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Scott calls attention to Fla. faculty salaries

MARIELLA ROQUE
Contributing Writer

Although Florida public university professors' salaries have always been public record, Gov. Rick Scott made it a prerogative recently to display them on an Excel sheet on a website called "Florida Has a Right to Know."

The sheet organizes the professor's salary by university, name of professor, title, state program, the amount they earn and the full-time equivalent.

A separate Excel file on the website also provides the salaries of executive branch agencies, the lottery, the justice administrative commission and the state courts system.

Many professors have been asking themselves why this initiative was taken, one of these being Kathleen Wilson, professor at the School of Music and president of the United Faculty of Florida chapter at FIU.

"My guess is that it's part of a plan to privatize higher education," Wilson

Thomas Auxter, president of the UFF at the University of Florida during the teach-in. "It's a cost of living adjustment for some, not others. It's not merit pay."

"[Gov. Scott] is trying to turn universities into corporations," said Amy Paul-Ward, professor of occupational therapy at FIU. "If we're a corporation, then the consumer is always right" and it doesn't work that way in schools.

Guest speakers present at the teach-in were Auxter, Mark Richard, president of the UFF chapter at Miami-Dade College Kendall campus and Ana Surezco, an online part-time professor at MDC.

"Higher education funding has decreased more rapidly than any other agency in Florida," said Auxter.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "Florida's 11 public universities raised tuition by 15 percent for the 2010-11 academic year. This tuition hike, combined with a similar increase in 2009-10, results in a total two-year increase of 32 percent."

"If I were a provost at a university outside Florida, this information would be a for me to recruit the best faculty away from Florida universities because I would know exactly what I would need to offer to entice them to come to my state," said University Provost Douglas Wartzok in an email to Student Media, "This is clearly an unintended, but very real, consequence."

The current rate of faculty leaving Florida public universities, according to Auxter, is at its highest: 14 percent.

"Publishing professors' salary data in an easy to obtain format made the job of luring away professors from Florida's public universities much easier for other universities," said Thomas Breslin, chairman of the Faculty Senate.

The highest paid professor at the University is College of Medicine Dean John Rock, making \$522,750 a year, compared to the highest paid professor at UF, Professor William Friedman, who makes \$808,437 a year.

"[Gov. Scott's] motive is to make universities look wasteful," said College of Education Professor Benjamin Baez, "I don't believe the rhetoric."

Professors usually get paid different wages based on several factors, according to Baez. A university will pay professors higher salaries if they have national recognition, are

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NIGHT OF HONOR



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

President Mark Rosenberg places a medal around the neck of Darienzo Pena, an honorary FIU Veteran and grad student, during half-time of the FAU vs FIU football game on Nov. 12.

Students target sweatshops

EDUARDO ALMAGUER
Staff Writer

Students walk onto campus wearing brand new Nike sneakers. Some of them have a JanSport backpack slung around their right shoulders. Others are wearing an Abercrombie & Fitch T-shirt.

Unbeknownst to them, however, as they make their way through campus there is a floating sign over their head that reads "I WEAR STUFF MADE IN SWEATSHOPS."

All of these brands, along with countless others such as Converse, DKNY and Victoria's Secret have all been associated with using sweatshops to save on production costs according to the International Textile Garment and Leather Workers' Federation.

Sweatshops and workers' rights and wages, or lack thereof, have long been an issue that has plagued the giant apparel corporations.

At some point in their lives, students have been exposed to the criminal treatment of the poverty-ridden employees that work in these sweatshops across the globe. They have heard the tales of the excruciatingly painful 90-hour weeks that grind the workers' hands to the bone. They have seen the videos of former sweatshop employees looking pale and brittle speak about how they were beaten and verbally harassed.

But these same students go on about their daily lives, never thinking about those that suffered so they can wear the cloth on their back.

"These issues [sweatshops and workers' rights] are never going through my head when I buy clothes or when I'm going about my everyday life," said Bernie Montoya, 20, an electrical engineering major.

Julie Ghazi, an accounting major, has an idea of why her peers are so oblivious.

"I don't think students are rushing to fix this issue because the reality of actual sweatshops and their conditions are known more to the countries where they exist. Consumers in America are so detached from that. Many don't even truly know what's actually going on over there."

While most students will undoubtedly grow red in the face as they admit they never spare a thought to those in sweatshops, there are exceptions in the student population.

Begoña Saiz, a graduate student with a degree in social work, has spent the last few months being a student advocate for a Dominican Republic-based clothing company called Alta Gracia. The clothing label, named for the city it resides in, Villa Alta Gracia, is one of the few factories that is unionized across the globe, said Saiz.

On their website, Alta Gracia states its factory pays its workers a living wage, which is three times the standard industry wage. It also gives the workers the right to form a union.

Its parent company, Knights Apparel, according to Collegiate Licensing, is the leading supplier of college-logo apparel to American universities.

Saiz has spent the majority of her time raising awareness of Alta Gracia, trying to build support for the progressive-thinking brand by contacting numerous organizations at the University.

"You want to support Alta Gracia above any other brands because it's an example to everybody else of what is possible," said Saiz. "Building enough support for Alta Gracia puts pressure on companies like Nike and Adidas to pay their workers."

Alta Gracia apparel, which boasts t-shirts and

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COMING UP | Sports

Check out the Nov. 21 issue for coverage of the women's volleyball team at the Sunbelt Conference Tournament.

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Seeking Floridians’ support, Cain holds rallies

Republican presidential hopeful Herman Cain touted his “nueve-nueve-nueve” tax plan during a campaign stop Wednesday in Miami’s Little Havana neighborhood but refused to take questions from reporters.

Few local political leaders attended the event outside the go-to presidential campaign stop Versailles restaurant in the heart of the historic Cuban exile community. Cain was introduced instead by his Florida communications director Ignacio Ortiz-Petit and sampled the local Cuban coffee and fried cheese sticks known as croquetas.

Cain tailored his standard stump speech to the audience of about 50 mostly older Cuban exiles gathered, using “nueve” instead of nine and working in a few other Spanish words.

NATIONAL

Elderly woman hit by spray at protest: I’m ‘tough’

An 84-year-old woman in Seattle has quickly become a face of the national Occupy Wall Street movement after she was hit with pepper spray during a march.

A Tuesday night photo of Dorli Rainey with the chemical irritant dripping from her chin went viral soon afterward, becoming one of the most striking images from the protests that have taken place in cities across the globe.

