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LIFE!

Food & Wine Festival turning up the heat in 2012

SYLVIA SIMIONI

Staff Writer

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Over 400,000 people can claim residency to the Magic City.

From attracting the National Basketball Association's finest to ranking sixth on COED Magazine's Top 10 "trashiest" (by implication, the most coveted) spring break sites, Miami is home to the world's largest cruise passenger port and is sizzling with internationally renowned fine arts venues and year-round outdoor entertainment.

It's only getting hotter—literally.

The Food Network's South Beach Wine & Food Festival, also known as the SoBe Fest, will open from Feb. 23 to the 26 for a weekend filled with events showcasing the talents of globally acclaimed chefs, culinary personalities and wine and spirits experts.

More than 200 sponsors will

fund the event, including Whole Foods Market, Bank of America, Southern Wine & Spirits of Florida and the University's own Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management.

The festival will kick off beach side on Thursday with Moët Hennessy's "The Q," an event hosted by industry giants Emeril Lagasse and Guy Fieri. "The Q" features a collection of preeminent barbecue chefs preparing their ribs and brisket signature dishes.

Following Emeril's "Bam!" catchphrase are 50 more flame-inducing events that will culminate on Saturday with "The Flavors of Flay," celebrity restaurateur Bobby Flay's sample tasting function that will introduce guests to his trademark southwestern cuisine.

Since its debut in 2000 as the Florida Extravaganza, the festival has grown exponentially in terms of attendance and profit.

SEE FEST, PAGE 3



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Debra Kuhn, a hospitality student (far right), served food in one of two Hospitality tents during last year's Food and Wine Festival. The festival is a collaboration between the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management and The Food Network.

LECTURE

Professor breaks down love in light of Valentine's

LAUREN ROVIRA

Asst. News Director

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Just in time for Valentine's Day, William Berry, professor of psychology, dished out the truths about the L-word.

He delivered a lecture to a full room on "Love, sex, and relationships: Expectations and Reality".

Room 243 of the Graham Center was packed past carrying capacity on Monday Feb. 13 at 6 p.m. There were 108 seats set up, and more guests continued to arrive during the lecture.

The lecture was sponsored by Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus, and organized by Laura Farinas, the SGC-MMC lectures coordinator.

"This event is meant to commemorate Valentine's Day," Farinas said. "We wanted to lighten the mood."

Several students in the audience took classes with Berry in the past.

Ariel Clark, a sophomore studying physical education, who had taken Berry for Introduction to Psychology, came together with her friend.

"I think he's funny," she said.

Her friend, Mary Joo, sophomore in psychology said, "He told us in class [Personal Adjustment] about this lecture and I wanted to come. He usually tells us stories in class about

his love life, so why not hear some more?"

Natalie Leal, sophomore student of nursing, said, "I have him and find him really interesting."

"I know it's not going to be all positive, but it will definitely be an interesting presentation," she said.

Berry began the lecture by explaining that

answers.

"If you came here thinking 'this is gonna teach me what love is,' you're sadly mistaken," Berry said.

Through songs, studies, personal anecdotes and audience interactions, Berry made his case.

During the lecture, the PowerPoint presen-

"If you came here thinking 'this is gonna teach me what love is' you're sadly mistaken."



William Berry
Professor of Psychology

it would be laid out differently than originally intended.

"This lecture was originally going to be given with my co-author," Berry said. "She was supposed to focus on the nice things about love, and I was going to talk about all the cynical stuff. Now, I'm doing both."

He made sure the audience was well aware that they would not walk away with concrete

tation was divided between slides in black and red, and slides in light and dark blues.

Berry explained these would separate the bad and good parts respectively.

"Most people will experience heartbreak," he said. "A lot of people can relate to a tumultuous relationship."

The bleak message was followed by some advice.

"Life is about balance," he explained. "One should be more honest than not, though. Honesty is what makes a good relationship." He also warned against false expectations.

According to a survey Berry conducted with the co-author to his new book on love, 75 percent of people believe in a soul mate. This was predominantly the case with college girls.

Berry explained, "unrealistic expectations, including the expectation of a 'super relationship'...[where] we think they should just know. These are unhealthy."

"[You] should have realistic expectations for the relationship and your partner. Remain present in the relationship."

"I'm very existential...you have to 'be,'" he said.

Berry also said that couples should not become too secure.

"This is pivotal," he said. "[You] need to commit to working on things. Relationships take work and patience."

A common topic in love literature nowadays is the subject of couples assuming parent-child relationships. Women become mothers and men become like little boys.

Berry said, "[You] must avoid falling into parental roles, but there has to be a way to get back to closeness sometimes."

Berry discussed some different theories of

SEE LOVE, PAGE 2

COMING UP | Sports

Check out Monday's issue for a re-cap of the weekend's games.

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Threatened butterfly vanishes from Florida refuge

For more than a year, Bahia Honda State Park biologist Jim Duquesnel traversed the nature sanctuary with two hopes. He wanted to see a Miami blue butterfly and rid the Florida Keys outpost of as many iguanas as he could.

