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# The Beacon, April 20, 2011

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## LIBYA

### UN, Libya reach deal on humanitarian aid

Moammar Gadhafi's government has promised the U.N. access to the rebel city of Misrata, a senior U.N. official said, following weeks of heavy shelling of the city by Libyan government forces.



## LEBANON

### Rights group says 12 Syrians killed

More than 10,000 mourners in Syria joined funeral processions a day after witnesses said security forces opened fire on crowds challenging the authoritarian rule of President Bashar Assad.



## PALESTINE

### Hamas reveals suspects in Italian's death

Gaza's Hamas government said it was searching for three suspects in last week's killing of an Vittorio Arrigoni, Italian activist. Hamas has been conducting a manhunt since the death of Arrigoni.

## EARTH WEEK RUN



MARTIN CAMACHO/THE BEACON

Sophomores Brandt Absolu, Joseph Montes de Oca and Jenna Jennings (left to right), run across campus during the Shake-A-Leg 5K/Eco Walk, the event that ended the university's Earth Week. The Students for Environmental Action club and the Office of University Sustainability planned a week full of events from April 4 to 9 for students to celebrate Earth Day (April 22).

## MMC budget fate unclear after illegal submission

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO

Asst. News Director

After the Student Governing Council at Modesto Maidique Campus Senate rejected the campus specific budget on March 28, the SGC-MMC Budget Committee was presented with a unique circumstance according to SGC-MMC Senate Speaker Hector Mujica.

The budget was submitted to the SGC-MMC Senate for approval on March 21. After its rejection, the budget was sent back to the Budget Committee to be edited and later re-proposed to the Senate.

Due to pressures from University officials, the SGC-MMC Budget Committee claimed they had no option but to submit the edited budget directly to the Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Rosa Jones, without presenting it for final approval to the Senate.

According to Mujica, an SGC-MMC budget has never been rejected, and this may have led to confusion on the Budget Committee's behalf.

"I'm not really sure what happened this year that threw it all out of balance. It's never been denied before. It's the first time it's been denied. So, I think that's what kind of threw everything off," said Mujica.

The SGC-MMC Budget Committee reconvened with senators that opposed the presented budget, but illegally

BUDGET, page 2

## Smarty Pants Bowl attempts to spread AIDS awareness

JESSICA LOPEZ  
Contributing Writer

Miami ranks first in the nation in AIDS case rates, according to data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Due to the fact that many South Floridians are uninformed about this disease, the School of Journalism and Mass Communications and the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine hosted the inaugural Smarty Pants Bowl competition.

"There are many conservatives who don't like talking about this issue since it is a disease that is spread intimately, but this is killing people. It's necessary to talk about it," said School of Journalism and Mass Communications associate dean, Allan Richards.

Kate MacMillin, reached out to Richards and the College of Medicine for help in spreading AIDS awareness.

Dr. William Darrow, professor of Health Promotion and Disease

Prevention and part of the research team that first looked at AIDS, was more than happy to help.

Darrow, claiming to have dedicated his career to the study and eradication of HIV/AIDS, agreed to incorporate the "Tell Somebody Now" campaign into his one of his courses by assigning the students a project that would require them to break into four teams to devise an HIV prevention plan for the FIU community.

"I noticed FIU doesn't have an

HIV prevention plan, and with a disease that has no cure, prevention is key," said Darrow.

After working for nearly a whole semester on their prevention plans, the teams finally had the opportunity to present all of their hard work in a competitive setting at the annual Smarty Pants Bowl on April 11.

Poking fun at American Idol, Darrow served as host while MacMillin and Richards portrayed Paula Abdul and Simon Cowell.

Other community leaders, such as Joy Knight and Florence Greer, also judged the presentations.

The teams drew straws to decide who would present first. The "Totally Rad Roaries" began the competition to present their to reinstate the FIU AIDS Committee to act as a sort of council that would look over every other school organization's AIDS involvement.

Team Captain Brianna Ortiz

SMARTY PANTS, page 2

ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Republicans pulling a lead over Democrats' votes

ANN SANNER  
CALVIN WOODWARD  
AP Staff

State by state, Republicans are moving at light speed on a conservative agenda they would have had no hope of achieving before the big election gains of November.

The dividends are apparent after only a few months in office, and they go well beyond the spending cuts forced on states

by the fiscal crunch and tea party agitation. Republican governors and state legislators are bringing abortion restrictions into law from Virginia to Arizona, acting swiftly to expand gun rights north and south, pushing polling-station photo ID laws that are anathema to Democrats and taking on public sector unions anywhere they can.

All this as Democrats find themselves cowed or outmaneuvered in statehouses where they once put up a fight. In many

states, they are unable to do much except hope that voters will see these actions as an overreach by the Republicans they elected — an accidental revolution to be reversed down the road.

A tug to the right was in the cards ever since voters put the GOP in charge of 25 legislatures and 29 governors' offices in the 2010 elections. That is turning out to be every bit as key to shaping the nation's ideological direction as anything happening in Washington.

A close-up review of the first wave of legislative action by Associated Press statehouse reporters shows the striking degree to which the GOP has been able to break through gridlock and achieve improbable ends.

The historic and wildly contentious curbs on public sector bargaining in Wisconsin, quickly followed by similar action in Ohio, were but a signal that the status quo is being challenged on multiple fronts in many places.



# NEWS FLASH

## Not your usual domestic violence incident

A Kansas woman faces a charge of harboring a vicious animal after her pet python grabbed onto her neck and would not let go until a police officer intervened.

Chrystal Wilson of Lyons, Kan., took the eight-foot-long albino snake from its cage for feeding Tuesday when it clasped its jaws on the side of her neck, Police Chief Chris Detmer said Friday.

Luckily, the snake has small teeth rather than sharp fangs, he said.

## College paper goes topless for exotic dancer story

A Philadelphia college newspaper has gone topless to publish a story alleging a professor used exotic dancers in a business seminar.

La Salle University students say administrators would not let them print the story above the fold on the front page. So the top half of Thursday’s Collegian is blank, except for the words “See below the fold.”

The newspaper’s executive editor, Vinny Vella, says administrators initially forbade him from printing the article until their investigation was complete.

## Man bites dog — then sues over police canine’s act

A 33-year-old man who bit back after he was caught by a Phoenix police dog is suing police.

Erin Sullivan alleges the dog violated his civil rights and used excessive force to capture him after he ran from officers in Glendale during a burglary investigation last year.

Police say Sullivan bit the dog back, injuring it.

The lawsuit names the cities of Phoenix and Glendale and four officers. Officials in Glendale and Phoenix have declined comment.

Sullivan also alleges Glendale police refused to give him insulin to treat his diabetes.

– Compiled by Nicole Castro

# Project boosts campaign’s mission

## SMARTY PANTS, page 1

claimed that the Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils served as an inspiration for the idea of a school-wide AIDS Committee.

