

2-11-2013

The Beacon, February 11, 2013

Florida International University

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Recommended Citation

Florida International University, "The Beacon, February 11, 2013" (2013). *The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon)*. 418.
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Library audit reveals missing textbooks loaned by staff

MADISON FANTOZZI
Asst. News Director

Books check out but do not check back in to University Libraries. Instead, they reside in faculty offices with high nightly rates.

The Office of Internal Audit reports a potential loss of \$133,000 in library material: 1,330 overdue library items loaned to 268 faculty members as of June 2012 in the audit of University Libraries.

Interim Dean of University Libraries Thomas Breslin, who commented via email because he was unavailable for an interview, said the list of overdue books contains the names of full-time and adjunct faculty, all of whom the library has notified at least twice.

The audit says it was unable to determine the reason why faculty are not subject to the same circulation procedures as students and other patrons.

By contrast, the circulation and borrowing policies of University Libraries state that student library accounts must be settled before registering for classes, obtaining transcripts and graduating.

The question of imposing fines on faculty for overdue books will be discussed

with the Library Committee of the Faculty Senate this spring.

Breslin's own estimate is 1,000 overdue books among 1,000 faculty members.

He does not attribute the loss of library material exclusively to faculty, however.

"Coincidentally, I heard from one of the deans that books may have been lost when the contents of many faculty offices in [Deuxieme Maison] were thrown out when mold was discovered," Breslin wrote. "My understanding is that hundreds of missing books [are] in repairs."

He said books also may have been returned by faculty but stolen before being processed.

In addition, Breslin wrote that books also may have been returned by faculty but not processed before being put back on library shelves.

"We have occasionally found that books listed as long overdue have been reshelfed," Breslin said. "Cutbacks in work study funding have made the job of managing the book stacks more challenging."

However, the Office of Internal Audits cannot confirm these speculations.

"The items we [are refer-

PI IN THE FACE



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Freshmen Jose Dominquez, Fabrice Booz, and Laz Garcia (left to right) pie sorority member Zinab Chatila during Alpha Omicron Pi's 'Push America' fundraiser for disabled children. Chatila, who is running as a 'Miss Push America' contestant, was moved when she met a disabled little boy named Taji and seeks to educate others on the issue.

ring to in the audit] resulted from unreturned items that were checked out and not returned," said Allen Vann, audit director of the University's Office of Internal Audit, in a statement. "We have no information regarding losses due to theft or mold."

According to Breslin, the library will attempt to reposition the security gates at Green Library and install a second security gate at Hubert Library to discourage theft. The library

has also discussed placing cameras at the circulation desks to discourage theft of items returned but not yet processed.

"Improvement to University Libraries' security will take place as monies become available," Breslin wrote.

Breslin also said a reading of the shelves is overdue and dependent on securing adequate money to pay students to assist with the process. The library is working to secure funds which were depleted by

a cutback in federal work study support.

Books lost by faculty members, Breslin said, will be billed to them but not necessarily replaced.

Library staff is preparing a response to the internal auditors' questions – questions for which Breslin said he has no simple answers.

Librarians were not available for comment.

"The auditors raised questions about highly technical issues to which no one librarian has all necessary

information," Breslin wrote. "Under these circumstances, librarians are correct to wait until there is general agreement among technical specialists as to what would be an accurate response to the auditors, or anyone else."

University Libraries' formal answer to the Office of Internal Audit will be public record. Breslin said he will be available for further comment on Feb. 20.

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College of Medicine receives full accreditation

STEPHAN USECHE
Asst. News Director

The inaugural class of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine will graduate with the comfort of knowing their college is fully accredited.

Four years after its founding and seven years after the Florida Board of Governors and Florida Legislature approved it, the College of Medicine was granted full accreditation in spring 2013.

"This is actually a really good thing," said Karina Arce, a freshman in nursing. "Before they admitted up to 30 people, but now they will allow more into the program."

The college has been "developing a curriculum that reflects

an innovative, 21st century approach to health and medical education," according to a University press release.

The college admitted its first class in 2009.

The press release says the first class of students graduating will be eligible for medical residency programs.

According to the release, "the Wertheim College of Medicine will graduate its inaugural class of 33 students" in spring 2013.

The accreditation was made by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, which claimed the college met the steps to become a "full-fledged" medical school.

The LCME is a "nationally-recognized accrediting

“Before they admitted up to 30 people, but now they will allow more into the program.”

Karina Arce
Freshman
Nursing

authority for medical education programs leading to the M.D. degree in U.S. and Canadian medical schools," according to the press release.

Any state licensing board

needs to be accredited by the LCME to be eligible for licensure as an allopathic physician, according to the University's press release.

This accomplishment,

however, can be credited to the ones who raised awareness to the importance of having a public medical school in South Florida, such as Dr. Herbert Wertheim, who gave \$20 million and his name to the school, according to the press release, University President Mark Rosenberg and President Emeritus Modesto A. Maidique, who is also the executive director of the Center for Leadership.

They convinced the Florida Board of Governors and the legislature to authorize the new college.

College of Medicine Dean John Rock was unavailable for comment as of press time.

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NEWS FLASH

Haiti court postpones Duvalier appeals hearing

A Haitian judge on Thursday postponed a court hearing on possible human rights abuse charges against Jean-Claude Duvalier because the former dictator known as “Baby Doc” failed to show up.

Judge Jean Joseph Lebrun of Haiti’s Court of Appeals accepted a request by the defense team to reschedule the hearing because it fell on the 27th anniversary of Duvalier’s ouster.

Defense attorney Reynold Georges said that given the anniversary, there could be trouble in the streets if the judge decided to drop the prosecution of Duvalier. Critics of the ex-dictator and his supporters staged dueling demonstrations outside.

Stolen Matisse painting to be returned to Caracas

A painting by Henri Matisse stolen more than a decade ago from a museum in Venezuela will soon be returned to the country, officials said Friday.