The reason: The Central American invader may be driving the Miami blue into extinction by eating the leaves where it lays its eggs — a bit of butterfly caviar in every bite.

No confirmed Miami blues have been seen on Bahia Honda since July 2010, and with each passing day it becomes less likely any exist there. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service last August issued an emergency listing of the Miami blue as an endangered species and three similar butterflies as threatened.

NATIONAL

Valentine’s gift blamed for Calif. power outage

A Valentine’s Day gift is being blamed for a power outage in Southern California.

Southern California Edison spokesman David Song says a helium-filled balloon scored a direct hit on the company’s Fontana substation Tuesday night, knocking out power to 15,099 customers.

Song tells The Press-Enterprise the balloon was likely a Valentine’s gift. He says it dropped into the substation at about 8:40 p.m.

Song says a utility crew rushed to the station and had the power restored by 9:51 p.m.

The substation was the second to encounter problems in Southern California on Tuesday night.

– Compiled by Lauren Rovira

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 23, Issue 65 of *The Beacon*, in the Sports section, in the article titled “Tennis team swept; basketball hits road for UALR,” “Cougars” was mistakenly used instead of “Jaguars” when referring to South Alabama.

In the News section, in the article titled “New York Times writer speaks to University students,” John Stack was referenced as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, when he is actually an Associate Dean.

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

Rosenberg focuses on campus expansion at town hall meeting

ROSENBERG, PAGE 8

April 14 Strategic Plan Town hall meeting, public safety and access to the campus are critical for its growth.

Rosenberg acknowledged at this town hall was that if a second entrance into BBC is not actualized, that he will place an enrollment cap on the three schools for the sake of preventing the overcrowding on the campus.

Other goals for the campus are a joint use facility with Alonzo and Tracy Mourning High School and Miami-Dade College, a possible training facility with the private sector for the School of Architecture, and the hopes of a partnership with the Scripps Howard Foundation, who was represented by their President and CEO Mike Philipps.

Students who had concerns with the conditions of Bay Vista Housing, or if there are any planned renovations were pleased to hear that there are plans to create replacement housing for Bay Vista, to be realized within the next two years, according to Moll.

Pablo Haspel, SGC-BBC speaker of the Senate, brought up the online course fee that is required for every online course a student is enrolled in, questioning what those fees are used for, since his constituents have been bringing this up to him.

“The fee will continue, although we will continue to drop it as the number of students that enroll [increases],” said Wartzok. “This isn’t a way of adding additional revenue; it’s the necessity of meeting the costs that are necessitated for providing online courses.”

The University’s environmental impact was also addressed in regards to providing more energy efficient technologies to the facilities at the University.

This was addressed by John M. Cal, assistant vice president of Facilities and Management, informing those in attendance that the University ranks first in the state in terms of energy efficiency, a point that Rosenberg reluctantly acknowledged due to his dislike of number rankings.

The question and answer session ended up running about 20 minutes longer than expected, at which point Rosenberg allowed those in attendance with remaining questions to pose them and he will direct them to the appropriate administrator for the department which the questions concerned.

Berry touts “being” in relationships

LOVE, PAGE 1

love including those proposed by Rollo May, an existential psychologist, to try and answer some of the biggest questions about love.

With relation to May’s theory comprised of the four kinds of love, Berry said, “Ego tries to protect us from painful things. Ego struggles with Agape, or unconditional love. Our selfish desires and our insecurities can get in the way.”

He explained that children can change things because of this very reason.

“When a baby comes along, the man becomes second, or third...or 27th,” Berry said. “Men cease to be the most important part of their spouses’ life. The rate

of divorce is higher among married couples with children, than those without them.”

When Berry’s lecture was through, the floor was opened for questions.

When some audience members inquired about the emotional unavailability of men, Berry said, “We live in a male-dominated culture.

We tell little boys to hold their feelings, but we feel just like everyone else.”

Berry also explained why people are so clingy.

“It has to do with attachment styles...clinginess is part of the anxious attachment style. It also has to do with who has the ‘hand’ in the relationship...the one that loves

‘more’ feels they are giving more.”

At the end of the event, Clark said, “I feel that it was very insightful. He broke things down, love, sex and relationships.”

“He gave us the good and the bad,” she said. “You can take whatever you feel is best [for you].”



Barry Law students (L-R) Brian Kozlowski, Leanne Palmer, John Berry

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LOCAL PERFORMANCE

Broadway hit to be performed across the street

ESRA ERDOGAN

Life! Editor

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Across the street from the Modesto Maidique Campus is The Roxy Performing Arts Center. It is home to The Roxy Theatre Group, a non-profit organization that aims to enrich the lives of students of all ages, from elementary school to college, through the performing arts.

Opening this weekend at The Roxy PAC is the Broadway show “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying,” a romantic comedy musical popularized by actor Daniel Radcliffe.

The show will run from Feb. 17 through March 3. Tickets are \$20 at the door, however, there is a limited number of \$5 tickets available on www.cultureshock-miami.com.

“We are always looking for shows with a lot of characters because of our high audition population,” said Ana Andreu, programs director and alumna. The Theatre held open auditions that attracted around 170 prospective actors from over 30 high schools for “How to Succeed.”