The second team, “Soothsayers,” presented their idea of a six-year plan. The “Perky Panthers” focused their presentation on offering a multitude of ways to create said dialogue, such as by creating Facebook, Twitter and YouTube accounts for the campaign..

“Creating dialogue about AIDS is the most important thing in preventing it”, said Basilisa Perkins, captain of the team.

Their presentation was executed with an example of their vision for the YouTube account—a poem sent in by someone who was somehow affected by HIV/AIDS. “I have goose bumps”, said MacMillin after watching the rendering.

Even after such diverse presentation the title of Smarty Pants Bowl champions ultimately went to the last team, the “Divine Dazzlers.” By focusing on advertising AIDS awareness messages during school sporting events, the judges quickly deliberated to deem them as the first-ever bowl champions.

While the winners of the Smarty Pants Bowl earned an ‘A’ for their project, everyone at the event was content once it was over. Perkins, whose team came in second place, was not hurt over the loss, but rather excited by the project’s possibilities.

“This started off as a class project, but it became a passion in the process,” said Perkins.

Along with attendees at the event, MacMillin was satisfied with the presentations and the purpose of the event.

“It’s so exciting. This was not just a

project; this stuff is going to be implemented,” said MacMillin.

The evening came to a close with a few brief words from Dr. Darrow, who thanked everyone for their hard work and for attending.

Special thanks were reserved for Donovan Thomas, founder of the ‘RCP movement,’ a community movement created to raise HIV/AIDS awareness in South Florida.

Thomas congratulated everyone on the success of the evening and seemed very impressed with all the information the teams had gathered.

According to MacMillin and other hosts, the night was a success and step forward for the “Tell Somebody Now” campaign.

“I think everyone was a winner tonight, and soon the whole FIU community will be winners with a new HIV/AIDS awareness program,” said Darrow.

# Budget could be proposed next year

## BUDGET, page 1

submitted a repurposed budget to Jones without final approval from the senate in session.

“All the people that voted against it, the majority of them were in the meeting that day. There was a huge chunk that voiced their concern, they were there, and so I don’t see why it shouldn’t pass,” said SGC-MMC President Helena Ramirez.

On April 11, Housing Senator Carlos Rodriguez filed a petition with the judiciary against the SGC-MMC Budget Committee, claiming that the Committee violated Florida Statutes section 1009.24 (10)(b) by submitting the proposed budget to Dr.

Jones without prior approval from the Senate.

Rodriguez noted that the legislation states, “The allocation and expenditure of the [student activity and service fee] fund shall be determined by the student government association of the university.”

The court decided in favor of Rodriguez and ultimately agreed that the Budget Committee was guilty of misfeasance for violating

Florida Statute 1009.24 (10)(b).

“We found that they were guilty, but we didn’t punish them as in censuring them or removing them from office because there were mitigating factors. They had pressure from the administration,” said Octavio Mella, SGC-MMC chief justice.

The budget that was presented to Jones is still in her possession and at her

disposal to make suggestions for changes. While the Senate was supposed to vote on the SGC-MMC Budget at their final session on April 18, Jones has yet to send back the budget.

Mujica claims that only Jones has the authority to circumvent the constitution, and if the budget is not proposed to this year’s Senate, it could be presented to next year’s senators.



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## BASEBALL

# Offense fuels comeback win as Panthers takes series



CARLOS MONINO/THE BEACON

Garrett Wittels [above] connects on a hit against the Ragin’ Cajuns over the weekend. FIU won on Sunday with a decisive 11-5 victory.

**ANDRES LEON**  
Staff Writer

The FIU baseball team would get things started with a bang and beat their Sun Belt Conference in a comeback victory on Apr. 17.

With a good performance from their pitching staff the night before, FIU (22-16, SBC 7-8) would start Daniel DeSimone to duel against T.J. Geith. Desimone would only pitch two innings after giving FIU an early three run lead. Desimone would allow four runs off seven hits and then come off for Kyle Fitzpatrick to relieve him.

The UL Ragin’ Cajuns would put lefty T.J. Geith on the mound to combat the Golden Panther offensive. Geith would pitch four innings allowing six runs off of seven hits while striking out seven hitters.

### BUILDING AN EARLY LEAD AND DEALING WITH ADVERSITY

Pablo Bermudez would set the tone by homering off his first pitch to right field. Martinez would ground out to third later in the first to bring Patton home.

Yoandy Barroso would add the third run by recording an RBI single to center field to bring Garrett Wittels home for a three run lead.

“We didn’t get the hits early when we needed it, we blew a 3 run lead, the home runs don’t mean much to me,

I’m here to get on base as a leadoff.” Said Bermudez, after recording his first two homeruns of the season on the weekend.

In the second inning, Desimone would allow four runs to come in to give the Ragin’ Cajuns the lead. As UL reached the top of their line up, speedsters Alex Fuselier and Greg Fontenot would come up big, as Fuselier would record an RBI single and then Fontenot would hit a sacrifice fly to put the Cajuns up 4-3 going into the bottom of the second.

Both FIU and UL would score a lone run in the fourth inning. Lance Marvel would come in for UL as a pinch hitter and single to center field to bring Jordan Poirrier in for the score. Later on, Garrett Wittels would single right at the pitcher to bring Bermudez home to tie the score 5-5. Pinch hitter Jose Behar would score in the fifth after being brought in off a wild pitch and on the previous play T.J. Shantz would come home off a fielder’s choice from Patton.

FIU would take a one run lead after finally breaking through. In the previous two innings, the Golden Panthers would come up short on key situations with bases loaded and no outs. Things finally gave way after Martinez singled to left field to bring Patton in for the third run of the inning. “When your not focused on what you’re doing, you swing at bad pitches you leave runners out there on

base,” said Coach Thomas.

After rallying back, FIU would cruise on through the rest of the game. In the eighth inning, the Golden Panthers would record another three runs. Bermudez would single to second base and Jose Behar would score. On the following play Jeremy Patton would swing deep to bring Bermudez on a double into a gap in left center field. Wittels would cap things off with a single to right field to score Patton. Bryam Garcia would get the call and close the game, grabbing the win for FIU 11-5.

“It was good to get are bullpen going today and it helps late in the season, and with about 30 percent left I feel we’ve got a good team with a lot more to show as the season goes on,” said Coach Thomas after Sunday’s series win.

The Golden Panthers will return to conference action next weekend as FIU will take on University of Arkansas Little Rock in the three game away series starting Friday.

### FLORIDA MEMORIAL GAME CANCELED

FIU men’s baseball game on Tuesday, April 19 against Florida Memorial was canceled and will not be made up. FIU has added a game on May 11 at No. 21-ranked Stetson Hatters in DeLand, Fla. The time of the game will be determined at a later date, according to FIUsports.com.

