Study Abroad

Prepare for an educational voyage

By Vilmarie Estrella
Contributing Writer

Studying abroad is something many students dream of doing at some point in their college career.

Thanks to university studying abroad programs, that dream is now a reality. According to Christine Jarchow, Director of the Office of International Studies, 308 FIU students are abroad for Summer A and Summer C semesters alone. That number is bound to increase once the Fall Semester begins.

“Students will no longer be able to lean from the second floor balcony. Right) Construction takes place inside the enclosed pit for the balcony. (Left) Pit is scheduled to re-open mid-August. Another option besides enclosing the pit was found during Summer B term. FIU offers programs in over 15 countries including Italy, Mexico, Australia, England, China and Brazil. According to Jarchow, the most popular program is at Salamanca, Spain because of high enrollment in Spanish courses and because it’s one of the most established programs — it’s been running for over 12 years.

“[The] FIU program was excellent for me,” said Karin Carranza, an FIU alumna who studied in Angers, France. “I was able to interact with the culture and I really want to learn French. The FIU program was excellent for me,” said Karin Carranza, an FIU alumna who studied in Angers, France. “I really want to learn French. The FIU program was excellent for me,” said Karin Carranza, an FIU alumna who studied in Angers, France. “I really want to learn French. The FIU program was excellent for me,” said Karin Carranza, an FIU alumna who studied in Angers, France. “I really want to learn French. The FIU program was excellent for me,” said Karin Carranza, an FIU alumna who studied in Angers, France. “I really want to learn French. The FIU program was excellent for me,” said Karin Carranza, an FIU alumna who studied in Angers, France. “I really want to learn French. The FIU program was excellent for me,” said Karin Carranza, an FIU alumna who studied in Angers, France. “I really want to learn French. The FIU program was excellent for me,” said Karin Carranza, an FIU alumna who studied in Angers, France. “I really want to learn French. The FIU program was excellent for me,” said Karin Carranza, an FIU alumna who studied in Angers, France. “I really want to learn French. The FIU program was excellent for me,” said Karin Carranza, an FIU alumna who studied in Angers, France. “I really want to learn French. The FIU program was excellent for me,” said Karin Carranza, an FIU alumna who studied in Angers, France. “I really want to learn French. The FIU program was excellent for me,” said Karin Carranza, an FIU alumna who studied in Angers, France. “I really want to learn French. The FIU program was excellent for me,” said Karin Carranza, an FIU alumna who studied in Angers, France. “I really want to learn French. The FIU program was excellent for me,” said Karin Carranza, an FIU alumna who studied in Angers, France. “I really want to learn French. The FIU program was excellent for me,” said Karin Carranza, an FIU alumna who studied in Angers, France. “I really want to learn French. The FIU program was excellent for me,” said Karin Carranza, an FIU alumna who studied in Angers, France. “I really want to learn French. The FIU program was excellent for me,” said Karin Carranza, an FIU alumna who studied in Angers, France. “I really want to learn French. The FIU program was excellent for me,” said Karin Carranza, an FIU alumna who studied in Angers, France. “I really want to learn French.

During the Summer B term, FIU offers programs in over 15 countries including Italy, Mexico, Australia, England, China and Brazil. According to Jarchow, the most popular program is at Salamanca, Spain because of high enrollment in Spanish courses and because it’s one of the most established programs — it’s been running for over 12 years.

“[One is] looking for a cultural experience, my advice is to get out of Paris and other big cities and go to a province where Americans aren’t a dime a dozen,” said Peter Machonis, director of summer study abroad in Angers, France.

Application deadlines lie between February and March, so all the research and most of the preparation should be done before then. Ideally, students should plan their study abroad experience a year in advance, Jarchow said.

Money is a major factor when it comes to studying abroad. Programs are costly and, on average, can range anywhere from $2,500 to $5,000. Applying for scholarships, getting a loan and opening a savings account a year or two in advance can help ease the load when the deadlines approach.

“I did not let money become an issue,” said Ana Valeria Almendros, majoring in nursing. “Thankfully, I received financial aid and scholarships, and my dad will give me the rest.”

Before seeing an adviser, students can research the programs through the Internet to become familiar with the classes offered abroad and the prices of the program. If the student finds that there are not enough choices at FIU, programs with other universities as a transfer student can be an option.

“Coming from [the] University of Florida, the whole application process was very long and tedious,” said Margaret Truitt, studying in Angers, France during Summer B. “However, I have no doubt that it will be worth it and I’m excited about living the European lifestyle this summer.”
The construction delay of the new Biscayne Bay Campus gym is finally over, but students will have to sweat it out just a little while longer before the grand opening.

An update from Gregory Olson, Senior Director of Student Affairs at BBC, assured that the problem that caused the delay for several months has been rectified. After construction began in August of 2004, an inaccurate design of the underground structure of pipes and communication lines forced the development to be postponed.

What has changed since the delay is the first budget of $1.7 million for the construction—a sum taken from the school’s trust fund reserved for school property improvement.

“The cost to complete [the gym] has increased,” Olson said.

The original 2,400 square-foot gym, located on the third floor of the Wolfe Center, currently has 33 different types of cardio machines, 35 free weight stations and over 4,000 pounds of dumbbells.

However, since students have requested more cardio, free-weight and resistance equipment, the new gym will have plenty of state of the art machines to burn off those extra pounds.