“It’s a gruesome picture, I’m really not that bad looking,” Rainey said in an interview Wednesday with The Associated Press.

The photograph shows Rainey, wearing a scarf and jacket, being helped by two people.

WORLD

New Greek coalition wins confidence vote

Greece’s new coalition government easily won a confidence vote in parliament Wednesday, backing a pledge by Prime Minister Lucas Papademos to speed up long-term reforms and secure a massive new bailout deal involving banks and rescue creditors.

The government formed last week by the majority Socialists, rival conservatives and a small right-wing nationalist party won the vote with 255 in favor and only 38 against in the 300-member parliament.

Papademos’ government, which is temporary and only expected to be in power for a few months, is tasked with pushing through the euro130 billion new debt deal agreed on last month and securing a vital installment of Greece’s initial bailout loan, without which the country faces a potentially catastrophic default in a month’s time.

– Compiled by Melissa Caceres

FIU earns \$600,000 for scholarship

MELHOR LEONOR
Contributing Writer

Sought out and coveted by most students during a time when education prices soar, scholarships and grants are known to come in all shapes and sizes.

Recently, FIU received a pledge from the Betty G. Reader estate of \$600,000 to award to 12 students who showed “exemplary service and leadership in the Jewish community.”

According to Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education Hilarion Martinez a student doesn’t have to be of Jewish faith to receive the scholarship but must show an active participation with the South Florida Jewish community within the

past two years.

“This scholarship is for any student,” Martinez said. “But the donor is specifically looking for students who have been active in serving the local Jewish community. Students must also submit proof of unmet financial need.”

Additionally, applicants must have graduated from a Miami-Dade or Broward County based high school, or similar institution. They must also be incoming freshman planning to obtain a professional degree from the University, the only one who the donor awarded the \$600,000 pledge.

“I think the donor realized that FIU is the only public university in South Florida and that many students come with financial needs. She wanted to

aid those students and see that they accomplished careers and also hopefully stayed in South Florida with their degrees to benefit this community.”

The aforementioned donor is Betty G. Reader, a South Florida citizen who dedicated a much of her life to volunteering with the local Jewish community. She was also a philanthropist and received many awards for her dedication to various causes.

FIU will honor Reader with the “Betty G. Reader Scholarships Book of Life.” While this project is still in progress, it was revealed that it will consist of a book located at the Glenn Hubert Library on the Biscayne Bay Campus. The book is to be signed every year by the recipients of this scholarship and will

be permanently displayed.

According to Martinez, applicants will be notified whether or not they have been awarded scholarships during the week of Thanksgiving. This scholarship will continue to be available every year and will have a lasting impact on FIU and the South Florida community, Martinez said.

“The fund will change the lives of many young persons who have demonstrated their potential for success through exemplary academic achievement and service to the Jewish community,” Martinez said. “It’s the first scholarship of its kind at FIU. This scholarship will provide enrichment and networking opportunities and introduce passion and potential to a world of opportunity.”

Disclosure of salaries stirs controversy

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working in areas that the university wants to “focus on” and if they have tenure.

The student body has also shown interest in supporting the professors.

“If the Texas plan were to be implemented, it would be a huge discouragement for students,” said Andrea Nunez, international relations major and one of the organizers of the Occupy FIU movement, a spin-off of the wide-spread Occupy Wall

Street.

“You don’t think the students know they’re being cheated?” Auxter said.

“It’s gotten so bad that if you cut any more, you cut the universities themselves.”

Bookstores sell Alta Gracia clothes

SWEATSHOP, page 1

sweaters that don the “FIU” logo, is currently sold in the Barnes & Nobles bookstores at Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay campuses with prices differing only in the cents range when compared to the big-name companies.

Saiz said the only way for Alta Gracia to grow and become more successful at the University is to have the bookstores order more volume of the brand.

Dan Salzverg, assistant general manager of the Barnes and Nobles at MMC, said the bookstore is on its way to being a featured store for the label, which complies with Saiz’ wish and raises volume.

Salzverg believes that Alta Gracia apparel is “something that people really want to have.”

While not allowed to give specific sales figures, he said Alta Gracia “is performing consistently as the rest of the brands” and “better than public brands.”

Saiz has taken many steps already in her journey for Alta Gracia, and the first one for the University is to get students aware of the brand.

“FIU needs to have a consolidated display of Alta Gracia gear that is well stocked for everyone to see in a visible area,” she said.

Saiz states that the road to becoming a university that is completely against sweatshops is long and tedious. She mentions that not only do the students have to take the appropriate measures of

committing to buying Alta Gracia, but the University itself has to associate itself with the Workers Rights Consortium, an independent labor rights monitoring organization that conducts investigations of working conditions in factories around the globe.

If it does, the University would have to provide a list of the names and locations of all factories involved in the production of their branded goods to the WRC.

The manufacturers must, therefore, disclose all of the factories from which they are sourcing university goods to universities.

“It’s a complicated process with complex negotiations,” said Saiz.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

SURPRISE START

FIU upsets George Mason, loses to Virginia Tech

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers were able to secure one of the more impressive wins in the three year tenure of coach Isiah Thomas. FIU was able to fend off a major comeback bid by mid-major power George Mason on Nov. 14 for a 79-76 win in overtime.

FIU was unable to advance to the semifinals of the NIT Season Tipoff with a 78-63 loss to Virginia Tech on Nov.15

FIU 79, GEORGE MASON 76 (OT)

The Golden Panthers stayed aggressive on the offensive end in the extra frame.

Cameron Bell's drive to the basket and subsequent three point play gave FIU a 69-66 lead early in overtime. He was followed up by consecutive three pointers by Phil Taylor and Jeremy Allen, which staked the Golden Panthers to a 75-68 lead with under two minutes remaining in overtime.

The Patriots made a late push, but a hook shot in the lane by freshman Gilles Dierickx iced the game, giving FIU the a 79-73 lead with 20 seconds remaining. Dierickx finished the game with six

points and three rebounds in 26 minutes of play.

"It was a big win for us. I was pleased with how our two seniors played," coach Thomas said of DeJuan Wright and Allen. "Both of those kids played a lot of minutes." Wright finished with 23 points and 15 rebounds. Allen finished with 20 points in the game.

FIU controlled the pace for much of the second half. The Golden Panthers held a 59-50 lead with 7:42 remaining. The Golden Panthers were hampered by foul trouble the whole game as Dominique Ferguson and Tola Akomolafe fouled out in the second half.