## TRACK AND FIELD

# Bejarano and Castillo lead FIU at Invitational

**JACKSON WOLEK**  
Staff Writer

The FIU men’s and women’s track and field team had yet another terrific outing at the Hurricane Alumni Invitational on Saturday, April 16th at The University of Miami, as they continue to improve both individually and as a collective unit in preparation for the conference and national tournament.

“We had a phenomenal meet, although it was delayed about 2 and a half hours due to the weather we had a number of personal bets and number of people won their events, so it was a tremendous event for us actually,” said coach Campbell.

The success that many of the Golden panthers have had thus far has not gone unnoticed, as some of the athletes are ranked in the top 50 in the nation for their respective events.

The team of Marrisa McElveen, Lakeisha Kelley, Carla- Kay Mills and T’Keyah Dumoy went into the meet Saturday ranked NO. 19 in the nation, along with having the eighth fastest time in the East Region overall in the 4x100 relay.

With all of the individual accolades achieved this year by the team, coach Campbell admits that “it is really hard to choose who would be the most improved or MVP of them team,” saying that as a program overall they have extremely improved.

“Each week we progress, we end up running faster and faster,” Campbell said. “We have had just so much success this year that it’s actually a lot of fun to witness.”

Three of the four are also ranked individu-

“All the hard work and the training has been done, so right now it’s really about how sharp and how good can we have the athletes feel on game day as far as being able to compete.

Eric Campbell  
Head Coach

ally with Mills NO.30 in the East Region in the 100m hurdles, McElveen NO. 20 in the nation in the long jump and NO. 14 in the East Region, and Kelley NO. 39 in the 400m in the East Region.

La’ Shae White was also NO. 21 in the East region in the 400m.

At the meet, Megan Horne placed third in the javelin throw with a throw of 41.09. Sebastian Castillo came in second place in the Men’s 1500 meter run with a time of 3:53.26. Michael Bejarano got first place in the Men’s 400Meter Hurdles.

Brien Garcia grabbed third in the Men pole Vault and Tyson Kemp got third in the men shot put.

“We didn’t run everybody but I definitely feel that it was one of the better events that we’ve had,” commented Campbell on his team’s performance. “Every meet that we competed in this year has been similar to the Hurricane Invite so if I had to rank any of them I’d say they were all equal because each and every week we just get a little bit better and a little bit closer to

trying to win the Sun Belt tournament.”

There are only two more meets left for the Golden panthers until the Sun Belt Outdoor championships.

The way the team has progressed so quickly, it is more about sustaining their success, rather than having to greatly improve before the tournament.

“All the hard work and the training has been done, so right now it’s really about how sharp and how good can we have the athletes feel on game day as far as being able to compete,” said Campbell.

The next meet that they participate in on Thursday, April 28 is the Penn relays, and will be sure to test where they stand nationally more than any other event they have been in thus far.

It is one of the biggest track meets in the country and brings out the top programs.

The meet usually averages around 50,000 spectators a night.

It will be great preparation for when they go to the Sun Belt championships on May 13th and the National championships on June 8th.

## SOFTBALL

# Powerful offense carries team past WKU

**MALCOLM SHIELDS**  
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers scored over 10 runs for the fifth time this season as they defeated Western Kentucky 13-2 in six innings on April 17. Sophomore Alex Casals led the Golden Panthers offensively, hitting her first career grand slam.

Western Kentucky scored the games first run on a leadoff solo home run by Kelsie Mattox in the top of the first inning.

In the bottom half of the inning, the Golden Panthers countered with a two-out rally to take the lead. Ashley McClain began the rally with a single.

After a walk to Brie Rojas, Kayla Burri hit a single to centerfield scoring McClain to tie the game.

On the play, Rojas advanced to third. Rojas scored from third base after Burri attempted to steal second base and the throw from the catcher



# Casals’ grand slam powers big conference win

SOFTBALL, page 3

to shortstop Amanda Thomas was bobbled and trickled into the outfield.

In the second inning, the Golden Panthers continued to put pressure on Hilltoppers starting pitcher Dana Nathanson on the base paths. Beth Peller nearly hit a homerun, crushing a double off the right field wall to score 2 runs to up the FIU lead to 4-1.

“I just knew that in was my pitch,” Peller said. “I knew that I was going to hit [the pitch] if it was in my zone.”

In the third inning, the Hilltoppers cut the deficit to 4-2. Ciara Garcia reached base on a double to right-center field. Garcia was ended up scoring on a single from Karavin Dew to right.

In the bottom of the third, starting pitcher Jenn Gniadek recorded her first RBI of the season with a double to left.

“I haven’t been hitting much this year,” Gniadek said. “I was really excited to hit today.”

Western Kentucky (23-22, 4-11 SBC) had an opportunity to trim into the lead, in the fifth inning. After Mattox reached base on a walk,



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

Kennah Orr [No. 4] makes contact on a pitch against Western Kentucky on April 16.

Garcia singled to left field but advanced to second base after the cut-off throw from left fielder Casals did not retire Mattox at third. With runners in scoring position, Gniadek pitched out of a jam by recording a strikeout and a groundout.

The Golden Panthers were able to break the game open in the fifth inning as they sent nine batters to the plate and forced the Hilltoppers to make two pitching changes. FIU loaded the bases and scored three runs in the inning on two bases-loaded walks and a single

by Jessy Alfonso.

The defensive play of the game came in the sixth inning when Burri, a shortstop, leaped in the air to rob Thomas of a hit. The Golden Panthers (25-22, 11-7 SBC) added five runs in the sixth inning.

FIU scored its ninth run on a Jenny Welch single, and then loaded the bases Casals. The sophomore catcher crushed a grand slam to end the game on the run rule.

“When it was my turn up to bat in [the] last inning, I just wanted to look for my pitch, which is inside and be patient and get a base hit,” Casals said. “I wasn’t thinking anything big.”

Gniadek pitched six innings and struck out three to improve her record to 12-10. According to Gniadek, she felt at ease on the mound with the run support.

“It’s awesome to have a team that can hit,” Gniadek said. “I gave up the first run and it didn’t faze us.”

According to Coach Beth Torina, she was also pleased with her team’s overall effort.

“I thought today was a great day for the whole offense,” Torina said afterwards. “Our defense was spectacular [as well].”

## NFL LABOR DISPUTE

# Players’s union and owners meet in court session

TOM WITHERS  
AP Wire

After more than a month off, the NFL and its locked-out players have starting talking again about how to resolve their differences and ensure there is pro football played this fall.

The only sign of progress or productivity, though, was the nine hours or so both sides spent in the federal courthouse on Thursday.