After callbacks and deliberations, the show will feature 70 students as actors and musicians, ranging from middle to high school students, including some of the instructors.

Rehearsals for leading

actors can be rigorous. As it gets closer to opening night, both leading and ensemble casts must attend and practice more often during after school hours and on weekends.

“They’re dedicated. Sometimes we can’t get them to leave,” said Charles Sothers, the Theatre’s arts director and alum. Because they are a non-profit organization, they considered how difficult it would be to procure the costumes and set the design when picking shows. “We’re very creative when it comes to producing shows,” said Andreu.

Andreu, who has a degree in theater, remembers the days of scavenging through Goodwill for costumes as a student at the University.

Sharing equipment and costumes with other theater groups and finding set props from Ikea and thrift stores allowed them to take on shows that would otherwise be very expensive to produce.

Everyone involved is an expert in multitasking.

“We’re a small crew. We all do a lot of things,” said alum Charles Sothers, theater arts director and acting teacher.

“We usually try to feature our teachers in the shows because it’s important for the kids to relate to professional actors. They’re not just telling them ‘do this, do that’, but they’re also on stage with them so the kids

can see how they act,” said Andreu. Senior Christopher Cuan, a liberal studies major and improvisation teacher, will be playing the role of the mailman and Sothers will be Bigley, the boss.

Since many of them are alumni, University graduates and students are usually involved in many of the shows.

“They’re not necessarily theater students. Sometimes, they are in other disciplines. [Gabriel Bonilla] was an FIU student when he auditioned for “Guys and Dolls” a few years ago and he got a lead [role],” said Andreu.

“The connection is we’re right across the street, so it’s accessible to them. They find out about the auditions more easily and we have some participants who are students so the word gets around. Since we still have a good connection with our department and Phillip Church, associate professor in the Department of Theatre, we always reach out to them,” said Sothers.

“To see the kids having so much fun on stage is the best part. They say ‘Don’t forget to email me when you have other auditions,’” said alumna Jessica Torgas, stage director.

The Roxy Theatre Group provides enrichment for kids who are interested in the performing arts, outreach to the community for teachers and directors and entertainment for the rest of us.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROXY THEATRE GROUP

(Top) Veronica Diaz, 20, Joel Acosta, 16, and Lauren Cote, 18, pose for the camera. (Bottom) Cast from The Roxy Theatre Group performing in “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying.”

Hospitality team looks forward to working SoBe Fest

FEST, PAGE 1

Over 55,000 guests attended in 2011 alone and \$14 million have been raised toward the Chaplin School’s physical and academic expansion.

Revenue is currently invested in the renovation of the Southern Wine & Spirits Beverage Management Center, a 4,500 square-foot facility that features the latest technology for beverage tasting and analysis at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

This year, funds are expected to aid in the development of the hospitality management building’s dining room into a state-of-the-art full service teaching restaurant that will be managed by hospitality students.

“SoBe Fest requires a tremendous amount of student involvement,” stated Richard Lopez, program manager.

“It’s also something that is

inherently ‘FIU’ and sometimes that’s not in the limelight [to the Modesto Maidique campus].”

“The process is yearlong; we never have downtime. We always have people coming into our office.

These celebrity icons and personalities are just regular people who our students can work with.”

Over 900 students of management and other fields fill positions in sponsorship activation, operations, logistics, public relations, marketing and auction coordination.

Together, they build the backbone to the production of the Festival. “It’s not just a kitchen,” said Lopez about the hospitality industry.

“We are hospitality managers. We are here for tourism, gaming, hotel and dining trade. The event planning community is on the rise right now and hospitality is

creating jobs.”

The University’s SoBe Fest committee has likened the Festival to a career fair for its students. “After participating in the Festival, we have so many

profile clientele.”

Celebrities aren’t the only key to potential job opportunities.

Lopez stressed that, “You may not know the person’s name but he or she owns several companies or

know who you’re going to meet on site.”

As a 2012 exclusive, the Festival will be offering the public its first sneak peek at the new Miami Marlins Ballpark in the “Diamond Dishes” event that will be hosted by Julie Loria, cookbook author and wife of the Marlins owner, Jeffrey Loria. Attendants will participate in a walk-around dinner from South Florida’s finest chefs.

“There’s so much that’s directed into our backyard and we sometimes take it for granted.”

“We’re a very hip and fun-filled city,” remarked the SoBe Fest committee. “Take advantage of the fact that so many people want to come to Miami and be a part of it.”

For more information regarding the festival, visit HM 249 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or on the web at <http://sobefest.fiu.edu>.

“After participating in the Festival, we have so many students that come again to volunteer because it’s something they get jobs out of.”

Richard Lopez
Program Manager

students that come again to volunteer because it’s something they get jobs out of.

These positions come into contact with celebrities and high-

runs wineries and vineyards and is flying from Los Angeles and New York for this single event.

Pretend like everyday is an interview because you never



MYSTERY MEN



BEACON FILE PHOTOS

R.J. Fondon (Right) will be the opening day starter for FIU on Feb. 17 as they take on Rice University. The Panthers will play a three-game series on the road against the Owls.