Dierickx played most of the second half and overtime with four fouls. George Mason took advantage and went on a 14-3 run to take a 64-62 lead on a Sherrod Wright three pointer with 3:29 remaining in the half.

With FIU down by two points, Wright scored on a layup and was fouled with 19 seconds to tie the game at 66-66. Wright had a chance to give the Golden Panthers a one point lead but missed the free throw. In the final 10 seconds of regulation, George Mason (1-1) tried to get a decent look at the basket, but the shot by the Patriots' Ryan Pearson was



SERGIO NASER/THE BEACON

DeJuan Wright led the Panthers with 30 points in a win against George Mason before falling short to Virginia Tech.

off line, which sent the game into overtime. The Golden Panthers (1-0) were efficient in the first half as they held a 36-32 lead. The backcourt combination of Wright and Allen accounted for 25 of the Golden Panthers' 36 points in the half.

VIRGINIA TECH 78, FIU 63

The Golden Panthers (1-1) were unable to replicate the same level of play from the night before against George Mason as Virginia Tech jumped out early and led most

of the way.

"Our guys got a little bit fatigued. With the overtime game [the night before], their legs were not as bouncy," Thomas said. "I thought they fought hard. I thought they came out with a great effort and we will try to keep getting

better."

The second half began the same as the first as FIU continued to struggle to score from the field. At one point, the Golden Panthers trailed by 19 points late in the game.

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FOOTBALL

Panthers hope to overcome staunch ULM run defense

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

Following the team's largest margin of victory of the season against rivals FAU, the Panthers now travel to Louisiana at Monroe to take on the Warhawks. Despite being out of contention for a bowl bid this year, the Warhawks have not shown signs of giving up after beating Middle Tennessee 42-14 last week.

Since head coach Mario Cristobal brought redshirt freshman Jake Medlock out for his first start over senior Wesley Carroll in the Shula bowl, there was a question of whether he would remain the starter at ULM. On Monday, Cristobal said that going into the week Medlock would be the starter, and on Wednesday it became conclusive.

"As of right now, yeah," said Cristobal on Medlock being the starter. "There's really no controversy or games to it, he played a real solid game last week and he's continuing to get better, as is Wes, and we're just going along with the process."

ULM is ranked No. 1 in defense against the run, allowing 101 yards per game. However, FIU still has the second leading rusher in the conference after ten games, Kedrick Rhodes, who runs for 93 yards per game. Rhodes had his own theory on how FIU can counteract the

Warhawks run defense.

"They stack the box a little bit, run a little 4-3 with an extra man hanging over, but this game I don't think that extra man is going to hang over because we start to get a threat going deep with T.Y Hilton down the side," said Rhodes. "He will probably be hanging over him and it will probably open up the box a little bit more, so as a running back we should have a good game."

The two biggest threats for ULM on defense is defensive end Troy Evans, who is fourth in the conference with six sacks, and Darius Prelow, who leads the team in interceptions with four. The pressure that Evans and the rest of the defensive line provide helped ULM force quarterbacks into 11 interceptions.

"A lot of the success they've had in turn-overs is related to the way they pressure quarterbacks and not always with blitz and brining an extra guy but what they do up front," Cristobal said. "Their explosive, their quick and do a heck of a job. Troy Evans has been one of the better players in the conference three years in a row, so it's no surprise that he's doing the same this year."

ULM's biggest strength has been their first quarter play, where they have outscored opponents 56-14. The Panthers' biggest deficit in the first quarter this year has been down 7-0 to Troy, which they won in overtime.



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Kedrick Rhodes rushed for 122 yards against FAU, his fourth 100-yard game of the season.

Offensively, the Warhawks have run the ball 382 times, and the second leading rusher behind main running back Jyruss Edwards is quarterback Kolton Browning. When FIU faced quarterback Ryan Aplin of Arkansas State, he ran for 164 yards and two touchdowns.

"When it comes to the run game, the defen-

sive line and the linebackers have real discipline because we have to treat their quarterbacks as an option as well, not just the running backs," said linebacker Winston Fraser. "That's our main focus, stopping the run first. If we don't stop the run, that's all their going to continue doing all game."

FANTASY CRUZ

Injuries on Schaub, Moreno force owners to look elsewhere

The Packers’ defense is like a maze that no NFL defense can figure out. The Packers are scoring against the rest of the NFL as if they are a flag football team. Aaron Rodgers threw for 250 yards and four touchdowns before the fourth quarter had even started on Monday night. Jordy Nelson surpassed Wes Welker in touchdowns for the season Monday night, catching the ball for 63 yards and two touchdowns.

Mike Munchak woke up to “Every Coach’s Dream” on Sunday. Chris Johnson tore it up, running for 130 yards and a touchdown, finally solidifying his pulse this season. Cam Newton finally showed that he is human, throwing for a mediocre 212 yards, one touchdown and one interception.

More than half of all NFL fans think Tony Romo is a choke artist and can’t live up to the hype surrounding him. He did not show this against the Bills last week. Romo went 23/26, throwing for 270 yards and three touchdowns.

DeMarco Murray has completely outshined Felix Jones and snatched the starting job from him, rushing for 135 yards and a touchdown against the Bills.

Ryan Fitzpatrick graduated from Harvard, but he had a serious brain fart last week, throwing for 146

yards, one touchdown and three interceptions. Maybe he has a hang-over from that \$60 million contract he just signed.

THE TRASH BIN

Matt Schaub (Houston Texans)- He’s out for the season due to injury. Does Matt Leinart have what it takes to not lose every game the rest of the season? It’s a shame Schaub got injured. Andre Johnson was on his way back and the team was on an enormous tear. Trash him.

Reggie Wayne (Indinapolis Colts)- I don’t see Painter improving or the Colts winning anytime soon. It’s hard to be a productive receiver with no quarterback. *Basura.*

Knowshon Moreno (Denver Broncos)- With a resurging Willis McGahee at Denver’s arsenal and Moreno with a sprained knee, do not look for Moreno to get much production when he bounces back from injury. McGahee is a big back and will take and accept the load this late in his career. He wants it. Trash him.

UNDER THE CRUZAR

John Skelton (Arizona Cardinals)- With Kevin Kolb out, Skelton was loving Larry Fitzgerald on Sunday, throwing two of his three touchdowns to him to go along with 315 yards. Ken Wisenhut is a throwing coach, and Skelton’s production proved it. Zona Boy.