Sworn to secrecy about specifics of the court-ordered mediation, neither the league nor the players provided much insight about where they’re at in their dispute over the division of this \$9 billion business. They were set to meet again Friday morning.

Commissioner Roger Goodell, Carolina Panthers owner Jerry Richardson, Kansas City Chiefs owner Clark Hunt, Pittsburgh Steelers owner Art Rooney and New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft were among those on hand for the closed-door session Thursday with U.S. Magistrate Judge Arthur Boylan.

NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith was joined by attorneys, linebackers Ben Leber and Mike Vrabel, as well as Hall of Fame defensive end Carl Eller.

“We had a full day. It was constructive to get together,” said Jeff Pash, the NFL’s lead negotiator. “The chief magistrate judge is working very hard, and I give him a lot of credit for really trying to move the parties toward a solution.”

Neither he nor Goodell would elaborate on the day’s events.

“We pledged confidentiality,” the commissioner said.

Smith was mum, too.

“We’ll be back tomorrow,” he said as he walked away.

So how long might this go?

“The court has indicated it wants to continue with everyone talking as long as it makes sense,” said Michael Hausfeld, one of the attorneys for the players. He called Thursday’s meeting “a good session.”

So what about the fans, who are frustrated by the back-and-forth rhetoric with no promise of an accord before training camps are to begin in late July.

“Well, I’m a fan too,” Eller said. “We would like to ease their minds. We can’t

tell them the outcome, but we are very interested in having a football season. A lot of things depend on it, of course. But, I’m with the fans. We want them to be happy. That’s what’s important to us.”

It was the first time the sides have sat down to talk since March 11, when the collective bargaining agreement expired, the union was dissolved to clear the way for a court fight and the NFL wound up with its first work stoppage since the monthlong strike in 1987.

With the lockout at 33 days and counting and the 2011 season in peril, Boylan is overseeing this round of mediation. Sixteen days of mediated sessions in Washington failed to secure a new labor pact.

Goodell stepped away from the session to join a teleconference with 5,300 Cleveland Browns season-ticket holders for 20 minutes. He would not characterize the negotiations, which are supposed to remain confidential, but did reiterate the importance of the sides getting together.

“I can tell you that it’s a positive step when the parties are talking,” he said. “We saw the March 11 proposal as responsive to issues raised by the players and there are many attractive elements in it. ... Our entire focus is on getting a deal done.”

Goodell said the league hopes to release its schedule for next season within the next 10 days and plans to play “a full season.”

Goodell also said there are no plans to use replacement players as the league did in 1987 and that the Super Bowl in Indianapolis could be pushed back one week or the two-week gap after the conference championships could be shortened to one if necessary.

But Goodell’s main message to fans was to assure them they would see the Browns play next season.

“We’re going to make sure we have football, and more of it,” he said.

Goodell held a similar session Wednesday with Dolphins season-ticket holders.

During that call, he stressed the league’s goal of keeping player costs under control and, in response to a question about financial transparency, said the NFL’s disclosure has been “extraordinary.”

He insisted the players know “the revenue down to the penny,” a reference

to the union’s push for the league to open the books.

“We want them to be informed,” Goodell said. “We want to make sure they understand why we have the issues that we need to address.”

The mediation is the first positive step in the dispute in more than a month, but the league and players still must agree on how to divide more than \$9 billion in annual revenue.

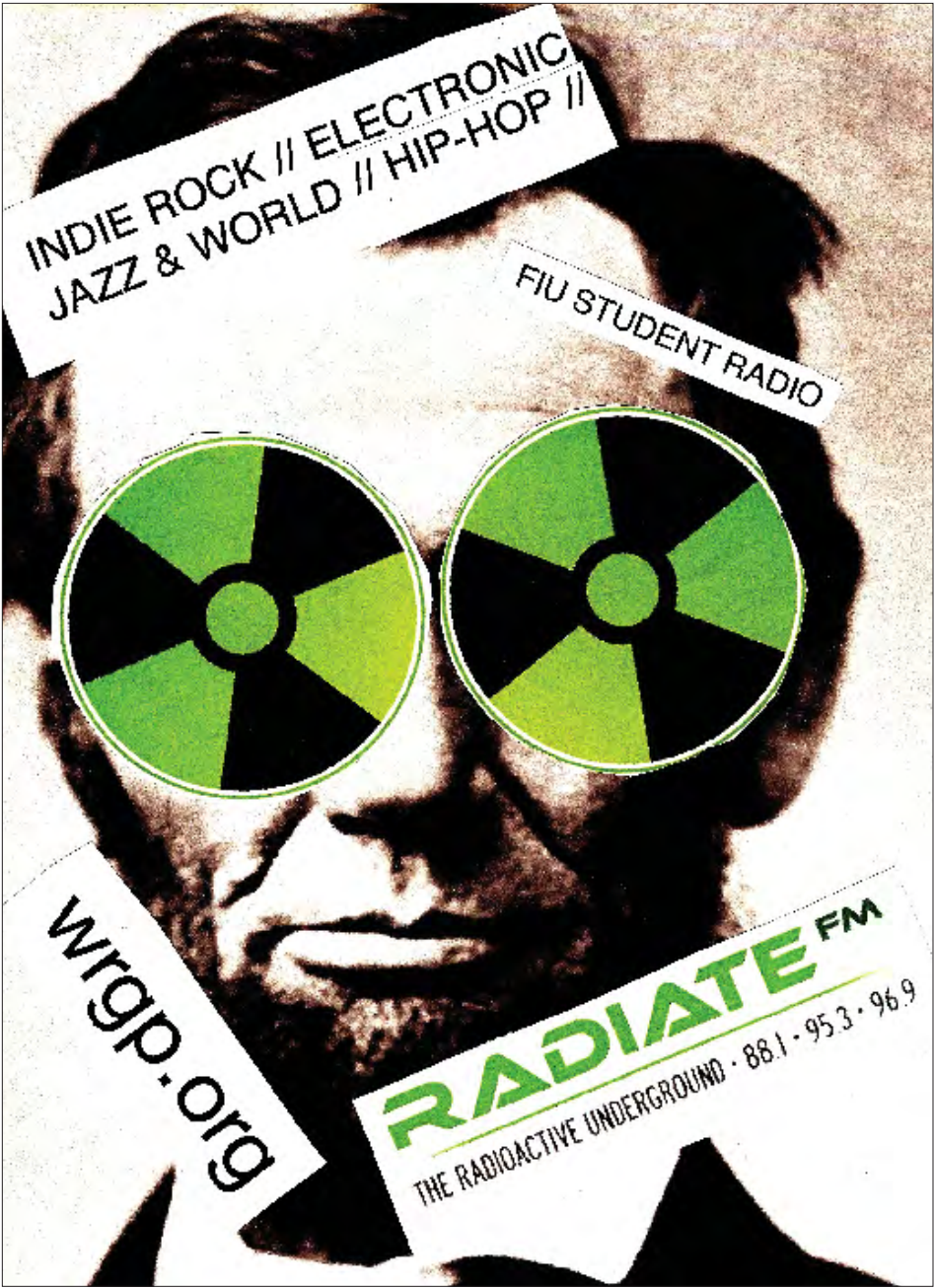
U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson, who ordered the mediation, is still considering a request from the players to

lift the lockout imposed by the owners. After an April 6 hearing, she said she planned to rule on the injunction request in a couple of weeks.

