - ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND (2004)

Before Kate Winslet won an Oscar for her role in *The Reader* she made a name for herself with such memorable roles as Rose in *Titanic* or as a woman stuck in a loveless marriage in *Little Children*. In between those movies, she starred in *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* opposite Jim Carrey as a free-spirited woman who is a recipient of a technological procedure where she was able to erase any memory she had of her ex-boyfriend, Joel (Carrey). Winslet's Clementine is a perfect foil to

Carrey's Joel, and her performance earned her an Oscar nomination.

3) DANIEL DAY-LEWIS AS DANIEL PLAINVIEW - THERE WILL BE BLOOD (2007)

Daniel Day-Lewis's performance as Daniel Plainview is a once-in-a-lifetime role for the actor as the portrayal of his character requires him to sink into the depths of darkness as Plainview's soul is consumed and twisted by greed and money. These obsessions eventually lead room for Plainview to commit selfish and unprovoked homicides and become a crazed and selfish old man in later years. He is a char-



2) JAVIER BARDEM AS ANTON CHIGURH - NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (2007)

The true standout in the amazing ensemble of *No Country for Old Men* is Javier Bardem's role as Anton Chigurh, a hitman with a Prince Valiant-like haircut and an unstoppable determination to retrieve a suitcase filled with \$2 million to keep for himself. He is not a talkative character, as he does most of his talking with his lethal actions. Chigurh also has a perverse way of determining the fate of his victims with the flip of a coin.

1) HEATH LEDGER AS THE JOKER - THE DARK KNIGHT (2008)

The late Heath Ledger's performance of the Joker surpasses all the past incarnations of the character including Cesar Romero in the original TV series or Jack Nicholson in the 1989 Tim Burton Batman film. Those roles were child's play compared to Ledger's incarnation of the Joker, in which he successfully portrays the villain as an unpredictable anarchist with a macabre sense of humor. The Joker's philosophical take on chaos, order and morality of the average human being is what makes the character fascinating.

Best Performances of the Decade (Other Perspectives)

Chris Cabral
Life! Editor

David Barrios
Staff Writer

10. Javier Bardem as Anton Chigurh in *No Country for Old Men* (2007)

10. Toni Servillo, Giulio Andreotti, Il Divo (2008)

9. Forest Whitaker as Idi Amin in *The Last King of Scotland* (2006)

9. Bruno Ganz, Adolph Hitler, *Downfall* (2004)

8. Heath Ledger as the Joker in *The Dark Knight* (2008)

7. & 8. Clint Eastwood & Hilary Swank, Frankie Dunn & Maggie Fitzgerald, *Million Dollar Baby* (2004)

7. Bruno Ganz as Adolf Hitler in *Downfall* (2004)

5. & 6. Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslett, Frank & April Wheeler, *Revolutionary Road* (2008)

6. Ben Kingsley as Don Logan in *Sexy Beast* (2000)

4. Sacha Baron Cohen, Borat, Borat (2006)

5. Sean Penn as Harvey Milk in *Milk* (2008)

4. Charlize Theron as Aileen Wournos in *Monster* (2003)

3. Phillip Seymour Hoffmann, Truman Capote, *Capote* (2005)

3. Marion Cotillard as Edith Piaf in *La Vie En Rose* (or *La Mome*) (2007)

2. Daniel Day Lewis, Daniel Plainview, *There Will Be Blood* (2007)

2. Daniel Day-Lewis as Daniel Plainview in *There will be Blood* (2007)

1. Heath Ledger, *The Joker, The Dark Knight* (2008)

1. Ellen Burstyn as Sara Goldfarb in *Requiem for a Dream* (2000)

Frozen yogurt establishment lets guests serve themselves

BERRY, page 7

able sugar-free) and strawberry – to more tropical flavors such as mango and pistachio. They have an Original Tart option, but I found its taste to be quite bitter for one in search of a sweet treat.