Vincent Brown (San Diego Chargers)- With Malcom Floyd out



COURTESY OF TTT MAGAZINE

Texans quarterback Matt Schaub [above] is done for the season and will be replaced by Matt Leinart.

with an injury, Phillip Rivers needs a target to go to. Brown will be a solid number two, especially with a dynamic Rivers throwing to him. He will have production in the next upcoming weeks. Role Player.

Ed Dickson (Baltimore Ravens)- When Joe Flacco shows signs that he’s an NFL quarterback, his help

produces. Dickson caught the ball for 79 yards and two touchdowns. Hopefully, Flacco can come to his senses and use his tight end like he should. Baltimore Baller.

CHASTISING CHAD

I don’t know if it’s the system, or Bray just doesn’t like him. No, it’s

just that he stinks. Chad only had two receptions for 65 yards against the Jets. Please drop him if you have him on your roster.

I should’ve been on this guy since the beginning of the season. Send him to Oakland or something. Maybe he’ll get more touches there.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Late comeback falls short vs. FGCU



JOSEPH KOSANKE/THE BEACON

Jerica Coley scored nine of her 21 points from the free-throw line against FGCU.

D’JOUMBAREY MOREAU
Staff Writer

Cindy Russo should have preached putting the best foot forward. This game was a tale of two halves. As FIU started the game sloppily, Florida Gulf Coast University did not and took advantage of the Panthers slow start.

This proved to be crucial as the Eagles emerged victorious in a 80-72 victory inside of the U.S. Century Bank Arena. While the Eagles came out on top, the Panthers scratched and clawed most of the game. They continued with their efforts in a game where they saw themselves down at one point by 24 points, and then cutting the deficit to 40-29 at halftime.

As FIU came out of the first half, they began playing in the same sloppy trend early on. Due to the lack of production from the starters, coach Russo used her bench to her advantage, which contributed 41 points. Senior Fanni Hutlassa came off the bench and scored 22 points to lead the team.

The tweener forward contributed with her offensive rebounds by converting and making a couple of one baskets to help cut the lead. Her tenacity helped fuel a late game run to propel the Panthers to play better. Sophomore Jerica Coley, who was having trouble with her shooting, still found a way to leave her imprint on the game.

She got aggressive and went to the free throw line, chipping in with 21 points, nine

rebounds and eight assists. A couple of which found open shooters, such as Freshman Kamika Idom, who knocked down all of her four three-point attempts, finishing the game with 19 points off the bench.

“We wanted to make sure we got the ball to our post so that the defense could get sucked in and we can find open people,” said Coley.

One of the key factors in this game was the lack of communication. Defensively, the Panthers were not speaking enough. As FGCU began running a number of set plays for their shooters, FIU could not overcome it.

“We need to build our team defense, help sides, rotations and our communication,” said Hutlassa.

The Eagles hit 14 three’s and the Panthers had no answer for running them off the line. Too many people were getting open from ball screens and set screens. Florida Gulf Coast took advantage of the bigger lineup that the Panthers used throughout the night. They ran plays and flex cuts for their players to get open and used the bigs of FIU against them. The Panthers did not go to the low post enough to use their height to their advantage.

“We need to be much more aware of everything that is going on offense,” said Hutlassa.

As the Panthers recoup from this loss, they are looking forward with positivity.

“One good thing is that we came back and didn’t give up. We need to play this hard for 40 minutes,” said Coley.

They will face The University of Texas at San Antonio on Nov. 18 at 6 p.m.

Allen scores 15 points in first defeat

BASKETBALL, page 3

The Golden Panthers finished shooting 35 percent from the field. The guard play of Hudson and inside presence of forward Dorian Finney-Smith gave FIU problems the whole game. Hudson finished with 31 points. Finney-Smith finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds for Virginia Tech (3-0).

The Golden Panthers’ free throw shooting and defense kept the game close early in the second half. The Golden Panthers’ adjustment to man-to-man defense was effective against the Hokies. A drive by Ferguson cut the lead to 39-34.

Off missed shots, the Hokies were able to convert baskets in transition and their zone defense gave FIU problems offensively. Allen finished with a team high 15 points for the Golden Panthers.

The Golden Panthers came out shooting cold from the field in the first half. FIU shot 3-for-16 from the field five minutes into the game. At one point, FIU trailed 16-7. Virginia Tech extended the lead to 23-12 on a three pointer by Dorenzo Hudson.

Slowly, the Golden Panthers kept the game close with their defense, and an 11-0 run cut the deficit to 25-23 late in the half on a layup by Wright. However, the Hokies were able to make a small late run to take the lead into half-time. Hudson finished the half with 16 points. FIU finished shooting 30 percent from the field in the first half.

CLASS REUNION

Alum Julian Acosta rising to fame as actor

KATHY PAZ
Staff Writer

Not many people find their passion while trying to find girls.

Julian Acosta, a graduate of the Theatre Department, has made a name for himself in New York and Los Angeles. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Acosta moved to Texas at the age of 15. He attended junior college in Houston and it was there that he began to develop an interest in acting.

“I had just moved to Houston, and when I first got there, I was just working. I had all kinds of crazy jobs. I decided to start going to school and I signed up at North Harris College. One day I was walking to my car and by the theater they had a thing for auditions. I figured, you know, there would be girls there and I would show up and audition. Oddly enough, only enough boys auditioned for the parts that they had for this particular play, so I got a part, not because I was any good or anything, but [because] only enough boys auditioned, so they had to cast me,” he recalled.

With his newly found interest, Acosta eventually made his way to Miami.

“At the time, my parents were

— and still are — living in Miami, and they lived pretty close to FIU. I had just left junior college and actually didn’t know where I wanted to go. I knew by then that I wanted to be an actor, but I had no idea what that meant or how you go about it,” he explained.

Luckily, Acosta’s mother knew a girl who happened to be a theater major at the University. That introduction was what led to his enrollment in the program.

“That’s basically how I ended up there. Because she knew this girl, I called her. She told me a little bit about it, I went and I signed up,” said Acosta.

At the University, Acosta was able to explore all aspects of theater. The program requires students to learn how to do a little bit of everything — something Acosta is now very grateful for.

“That was part of their mission — to get people and to show them every side of it, from lighting class to scene design class to costuming class. I didn’t necessarily take them happily because you’re an actor and you want to act. But in retrospect, I’m glad that that’s the way it is,” he said.