Players including MVP quarterbacks Tom Brady and Peyton Manning filed the request along with a class-action antitrust suit against the league.

The lawsuit has been combined with two other similar claims from retirees, former players and rookies-to-be.

For now, at least the two sides are talking again — even though it’s under a court order.





## CAMPUS GEMS



ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ/THE BEACON

# Stepping on campus seal invokes superstitions

**ALEXANDRA CAMEJO**  
Asst. News Director

With finals week approaching and the end of the semester looming near, seniors are finally gearing up for graduation.

“I feel like I’ve been dying for graduation since my freshman year. All of the tests, the essays, the assignments, the projects and studying finally were worth it this moment,” said Melissa Delgado, senior and business major.

Yet, according to the Student Alumni Association, it wasn’t what Delgado did that led her to a diploma—it’s what she didn’t do.

Having been warned in her

freshman orientation, Delgado has never stepped on the great seal of FIU that is engraved at the Betty Chapman Plaza entrance of the Graham Center.

“I remember the story that my peer advisor told me about that seal, and no matter how many people were coming in or out, I never laid a toe on it,” said Delgado.

According to tradition, the workers who engraved the seal in 1997 placed a curse on it before students even had a chance to take a step. One worker, who cannot be tracked down, joked to another by saying, “Imagine if a student steps on the seal and doesn’t grad-

uate within the expected time.”

The workers laughed and continued to place the seal. Two years later Javier Lopez was admitted into the University as a freshman with hopes of accelerating to graduation within three years.

According to SAA tradition, Lopez showed little respect for the seal, and frequently stepped on it on his way in and out of GC. Due to his disregard of the power of the seal, Lopez never met his three-year goal for graduation. It actually took him a staggering nine years to get his bachelor’s degree.

Ever since, students have been warned to never set foot on the

great seal, or else they would be deemed to suffer the same fate as Lopez or worse.

While SAA cannot provide any more information on this student or his current whereabouts, Lopez’s story and the curse of the seal have lived on for more than ten years. Peer advisors let incoming freshman know that students who step on the great seal will not make it to graduation on time, if at all.

On a given day, thousands of people walk through GC, and in this traffic it is not uncommon to find students and friends stopping each other from suffering the fate that stepping on the seal brings.

“My friend told me about the seal curse when I was about two steps from it, and I managed to jump over the thing at the last second,” said Michelle Perez, a junior and biology major.

Correlating the University’s four-year graduation rates with the great seal’s curse would be impossible, and those that disregard the superstition find its believers to be outlandish. In fact, according to the American Enterprise Institute, four-year colleges graduated an average of just 53% of students within six years.

“It’s just a superstition just like

**SUPERSTITION, page 6**

## POP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

# Foo Fighters’ new album same as last

Ever since the Beatles broke new ground on seemingly every new chord change, the trend for critical respectability in music has been toward the adventurous and daring.

Breaking new ground and stretching the limits of what we knew to expect, is one of the highest artistic goals an artist can have; critics will ignore mediocrity as long as you’re trying.

The Foo Fighters have

decided, over the course of their 15-year career, they don’t really care about all of that, and that holds true for their seventh studio album, “Wasting Light”, released on RCA on Apr. 12.

The Foo Fighters’ MO from day one was to shave down the rougher, punk influenced, edges of front-man Dave Grohl’s previous band, Nirvana, while keeping the pop sensibilities and classic rock sound that made them one of the biggest bands in the world.

They’ve taken a simple formula of driving rock

**ROCK, page 6**

## WALL ART



ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ/THE BEACON

BFA in drawing senior Carolina Candelarias draws on the canvases prepared in the GC Piano Room for drawing students. Students were asked to create and design a multimedia gallery ranging from sketches to three dimensional figures.



# Fashion show raises money to aid cancer patients

ALEX MACIEL  
Staff Writer

Project Hope was created to provide a beacon of hope for individuals whose financial struggles keep them from affording the cost of cancer treatment.

Their latest event, a fashion show, used fashion for charity.

Florida International University teamed up with the League Against Cancer, a community-based, non-profit organization providing free medical care to cancer patients.

The financial burden of cancer treatment is overwhelming, typically costing approximately \$50,000.

To help relieve the weight of a full chemo-

therapy treatment, Project Hope has come together to raise \$45,000.

Nicole Millan, founder and president of the University’s branch, had the desire to help struggling families with the burden of these medical expenses.

“There is a history of cancer in my family. I understand that some families cannot afford the cost of treatment. I therefore hope to spread awareness and help these families,” said Millan.

On Apr. 16, Project Hope held a fashion show featuring a variety of designers and vocal artists.

The event, “La Mode de L’Espoir,” French for fashion of hope, was held at The Deauville Beach Resort in Miami Beach and is one

of Project Hope’s biggest events.

Many professional and novice models walked the runway for a cause, showcasing different designs and new collections from local designers.

The first collection featured was M-M Couture, followed by Kristina Ashley Swimwear, Cherry Bomb Boutique and lastly Mittmi by Danittza Zimic.

Both performing artists, Sam Dearmond and The Bento Box Band, had acoustic and mellow undertones. Complimentary hor d’oeuvres as well as cocktails were served to attendees.

100% of the profits from Saturday’s event go to the cancer patients of The League Against Cancer. This includes the \$40 ticket

required to enter the venue that held up to 550 people.

A raffle was also held in order to contribute more to the patients.

The fashion show received additional help from volunteer students from Miami-Dade College and Florida International University.

Volunteers contributed their time and effort to garner corporate sponsorships, promote the event, and hosted an array of local fundraising activities leading up to the main event.

The Fashion Show aided a good cause while providing people with a fun and interesting event.

“Where there is love there is hope,” said Millan.

## Great seal’s power can’t be proven

SUPERSTITION, page 5

walking under a ladder is bad luck. I don’t believe that [the seal] has any sort of effect on graduation rates,” said Rebecca Naslow, English major and junior.

“I work hard, study for my exams, and that’s why I’m graduating. I know that I’ve stepped on the seal before, but I also know that I’ll be graduating next spring,” said Naslow.

Whether or not there is truth to the curse placed upon the great seal in 1997, the University could never really know, but there is always a bit of truth behind a superstition.