My personal favorite flavor is their rendition of the decadent New York Cheesecake. Cookies and Cream comes in at a close second, especially since it is rich enough to stand on its own without the toppings.

In addition to the bevy of flavors, Chicberry prides itself on being a healthy dessert option. On their Web site, they list the health benefits that are associated with eating yogurt such as boosting immunity, providing a good source of calcium and other nutrients, and even encouraging healthy bone growth.

Although the yogurt by itself is tasty, their toppings are difficult to resist. For a calorie-conscious spin, Chicberry offers fresh fruit toppings such as strawberries, blueberries, raspberries and bananas alongside exotic fruits such as kiwi, Mandarin oranges and coconut. Their granola could also add a dose of crunch.

However, the health nut route is not their only option. Chicberry also offers plenty of ice cream shop classics such as sprinkles, crushed candy bars and chocolate chips to pair with your frozen yogurt.

They also have new favorites such as marshmallows and cookie dough pieces.

One combination I recommend is topping the New York Cheesecake flavor with raspberries and white chocolate chips for a take on a common restaurant dessert menu item.

Also, topping the Cookies and Cream yogurt with crushed Oreos will put the ice cream flavor that bears the same moniker to shame – with fewer calories to boot.

Pricing at Chicberry is set at 49 cents per ounce, including toppings. So, if their smallest serving size of 12 ounces is fully taken advantage of, the price will come out to just over \$6.

Furthermore, if students present a valid ID at checkout, they will receive a 10 percent discount off of their order; military, fire fighter and law personnel also receive the same perk. Additionally, on Monday through Friday between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., customers can buy one serving of yogurt and get a second one of equal or lesser value for free.

Whether you top your yogurt with fresh fruit, rich chocolate chips and marshmallows, or a kooky concoction of gummi bears and Fruity Pebbles, Chicberry Frozen Yogurt has plenty to suit your tastes for dessert. Even with the recent drop in temperatures, I still recommend this yogurt bar for a post-dinner (or, even a pre-dinner) treat.

"Food for Thought" is a weekly column reviewing restaurants in the FIU area. Beacon reviewers receive no free food or services in exchange for positive reviews.

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The best of the decade: The top ten movies of the 2000s

DAVID A. BARRIOS
STAFF WRITER

I guess a film critic starts tossing their ideas for “best films of the decade” about a year or two before the decade comes to a close.

Truth be told, coming up with these lists isn't easy.

How the hell do you write it? What judges the greatness of a film? Influence? Cultural impact? Surely a movie can lack cultural impact but still be great. And how can you begin to measure these things? And what about my readers? Soon it becomes about politics.

The following is my top ten list of the best films of the decade. I took a chance and picked these movies by sheer instinct. The rankings are subjective and, more

8 BORAT

It's not enough that Borat became a cultural phenomenon – It's also a truly great film. Sasha Baron Cohen inhabits his alter-ego, Borat, and takes on American values for 90 minutes. Singing the Kazakh national anthem at a rodeo in Virginia, masturbating in public in Manhattan all while in search of his beloved Pamela Anderson, Borat comes to America with the intention of making a documentary with his producer Azamat (Ken Davitian) and winds up holding a frightening and hilarious mirror to the face of America about racial and social prejudices.

7. THE DEPARTED

Martin Scorsese's finest film since *Goodfellas*, it is pure popular entertainment at its finest. It is a genre picture told with great panache. The film follows William Costigan (Leonardo DiCaprio) and Collin Sullivan (Matt Damon). Costigan is hired by the Massachusetts State Police to become a mole in the operations of mob boss Frank Costello (Jack Nicholson) while Sullivan is planted by Costello into the state police.

Loyalties are tested and characters driven to the edge. The beauty in this film is not just William Monahan's layered and powerful script, but also Scorsese's direction.

6. CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND

George Clooney's first outing as a film director is still his finest in this subversive black comedy about TV host Chuck Barris (Sam Rockwell), who hosts *The Gong Show* while also working for the CIA as a covert assassin. Clooney shows how much his tutelage from the Coen Brothers has helped out.