After receiving his bachelor’s



PHOTO COURTESY OF URBAN THEATRE MOVEMENT

Julian Acosta graduated from the University in 1994 with a BFA in Theatre.

degree in theater, Acosta went on to attend graduate school at Rutgers University and to live in New York. As a member of the LABY-rinth Theater Company, the Off-Broadway Theater Company in residence at the Cherry Pitt Theater in New York City, he appeared in the

internationally acclaimed production of “Othello,” with fellow company members Phillip Seymour Hoffman, John Ortiz and Liza Colon-Zayas.

“When you’re trying to produce theater and you’re a small company, everybody does everything. Every-body’s going to be building the

set when we load in and everybody’s going to be painting. You are involved in all of those things.”

Acosta has done a lot of work in film and television. He has had recurring, starring roles on Lifetime’s “Strong Medicine,” “F/X’s,” “Dirt” and CBS’ “The Defenders.” Acosta has guest-starred on shows like “Entourage,” “Law & Order,” “The Mentalist” and “Covert Affairs.” Some of his film credits include “Bound By Lies,” with Stephen Baldwin and Kristy Swanson, and “True Love,” directed by Henry Barrial, Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury Prize nominee.

Though he’s done a little bit of everything, Acosta finds it difficult to pick only one area that he prefers doing.

“They’re all so very, very different.”

However, he does admit that he will always have a soft spot for theater.

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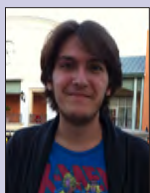
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REEL TO REEL

Film shows Earth’s final moments

As we move along in our day to day lives, we rarely take a minute to stop and wonder about how numbered our days really are.

COLUMNIST



JUAN BARQUIN

We always joke about how the next big date, like 11/11/11 or 2012, might be Earth’s final moment of existence.

But once in a lifetime, we are handed something unique and haunting that makes us really wonder how we would face the reality that we only have a few moments left to live.

“Melancholia” begins with the end. The film opens with a series of visually stunning scenes, almost as if you were staring at characters in artwork at a museum that slowly moved across the frame.

These short sequences show events that take place throughout the film, leaving you with just a taste of what the end of the world is like and wanting more. And just like that, the world ends and the tale begins. Justine (Kirsten Dunst) and Michael (Alexander Skarsgård) are

a newly married couple celebrating their marriage at a lavish wedding reception hosted by her sister Claire (Charlotte Gainsbourg) and brother-in-law (Kiefer Sutherland).

Looming over their heads is the idea that a newly discovered planet, Melancholia, is heading in Earth’s direction. Even the scientific evidence that claims the planet will fly by Earth is not enough to quell the fears of these two sisters.

Lars von Trier (“Dancer in the Dark”) splits his film into two main acts; the first focuses on the wedding party and is titled “Justine” while the second act is titled “Claire” and shows the aftermath of the party.

Most of the film is shot handheld in classic von Trier style and, at times, it may seem less visually striking than his previous film, “Antichrist.”

Certain shots, however, such as the breathtaking climax, are so well-executed that they will leave you blown away from the sheer beauty.

While the look of the film might be beautiful in its artistic presentation, it is a tale full of fear, destruc-

MELANCHOLIA, page 6

THEATRE DEPARTMENT

Women of “Spirits” carry the show

MARCY DIAZ
Staff Writer

Do not be deceived by those innocent looking eyes and ruby red lips that serenely decorated posters and cards advertising “The House of Spirits.”

A truly chilling tale of various counts of rape, spousal abuse, and a woman’s desperation to keep her family together, the

made no attempt to water down any of the story’s controversial material.

Anything less would have taken away much of the play’s appeal.

“The House of Spirits” brought many actors of varying talents onstage, bringing the story to life through leading ladies like Dana Chavez, who took the role of young protagonist Alba Trueba.

A truly chilling tale of various counts of rape, spousal abuse, and a woman’s desperation to keep her family together.

“House of Spirits” rose to life on the University’s Wertheim stage on Nov.11. For two hours there is no “pretty” and definitely no “serene.”

Many might feel prepared because they have read the famous book by Isabel Allende, but it will only do so much good.

The play sends you into the same mound of family chaos, twists and turns, all leaving you at the edge of your seat.

Director Michael Yawney

The play takes place in Chile during the 1970s and centers around Alba’s narration of the women in her family.

The clock turns back to the 1920s, when Trueba discovers her grandmother’s journal. Alba’s abusive and sex-crazed grandfather Esteban Trueba, played by Jair Bulla, creeps to the stage.

A man broken by the death of his first love turns to power and greed for comfort; he becomes the embodiment of turmoil.

Esteban eventually overcomes

his grief and after raping various peasant women finds himself married to Clara del Valle, the sister of his long dead fiancé.

Clara is seen throughout the rest of the play as the true voice of reason and maternal figure that holds the Trueba house together.

Rebellious daughter Blanca Trueba is the first child of the newlyweds and builds a further wedge between the already breaking marriage of her liberal mother and overly conservative father.

Sweet and happy moments are fleeting, yet leave the greatest impressions.

Clara caresses her stomach with happy thoughts of a baby girl on the way or when the two lovers

Blanca Trueba and Pedro Tercero talk sweetly in secret about plans of a forbidden life together; these are the moments that the audience is prone to cling to.

It’s easy to expect the night to end as it started, in complete tragedy, especially with more than half of the characters dead.

However, picture this: the lights dim to a silhouette of a young woman sitting alone at a table.

With a pen and paper in her hand, she looks forward to writing a happier ending in her own story.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Latin Restaurant a top choice for late night bites

As any sorority of fraternity member can tell you, chapter meetings can be a long, excruciating process, especially on an empty stomach.

COLUMNIST



JASMYNE ELLIOTT

True, it is often said by many health experts that eating late at night is bad for one's health, but after speaking in Robert's Rules of Order for over two hours with a rumbling stomach, all of that

health-conscious talk goes out of the window.

Cheap, 24-hour options that are not Denny's or IHOP do exist for the late-night crawl. One that I frequent with my sisters is Latin Restaurant, 10720 W. Flagler St.

We figure that if we're going to eat late, we should eat well, and many Greeks agree with our logic since it's frequented by members of fellow organizations post-chapter.

The restaurant itself is small, but a sectioned off room is often for larger parties of students looking to grab a meal after midnight. To start,

I highly recommend their *mariquita de plantano*, thinly sliced fried plantain strips with garlic sauce. They always make them fresh along with their *tostada*, which are perfect for munching on before your meal arrives.