“Do I think it’s true? Obviously not. But if I’m being honest, this is my sixth year at FIU, and I know for a fact that I stepped on that seal. I actually remember that it was in my third year, and look at me now,” said Andres Martinez, senior and liberal arts major.

## Lack of originality no problem for Fighters

ROCK, page 5

anthems with simple, catchy melodies, and become one of the biggest rock bands in the world over their 15+ years. You could probably lift the biggest singles off of any Foo Fighters album and drop them into the running order of any of their other albums, and only the most diehard fans would probably be able to tell the difference.

That holds true of this album. Some have pointed out that the reunion of Grohl with Butch Vig, the producer of Nirvana’s seminal “Nevermind,” has had a positive impact on the band’s sound, but to be honest, this is the same Foo Fighters that have been churning out the same stuff at least since 1997’s “The Colour And The Shape.”

Normally, that sort of monotone style would run its course well before 15 years, but it’s hard to deny the charm of these songs.

“Bridge Burning,” the album’s lead single starts with a simple guitar riff

before the rest of the band joins in to build up to the verse, which starts and stops a few times before being punctuated by Grohl’s signature screaming: “These are my famous last words.”

This is utterly familiar territory for Grohl and the band, but as the song builds and builds toward a gigantic chorus, it’s hard to criticize them just because they’ve been here before.

All of this doesn’t mean that everything’s great on the album. As with every album since “The Colour and The Shape” (still one of my favorite albums of the 90s) set the blueprint for their success, there’s definitely some filler.

“I Should Have Known” is supposed to be about Kurt Cobain, and it features Krist Novoselic on bass and accordion to strengthen the case.

In looking at the lyrics, I can see it. I guess.

There’s some rather oblique references to suicide. Maybe.

There’s also lines like “Baby you was right, You didn’t wanna fight” that make it sound more like a ballad on broken

hearts.

In the end, Grohl surmises “No I cannot forgive you yet,” which seems awfully harsh, all things considered. But worse than that, it’s a song that falls into the worst habit the Foo Fighters have. Given how strong their gigantic rock songs are, too often they fall back on melodramatic, mid-tempo ballads, and it’s harder to cover up some of Grohl’s deficiencies melodically and lyrically in that medium.

If you aren’t a fan, you won’t be convinced here. If you are a fan, they won’t lose you.

I am a fan, so I’m more than pleased. It’s difficult to figure out where it ranks among their albums, and it’s pretty much pointless. But “Wasting Light” does everything they do well and for the most part minimizes what they don’t.

Can you ask for much more at this point?

*Pop and Circumstance was a bi-weekly column. It ran every other Wednesday. Chris Towers will graduate in May.*

## THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2011

**S.P.E.A.K.’S ANIMATED ARTICULATION**  
WHEN: 8-11 p.m.  
WHERE: MMC RCP 151

**SPANISH YOGA**



WHEN: 2-3 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Farmer’s Market

**FOOD BANK/ PET CARE SUPPLIES DRIVE**  
WHEN: All Day  
WHERE: MMC DM 331/ Briarwood Animal Hospital

**SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE FOR COLLEGE KICKSTART**  
WHEN: All Day  
WHERE: MMC ZEB, 3rd Floor, box near the elevators

**HOLY MASS AND FAITH JAM**  
WHEN: 12-1 p.m.  
WHERE: MMC PC 431

**LEARN ABOUT AQUATIC THERAPY**  
This is a workshop on aquatic therapy techniques utilized in occupational therapy.  
WHEN: 10 a.m-1 p.m.  
WHERE: MMC University Towers Pool

**FREE BIKE REPAIRS**



WHEN: 12-3 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: MMC Library Breezeway

**MOVIE NIGHT: WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT?**



WHEN: 7-8:45 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: MMC SIPA 103

**TEST WISENESS**  
WHEN: 2-3 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: BBC AC-1 160

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2011

**ACTIVE MINDS: FINAL OASIS**  
This event teaches students stress management skills to better your studying habits. They will be introducing Dr. Sandoval who will run a stress management workshop.  
WHEN: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: MMC Panther Suit

**INTERMEDIATE MOON-LIGHT YOGA**



WHEN: 6:30-7:45 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: The garden

**FOOD BANK/ PET CARE SUPPLIES DRIVE**  
WHEN: All Day  
WHERE: MMC DM 331/ Briarwood Animal Hospital

**MAPS 7TH GENERAL MEETING**  
WHEN: 6-7 p.m.  
WHERE: MMC PC 424

**LAST MOVIE SCREENING**  
Now Without my Daughter hosted by the Womens Studies Student Association.  
WHEN: 8-10 p.m.  
WHERE: MMC GC 289

**MIAMI GAY & LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL**



WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Film tickets \$7 to \$12, event tickets \$15 to \$20  
WHERE: Colony Theatre

**CINEMA SOUND #8**



WHEN: 10 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$8  
WHERE: O Cinema

If you are interested in having an event featured in the calendar, contact: [calendar@fiusm.com](mailto:calendar@fiusm.com)

## RIDING DIRTY



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Freshman Annie Bravo, a liberal studies major, rode overnight for Anthony’s Light Foundation. The foundation raises money to protect against carbon monoxide poisoning.

## Electronic books no match for tradition

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ  
Staff Writer

Mobile devices such as the iPad and Kindle make buying eBooks as easy as clicking a link, and they are usually cheaper to boot. With the failure of bookstores, such as many Borders across the country most recently, it is evident that physical books of all types are losing popularity against their digitized counter parts.

Anyone with an Internet connection can get their favorite books, magazines and newspapers from any number of online sources without even having to turn a page. Despite the benefits of digitizing many aspects of our society, completely digitizing books would remove the personal, imaginative, and memorable qualities that many avid readers value.

Almost every type of print can now be obtained online for a cheaper price. It is unfortunate that, with the huge success of digitized media, people can now be in front of a computer screen for virtually every waking moment of their lives. In a time where technology is invading every aspect of our lives we should be looking for reasons to get off the computer, not stay on.

By comparison, eBooks are lifeless and impersonal. Books are meant to be an escape, and it is much more diffi-

“The feel of paper pages is just classic, and no digital device will ever be able to replace it.

cult to become absorbed while staring at a screen. From personal experience, I can say that reading from a digital screen lacks a certain immersive quality. Additionally, the feel of paper pages is just classic and no digital device will ever be able to replace it.

EBooks are definitely the next logical step towards the future. Where the printing press made physical books more accessible, eBooks make literature exponentially more so. However, the beauty lies in the experience of seeing the thickness of the book, turning the pages, and becoming engrossed for a few hours. No eBook can provide the same experience as a worn hardcover. While eBooks are gaining momentum because of their practicality and efficiency, print books will always be more appealing to me because of the laid back atmosphere they provide.