Panthers set to open season with a showdown against Rice Owls

EDUARDO ALMAGUER
Staff Writer

When asked what was best thing about this upcoming baseball season, senior outfielder and reigning Sun Belt Player of the Year Pablo Bermudez gave an odd answer.

"This team has no face," Bermudez said.

If there was one player that was a instantly recognizable in Florida International University's baseball team in the last 2-3 years, it was probably Garret Wittels.

During his chase of Robin Ventura's Division I, all-time record 58-game hitting streak, he brought an amount of publicity to the school that was unparalleled in the program's history.

Now that he is in the St. Louis Cardinals' organization, Bermudez knows that not many

fans will be able to name a single Panther.

"A lot of people thought that Garret carried the whole team, and he did carry his weight, but there were a lot of other people that helped Garret a long," Bermudez said. "It's not just about one player, it's about the whole team."

For a team with no face, however, they sure are getting a lot of recognition. Coming off a 40-win season and its second-consecutive NCAA Regional appearance, FIU has been picked to finish first by a couple of organizations.

Perfectgame.org and Baseball America picked them to win the conference and on Feb. 10, the leagues head coaches also picked FIU to finish first in the SBC preseason poll.

FIU was arguably the best hitting team in 2011, leading the conference in batting average, slugging percentage, on-base percentage, hits,

runs batted in and runs scored. Leading the team in many of those categories was Bermudez, who was picked to repeat as Sun Belt Player of the Year.

Bermudez is coming off a stellar 2011 performance where he had a .380 average, 17 stolen bases, a .534 slugging percentage and a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage. He led the entire conference in walks and on-base percentage with 46 and .494 respectively.

Left-handed pitcher Mason McVay, and infielders Rudy Flores and Mike Martinez were also voted to the Preseason All-Sun Belt Team.

Despite having a target painted on his team's back, head coach Turtle Thomas puts no stock into preseason polls.

"When you have a preseason poll,

and you compare it to final standings in May, it's never even close to what was predicted," Thomas said.

Drew French comes in as the new pitching coach for the Panthers. He comes from Alabama where he oversaw bullpen sessions and strength and conditioning programs for four years. R.J. Fondon, the team's opening night starter has been building chemistry with his new pitching coach so far.

"Me and him get a long really good. With him we could do big things with the pitching staff this year," Fondon said.

Fondon will be followed by McVay on Feb. 18 and a battle between redshirt sophomore right-hander Eddy Pidermann and freshman right-hander Jose Lazaro for the Feb. 19 spot. Right-handed sophomore Michael Ellis is also

projected to challenge for a spot in the rotation.

Thomas maintains that the same weaknesses the team had last season are the same ones for 2012. He mentioned that hitters still have too much trouble striking out and that pitchers continue to walk an excessive amount of batters.

FIU had the second-most strikeouts in the conference with, trailing only UALR. And though the pitching staff led the conference with a cumulative 3.46 ERA, they had the third-most walks. The first two series of the season are against No.6 Rice and No.20 Florida State University. While Bermudez and Fondon both singled out Rice as the harder of the two series, Thomas was not keen to single out one

series as the more difficult one.

"In college baseball today, there are no easy games. Almost every game counts the same as the one before or after that," Thomas said. "You have enough talent to beat every team on your schedule."

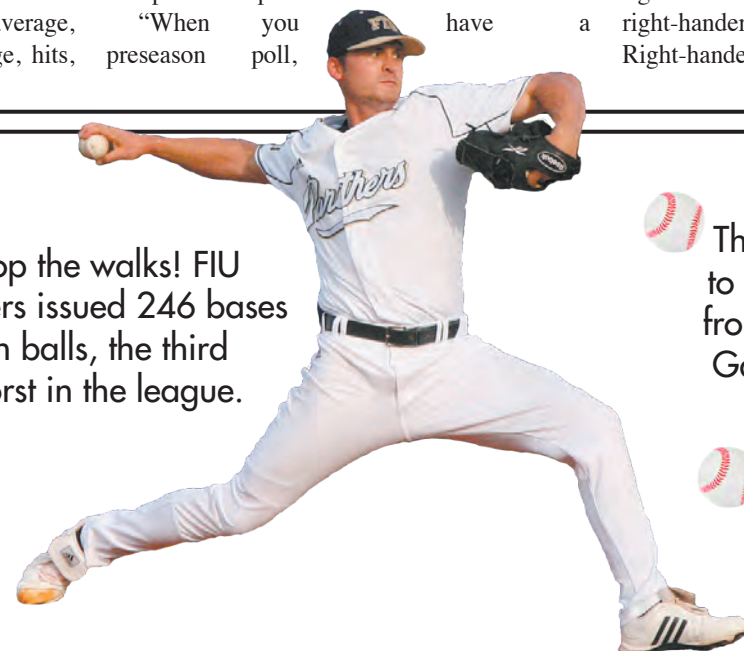
Though the first two series are daunting, the team desperately wants to return where they left off last season – the championship game. When asked to use one word to describe the upcoming season, Bermudez used the word "finish."