The painting, “Odalisque in Red Pants,” is to be returned from the United States within three to five weeks, said Raul Grioni, president of Venezuela’s Cultural Patrimony Institute.

Grioni told The Associated Press that the painting will arrive at the Caracas Museum of Contemporary Art once officials complete necessary requirements to ship it and verify its authenticity.

– Compiled by Brandon Wise

For more world news, check out www.FIUSM.com.

ExxonMobil to address global emissions issues in lecture

CHELSEA KLAIBER
Contributing Writer

An estimated 1.3 billion people live without electricity, according to ExxonMobil’s 2013 “The Outlook for Energy: A View to 2040.” With a projected world population of nearly 9 billion by 2040, the demand for energy is growing quickly.

ExxonMobil is taking on the challenge of creating a solution to satisfy these demands while reducing the negative effects of carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere.

As a part of ExxonMobil’s yearly energy outlook, several factors, such as a country’s birth rate, urbanization and economic growth are studied when assessing how future trends will affect the supply and demand of energy.

“Renewable resources are growing substantially, but we need a back-up,” said David Khemakhem, an energy and technology adviser for ExxonMobil.

Khemakhem will visit the Univeristy on Tuesday, Feb. 12, to educate students about the future of energy around the world. The event, which begins at 10 a.m. in the Management and Advanced Research Center Pavilion, is sponsored by the School of International and Public Affairs’ Global Energy Security Forum.

Fossil fuels, such as coal and oil, emit harmful

carbon dioxide which contributes to global warming. Though renewable resources exist, they are not the most efficient for consumers.

“Solar power might be fine during the day, but all of a sudden at 3 in the afternoon, there’s a big cloud. You wouldn’t be happy with your electrical company if they said, ‘Well sorry, there’s a cloud, I’m going to have to shut you down,’” Khemakhem said.

Renewables need to be used as much as possible, but as of now, fossil fuels are still required to keep up the demand for accessible energy.

Edward Glab, director of the Global Energy Security Forum, said the tricky part is setting a standard for all countries to reduce harm to the environment.

“We are not the biggest polluters in the world anymore,” he said. “It’s the developing world.”

According to The New York Times, China is now the largest user of coal in the world. Just last month, Beijing was so heavily

“Renewable resources are growing substantially, but we need a back-up.”

David Khemakhem
Adviser
Energy and Technology

coated in soot that the Environmental Protection Agency declared conditions hazardous and urged residents to stay indoors.

Despite the environmental concerns, developing nations have no desire to switch to more expensive forms of energy when cheaper fossil fuels are contributing to their economic growth.

“We need a global solution,” said Glab. “The US and Europe can provide leadership, but we can’t solve the problem on our own and that’s what concerns me.”

Until this solution can be met, Glab still believes

that students can help reduce carbon dioxide emissions by taking small steps – conservation and efficiency is key.

“We can all contribute to that. I do a lot of small things, like keeping my air conditioning set at 78,” Glab said.

Khemakhem hopes that students will come out to the event and broaden their perspective on just how important energy is in their lives.

“There are changes that are happening, and we need to be part of that change,” he said.

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Florida International University Department of Religious Studies

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES TO
STUDY JAINISM IN INDIA, SUMMER 2013

The Department of Religious Studies in conjunction with Jain Vishwa Bharati University (JVBU, Ladnun, Rajasthan, India) offers a Fellowship for summer 2013. The Fellowship provides airfare between Miami and India, travel/ project allowance, and tuition, room and board for a three-week Jain Studies immersion program at JVBU during July-August, 2012. The study program carries three credits from JVBU, entirely transferable to FIU.

Undergraduate students in all fields are eligible to apply. A letter describing the student’s background for and interest in Jain Studies. Preference will be given to those who have taken courses in Jainism or Indian religions.

Additionally, the Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship offers Bhagwan Mahavir Scholarships to cover tuition for summer immersion programs at JVBU, or the International Summer School for Jain Studies (ISSJS) in New Delhi, or perhaps other similar programs. Credit for the ISSJS or JVBU programs are transferrable directly to FIU.

Applications are due April 1, 2013, and should be sent to:
Prof. Whitney Bauman
Undergraduate Program Director
Department of Religious Studies
Florida International University
whitney.bauman@fiu.edu

THE BEACON

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The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by student government.

Beauty, advertisements causes nearsightedness

ALEX SORONDO
Staff Writer

I'm always conscious of it to some extent but I felt particularly aware, while watching the 2013 Golden Globe Awards, of how I didn't look like any of the celebrities on screen.

If I bore a resemblance to anybody, it was to the people being nominated for artistry or craft – crew members who, unburdened by the public eye, can afford to pay less attention to their appearance and endure the defilements of age with grace.

It seems most of the really famous people I can call to mind, apart from politicians and people of power, are exceptionally attractive.

If they aren't exceptionally attractive at the moment, they used to be, and it made them rich, so now they are famous for having once been famous.

We're as much the victims of advertising as we are the products of it, and there's no shaking the influence.

And then of course you have the people who, like certain "reality" stars, are famous for the spectacle that is made about how unattractive they are – which makes us feel better by comparison.

Most of the really famous pop-icons in the country, the household names who most frequently grace our screens and airwaves, are – by the public standard – almost

physically flawless.

The most common portrait of success that we're exposed to while growing up is a body of certain proportions, the performance of spectacle on stage or screen, and the terrific financial gain that ensues.

Never as a child did I hear the name of a great architect or engineer; the only doctor I ever heard of was Jacob Kevorkian.

The reason we didn't see these people is because they weren't on TV, and the reason they weren't on TV, for the most part, is that they weren't attractive.

Or maybe they spoke in paragraphs rather than sound bites, using words that might make the viewer feel like they don't know enough.

The media knows that we're insecure about our appearance. That's the goal. The more concerned you are about how you look, the more inclined you'll be to buy the things that we're told will make us look better: hair and skin products, designer labels, fancy cars, name brand electronics, sodas and candies.