My standard order is the grilled fish filet with white rice and sweet plantains. With a squeeze of lime and a very generous portion, it's a fresh, filling meal that always hits the spot. However, with their weekly Thursday fish special, there have been times when I couldn't order my go-to dish. In these cases, though,

trying something new from the menu was just fine. On one of these days, I had their *arroz con pollo*, made with savory yellow rice and a whole chicken breast.

It turned out to be more than enough for sharing, and absolutely delicious. The fluffy, vegetable-laced rice paired perfectly with the juicy chicken and did justice to the Latin American classic.

Latin Restaurant also makes fantastic sandwiches. My favorite is their special, with thick slices of turkey, roast pork and ham with Swiss cheese. After a round on *la*

plancha, it comes out to perfection with the slices of Cuban bread just toasted enough and the cheese reduced to melted goodness.

I would normally complain that it's too much to eat in one sitting, but with a sandwich this amazing, I gladly save the other half for the next day's lunch.

Aside from the amazing food, Latin Restaurant gets major brownie points for great service. Even when the restaurant is full, the staff is very quick; I never wait more than five minutes for a waiter to approach me for my order or

refill my water glass. Furthermore, they are very welcoming and friendly; if you become a regular — and I really hope you do — be ready for lots of hospitality.

As for prices, naturally, their food is very affordable with most entrées barely passing the \$10 mark. In all, Latin Restaurant is a fantastic stop for late-night munchies. If you really want to spice it up, try visiting them during daylight hours too.

Food for Thought is a bi-weekly food review column. Look for it every other Friday this fall.

“Melancholia” shows the moments other disaster films ignore

MELANCHOLIA, page 5

tion and a mental illness known as depression.

Even though “Melancholia” is probably Lars von Trier's tamest film to date, lacking the violence and rape that many others do, it does not mean that it is a light-hearted movie.

The emotional stability of these two women is his focus and this is shown through many tense moments, accompanied by plenty of tears and yelling, among the characters. Although the

audience is presented with the end of the world at first, von Trier manages to inspire the tiniest flicker of hope that something might just change for the better.

Even the use of Wagner's music from “Tristan and Isolde” adds to the immense and haunting nature of the approaching demise. The frightening sci-fi themes remain more of a subtext, leaving us to focus on the lives of these two sisters and the deep melancholy that affects them.

We often see the grand-scale reac-

tions to disaster, but never the psychological effects that a small family might experience. This unique perspective is what makes von Trier's film remarkably wonderful.

The performances are all around impressive — every actor delivers their best and breaks through any negative, preconceived notions of their acting skills.

Kirsten Dunst, who nabbed the Best Actress award at Cannes, does a great job in her lead role, creating an almost too realistic portrayal of a

mentally overwhelmed woman.

Her off-beat performance and slow progression through depression makes for a surprising performance from the woman who is known through her role as Mary Jane Watson. However much Dunst provides to the film, there is no doubt that Charlotte Gainsbourg is just as worthy of the award.

Her work with von Trier never ceases to impress and the good-natured role she adopts here is such a stunning contrast to her character in “Antichrist” that it is difficult to

believe that we are looking at the same woman. “Melancholia” is undoubtedly one of the many polarizing films of the year and stands far apart from any and all disaster films that have come before it.

Lars von Trier's exploration of depression will leave audiences engrossed in this film's beauty and compel all to think about it long after the credits begin to roll.

Reel to Reel is a weekly movie review column. Look for it every Friday this fall.

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SGC-MMC COMMENTARY

Gov. Scott's stance on STEM met with opposition

Discussion, not debate, is currently taking place among members of the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus with regard to Governor Rick Scott's remarks about the frivolity of anthropology and the need to focus funding on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines instead.

The same discussion is being had among other student governments, university officials and politicians throughout Florida – but only discussion. Rumors about anything decisive happening in the near future with regard to the reallocation of funds are rooted only in slivers of chance, not truth.

At the Nov. 14 meeting, SGC-MMC Vice President Sanjeev Udhani brought attention to the issue and the obstacles that might ensue, alluding to concerns about reduced funding for liberal arts.

These concerns are speculative, however, based on remarks made by Gov. Scott in early October.

“Do you want to use your tax dollars to

educate more people who can't get jobs in anthropology?” said Scott. “I don't. I want to make sure that we spend our dollars where people can get jobs when they get out.”

Such is the evasive and noncommittal nature of Scott's remarks, spoken with that constant wide-eyed reptilian pomp so distinctly his own. He voiced his disdain without pledging to do anything about it – a gesture of allegiance to the political right without posing a clear threat to the left.

So, the risks in Gov. Scott's stance are only to be inferred. Scott's aides described his comments as “conversation starters.”

What makes it such a calamitous prospect, though, is that no matter how Gov. Reptar's desires might be satisfied, whatever the means by which money is given to STEM studies over liberal arts, it only means more angst for a student body already racked by the increasing price of tuition, which will double within the next five years.

According to a study at the University of California, 60 percent of pre-med students and 40 percent of engineering students either dropped out or changed majors.

So, considering the financial strain and the widespread disdain for STEM studies, at least as

“Even if Scott's assessment was reasonable, it was made at the wrong time with a smug rhetoric that certainly won't win supporters.”

they are currently overseen, it seems likely that Scott may resort to luring students into STEM programs not by offering benefits, but by simply raising the price of any alternative.

Scanning the stances and tones of op-ed pieces and blogs suggests that the governor's statements are being received not only with dissent, but with resentment, as journalists and bloggers express their offense at the insinuation that their passion or profession, residing in the humanities, is not valuable to the current generation of students.

Fred Hoffman, a math professor at Florida Atlantic University, told the *Sun Sentinel* that Scott “just wants to train ‘em to make money,” rather than wanting students to get an education.

Apollon on htpolitics.com shows that 89 percent of its 4,300 voters disagree with Scott's thoughts

regarding anthropology and its funding.

When asked how the SGA was planning to address the issue, SGC-MMC President Patrick O'Keefe said, via email, “The Florida Student Association is working on a counter-proposal to provide alternative funding options for STEM.”

Very, very few are on Scott's side. Even if Scott's assessment was reasonable, it was made at the wrong time with a smug rhetoric that surely won't win supporters.

Considering the fervent opposition throughout academia, it seems unlikely that anything as radical as the severance of Bright Futures' funding for anthropology majors, the doubling of their tuition or anything as drastic will come to fruition.

SGC-MMC Commentary is a feature that evaluates the student council's performance. Look for it every Friday.