Digitizing everything has its advantages, but the rising popularity of eBooks

eliminates yet another reason to get off the computer. Physical books should continue to be a good reason to leave the computer and do some studying or just get lost in a great story, not to mention it is easier on the eyes. According to [www.prevent-blindness.org](http://www.prevent-blindness.org), sitting too close in front of a computer screen for extended hours can increase the likelihood of eye strain. Physical books are a prime example of the escape from the overwhelming embrace of technology that many look for when it is time to relax.

While most authors publish on both mediums to reach the maximum audience, some newer authors are relying solely on the eBook method to distribute their work, because of its ease. While this could tip the balance in the favor of the eBook, it is very probable that physical books will still be published for a while, as nostalgic readers everywhere will not let physical books disappear without a fight.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Student government makes notable progress

Members of the Student Body,  
Nearly 11 months ago the SGC-MMC Senate convened into its 38th Legislative Session with an ambitious set of goals. Now, at the end of our term, we reflect on the several accomplishments of this legislative session and the strides of the legislative body on behalf of the student body.

One of the Senate's goals entering into this term was a complete revision of the SGC-MMC Statutes, which were outdated and not in compliance with the new SGA Constitution that was enacted Summer 2010. The Senate was able to complete the full nine article revision by spring 2011, which included an entire new article, the SGC-MMC Ethics Code. The Senate is proud of this ethics code, as it provides some basic guidelines to keep Student Government more transparent and accountable to the students. As part of these statutory revisions the Senate also aimed to collaborate and increase synchronicity with SGC-BBC and was able to pass the basic framework for University Wide Statutes and gain significant traction on the University Wide Finance Code.

The Senate was able to achieve an unprecedented level of transparency intertwined with new technology during this legislative session, launching the SGA Blog which keeps track of and stores all Senate legislation, agendas and minutes. Furthermore, the Senate also launched this year the SGC-MMC Senate Compliance Dashboard and the SGC-MMC Finance Committee Spending Dashboard in an effort to maintain the student body informed of the Senate's compliance with the protocols and expenditures.

On the programming front, the Senate continued its tradition of Meet Your Dean Events hosted by each College delegation of the Senate, the annual College of Business Exposed Event by the Business Delegation, and Housing Town Halls by the Housing Senate Delegation. A "Good Luck on Finals" event was also hosted by the Senators At Large during the fall 2010 finals week. The Graduate Student Funding Committee was particularly successful, with events such as GradSkellar and Graduate Student Appreciation Week obtaining incredible turnouts. The Senate Finance Committee was able to appropriate approximately \$30,000 to students for purposes such as the Frost Art Museum Student Kick-off, the 2011 Solar Decathlon Team, Engineering Without Borders and the Environmental PowerShift Conference, amongst others.

On the lobbying and advocacy front, the Senate was very vocal this year addressing the concerns of the students. Some of the main issues address include: Arizona style immigration laws in Florida, allowing guns on college campuses, Pell Grant cuts, support of the D.R.E.A.M Act, support of the addition of 'gender identity and expression' to the 'Freedom of Discrimination' section to the Florida International University's Student Code of Conduct, opposing the removal of the summer courses waiver option, and opposing the block tuition pricing structure, amongst many others...

-Hector D Mujica  
Senate Speaker  
To see the full letter, visit the Opinion section on [fiusm.com](http://fiusm.com).

### THE POLITICK

## Political affairs taking an interesting turn

To my readers:  
The semester is coming to an end, and unfortunately the biweekly rants that all of you have been looking forward to must follow suit-for now. It has been a turbulent spring with the rainbow of revolutions that spread like burning oil throughout the Middle East, and in parts of northern Africa. Although, it does not appear that there will be a pot of gold at the end of this particular rainbow for anyone.

Americans also enjoyed a little sex scandal (although a boring vanilla one) the threat of a government shutdown and a brand-new war with another insane dictator.

Currently, there is a no-fly zone still in place over Libyan airspace. However, American involvement in the NATO-led assault has diminished, much

to the chagrin of the dwindling number of rebel forces. The poorly armed, trained and led rebel forces are being chopped up by Colonel Muammar Qaddafi's forces and are engaged in what appears to be a never-ending tug-of-war with his forces in key cities.

Qaddafi has written President Barack Obama a poorly spelled note in broken English asking for the end of the no-fly zone, even though Qaddafi is dropping cluster bombs on civilian populations. It appears the force is not strong with this rebel alliance.

This spring's sex scandal was the toast of the Internet, for about a minute. New York Representative Christopher Lee, Republican (shocker), resigned after he was caught claiming to be a divorced lobbyist and attempting to seduce women on Craigslist. Using his actual name and email address, he contacted a woman and sent her photos of himself.

She, like any metropolitan woman should do these days,

"Googled" him and found out that he is married, has a child, and was a Congressman. The photos he sent to a woman leaked to the Internet and spread like-well, like burning oil throughout the Middle East.

It would appear that the government shutdown might be averted after all. After the Republican party offered up its economic plan, one which extended tax breaks for the rich, cut funding for entitlement programs and aimed to privatize Medicare. On the other hand, President Obama's plan called for an end to Bush-era tax cuts for the rich, tax increases and cuts in defense. President Obama's budget proposal would reduce the deficit by \$4 trillion-that's right, trillion-over the next 12 years.

Here are my predictions: our new engagement in the Africa is not going to end anytime soon, unless the goal of NATO and the American people is to oust Colonel Qaddafi and 'create' democ-

racy, which has not worked in the past. As more revolutions continue to spread, so to will our involvement in foreign affairs. Syria is undergoing a violent, if not the most violent, revolution of all of the Arab Spring nations. There have been documented human rights violations and over 200 protesters have been killed by government forces.

Our economic crisis is one that has been brought on by greed and excess. The only way to solve this problem is through shrewd budgeting that does not affect programs that the poor, disenfranchised and the elderly need to survive all the while increasing taxes and closing loopholes that allows top earners and businesses to avoid contributing their fair share.

While it is true that it is darkest before the sun rises, I wish the best of luck to our Political Science and International Affairs majors who go out into the night this May.

The Politick is a political op-ed column.

### DISCLAIMER

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

### 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](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com)

### SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts in (500 words maximum) to [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com) or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for size, grammar, and clarity. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.





## CUBA

### Raul Castro proposes political term limits

For the first time since coming to power, President Raul Castro proposed term limits for Cuba's leaders. The term-limit proposal would make it all but impossible for a repeat of the Castros' political dynasty.



## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

### Drug kingpin's ex-wife turns self in

Leavy Nin Batista, 33-year-old ex-wife of a reputed Caribbean drug kingpin, is back in the Dominican Republic to face accusations she laundered money for her former husband's alleged trafficking network.