The brilliance of Charlie Kaufman's script is simple: for all the paranoia and intrigue, it's about a man that likes to have sex and kill people.

5. THERE WILL BE BLOOD

This is Daniel Day Lewis's movie, to be sure. In his role as Daniel Plainview, an oil prospector in the early 1900's, Lewis has created a towering achievement in his career. Larger than life, raw and elemental in his fear and rage, Lewis gives what may

be the finest role of the decade. Robert Elswitt's Oscar-winning cinematography is memorable; images of the quiet desert, of an oil well busting coupled with Jonny Greenwood's off-kilter score. Director Paul Thomas Anderson doesn't create a movie so much as a battle of the titans between business and religion, represented by Paul Dano, playing a young reverend who challenges Plainview.

4. CHILDREN OF MEN

One of the things that struck me about this film when I saw it was not just the virtuoso direction by Alfonso Cuaron. It wasn't the extended takes and gorgeously flowing and seemingly endless shots.

What struck me was that the film didn't bother to tell the audience exactly why no children were being born into the world in this dystopic vision of the year 2029. The film follows former activist Theo Faron (Clive Owen) after being recruited by his ex wife (Julianne Moore) to escort a young pregnant woman out of the country and to a floating colony called the “Human Project.”

3. NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN

The Coen Brothers are the perfect conveyors of Cormac Macarthy's dark humor and somber tone. It's not just a great suspense tale, it's a statement about the passage of time; fate versus destiny and the seeming futility of a godless universe. There are no clear protagonists; Moss is an opportunist who puts his wife in great danger while the murderous sociopath becomes more sympathetic with his rules and ideals.

2. MUNICH

Spielberg's film grows on me with every viewing. Every now and again, he'll come out with a stodgy, big-budget blockbuster like *War of the Worlds* and make me question his validity as a filmmaker some three decades after he started.

Then he'll provide a masterpiece like this one. Spielberg at his finest, such as with *Schindler's List* or *Saving Private Ryan*, saves no punches. In the film we follow the aftermath of the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre and a covert Israeli Mossad team lead by Avner (Eric Bana), leading an operation to assassinate and eliminate the key planners of the massacre. The film becomes a meditation on the nature of terrorism, the importance of the state and the issue of upholding the memory of the past.

1. THE DARK KNIGHT

Christopher Nolan's first film in the franchise, *Batman Begins*, was about the beginning of a legend and his origin. The *Dark Knight* is about the serious tests that

Best Performances of the Decade (From Other View Points)

Chris Cabral
Life! Editor

10. *In the Bedroom* (2001)
9. *The Royal Tenenbaums* (2001)
8. *Wall-E* (2008)
7. *There Will Be Blood* (2007)
6. *Downfall* (2004)
5. *Children of Men* (2006)
4. *Memento* (2000)
3. *Requiem for a Dream* (2000)
2. *City of God* (2002)
1. *Pan's Labyrinth* (2006)

Steve Mesa
Staff Writer

10. *Gladiator* (2000)
9. *There Will Be Blood* (2007)
8. *Sin City* (2005)
7. *Inglourious Basterds* (2009)
6. *The Lord of the Rings: Trilogy* (2001-2003)
5. *Shaun of the Dead* (2004)
4. *Kill Bill Vol. 1 and 2* (2003-2004)
3. *No Country for Old Men* (2007)
2. *The Departed* (2006)
1. *The Dark Knight* (2008)

come to that legend, Batman, and his alter ego Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) as posed by a new villain simply known as The Joker (Heath Ledger). One of the highest grossing films of all time, it is masterfully constructed entertainment fueled by great performances by an ensemble cast. It's also a film with deeper themes about justice, the corruption of people (as seen by the story arch of District Attorney Harvey Dent, played by Aaron Eckhart), sanity and the nature of the hero and the myth.