Coke's popularity and advertisement toward youth, its efforts to be the first soda we ever drink, is what leads us all to believing that this is how soda should taste.

Similarly, a celebrity's popularity is what leads us to think that this is how we should look, talk and behave.

Intellect doesn't really have a place here. Advertisers have little use for an educated audience.

We grow up with this. We're as much the victims of advertising as we are the products of it, and there's no shaking the influence. We can't blame ourselves for being vain from time to time, for sometimes sacrificing responsibilities or opportunities out of a concern for our appearance, but being in college, we should all be extolling the virtues of writers, craftsmen, innovators – the great thinkers.

And we do, in certain circles. My experience at the University shows that engineering majors know their engineers, law students their lawyers, finance majors their

economists.

We emulate the pioneers of our field but do little to acquaint ourselves, if only in passing, with the faces and issues of other fields. Sometimes out of disinterest, sometimes fearing we won't understand.

The more I acquaint myself with seniors on the brink of entering the workforce, the more impressed I become with how many of us have managed to become experts in our fields.

It's disheartening, though, to hear of everybody's impulsive avoidance of subjects they aren't versed in, whether in conversation or magazines or on TV.

A gritty truth about our ignorance is that people will take advantage of it, and in far more insidious ways than we know.

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Internships: the road to employment

ADRIANNE RICHARDSON
Contributing Writer

Finding a job in this economy is not easy, and the sad part about that is most of us college students haven't even started looking yet. Taking classes and finding an on-campus job is all good and merry, but it's time for more students to start planning ahead.

With that being said, internships are one of the best ways to get a jumpstart into the career of your dreams, or at least in the field.

There is so much to be gained through internships and although a salary may not be one of them, it is a great way to learn what goes and what doesn't in the field that you plan to go into.

There are so many students who only attend school and believe that once they graduate a job is going to accept them.

It doesn't work that way.

Employers enjoy hiring people with experience. You may have the degree, but if you haven't experienced the job and someone else has, who do you think is going to get the job? Not you. So take this into consideration when you are sitting in class and thinking about what career you are going to take by

storm.

Internships are a strong way to get into the field of your dreams; I know this first hand.

I am currently on my third year as a Miami Herald intern and the connections that I have made throughout my experience is priceless.

I went to career fairs and met employers. I wrote articles and learned from my mistakes. I experienced the necessity of accuracy within journalism and this probably would not have happened if I didn't have my internship.

I hear students asking all the time where they can work and learn their profession hands on, but I haven't been exposed to anything. Well, fear not, Career Services at Florida International University is here!

"Through conversations we have with employers, seniors struggling to find work, and FIU alumni, the most important thing you can have is first-hand, real-world experience when looking for a job. The best way to get that as a student is through an internship. It is the best thing that students can do for themselves if they want to have their dream job!" said Matthew Tanner, assistant director of internships in career services.

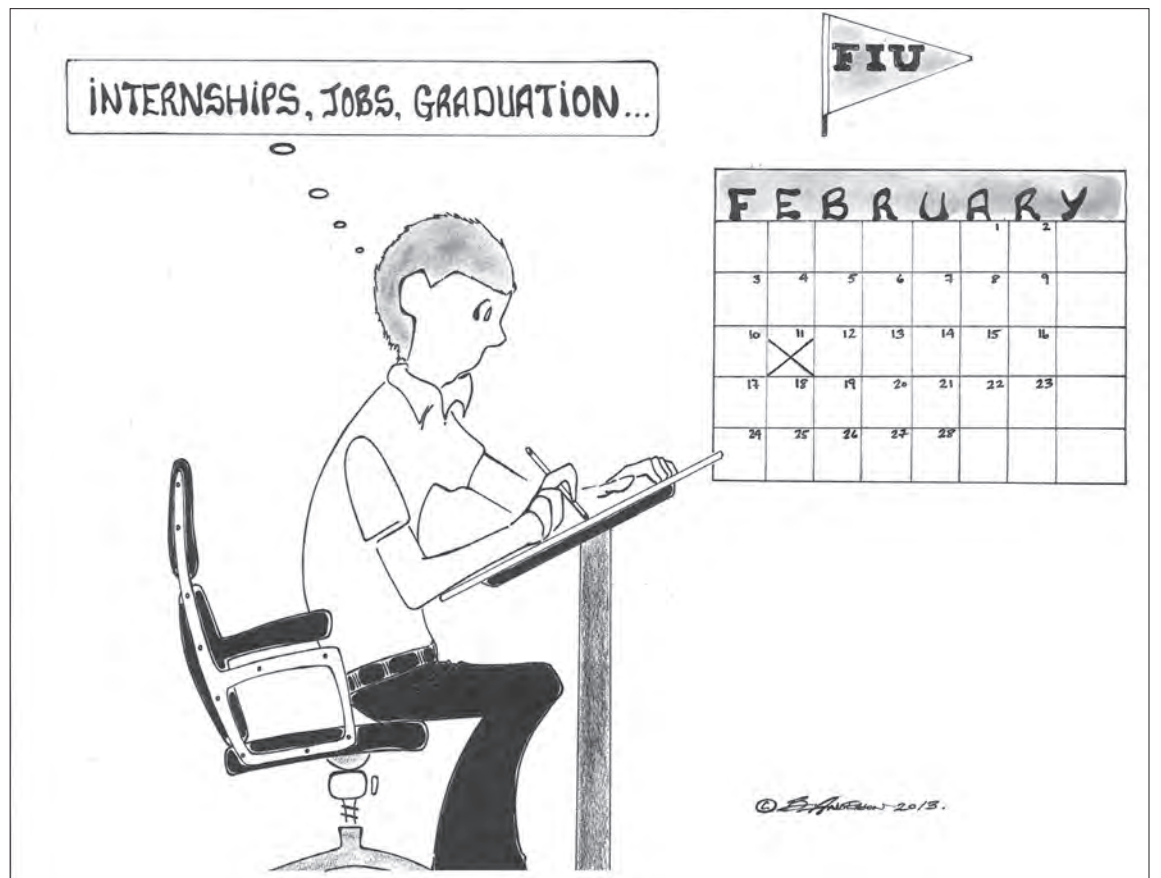


ILLUSTRATION BY BRIAN ANDRESON/THE BEACON

Students heed to his words of wisdom, please do not graduate without having done an internship.