Religion has no place in class

PAOLO RAMOS
Staff Writer

For a nation founded upon the principle of separation of church and state, it is astonishing that even in 2011 the debate to incorporate religion into public schools is still an ongoing process.

The nearly equal balance of proponents on both sides of the argument is an indicator to the stagnation of the educational system in our country in its effort to provide a substantial, and more importantly, unbiased education to its youth.

It is equally unfortunate that the conservative right, which decidedly wields tremendous influence over the general public, refuses to yield from its pro-religious platform and its application to public schools.

Young Americans, by the very principles outlined in our Constitution, are entitled to an education grounded in scientific facts and concepts, not medieval religious beliefs.

Texas Governor Rick Perry, one of the forerunners for the Republican presidential candidacy, has been quoted labeling the theory of evolution as a “theory with gaps in it.”

Perry, along with other GOP candidates, has reiterated his disdain of the concepts proposed by Charles Darwin regarding the origins of life. In a similar vein, the candidates

have also all but dismissed the scientific method in the classroom with intentions of replacing it with a more religiously influence curriculum.

Minnesota representative and GOP candidate Michele Bachmann has even proposed a bill to legalize the teaching of intelligent design in her home state, an extension of her disbelief in mainstream science.

“If concrete evidence is replaced with a frivolous religious agenda, the already failing educational standards in the United States will continue to fall.”

Perry is not wrong in stating that the theory evolution does have gaps in it. However, the gaps do not imply the lack of cohesion, but rather missing pieces of a nearly whole puzzle.

Scientific discoveries have exhibited strong support of the theory. Evidence from several bodies of science including paleontology, archaeology and genetics, have all indicated evolution as a measurable and

observable phenomenon.

These findings cannot be ignored, and most certainly cannot be removed from the classroom. If concrete evidence is replaced with a frivolous religious agenda, the already failing educational standards in the United States will continue to fall.

The aforementioned knowledge, though still filled with gaps, provides knowledge of our world that religion simply cannot. The scientific method has hardly failed to improve the quality of living for the human population, let alone enrich our understanding of the several phenomenon of our planet.

It is this knowledge that has a rightful place in our public schools, and the fact that there is a significant number of Americans who would do away with it is disappointing.

America has already fallen behind significantly in global standards of education. This is a direct result of the confusion caused by the needless banter between the religious and practical factions of our government with regards to public education.

If America is to rise from the ashes up into the higher echelons of education, then it must reinforce concepts and modules of learning that are grounded in empirical methods and not from antiquated religious teachings.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Unilateral approach not the answer

This is a letter in response to an opinion piece written by Brooklyn Middleton for Borderless with Brooklyn.

In a her piece posted on Sept. 25 regarding the upcoming vote to recognize Palestine as a state in the United Nations, Brooklyn states that “Israel must show that its supreme interest is indeed peace and diplomacy. Vehemently opposing statehood is a demonstration of rejection to a chance for peace.”

While I fully support the need for a Palestinian state I have to disagree with Brooklyn's assertion on the issue of United Nation recognition. Recognizing Palestine without first brokering a deal with Israel would only lead to more conflict, which could possibly escalate to violence.

People seem to be under the impression that the idea of a bi lateral peace agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinian's is an antiquated notion and that it is not a feasible.

Therefore they believe this unilateral solution is the only solution. This is not the case however. There can only be peace through a bilateral agreement. The issue of Palestinian statehood is a very complicated and emotional issue for both sides. A unilateral solution is a simplistic and naïve approach to such an issue.

Several problems arise with United Nations recognition. Firstly what would be the borders of this newly recognized state and where would the capital be located? Would Palestine unilaterally claim half or all of Jerusalem? Would states now be allowed to sell arms to Palestine and would Palestine be allowed

to create an army?

The proposition of a Palestinian army on the borders of Israel terrifies the country of Israel. The recognized leader of the Palestinians, Mahmoud Abbas has spoken of never recognizing Israel as a Jewish state.

When Abbas speaks of the “Zionists” occupying Palestine he is not simply referring to Gaza, the West Bank, and other occupied territories he is referring to all of Israel. If he does not view Israel as a country and is allowed to create an army, what is preventing Abbas from marching his army into Israel and starting a war?

I am under the impression that Israel's stance is more so out of fear than out of wanting to prevent a Palestinian state. Polls show that the majority of Israeli's want a two state solution, but they do not want to live in fear and do not want to sacrifice their sovereignty in exchange for a state.

It is naïve to believe that a unilateral move to create a Palestinian state will simply lead to peace. Israel will be unhappy and many issues between the two states will be left unsolved.

United Nations recognition will simply raise the stakes in a conflict that will continue to exist.

In my opinion this move by the Palestinian for UN recognition is simply to strengthen their position in future negotiations. Recognition of a Palestinian state without first achieving peace will only lead to more conflict.

-Josh Lida, senior at University of Central Florida

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Vice Provost meets his goals, expansion halted

NADRA MABROUK
Staff Writer

Since his appointment as permanent Vice Provost of Biscayne Bay Campus on Jan.4, Steven Moll set out to improve the campus for students by enhancing its services and finding room for improvement in every corner.

Upon receiving his position, Moll organized his top goals in an outline with “metrics” created to measure the goals and how they link to “Hit the Ground Running,” a statement University President Mark Rosenberg designed before becoming president in August 2009.

The University’s “Worlds Ahead” strategic plan is a five year plan designed to focus upon the arts, environment, globalization and health to form a firm groundwork for economic development, future advance and job formation in the region. This was outlined by Rosenberg in the 2010-2015 strategic plan.

Moll set out to begin by improving customer service on the campus. Customer service includes the cashiers and those working in Financial Aid office. In the spring, customer service training was initiated with the help of Human Resources Depart-



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Vice Provost Steven Moll attends to his duties of the day at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

ment. The training program included role-playing and made up scenarios that enabled workers in training to see if they were able to handle situations correctly. Surveys were given to students and with the arrival of the results, it can be seen where customer service needs work and more training can be created from that.

According to Moll, BBC’s customer service is improving.

Moll also wanted to

increase the amount of global learning courses on campus.

Global learning for global citizenship is the Quality Enhancement Plan for FIU. The plan’s purpose is to give every FIU undergraduate curricular and co-curricular opportunities to gain knowledge and skills of global citizenship.

New additions have been made to the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management which include HFT

3503 - Hospitality Marketing Strategy, and HFT 3073- Social Responsibility in the Hospitality Industry which covers global issues that affect companies and their communities.