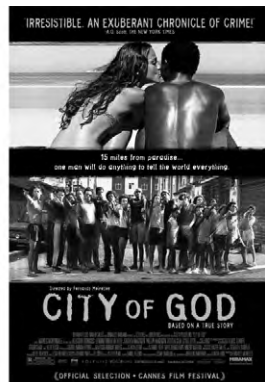
often than not, arbitrary. Any of these films could be the best of the decade depending on your perspective or mood.

10. THE BOURNE SUPREMACY

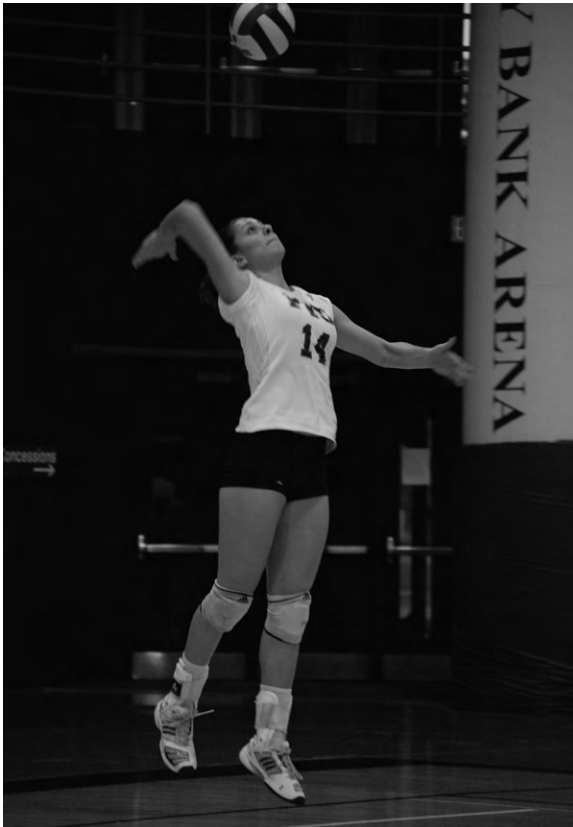
Jason Bourne (Matt Damon), amnesiac rogue CIA killer, has escaped to India with his lover, Marie (Franka Potente) following the events of the first film. Great performances are given by the cast including Brian Cox and Joan Allen. The only thing more heart-stopping than the final car-chase throughout Moscow is Bourne's confession to the daughter of one of his victims at the end of the film.

9. UP

Up is the apex of what the artistry of Pixar is about and is the most recent film to get into my list. It is also the finest film to come from Pixar. It is a colorful and fun film with never a dull moment. It's not just about the misadventures of the pair of travelers, it's about aging, loneliness and regaining hope in living by letting go of the past.



PERFORMERS OF THE WEEK



ISADORA RANGEL:

The senior helped the Golden Panthers end their regular season with a 3-0 (25-14, 25-15, 25-12) win over the Florida A&M Rattlers. She led the teams with 10 kills and also had five digs in the sweep. The Golden Panthers finished the season

BEACON FILE PHOTO/ VICTORIA LYNCH



MARVIN ROBERTS

The junior forward led the Golden Panthers with 19 points on 7-of-12 shooting in their loss to the Eastern Kentucky Colonels. He went 2-for-3 from beyond the three-point line.



YARIMAR ROSA

Deja vu all over again for the All-American, who put up 9 kills and a .467 hitting percentage in leading the Golden Panthers on Senior Night. She will lead the Golden Panthers in the NCAA tournament against UM on Dec. 3.



MICHELLE GONZALEZ

The junior guard was named to the FIU Thanksgiving Classic All Tournament Team after scoring 14 points, grabbing three rebounds, four assists and four steals in the Golden Panthers' 71-60 loss to the Florida Gators on Nov. 28.

PG Gonzalez named to All-Tournament team

BASKETBALL, page 12

was forced to leave the game when she fell down on the court, causing pain to that injury. She was limited to just two points and one steal.