"Even though we had that 18-game win streak at the end of the season, we didn't finish in conference tournament and we didn't finish in regionals," Bermudez said.

"It's about putting it all together when the season starts. The sky's the limit for this team."

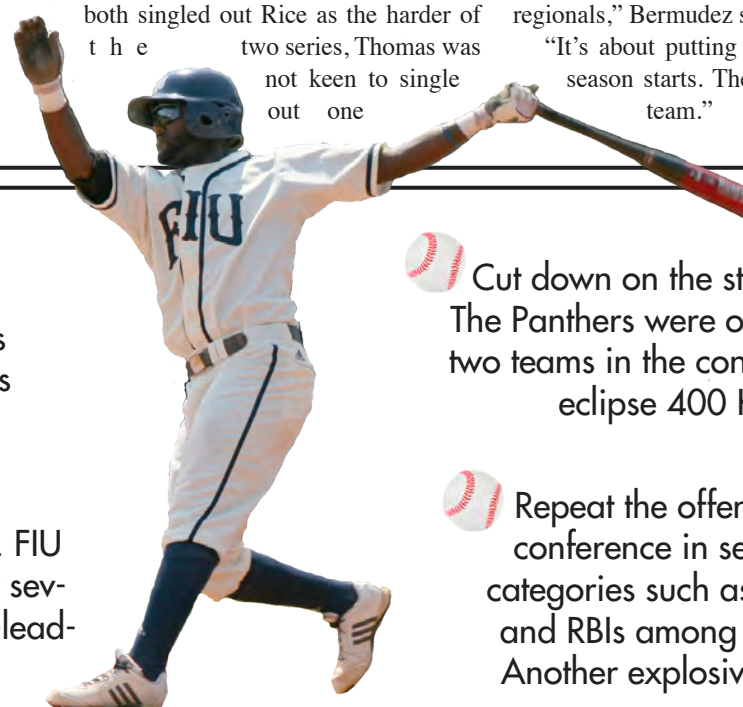
5 KEYS TO THE SEASON

Stop the walks! FIU pitchers issued 246 bases on balls, the third worst in the league.



They don't need the freshmen to be superstars, solid seasons from Julius Gaines and Aramis Garcia would go a long way.

The errors have got to go. FIU shot themselves in the foot several times with conference-leading 98 errors in 2011.



Cut down on the strikeouts! The Panthers were one of only two teams in the conference to eclipse 400 Ks.

Repeat the offense! FIU led the conference in several offensive categories such as runs, homeruns and RBIs among others in 2011. Another explosive season is key.

2012 First Half Schedule

	AT RICE UNIVERSITY Feb. 17-19
	AT FLORIDA STATE Feb. 24-26
	BROWN UNIVERSITY March 2-4 (Home)
	BOSTON COLLEGE March 6 (Home)
	AT MIAMI MARLINS March 7, 7:10 p.m.
	FORDHAM UNIVERSITY March 9-11 (Home)
	UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA March 13-14
	FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIV. March 16-18
	AT UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE March 21
	AT WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIV. March 23-25
	BETHUNE COOKMAN UNIV. March 27 (Home)
	FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIV. March 28 (Home)
	UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA-MONROE March 30-April 1 (Home)

REEL TO REEL

Shorts nominated for this year’s Academy Awards

Every year, the Academy Awards honor 10 short films that stand above the rest; five films are live-action and another five are animated.



JUAN BARQUIN

They tend to range from television episodes to student films. Sometimes they are films made by previous award nominees. The following are mini reviews of all 10 short films featured in the competition; you can watch them before the Academy Awards this month at the Cosford Cinema and the Miami Beach Cinematheque.

[FIVE ANIMATED SHORTS]

Dimanche AKA Sunday

Patrick Doyon’s “Dimanche” is one of two Canadian short films in this year’s animated category. The short takes place on an average Sunday in a dreary city and follows a boy whose only interest seems to be watching coins get run over by trains. After mass, he and his family gather at his grandparents’ house where he attempts to find entertainment amidst the adults who can’t get money off of their minds.

There is something nostalgic about the animation of “Dimanche” that brings one back to their childhood. It reminds us that even though children and adults live in the same world, there’s something almost magical about the way a child sees it. Unfortunately, this quaint little film does not have much appeal and its dull color palette makes it a forgettable nominee among the rest.

A Morning Stroll

“A Morning Stroll” is an uncon-



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXAR ANIMATION STUDIOS

The little boy from “La Luna” gazes at the moon, surprised by his family’s extraordinary line of work.

ventional short about a man who stops dead in his tracks when he sees a chicken walk past him and knock on a door.

The short takes place over three time periods: the 1950s, the present day and closes in an apocalyptic world where zombies roam the earth.

Grant Orchard, director, tackles each of the time periods with a different form of animation that makes this an interesting short film.

Whether it is a simple moving cartoon picture or an eye-popping piece of computer generated images, “A Morning Stroll” really takes risks at approaching animation through multiple angles.