Another goal set by Moll was to increase the number of Circle of Friends of BBC.

In 2009, the Circle of Friends was designed to expand FIU’s reach into the community and raise necessary funds. The members are from

the community and receive invitations to a series of events on BBC by the Office of the Vice Provost. New members contribute anywhere between 100-500 dollars. This money is mostly used for scholarships.

According to Moll, 85 percent of this money goes to scholarships and the money has to stay local to the state of Florida. He wants students to participate in activities that benefit the communities and the citizens from where the money is derived from and to do as much “local good” as they can.

The progress of the construction of the School of Environment, Arts and Society building has, at the moment, reached a pause, according to Moll, as they are attempting to work with the City of North Miami to get a secondary road opened. The building would be a subdivision of the College of Arts and Sciences, of which SEAS falls under.

Moll claimed that President Rosenberg has made it clear that until the second road is opened, growth on campus will be hindered. Three choices for a location of a secondary road are 135 street, 143 street, through Oleta Park, or improve what already exists on 151 street.

The building hopes to

contain more interdisciplinary studies and have a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification.

Additions of native trees and shrubs and a butterfly garden will help beautify the campus and also support environmental awareness. According to Jennifer Grimm, Environmental Coordinator, butterfly gardens have been planted by the flag poles near Wolfe University Center, by the gazebo near Glenn Hubert Library, and behind AC II.

There is 20 or 30 different flora planted designed to attract butterfly species. FIU is also the first university in the state to receive Tree Campus USA designation. The Tree Campus USA program recognizes universities that maintain their campus trees and attempt to engage the community beyond the campus to grow healthy, urban forests.

According to Grimm, FIU has made a commitment to grow native trees and have already begun planting them around campus.

“Every day is exciting. Any day where we can act to help students get a better education is a good day,” Moll said, “If it means more classes, more scholarships, more cultural events, or more activities then that’s what we do.”

Organization takes over philanthropy

BLANCA MORALES
Contributing Writer

The idea was spur of the moment. When Zahra Arbabi Aski, president of the Student Alumni Association, planned events for the 2011-2012 year, SAA Traditions Chair Catherine Vega was suddenly inspired with the idea to create Councils for a Cause, a committee that unites all student organizations on campus to work as a philanthropy.

It was a light bulb moment for her. Vega, an international relations and psychology senior, had participated in charitable events such as Relay for Life with her sorority Delta Phi Epsilon, but she noted most events either took place at the Modesto Maidique Campus or were hosted by MMC-based organizations.

“It was about time we brought a big philanthropic event to the Biscayne Bay Campus,” Vega said.

Consisting of a roundtable of student leaders from various clubs and organizations, Councils for a Cause has no president or officers; it is only moderated by the two founders. The committee, which is open to everyone and anyone interested, also has non-University team members as well.

“I thought [Councils for a Cause] would be a good idea to do, to have a community service

event with everyone involved,” said Vega, who is also president of the Student Programming Council at BBC.

Councils for a Cause is using Facebook, Orgsync and other marketing tools for promotion. Emails and phone calls were made to faculty, staff and campus organization for cooperation and sponsorship. Team members want to see all of the University community supporting the cause.

Officers of other student clubs have been urging their members to take on an active role by fundraising and passing collection cans around campus for charity’s sake, but also for the sake of competition, which is one of the incentives.

As previously reported by The Beacon, All Nighter for the Poor was first held at the Biscayne Bay Campus on Nov. 19, 2010 but saw a lackluster turn out, which was a point that Rafael Zapata, advisor to the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus brought up during the University Wide Activity and Service Fee allocation meeting on July 30.

Councils for a Cause will pick the event up in an effort to reestablish it.

Zapata admitted last year’s event “did not have good attendance numbers,” and the responsibilities fell completely onto

a single member of SGC-BCC, Shana Kaplan, who was the 2009-10 SGC-BBC comptroller.

SGC-BCC then council moved to give All Nighter for the Poor a second chance with \$5,000.01 to go towards the organization of the event, even though at the time no leadership had been in place for it.

Emilio Collyer, SGC-BBC vice president, was reluctant to scrap All Nighter for the Poor completely because of his predecessors’ inability to properly organize the event.

“It would be disheartening to me to just throw away an entire event because it failed on its first year,” said Collyer.

The goal of the All Nighter for the Poor is to raise \$5,000 to make a pangasius pond in Haiti to help the agriculture of the village it is built in. Given the proper feeding and management, pangasius, a member of the catfish family, can grow to be between two to three pounds in five to six months time, which is why it was chosen since it grows fast and is much easier to maintain than other fish, such as tilapia.

Clubs and student teams competing with one another will see who will reel in the largest sum and greatest participation on Friday night.

Additional reporting by Jonathan Szydlo.

Roundtable discusses marriage

HAYTHAM AL-RABEAH
Contributing Writer

As the semester comes to an end, “The Changing Values of Relationships and Marriage” was the last topic discussed during Biscayne Bay Campus’ final Tuesday Times Roundtable meeting for fall 2011.

The session began with a brainstorming exercise, meant to bring ideas and discussion points to the table. Topics ranged from modern day gender roles in relationships to hot topics such as online dating, to the relevant economics of modern-day two-income homes.

Every other Tuesday at BBC, the University’s Global Learning for Global Citizenship office hosts a roundtable discussion, where moderators meet with students, staff and anyone else wishing to join, to discuss a topic in a New York Times article.

The hour-long meeting began at 12:30 p.m. in Wolfe University Center 159 with an introduction by moderator Diann Newman, assistant dean for Student Services for Hospitality Management, and by coordinating Graduate Assistant Eric M. Feldman.

Aside from holding several positions in Hospitality, Newman is also a qualified mental health consultant. As a mental health consultant, Newman said that she had a personal interest in how relationships and marriages have and continue to change.

Although the women outnumbered the men in the room, everyone enjoyed the discussion. This is, in the end, what Feldman hopes will come out of these events.

“[In these events] I expect for students to be able to engage in discussions and meet faculty from majors other than their own, and to be able to build community outside of the classroom in an intellectual setting,” Feldman said. “Many students come either for free food or extra credit but become loyal repeat attendees.”

David Ullman, Junior and Geography major, enjoyed the event and said it was ‘very relevant and fun.’

According to Feldman, the third week of the spring semester will begin a new slate of topics and moderators, of which at least 80 percent of will be new to the table.