"As soon as we get some chemistry going, we get hurt," said Coach Cindy Russo. "I'm focused on getting these kids healthy; they're not season ending injuries which is good."

Point guard Michelle Gonzalez lead all FIU scorers with 11 points on 3-of-7 shooting from beyond the arc. Gonzalez rolled her ankle during the game, however she was able to return to play.

"We have a lot of hurt players," Russo said after the game. "You had four [players] out there who we're trying to get back into the lineup."

Meanwhile, Marquita Adley contributed eight points and 10 rebounds to record her fifth consecutive game in double figures.

The Hawks were not phased by FIU's interior defense as they outscored the Golden Panthers 36-22 in the paint.

With 12 minutes remaining in the first half and FIU up by four points, Cherisse Buddy connected on a three-pointer to extend the lead to 16-9.

The Hawks came back near the end of the half after converting six fast break points off of FIU turnovers to take the lead, 28-22.

Senior Ashley Traugott drilled a shot from beyond the arc with 1:24 left to put FIU within four points of the lead at the end of the first half.

The Hawks held the Golden Panthers to just 23 points in the second half. FIU also came up short from the free-throw line, going 2-of-6 on the game.

The score remained close at 42-41 after Buddy connected on a jumper with less than 11 minutes to play, however the Hawks responded with an 11-2 run to close out the game.

FLORIDA 70, FIU 61

It poured threes in Miami on the second day of the FIU Thanksgiving Classic.

The Florida Gators drained 12 shots

from behind the arc to defeat the Golden Panthers 70-61 on Nov. 29 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

Elisa Carey, who played her third game after returning from a leg injury, led FIU with 17 points on 7-for-10 shooting.

Gonzalez was named to the All-Tournament Team after contributing 14 points along with 4 assists and 4 steals for the Golden Panthers.

The Gators began to knock down threes early on, connecting on 4-of-5 in the first five minutes of the game to jut out to a 16-8 lead.

Sophomore Jordan Jones scored a season-high 25 points for Florida and led the three-point shot attack, going 5-for-10 from beyond the arc.

"Jordan played her best game as a Gator. She was really focused and controlled. I was really proud of the way she played tonight. She made great decisions in intense situations," said Florida Coach Amanda Butler, according to *gatorzone.com*.

Traugott and Fanni Hutlassa connected on back-to-back shots from downtown to get the momentum going for FIU to make the score 23-19 with nine minutes to play in the first half.

Down 25-23, Hutlassa picked off a pass by Trumae Lucas with under five minutes to play and connected on a fast break layup to tie the game.

The Gators held a six-point advantage at the half, but Carey started off hot at the start of the second half, scoring FIU's first five points and blocking a shot that forced a Florida turnover.

Hutlassa drained a three on the next possession to make the score 41-39 in favor of the Gators.

"It wasn't the prettiest and we felt like we could have done some things different in the second half, but they just wouldn't go away and you have to give FIU the credit for the effort and the fight that they played with tonight," said Butler, also according to *gatorzone.com*.

The Golden Panthers continued to rally but Florida's steady offense continued to sink threes, shooting over 46 percent from beyond the arc for the night.

Football will host Big East Pittsburgh Panthers in 2014

JONATHAN RAMOS Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers will continue to challenge themselves with quality out-of-conference opponents when it visits the University of Pittsburgh next season.

FIU Athletic Director Pete Garcia announced last week that Pittsburgh is the latest Big East Conference team the Golden Panthers have scheduled of late, as FIU lost at home to USF in 2008 and fell short at Rutgers earlier this season.

The Golden Panthers will host Pittsburgh in 2014 as part of the home-and-home series. Pittsburgh is currently ranked in the Bowl Championship Series poll.

"In a metropolitan city like Miami, savvy

football fans get excited to see out-of-conference opponents like the ones FIU has lined up," Sun Belt Conference Commissioner Wright Waters told *fiusports.com*. "Pete Garcia is right on target. At the end of the day, you are known in Athletics by the company you keep. This will be a huge boom for FIU's recruiting."