## PUERTO RICO

### US tourist accused in hotel killing

George Tsouratakis, a 33-year-old New Jersey man, is facing murder and weapon possession charges connected to a killing in the parking lot of a high-end resort in a popular tourist area of Puerto Rico's capital.

## HERBERT WERTHEIM COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

# New research center has community-oriented goals

LUIS ROCA

Contributing Writer

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, traditionally only at the Modesto Maidique Campus, has expanded onto the Biscayne Bay Campus.

After more than a year in the construction of the room, the college opened the doors to its new Division of Research and Data Coordinating Center in room 234 of Academic I on April 6.

"This is the first data coordinating center from the College of Medicine," said Patricia A. Stauffer, the center's associate director for administration. "The first staff came on board in August 2009, but we were living on temporary space on an office in the third floor."

The inauguration of the new offices received the visit of more than 30 guests, among them some distinguished members of the University and the City of North Miami Beach, such as Dr. John A. Rock, founding dean of the College of Medicine, and Russell Benford, city manager.

According to Stauffer, the purpose of the center is to function as a research resource to University faculty and students. The center also "strives to meet the needs of the scientific and local communities."

At the moment, the center has six



LUIS ROCA/THE BEACON

John A. Rock, dean of the College of Medicine (second from the left), at the inauguration of the medical research center at the Biscayne Bay Campus on April 6.

permanent staff members, including Dr. Juan M. Acunna, the center's director, and Dr. Juan M. Lozano, professor and associate director for science.

Also, a group of community interviewers work as a functional part of the center. These are trained interviewers recruited from the community to administrate questionnaires to families living in the areas of study.

The work method for the center is to conduct community-based participatory research and clinical epidemi-

ology methodologies.

One of the center goals is to identify social determinants of health in order to inform policy makers with the final purpose of improving the wellness of residents of the community.

"We are setup with NeighborhoodHELP in terms of evaluating their effectiveness," said Stauffer.

The NeighborhoodHELP is the program the College of Medicine is using with its students to go out and do site visits to engage the students

in community based activities, according to Stauffer.

The data-coordinating center produced their first community benchmark survey on the Northwest Miami-Dade community.

The survey include a series of about 156 questions in order to gather a snapshot of the community health form October 2009 to April 2010.

The center hopes the research can be beneficial to determine where the community stands in terms of chronic diseases and all kinds of other health

indicators.

"The information could be used with the collaboration of local government and other local organizations to establish strategies to address some of the health issues," said Stauffer.

According to Stauffer, the research program will help students in the College of Medicine to understand the needs of their community in a way that goes beyond the specific illness, but to know the causes behind the health problems.

"Our school of medicine believes it is extremely important for the physician of the future to understand all of the factors that impact somebody's health," said Stauffer. "Our role with the [center] is to make sure things happening in terms of intervention are based on reality and data and not in what people just think could be wrong in the community."

Dianna Deonanan, a freshman premed major, was exited about the opening of the research center office at BBC and the impact it could have.

"The opening would provide an opportunity for FIU to expand its knowledge of medical breakthroughs and information to the community," Deonanan, 18, said.

"It will pave a way for a concrete medical support team of researchers needed for conquering medical problems in today's society."

# Lecture emphasized importance of being news literate

CRISTINA MIRALLES

Staff Writer

Given the chance to give one last lecture to students before they graduate, Frederick Blevens warned them about believing such rumors as "President Obama to speak at FIU Spring Commencement," or "FIU to turn Tamiami park into water park."

As part of Tau Sigma Alpha Honor Society's "Legacies Lecture Series," Blevens, a professor at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, spoke on April 14 about media literacy and the need to teach, especially high school students, the different ways to use media.

TSA have sponsored the "Legacies Lecture Series" since 2008. The series is an event which gives professors the chance to give "the lecture of a lifetime," according to a TSA press release. Professors have the liberty to lecture on any topic they desire as long as it adheres to the question "If you had one last lecture to give to your students, what would you say?"

Blevens, a 2001 National Journalism Professor of the year, was the sixth professor to speak at the "Legacy Lecture Series." He titled his speech

*It is an honor to follow in the footsteps of those who did this before me and those who did this nationally.*



Frederick R. Blevens

"The Truth about those Tweets: Notes from a Parallel Universe."

"We know teachers have to follow a certain curriculum in the classroom and don't always have the opportunity to say what they want and feel, so we have this event so professors get the chance to tell students what they want before they graduate," said Andrea Cruz, president of TSA and journalism major.

According to Cruz, the idea for this lecture series came from the students themselves and picking the professors and the gathering of ideas can take some time.

"[Honors students] have a good idea of who is well liked and who is popular. We let the students give their suggestions and then we go ahead and contact the professor and see if he/she is available," said Cruz.

The ability of the audience to interpret and be critical of what they read, listen to, and watch was major component of Blevens' speech.

"In many ways, these efforts to spread news literacy ... [has put the tools that raise expectations and challenge the news] in the hands of the audience and challenges the news industry to haul what Bill Moyers often described as 'our march towards plutocracy.'"

Blevens said nowadays, so many people do not bother to do the extra bit of research and tend to believe the first thing they read or see. For example, Blevens had one of his honors classes work on a project that turned out to be a prank on society.

His class built up a site very similar to fiusm.com and published articles about how Obama was canceling his

trip to Miami -Dade College and coming to the University's spring commencement instead. The class also published an article saying the University was turning Tamiami Park into a water park. The class posted the articles on Facebook and watched as the clicks the pages received go up by the minute. At the end, *The Miami Herald* called the office of University President Mark Rosenberg for commencement tickets.

Blevens stated the point of this project was to demonstrate how simple it is for people to read a simple statement such as "Obama is coming to FIU instead of Miami-Dade College," and assume it is true. His point was to show people they need to investigate and make sure what they are reading is true and Facebook is not always their best place for verifiable information. Blevens spoke about Twitter, its popularity, and how it is a big source of information for many people.

"Every platform in social media, whether you're talking about Twitter, Facebook, regular Internet, email, or [instant messaging] has moved along at a lightning pace. It's

amazing and it's scary. It's scary when we're talking about verifiable information. Those things that are important to us in conducting our daily lives and how it contributes to the democracy," said Blevens

Blevens caught the audience's attention when he said schools sometimes do not teach what people should know, but rather might never be used in the future.

"Law requires you to take a speech class in college to teach you how to give a speech you will never give in real life, but there is no law that says you need to learn media, which is something you use every day," said Blevens.

Blevens ended his lecture with a quote from the autobiography of George Seldes titled, "Witness to a Century."

"And so [my brother] Gilbert and I, ... remained throughout our lifetimes just what Father was, freethinkers, and likewise, doubters and dissenters and perhaps Utopians. Father's rule had been 'Question everything, take nothing for granted,' and I never outlived it, and I would suggest it be made the motto of a world journalists' association."