Cute and surprising, this is one short that will not be forgotten. However, it doesn’t seem to have much of a chance in the competition.

Wild Life

The second Canadian short comes

from directors Amanda Forbis and Wendy Tilby. “Wild Life” starts off as a comedy of sorts about a naïve English adventurer who moves to the Canadian frontier in the early 20 century to become a rancher.

“Wild Life” has an interesting minimalist style that makes it stand out from the rest. It also has a curious form of narration.

Shifting between the townsfolk and the Englishman turned rancher, the film changes in tone from comic to melancholy as we follow the struggles that this man goes through.

It is a short that will not appeal to everyone, but it is one that the most eccentric of viewers may find themselves entranced by.

La Luna

Pixar’s animated short this year is one that few will have seen at this time since it premieres before the feature film “Brave” later this year. “La Luna,” directed by Enrico Casarosa, is a sentimental short about a

little boy who is being instructed on how to sweep the moon of stars by his father and grandfather.

While this year marks the first time that a Pixar feature is released during the year it is not up for an Academy Award, “La Luna” somehow made its way into the animated short competition.

The short is polite and adorable, like every other thing Pixar makes, but it does not really bring anything special to the competition.

The animation makes everything look bubbly and bright and, if the voters give into its sappiness, this might just have a chance at winning.

The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore

There is always one short that really blows people away, and this year it is William Joyce and Brandon Oldenburg’s marvelous short film, “The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore.” The film revolves around a Buster Keaton

look-alike who is swept up during a hurricane, only to find himself in a magical land where he discovers his calling as a librarian.

The short film draws upon Hurricane Katrina and “The Wizard of Oz” heavily to establish itself, but avoids an overbearing aura of sentimentality.

It is a tribute to the importance and magic of literature. It is so full of genuine emotion that anyone who has ever really loved a book will begin to tear up.

Its use of miniatures, computer animation and two-dimensional animation gives the short its visually appealing style and the charming, old-fashioned feel of it might be enough to seal its place as the winner.

[FIVE LIVE-ACTION SHORTS]

Pentecost

“Pentecost” is a short dramedy about Damian, an 11-year-old altar boy who, after knocking Father O’Toole off the altar by swinging the incense burner too high, has been banned from his greatest passion: soccer.

He is called back to serve last minute at an important mass with the archbishop, which becomes his only way to make amends and, more important, gain permission to watch his precious football matches again.

Peter McDonald does an amusing

Reel to Reel is a weekly movie review column.
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The University Fee Committee will be holding public hearings on

Wednesday, February 22, 2012 BBC
WUC 155 at 3:30pm

Thursday, February 23, 2012 MMC
GC 140 at 9:00am

The objective of these meetings will be to give interested individuals an opportunity to hear arguments pertaining to the proposed increase to the Activity and Service Fee. The amended fee will become effective in the Fall 2012 term. Students and other interested individuals are invited to attend these meetings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

17 FRIDAY

FIU SCHOOL OF MUSIC AT THE ALLIANCE FRANCAISE SERIES: AMERNET STRING QUARTET
WHEN: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Alliance Francaise | 618 SW 8 St Miami, FL 33130

NATURE PRESERVE VOLUNTEER DAY
WHEN: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC-Nature Preserve

KAYAK AFTER DARK
WHEN: 7-9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC

18 SATURDAY

ORCHESTRAL MASTERWORKS SERIES
WHEN: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15.00 General Admission | \$10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff | \$5.00 FIU Students and Alumni Association Members
WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center | Concert Hall | 10910 SW 17th Street, Miami, FL 33199

FIU SOFTBALL VS. SOUTH CAROLINA
WHEN: 5-11 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC FIU Softball Complex

19 SUNDAY

FIU SOFTBALL VS. JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY
WHEN: 3-11 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC FIU Softball Complex

MIAMI HEAT VS. ORLANDO MAGIC
WHEN: 3:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10.00-400.00
WHERE: American Airlines Arena

TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED EMAIL:
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CAMPUS

Graham Center solicitation turns student haven into hell

ALEX SORONDO
Staff Writer
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I am so absolutely terrified of everything around me, so blatantly freaked out by loud noises and suspicious peripheral movements, that I have, since coming to college, just abandoned all hope of ever looking cool at anything because it's just not possible.

Everything makes me flinch. I recoil constantly. At least 10 percent of my daily oxygen intake is composed of petrified gasps and, frankly, it's rare that a waiter or waitress appears beside me without eliciting a legitimate scream these days (after which, depending on my mood, I either apologize or berate them for sneaking up on me).

Being so perpetually alert (because it's really not so much paranoia as it is a constant preparedness to run from danger) makes a lot of daily activities almost overwhelmingly anxious: driving, shopping, standing outside – everything becomes a Lovecraftian stress test.

Exceptionally grueling is having to walk everyday through the Graham Center at some point between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., when the nightmarish tabling circus is in full swing like some haunted midnight gypsy carnival with its baked goods, room-temperature pizza, sign-up sheets, discount jewelry, cell phone cases, perfumes and Bibles.