Ironically, the Pittsburgh Panthers are a team that FIU has recently emulated by branding itself with the same nickname as well as using blue and gold as primary colors.

Pittsburgh is coached by former Miami Dolphins coach Dave Wannstedt.

ALMOST THERE

Before the Golden Panthers suffered a humbling loss at Florida on Nov. 21, wide

receiver T.Y. Hilton and Golden Panthers coach Mario Cristobal said the electrifying sophomore was still not 100 percent from a nagging knee injury.

After a couple of slick plays against the Gators, Hilton showed he is not far off by having his best performance since mustering 117 yards at ULM on Oct. 3.

Hilton had four grabs for 75 yards against the Gators, which included a pretty one-handed grab in UF territory in the first half.

After the game, Hilton said he is close to shedding a knee brace he has worn since sustaining the sprain on Oct. 10 at Western Kentucky.

After a bye week leading into the Golden Panthers season finale against FAU, Hilton will probably be fully healed vs. the Owls.

The Golden Panthers should need Hilton's abilities at 100 percent against an FAU team that has put up 112 points in their last two meetings.

KITTY CATS

With the bounty of injuries that have plagued the Golden Panthers this season, an injection of youth into the lineup has been necessary.

Cristobal alluded to the experience of his young players as a "baptism of fire" earlier this season, and 17 players have had just that.

With 17 true freshmen getting time this season, FIU is tied with Tulane for the most first-year contributions in the Football Bowl Subdivision.

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 - » Gordon Biersch «
 - » Red Bar «
 - » Havana Dreams «
 - » Japengo at the Hyatt «
 - » Ecco Lounge «
 - » Finnegan's Rlver «
- » Mekka (3 Stages) «
 - » La Guaracha «
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MMF

LEAVING WINNERS

Golden Panthers send seniors out with win at home

JOEL DELGADO
Staff Writer

Seniors Yarimar Rosa, Olga Vergun, Isadora Rangel and Gaby Jaimes said goodbye to U.S. Century Bank Arena as the Golden Panthers defeated the Florida A&M Rattlers to end the season.

Family members, friends and fans gathered to celebrate their careers and say goodbye one last time in what proved to be a match ending in several players' tears.

And in what might have been their final match at U.S. Century Bank Arena, they left the crowd with one final victory to remember them by.

"We finished on a great note," Vergun said of her last game at home. "In our minds, there was no other way to do it."

The Golden Panthers, coming off a disappointing loss to Middle Tennessee in the Sun Belt Conference championship match, handily defeated the visiting Florida A&M Rattlers in three sets as they prepare for the NCAA tournament.

It was an emotional day for Coach Danijela Tomic, who has helped develop these players and watched them grow on and off the field.

"It's tough to see them go," Tomic said. "Every player is special; they are such a great group. You don't find many athletes that are selfless anymore. Yari is like that, Olga is like that, Isa is like that. They make you a better coach."

After a slow start to the match, FIU quickly regained momentum and never let go as they won the first set and cruised in the second to jump out to a 2-0 match lead. It was more of the same in the third set as the crowd rose to give the seniors a standing ovation in the final moments.

The victory gave the Golden Panthers their 31st victory of the year, the best in program history.

"FIU was my last visit after visiting some Top 25 schools, but when I came here I felt at home and coach told me I could leave my own



PHOTOS BY CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

ABOVE: Seniors Gaby Jaimes, Olga Vergun, Isadora Rangel and Yarimar Rosa take a photo after their last home game of their careers on Nov. 28 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

LEFT: Junior setter Natalia Valentin hands three-time All-American Yarimar Rosa flowers and a bag following the team's 3-0 win over Florida A&M. The two players from Puerto Rico are the most potent offensive combination in the program's history.

legacy here," Rosa said. "Everything comes to an end so you have to enjoy it; live every day, play every game and take advantage of every chance that you have. You never know what could happen."