"Internships are definitely something I plan on getting into in my four years here at FIU.

I want to have all my brownie points when looking for a job in

this economy," said freshmen Esmeralda Francis.

There is no excuse for us here at FIU with so many resources and having heard it a billion times how important internships are. Don't think about the pay because internships are the way to employment.

Freshmen, it isn't too early and seniors, it isn't too late!

For information on internships and how to find one contact Career Services at 305-348-2423 or email Matthew Tanner at mrtanner@fiu.edu.

-opinion@fiusm.com

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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Engineers create smallest logo ever

DANIEL URIA
Staff Writer

Bigger is better. At least, that's usually the convention when it comes to logos. Engineers at FIU's Advanced Materials Engineering Research Institute lab, however, have taken the opposite approach. The lab has created the smallest FIU logo ever made.

The microscopic FIU logo was micro-milled onto a piece of human hair through the use of a focused ion beam. The logo was created in an effort to demonstrate AMERI's capabilities with electron microscopes.

AMERI was the brainchild of former Dean of Engineering Vish Prasad and Kinzy Jones, the founding director in 2003. AMERI was created in order to consolidate resources from FIU's Modesto Maidique Campus and the Engineering Center in order to create an "open access research environment." This was done with the hopes of recruiting world-class researchers to the University and ultimately driving its nanotechnology research forward.

Neal Ricks, AMERI's manager, explained that the conception for the idea of the logo came after a request from the Engineering Dean's Office to produce images from the lab for posters. "I thought it would be good to give them images made

with the electron microscopes that would be indicative of the type of work being done at the Institute," said Ricks.

With this concept in place, the idea to "write" the FIU logo on a piece of hair came from Ali Hadjikhani, focused ion beam operator.

"That would serve the purpose of demonstrating our capability as well as providing an easily recognizable frame of reference," said Ricks.

With the idea in place, Ricks and Hadjikhani immediately gathered a piece of hair to place the logo on. Although the hair was almost half as thin as an average strand of human hair, Ricks states that Hadjikhani was able to place the logo quickly and with relative ease.

"The actual process of performing the milling was not at all labor intensive due to the automated nature of the instrument. Total run time was about two and a half minutes," said Ricks. "We are fortunate to have attracted such talent to our staff."

Although it was not necessarily the goal of AMERI to create the world's smallest FIU logo, it is not the first time they have used FIU symbols to demonstrate the power of the focused ion beam. Ricks referenced an early AMERI project in which they milled "FIU" in block letters onto the eye of a Lincoln penny.



COURTESY OF FIU'S AMERI LAB

The University's Ameri Lab was able to create the smallest FIU logo ever on a piece of hair through the use of a focused ion beam.

One of the most interesting aspects of this project is the irony of creating a logo so small that it can only be seen using a high-powered microscope. Ricks admits that they did not set out to be ironic.

"Although obvious in retrospect, I don't think any of us were thinking about it in that way at the time," said Ricks.

Although it was not inten-

tional, the irony is not lost on Ricks or the members of AMERI. He reflected back on an incident that occurred while presenting the Lincoln penny project to the Board of Directors.

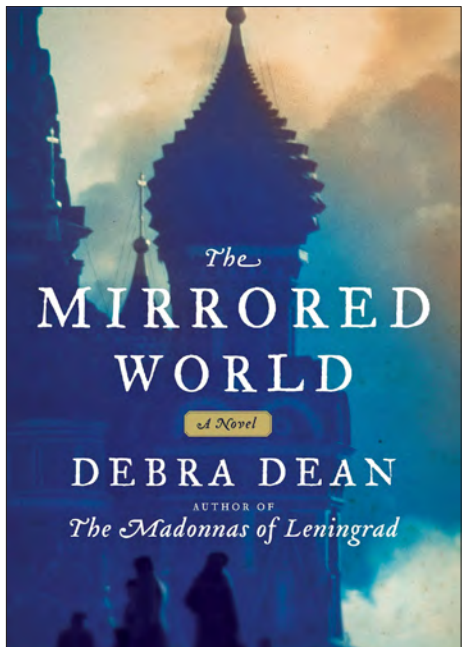
"As part of my presentation, I asked that they pass the penny around while I put up a slide showing the pattern we had made, which was only visible under high magnification," said

Ricks.

"After the presentation broke up, I realized my penny was not returned and someone had kept it. I thought, 'How will this person show off his memento, do they own an electron microscope?' I guess it shows that people no longer have any trouble believing in things they cannot see."

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Author Debra Dean to discuss new novel



COURTESY OF DEBRA DEAN

The plot of her novel is based on the Russian Saint Blessed Xenia of St. Petersburg.

BARNES & NOBLE AT FIU

Where: MMC bookstore
When: Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 7 p.m.
Price: Free and open to the public.
Refreshments will be served.

ALFREDO APARICIO
Staff Writer

"The novel is about survival. What it takes to survive and how people survive in the face of the terrible challenges they are presented," explained bestselling author Debra Dean, an assistant professor at the Department of English, who will be discussing and signing copies of her new novel, "The Mirrored World," at her book signing in the Modesto Maidique Campus' Barnes and Noble Bookstore.

The book signing is part of the Trade Department's initiative to make the space more readily available after speaking to professors and realizing they were unaware they could host their events for free at the bookstore.

"They just have to let us know, preferably three weeks ahead of time to order the books, and get the event ready, and we take care of it," explained Crystal Jarrouge, supervisor of the Trade Department. "If it's something on a larger scale we also have the option of hosting it in an auditorium or one of the ballrooms."