Meanwhile, hordes of fraternity and sorority members distribute flyers and pamphlets, asking you to join this or donate for that, and somebody's stereo always blasts one of eight songs. It's awful.

I don't say that just to be a curmudgeon, or because I'm repelled by their energy; I say this because it's invasive.

“
These flyer-people
hurl themselves shamelessly
at you to take, read and relish
their glossy cards with their
dagger-like corners, as though
the stack is going to explode if
it doesn't get thinner.”

The music is unnervingly loud, overplayed if not outdated, and the bass makes me feel like I have spiders in my larynx.

When two frat guys approach me in unison with their arms outstretched:

1) There's a jarring few seconds where I haven't registered their motives.

2) I don't have the nerve to just say “No, thank you” to either one because, frustrating though they are, I feel guilty to just shoot them down off the bat.

3) I don't want to take their pamphlets because, in that regard, I'm just like everybody else on campus.

And so I just end up standing there stammering, my hands raised palm-up by my head, non-compliant, sounding like Consuela from “Family Guy” saying, “No...no...”

These flyer-people hurl themselves shamelessly at you to take, read and relish their glossy cards with their dagger-like corners, as though the stack is going to explode if it doesn't get thinner.

After years of this, they all seem completely undaunted by the indifference and consistency with which so many people take these flyers and just throw them in the nearest garbage can.

The late comedian Mitch Hedberg pointed out that, when somebody hands you a flyer, it's essentially like they're saying, “Here, *you* throw this away.”

There is no point to the flyers. Nobody likes them, and I will guess with total confidence that the majority of them are handed off to people who then discard them without reading.

Even worse than the flyers is the nuisance of being presented with them by overeager solicitants.

As often as I can, I now circle around GC rather than walk through it, just to avoid this plague of glossy “Dance and Get Wasted and Do Stuff in Public You'll Regret Tomorrow” cards.

Wolfsonian Art Museum a source of ingenuity, knowledge

JOILETTE RE
Contributing Writer
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The Wolfsonian Art Museum, located in Miami Beach, provides a wonderful experience for FIU students.

Mitchell Wolfson Jr. founded the Wolfsonian in 1986 to preserve his collection of paintings, unique books, sculpture, furniture, and other artifacts.

In 1997, Wolfson donated his museum and his Collection of Decorative and Propaganda Arts to FIU, “the largest gift ever contributed to a public university in Florida.”

In addition to amazing its patrons with its collection of paintings, sculpture, and other artworks, the Wolfsonian allows them to think more critically.

Visitors to the museum will gain an insight on how people have achieved various creative methods to advertise a specific goal.

The famous saying, “A picture is worth a thousand words,” applies perfectly here.

Students should make good use of the available resources to truly appreciate their time at the University.

On Feb. 7, I visited the Wolfsonian. Not only did I enjoy gazing at the impressive crafts and paintings, but I also gained insight in how to think “out-of-the box.”

Partaking in this worthwhile, pleasant outing trained me to contemplate deeply and take a single idea and explore it in multiple levels and dimensions.

The museum enriched my understanding of how art can describe sociological, psychological, cultural, political, philosophical, and environmental impacts all in one image through visual cues.

For example, the marquette entitled “La Barre à Mine” (English: “The Crowbar”) by Arthur Dupagne, which is molded in shape of a muscular man at work, could propagate the ideas of racial inequality, human bondage, inequality, and other similar factors.

One of the memorable pieces that I like is Harry Clarke's stained glass window, which was designed to be a gift to the League of Nations in Geneva in 1926.

The beautiful array of color of the eight-panel stained glass window glowed and glistened like ethereal lights.

“
Partaking in this
worthwhile, pleasant
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levels and dimensions.”

I was also impressed with how the stained glass windows presented different stories

based on Irish folklore.

The astounding details of the clothing worn by the different bearers astounded me.

Another one of my favorites was the oil on canvas painting called “Woman Suffrage” by Evelyn Rumsey Carey.

The soft pale lighting surrounding the goddess-like figure embodies delicate femininity and glamour, combined with a romantic picturesque feel.

The exquisite strokes and alluring illumination immediately attracted me.

My tour guide, Dr. Regina Bailey, pointed out the reason why this woman was portrayed as nonthreatening. She said it was in the effort to increase popularity for women's suffrage.

Going to the Wolfsonian leaves upon its visitors a memorable experience since the moment they enter this mystifying place.

They will become better-rounded scholars because they will have stretched their imagination, explored their analyzing skills, and achieved a reverence and appreciation for the humanities.



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Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (500 words maximum) to neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year. *The Beacon* reserves the right to edit for space, content and clarity.

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TRANSPORTATION

FIU One Card reader causes more trouble than expected

JULIA DUBA
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Students who use the FIU One Card to board the shuttle bus have encountered problems with the handheld device that deducts the shuttle fare of \$2.50 from their One Card account between the two University campuses.

The transition in Fall 2011 from Golden Panther Express tickets to the device has created delays for some students and drivers—and resulted in complaints to the Department of Parking and Transportation department.