Rangel led a balanced offensive attack with 10 kills while Rosa contributed nine kills of her own to the effort. Vergun had six kills in addition to her four blocks on defense.

"I was just trying to make the best out of it," Rangel said. "I just tried to have fun and enjoy having my teammates around me. There's a lot of emotion in it. I'm gonna miss all the small things and all the people I've met."

The season isn't over yet for the team, as they now prepare for the first round of the NCAA tournament in Gainesville against crosstown-rival Miami on Dec. 3.

The Golden Panthers defeated the visiting Hurricanes earlier this season in a three-set sweep on Sept. 10 and are hoping to do it again, this time on a much larger stage.

"We need to practice and work a lot," Vergun said. "It's something we've been waiting for the whole season. One game at a time - we have to do our best. It's going to be pretty tough."

SENIOR GOODBYE

Yarimar Rosa

A two time winner of the Sun Belt Player of the Year award, Rosa has rewritten the FIU record books, becoming the first Golden Panther to eclipse 2,000 points in a career. Owns 13 Sun Belt Player of the Week selections in her four seasons and is a good bet to notch a fourth All-American nod.

Gaby Jaimes

Prior to being forced to sit out her senior season, Jaimes was a valuable member of the Golden Panthers team through her first three seasons. Ranked fourth on the team in kills per match as a junior.

Olga Vergun

A First Team Sun Belt selection in 2007, Vergun redshirted the 2008 season and then picked up right where she left off, leading the team in kills in her senior season, earning her another Second Team All Sun Belt selection. Ranks fifth in FIU history in kills.

Isadora Rangel

Rangel transferred from the University of Kansas, where she made an immediate impact as a freshman. After sitting out a season because of transfer rules, Rangel made her impact felt with FIU, winning the Sun Belt Newcomer of the Year award as a junior.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Despite injuries, team earns third place finish at Thanksgiving Classic

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

During the FIU Thanksgiving Classic, the Golden Panthers women's basketball team was thankful to have enough players to complete a starting lineup.

With a lengthy list of injuries and ineligible players, the Golden Panthers proved they're struggling without the help of some key assets as they were downed by St. Joseph's and Florida just last weekend.

ST. JOSEPH'S 64, FIU 48

The Golden Panthers produced their lowest scoring output this season, as they were defeated 64-48 by the Hawks on Nov. 27.

FIU's offense was anemic as they shot just 30 percent for the game compared to a 53 percent shooting effort by St. Joseph's.

Senior guard Monika Bosilj, who sat out the previous two games with a knee injury, played off the bench for FIU but

BASKETBALL, page 10

MEN'S BASKETBALL: EASTERN KENTUCKY 81, FIU 67

Halftime lead slips away from Golden Panthers

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pappa Oppong scored 21 points to lead five players in double figures in an 81-67 win over Florida International on Nov. 28.

Justin Stommes scored 15 points, and Josh Taylor and Spencer Perrin each had 14.

Dayvon Ellis added 10 points off the bench.

The Colonels are 5-1 for the first time since the 2006-07 season, the last time they earned a berth in

the NCAA Tournament.

The Panthers (2-6), led 32-31 at halftime but the Colonels shot 63.6 percent (21-for-33) from the field in the second half to pull away.

The Colonels led by as many as 16 points.

The Colonels fired 28 3-point shots and made 7 of 13 (58.1 percent) in the second half, and 42.9 percent (12-for-28) for the game.

Marvin Roberts led the Owls with 19 points.

Marlon Gary added 13 points, J.C. Otero had 12 points and 12 rebounds, and Phil Gary scored 10 points.

"I thought we got very careless with the basketball and made a couple of turnovers that led to easy transition baskets," said head coach Isiah Thomas to *fiusports.com*. "That gave them confidence in their defense and then confidence in the offense because of the easy transition baskets they were able to score."