When Jarrouge saw Dean had a new novel, she reached out to her about doing a book signing on campus. "We have a campus author section at the bookstore and Barnes and Noble sends us a list of faculty members who have published so we can always have their books in stock," said Jarrouge.

The plot of the novel, based on the Russian Saint Blessed Xenia of St. Petersburg, first sprouted during Dean's initial research for her first novel, "The Madonnas of Leningrad," and

took hold of Dean even when she tried to write her second novel, which she set in her hometown of present day Seattle.

"I thought that it would be a great story for someone else because it's really hard to write about a culture and place that isn't your own, but the story kept coming back up as the deadline for my second book came closer," Dean said. "I think, as a writer, you don't choose your stories and you know what you have to write about by the stories that haunt you. This story haunted me."

The progress of writing the novel, however, became extensive, taking Dean at least four to five years, including research, to complete the novel, which then went through a major write when the finished product didn't turn out to Dean's satisfaction. "I got to the end and it turned out to be horrible. The story was severely flawed, a sentiment I suspected and my editor confirmed. At that point I had to go back and make it work," said Dean.

For Dean, the most important part of being a writer is just showing up and doing the work. "The process doesn't get any easier. You think it does but I'm beginning to suspect it's not. So much about writing depends on just showing up and, if you're lucky, you get inspired every once in a while."

The completed novel shares many of the same themes with Dean's first novel, including a protagonist who begins to question her own mental state.

"You don't always know what the novel's about until you are way into the story or you're

finished," said Dean. "Surprisingly, what I had learned writing my first novel wasn't helpful in writing Xenia's story, who was called a 'holy fool,' or someone that would presently be diagnosed as a schizophrenic."

With the exception of Xenia, Dean had to choose completely new names for the other characters, keeping in mind her intended audience. "The working title was actually 'Xenia' but it was problematic because it's not a name that people know how to pronounce and would have a hard time finding. I had to choose names my readers could at least learn to pronounce because I was writing a Russian novel for Americans."

The final title of the novel also presented its own set of challenges with Dean and her editor going back and forth with lists of proposed names, eventually settling on "The Mirrored World" partly in reference to Lake Svetloyar, which the characters visit in the novel, and describe as "glassy and round as a mirror."

"It's not as spot on evident as 'The Madonnas of Leningrad,' but it works," Dean said. "In some ways, the novel is about the parallels between the spiritual world and the material world and how they reflect each other, albeit poorly."

In the near future, Dean will be working on a work of nonfiction and will never set another novel in Russia. "Never say never, but I'm hoping if I put it out there in print, maybe this time it'll come true."

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Torch Awards: recognition and big winnings

IVAN ARDILA
Contributing Writer

Torchbearers are individuals that demonstrate leadership and inspire others.

When we think of them, perhaps we visualize the olympic games; however, people of this caliber exist in many different fields and deserve recognition that makes them justice, accordingly.

It is for that reason that the University's Alumni Association conceived the Torch Awards on the school's 25th anniversary, to honor the success of people who have done wonders with their profession and the community.

"Events like these, not only serve to honor those who are committed to serve, but also to inspire people who might follow their path in improving the quality of life of the community," said Jennifer Gomez, junior biology major.

This year's ceremony, the 12th entry in the tradition, will take place on Saturday, March 23, at JW Marriott Marquis Miami

hotel on 255 Biscayne Boulevard.

These awards are divided into five categories. The Charles E. Perry Young Alumni Visionary Award is given to those who have contributed

individuals who have built extraordinary careers. Our educators are also recognized in this gala; they are presented with the Outstanding Faculty Award to honor them for their achievements and

17 inductees that have continued to live up to the school's expectations of creating worlds ahead," said Paulina Muñoz, director of alumni special events and community outreach.

awarded this distinction.

Davalos, A clinical social worker, has worked extensively to help homeless children, to protect their educational rights and to expand awareness on their situation. Tomas, on the other hand, has excelled in the corporate world, and is currently the chairman of FIU's Global Entrepreneurship Center.

In addition to the recognition for the alumni and faculty, the gala will act as a fundraiser venue.

"A night, not only where we recognize these individuals as our ambassadors in the world, but where we raise funds for first generation scholarships and the creation of the Alumni Center," said Muñoz.

The Alumni Center is a future building that will be constructed at MMC as a home ground for alumni and visitors. It will be located in parking lot 4, adjacent to the Blue Garage.

"[The award ceremony] is also a good way to raise money to improve the institution that gave them the education to serve the community," said Sandra

Bernaza, senior engineering major.

Those who attend the gala will have a casino theme to look forward to.

"They'll be able to play in the casino and that way help us to raise the money," said Muñoz.

Black jack, poker and even a roulette are some of the games the casino fundraiser will have for attendees.

Donations can be redeemed for torch chips that can be used to play the games for a chance to win a multitude of raffle prizes from the School of Hospitality, the Biltmore Hotel, the Miami Dolphins and the JW Marriott Marquis Miami, among others.

"The casino theme sounds quite interesting; it seems like a fun and easy way to raise money and celebrate at the same time," said Bernaza.

For more information on the torch awards, visit fiualumni.com where you can learn more about the recipients of the awards, get tickets or make donations.

-life@fiusm.com

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Events like these, not only serve to honor those who are committed to serve, but also to inspire people who might follow their path in improving the quality of life of the community.

Jennifer Gomez
Junior
Biology

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greatly to their field during the early years of their careers. The Community Leadership Award is a recognition to alumni that have demonstrated outstanding service to the community. Outstanding Achievement is given to

the contributions to the University. Finally, The Distinguished Alumni Award-- an award in which the deans honor a remarkable individual per each school and college that comprise the University.

"This year we have

Usually, the number of inductees would be 16; however, this year there are two people who have been selected for the Community Leadership category.

In this rare occasion, both Beth Davalos '94 and Mike Tomas '90 will be

FIU

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FIU Panelists

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Q&A with students
All majors welcomed

Recruits ready to tackle the start of new era

PATRICK CHALVIRE
Contributing Writer

The first Wednesday of every February brings a wave of excitement to college football programs every year.