When students switched to the FIU One Card, some presented their card to shuttle drivers without any funds. The Panther-Card account is linked to Wells Fargo, and can receive funds from the Wells Fargo ATMs on any FIU campus. The money deposited into the accounts will be available for use almost immediately.

According to Senior Clerk of the Parking and Transportation department Kerssy Ciceen, students don't know that they must activate their cards online at shop.fiu.edu to add funds.

"It's not a perfect system yet. Of course there will be glitches," Ciceen said. "It should be getting fixed in the next year or so."

The problem started in August 2011 when the transition from

purchasing tickets to electronic account withdrawals confused students. For a couple of weeks GPE tickets were still accepted at the beginning of the Fall 2011 semester.

Lisette Hernandez, Assistant Director of Parking and Transportation, recognizes that any new software will have issues when a new system is implemented.

"We know of one particular issue, mainly an operator issue, but our office solved it and continues to support the drivers as needed to ensure that it does not happen again," Hernandez said. "Our office is in constant communication with the drivers and helps them if there is an issue or concern in order to solve it immediately."

American Coach bus driver Donald Hill recounts the training he received for handling the readers.

"It's pretty simple once you learn how to handle it. Now I always know how to get it to work," Hill said.

After orientations on how to work the card readers, Hill said that on a few occasions, the device would not read students' One Cards because it automatically activates and deactivates through electronic signals on the campus. When a shuttle bus leaves the FIU campus, the device shuts down.

When the bus arrives on a



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

The transition from GPE tickets to a hand held device that deducts the shuttle fare from students' accounts has been experiencing malfunctions. The device automatically activates and deactivates through electronic signals on campus. In some instances, the reader remains deactivated.

campus, the reader self-activates, allowing the drivers to use it and swipe the cards. In some instances, the card reader remained deactivated and delayed shuttle drivers from being able to swipe students' cards and board the bus.

Despite some of the problems, the Parking and Transportation department has encoun-

tered, students like John Irizarry, a junior accounting major, knew nothing about the issue.

"I've ridden the shuttle multiple times this semester and never had a problem," Irizarry said.

Hernandez said, "As far as we understand, there has been no glitch as of late. Training and support will continue to be

provided to the drivers as well as monitoring on our side to help minimize the issues."

Hill is sympathetic.

Despite the occasional problem with the card reader, he never denies students a ride.

"Let's face it; You're going to school and trying to get an education," Hill said, "I'm not going to stop that."

TOWN HALL

Rosenberg fields questions and concerns from the folks at BBC

JONATHAN SZYDLO
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The Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus hosted a town hall meeting giving the BBC community the chance to share their questions, comments, and concerns regarding the University, and more particularly BBC, with University President Mark Rosenberg.

Questions ranged from the expansion of course offerings at BBC, the hopeful growth of enrollment and structures, to the maintenance of invasive plant species.

Rosenberg, Provost Douglas Wartzok and Vice Provost Steven Moll were introduced by SGC-BBC President and Vice President Denise Halpin and Emilio Collyer, respectively.

Then Rosenberg dove into business after congratulating the campus and its administration for improvements to academic programs and facilities that have occurred over the past two years, including the recent renovations to the Glenn Hubert



BARBARA CORBELLINI DUARTE/THE BEACON

University president Mark B. Rosenberg addresses students, faculty and staff at the Biscayne Bay Campus' town hall meeting on Feb. 15.

Library, the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management's expansion of their teaching kitchen and fundraising, and plans that are in the works for converting the Mary Anne Wolfe Theatre into a "smart classroom."

According to Rosenberg, his vision for the next 10 years at BBC is to increase enrollment at the campus' three anchor programs,

by doubling CSHTM, 80 to 90 percent at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, and the School of Environment, Arts and Society by 500 percent.

According to the University's Office of Institutional Research, CSHTM has 1,990 students enrolled, SJMC has 1,565 while

SEE ROSENBERG, PAGE 2

STUDENT LIFE

A sorcerer's apprentice to unveil tricks in WUC

STEPHAN USECHE
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Famous magicians have grabbed people's attention by performing their most daring tricks in front of large audiences. Biscayne Bay Campus will have the opportunity to witness its own magic show with Jason Bishop on Feb. 20 at 12 p.m. in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre.

Some tricks students can look forward to are levitating, slide of hands, and a dollar bill transformed into a \$100 bill.

Jason Bishop has been awarded the "Jack Gwynne award for Excellence in Presentation." He was the youngest person to win the Magicians' Alliance of Eastern States Stage Award.

"It's going to be an exciting show," said Catherine Vega, BBC Student Programming Council president.

Vega also said that what attracted them most to Bishop

is levitating. This will be the first time Bishop performs at FIU.

As a national winning illusionist, Bishop has entertained large audiences across the country, including Norwegian Cruise lines and the Tropicana Hotel in Atlantic City. He has also preformed for celebrities like Bam Margera and Chris Penn.

Costume changes, lighting and his way of engaging with the audience give his show a modern energy.

The act will last until approximately 1 p.m.

JASON BISHOP

- Time: 12 p.m.
- When: 2/20/12
- Where: Mary Ann Wolfe Theater