High school football players, after months of speculation, officially pledge their allegiance to a university in what we now call National Signing Day. The new player enters a chapter in his life and for some programs like FIU, it also marks the beginning of a new era.

Xavier Hines from Belen Jesuit Preparatory School and Christopher Flaig from Vero Beach are just two of 18 recruits who signed with FIU on Feb. 6.

Choosing to do so wasn't an easy process.

Weeks before signing, FIU named Ron Turner as the new head football coach. Seeing as how former Head Coach Mario Cristobal originally recruited Hines and Flaig, there was doubt for both on whether FIU was still the go-to school.

Hines, along with Flaig, had already verbally committed to FIU long before Cristobal was fired.

"It was just a stressful process," Hines said of the coaching uncertainty at FIU. "Committing so early, a lot of schools back away from you, but I was still OK with it. I still would have chosen FIU



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Xavier Hines from Belen Jesuit Preparatory School, far right, is one of 18 commitments headed to FIU.

unless they took longer to choose a coach."

Both Hines and Flaig's scholarships were honored when Turner arrived, which helped ease the process as well. However, Turner and his staff benefitted from the warm South Florida weather, too.

"I mostly picked FIU because I don't like the cold," Hines said. "Waking up in the morning and practicing in the snow, I'm just not really used to that."

Before signing with FIU, Hines had also been in contact with now former defensive backs coach Jeff Popovich, who was fired Wednesday afternoon. This left Hines with some doubts.

"I'm not sure," Hines said. "I'm not OK with it because I was close to coach [Cristobal], but I understand it's a business thing. Not too sure if it was something he did, but I'm guessing it was bad."

Though FIU may only be a

block away from Hines' high school, some other commitments don't necessarily have that luxury. For Flaig, it takes a two and a half hour road trip to get to his future school. The offensive lineman had FIU at the top of his list since his junior year of high school.

Flaig, who committed early on with Cristobal, made the decision to reopen his recruiting process because he wasn't sure who would take the reins at FIU.

"I had to look out for my best interest," Flaig said. "I visited FAU but I knew the whole time there that I liked FIU a lot more."

For many other recruits, it became a matter of being convinced to play for someone who just received the head coaching job a few weeks earlier. Luckily for Flaig, Turner did just that.

"I spent some time with Coach Turner. I really liked him," Flaig said. "I just knew FIU is where I wanted to be from the beginning."

Offensive line is a position in need of improvement coming into the new season. FIU lost a handful of senior linemen last season and Flaig knows that opens up an opportunity to start, something not too many young players get the chance to do due to lack of size.

During Wednesday's press conference, Turner addressed the possibility of Flaig being a starter at long snapper. Turner had also previously mentioned to Flaig that he had the talent to come in right away and start but that no starting position would just be handed to him.

"No expectations," Flaig said. "I'm just going to do whatever coach tells me to do. I'll keep working out and working hard and just do what I can for the betterment of the team."

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Panthers chilled in road trip to Northeast

STEVEN ROWELL
Contributing Writer

The tennis team returned home from its trips to New Haven, Conn., and New York City empty-handed.

The Panthers suffered defeats to No. 24 Yale University on Feb. 1 and to Columbia University on Feb. 3 dropping FIU's record to 0-3 on the season.

The scores for both matches were one-sided with the Panthers losing 6-1 to Yale and being shut out by Columbia 7-0.

"We fought, but I don't think we competed well on all six courts," Head Coach Katarina Petrovic said. "I did see a better team effort in the second match [against Columbia]. I always stress that every position needs to give 100 percent effort."

In their match against Yale, out of the six singles and three doubles matches, the Panthers picked up one victory in singles and one in doubles. The duo of senior Rita Maisak and freshman Aleksandra Trifunovic picked up their second doubles win of the season, but it was Yale that won two of the three doubles matches to claim the doubles point.

FIU's lone point in the match came from freshman Carlotta Orlando in her singles match victory over Yale's Hanna Yu.

The Panthers trip to the Big Apple, delivered not so big results for FIU. Even though the final score was lopsided, it was not completely indicative of how competitive some of the matches were. Despite losing all three doubles matches, the duo

of junior Giulietta Boha and Orlando put up a better fight against Columbia losing 8-4 compared to their 8-1 output against Yale.

"We can only get better from here," Boha said. "They were both really good teams. Against Columbia we had really tight matches. Of course, we weren't happy with the results, but even though we lost 7-0, I don't think it shows how the whole match really was."

In singles play, Orlando lost her first match of the season in two close sets 7-5, 7-5. FIU was able to push Columbia to three sets in two other singles matches. Trifunovic took set number one in her match, but Crystal Leung bounced back by winning the next two sets.

Boha, who hasn't had much success this season in singles play, managed to push Columbia's Lauren Stratmen to three sets. Boha claimed set number one, but in the end it was Stratman who took set number two and the third tie-breaker set to claim the doubles match. Despite the loss for Boha, the junior feels it's a confidence booster for her, as Boha put up a better fight against Columbia than her 6-1, 6-0 loss in her singles match at Yale.

The Panthers won't return to action until Feb. 15 when they take the trip to Mobile, Ala., where they will play in their first conference game of the season against University of South Alabama. The team plans on taking full advantage of the extra time off.

"We are just working on consistency and coach has a good plan for practice,"



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Rita Maisak lost her doubles match against Yale on Feb. 1. The Belarus native also celebrated her birthday the day before while in Connecticut.

Maisak said.

After the three straight losses, Petrovic already has an idea of what the team needs to focus on moving forward.

"We are working a little more on conditioning, and now that we have set teams for

doubles we are working on getting them adapted and getting better at doubles," Petrovic said. "The main thing is, I need to see more energy from the team."

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Freshman achieving dreams and exceeding expectations

OSCAR BALDIZON
Contributing Writer

Danielle Albright has been around a swimming pool since she can remember.

Swimming out of Wharton High School in Tampa, Fla., Albright was a senior captain and recipient of her teams' MVP and Coaches award. She was also a district and regional champion as well as a state finalist.

After leading FIU to a victory in its final dual meet of the season on Jan. 26, the Sun Belt Conference named Albright the Swimmer of the Week and thrust her into the conference spotlight as a freshman to be feared for years to come.

"It was very shocking because I'm on the pool deck with great swimmers such as Sonia Perez and Johanna Gustafsdottir, who have won that award before, and I don't consider myself at their level just yet," Albright said.

Coming into this season, Albright was considered a great recruit with a bright future but has exceeded expectations in her first college swimming season. After receiving her SBC award and becoming a member of the 4 by 800 yard relay team that will try to make Nationals this year, she has established herself as a key competitor for the Panthers.

But it wasn't always just awards and good times for the freshmen who majors in business and minors in marketing.

"The beginning of the year was a shock to all the freshmen's systems because none of us had trained that hard before, but it's amazing how quickly you see results if you stick to [Head Coach Randy Horner's] season-long program and give it your all," Albright said.

Her work ethic and dedication this year hasn't gone unnoticed by the

coaching staff either.

"Dani is getting better and better every single day and every single meet," Horner said. "We have no idea what's she's capable of and really, neither does she. She's really starting to breakthrough and who knows how good she is going to be at the end of the season."

Both Albright's older brother and sister swam throughout high school, which is how she got into the sport at 3 years old and started dreaming about competing in college swimming.

Her father ran marathons his entire life – which may have influenced Albright's endurance in her 200-meter speed.

Albright is also a certified swim instructor, keeping her around the pool for most of her time. But she also enjoys other sports such as volleyball and soccer, which she also competed in during her time in high school.

"Swimming is definitely harder because with other sports you always have that interaction with your teammates and coaches whereas with swimming it's a little bit tougher because it's all in your own head and you're staring at the bottom of a pool for the majority of practice," Albright said.

With the conference championships coming up in less than two weeks, it's safe to say this young competitor will be ready to show everyone in the SBC what they will be dealing with for another three years.

"We can see the great recruits coming in to visit and it's crazy to think about where coach Horner will lead the program to by the time I'm a senior," Albright said, "He has already improved the program so much in just two years so it's exciting to think about the future."

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I GOT IT!



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

The baseball team has been practicing every week, preparing for their season opener on Feb. 15. The team opens up against College World Series participant Stony Brook University.

Ron Turner's second son joins FIU football

EDUARDO ALMAGUER
Sports Director

Football Head Coach Ron Turner hired Morgan Turner, his son, to work with tight ends and offensive tackles. Morgan Turner comes over from Stanford where he was an offensive assistant from 2011-12.

"Morgan is an outstanding coach and has great knowledge working with offenses," Turner said in a press release. "His experience... will be invaluable as we work with our student-athletes in learning and executing our offensive planning."

With Morgan Turner joining the FIU staff, Ron Turner now has both sons working under him. The Panthers hired Cameron Turner almost three weeks ago as the quarterbacks and wide receivers coach.

LOOK AT ME NOW

Strong safety Jonathan Cyprien and defensive end Tourek Williams were extended invitations to the annual National Football League scouting combine in Indianapolis, Ind., from Feb. 20-26 where players showcase their talent in front of coaches, general managers, and scouts.

There will be 333 prospects and the two Panthers make up two-thirds of the prospects going from the Sun Belt Conference. They are the fourth and fifth FIU players to be invited to the combine. Chandler Williams and Antwon Barnes attended in 2007, and T.Y. Hilton in 2012. All three were subsequently drafted.

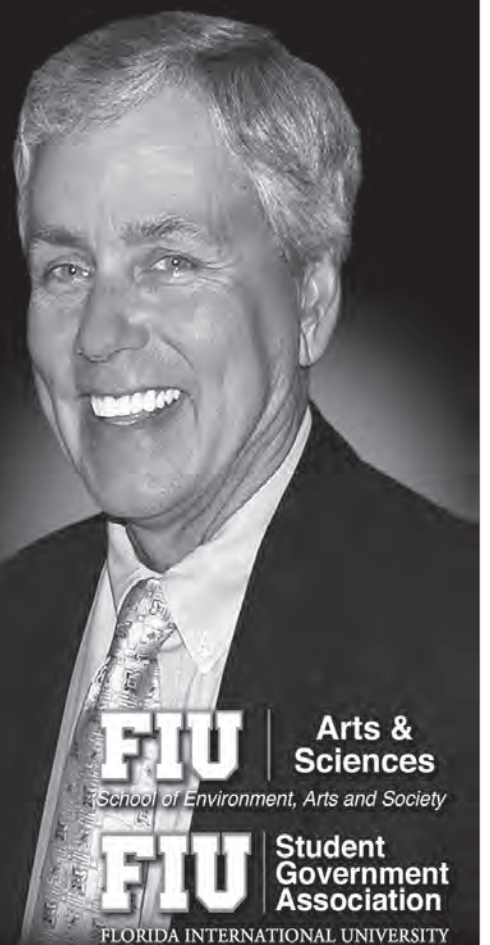
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Student Government Association Biscayne Bay Campus Lecture Series 2013

An evening with Carl Hiaasen

Bestselling novelist and journalist Carl Hiaasen is among South Florida's most vital natural resources. His comic style - Hiaasenesque - combines thrilling plot lines, blunder-prone schemes, headstrong men and women, corrupt politicians, and a loving nod to the natural landscape of South Florida. In his hilarious keynotes, Hiaasen shows you his America: absurd, seedy, and oddly beautiful.

FEBRUARY 25th, 2013
6:30PM - WUC Theatre
FIU - Biscayne Bay Campus



FIU | Arts & Sciences
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Division of Student Affairs

Presented by Student Government Association at Biscayne Bay. Qualified individuals with a disability requesting an accommodation to attend this event must make the request no less than five working days in advance by calling 305.919.5804 or TTY via FRS 1.800.955.8771. For additional event information please call 305.919.5680 or visit WUC 301.

RUFFIN' THE BAY



SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

Along the Biscayne Bay Campus' nature trail are a few openings into the bay. Louisa Solari, a resident who lives near BBC, walks her dogs down this trail twice a day. She throws a twig out into the water to play with her labrador, Luke.

Whistleblower Tour discusses issues facing businesses today

MICHAEL ORTEGA
Staff Writer

With the rise of corruption in business, the only solution is to seek out the few who can stand up for what is right. The American Whistleblower Tour made its return to FIU on Feb. 7 to shed some light on this situation.

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication, College of Law, School of Accounting and The Government Accountability Project brought the program to the University.

"It has been great to come back to FIU. It is always a pleasure to see and get to know so many bright minds," said Louis Clark, president and corporate and financial accountability director of the GAP. "FIU always brings great questions and knowledge to these conferences."

The American Whistleblower Tour has been touring city to city educating the public about the phenomenon of whistle blowing, its benefits and all of its adversity. According to the GAP, every year thousands of workers witness corruption on the job. Most employees remain silent, but a brave few choose to speak up about this corruption by blowing the whistle on this injustice.

"Standing up to the boss is never easy, but you have to judge what is wrong and right. Most people want to say something but are scared of the repercussions that come from blowing the whistle," said Clark. "Always remember you have help from the outside, others will want to help when you bring the story to light."

The tour also speaks about the six steps of whistle blowing and the proper way of doing so in a business location.

Some of the notable accomplishments by whistle blowers are the White House wrongly editing climate change documents and potential problems with pink slime in American beef, Clark said.

The tour had two featured speakers Eric Ben-Artzi, a former risk analyst at Deutsche Bank and Michael Winston, a former high-level executive at Countrywide Financial.

Artzi spoke about discovering detailed evidence of multi-billion dollar securities viola-

tions which formed from the bank's failure to report the value of its credit derivative portfolio.

Bringing these callous accusations to the public was harder than imagined and even led to his termination of his job.

"I am not here to tell you to become a whistleblower, but to say something if you see something," said Artzi. "Many students stated, 'Why speak up if you have so many hardships from speaking up?' But we came to state some of the brighter sides of this. You have to remember this is the right thing to do."

Winston spoke of discovering that Countrywide Home Loans and Bank of America were approving large loans for people with no jobs and very small incomes.

He also spoke of how he has fought this battle over five years and how it has affected him and his family. The problems have even escalated to the point of him and his family being followed and being forced to move more than once.

"I never regretted what I did because, I knew it wasn't right what they were doing to so many people. It would damage the clients for the rest of their lives," said Winston. "What Eric and I did was not being a whistleblower, but doing our jobs."

The show ended with a Q&A for the audience of students, faculty and media personnel. After the conference, students expressed their opinions about the tour.

"I cannot believe some of the things that have happened to these men, who stood up for what is right," said sophomore psychology major Kayla Nahir. "I am glad to see that there are still good people out there fighting for what is right. I am willing to stand for what is right if I have to."

However, not all students feel as passionately as Nahir does.

Sophomore law student Alma Cruz said, "I agree what these men did was the right thing but it's hard to imagine too many other people doing that. It seems to put so much stress on someone," Cruz said. "Things of this nature will probably never disappear and may get out of hand one day."

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University discusses genetically modifying humanity

SELIMA HUSSAIN
Staff Writer

Childbirth is a miracle that, for many years, seemed to be a precious, intimate moment shared between a mother and father. Babies cannot be created without this intimacy.

Or can they?

New technology and research about genetically engineering babies is emerging at a fast pace. On June 28, 2012, 30 genetically modified babies were conceived in the United States for the first time.

According to Donna Gates, a health expert and renowned author of "The Body Ecology Diet," genetically engineering babies has been made possible through new findings about the mitochondria, or DNA-filled "powerhouse" in a woman's ovaries.

Healthy, functional mitochondria is essential to bearing children, and infertile women typically have a lack of it. By

implanting mitochondria donated from a fertile woman into the egg cells of an infertile woman, scientists have made it possible for infertile women to bear children. A genetically engineered child will have three sets of DNA: one from the biological mother, one from the donor, and one from the father.

Goutam Mandal, assistant professor in the College of Medicine who specializes in molecular biology, believes that modifying a woman's mitochondria in order to create life is not genetically engineering a baby.

"The mitochondria is an independent genome body. It has little influence; it's a small modification. I don't see that as unethical. Directly influencing the nuclear genome [to change a baby's characteristics] would be genetically engineering a baby."

While modern technology has made it possible for infertile women to bear children, many

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You should give the child the right to grow up to do what they want to do.

Jamil Charles
Senior
Biology

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fear that these rapid advancements could change the way childbirth occurs in the future. More specifically, some fear that using growing technology to purposely change a baby's appearance or intelligence levels will become a norm.

Andres Perez, a sophomore majoring in biology, believes that genetically modifying babies for physical or intellectual purposes

is wrong.

"Even though I'm studying science, I'm Catholic, and it's against my religion. I agree with [genetic engineering] if it's used to prevent diseases, but using it to change [a baby's] appearance and hair color...that should be left untouched."

Jamil Charles, a senior majoring in biology, agrees with

Perez.

"I don't think it's right to pre-plan what your child is like," said Charles. "You should give the child the right to grow up to do what they want to do."

Mandal disagrees.

"I don't see any issue in genetically engineering a child. It should be my decision. If I decide to have a genetically engineered baby, that's between me, my baby, and the doctor."

In regards to genetically modifying a baby for an infertile woman to conceive, Charles believes there are "two sides to every story."

"Having the technology to do this...it's not like you're killing anyone. The only bad side is the consequence of the kid itself. It's too early to know all of the side effects, but if there are no side effects for the child, I don't see a problem."

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