However, a few of the 45 machines available for use at the new gym will be refurbished ones from the current gym.

In addition, the original blueprint of the 10,000 square foot facility, which will offer six offices, a conference room, dance studio, locker rooms and an aerobics room, was not altered despite the delay of the project.

Once the doors open for the new gym, students could face new membership fees. Student Affairs will increase the price each semester for non-students, while students registered for classes will get to work out for free. If the fee sounds too pricey, then guests can purchase a one-day pass for three dollars. Although Olson explained that it is not likely that the new gym will be completed by the expected date of January 2006, students are just glad that the construction has resumed. If the price is right, senior and frequent user Fabiola Saint-Jean is looking forward to working out at the new gym long after graduation.

“The cost to complete [the gym] has increased,” Olson said.
Professor creates program to halt hackers

By BETSY MARTINEZ
BBC Editor

After working eight years to solve a math problem that has been overwhelming mathematicians since the early 1800s, FIU professor Frantz Olivier now surgery with relief knowing he has accomplished just that.

For years, mathematicians have been unable to factor large numbers. Olivier, who teaches Business Calculus and College Algebra at the Biscayne Bay Campus, has developed a computer program utilizing a mathematical formula that is able to factor numbers over 2,000 digits long.

“That’s about five pages,” Olivier said.

According to Olivier, the relevance of solving this ancient math problem in modern times is to revolutionize the banking industry by lowering fraud and increasing the number of customers.

In theory, the computer program he developed would send an encrypted message from the bank to the customer via e-mail. The original message from the bank would be a series of numbers and the message the customer receives will be the factors of those numbers.

The program, which remains unnamed, will serve as the base program for the process. Olivier hopes to develop other programs in the future.

“The reason you can do this because of cryptography. You can encode words with numbers, and if you can factor the numbers you can actually decompose the message,” said Olivier, a graduate of Columbia University.

According to Olivier, the program used by banks today sends the customer the original series of numbers, thus making it easier for hackers to tap into the system.

“With the current program, there’s a potential to access your information by tapping into your information,” he said.

Olivier appeared at the Hawaii International Conference held September 13, 2004 in front of 20 mathematicians to present his math solution during a 30-minute paper session and a 90-minute workshop.

“The Purgation Equation,” which Olivier created, is the main process for finding factors because, true to its name, it purges all the wrong solutions and signals out the right one. The program also uses the quadratic formula and a number of mathematical proofs.

“Hackers go through the backdoor and try to access different accounts by factoring. They don’t know this method of factoring so they do trial and error until something with the right time pattern said,” Olivier said.

Math students will also benefit from this program because once it is available for mass consumption, it can be installed into a computer or graphing calculator and used to find factors of large numbers.

“He’s a great teacher, and he’s a great job,” said Robert Holmes, a tutor majoring in business administration who is currently taking Calculus for Business with professor Olivier.

Olivier is in the process of writing a grant application that will aid FIU students with scholarships and facilitate future math research projects.

“Mathematics is not a forgiving field. You have to practice. Don’t let past mistakes prevent you from studying the field you like,” said Olivier.

Professor creates program to halt hackers

HACKERS BEWARE: Olivier created a formula that will revolutionize the banking industry.

By DIANA SEMPERE
Contributing Writer
The Beacon recently sat down with Natisha Jean-Baptiste, the Biscayne Bay Campus president, to discuss changes, improvements in the communication system and events expected from SGA this year.

Q: What are your plans for SGA at BBC?

My first plan is getting our presence out there. I want students to know who the rest of my cabinet is. We’re looking for new faces. We’re starting a new intern program and I’m welcoming people to come and talk to me. I might be busy, but I’m always willing to work with people.

Q: What do you plan on doing different from your predecessor?

We are primarily the same. I have the same focus, but with a touch of my own creativity. My strategies for approaching things are more ‘out of the box.’

Q: What was your campaign strategy and what do you believe helped you win the presidency?

The biggest part of my win was that I ran for Homecoming Princess. I was already in SGA and students knew I was an hard worker.

Q: What is your major and do you feel that it has helped you during your campaign?

My major is TV management. It helped me be like a TV personality, always being confident with enough energy to be in the spotlight.

Q: What do you feel needs the most change at BBC?

The internal aspect of things, as far as the way people are treated. We don’t just need to be unified with University Park; we must be unified up here as well. Administrators and students need to get along and respect each other. We must support each other and go to each other’s events and support each organization. That’s essential in establishing a unified campus.

Q: When should students expect to see changes at BBC?

Immediately! We’ve already started planning things. During Summer B you’ll start to see SGA events. We’re also going forward to Welcome Week in the fall. We’re going to be doing an event called Got Questions? From 10 to 3, and for all new students. We’ll have the opportunity to ask SGA members various questions they might have. It will take place around the cashier’s office, on the first two days of Fall semester and the first two days of Spring semester.

Q: How do you feel about the Biscayne Landings construction site, and do you think it will affect BBC students?

I look at that everyday and I think it’s an opportunity for us and we need to use it to our advantage. I’m hoping it will attract more students to come live at FIU. I think that the school they’re going to build is another opportunity for us; I’d like to introduce the idea of establishing a day care at BBC. It will be very convenient for parents who attend classes.

Q: What can students expect from the new BBC gym?

It’s going to be very nice. There’s a lot of money going into it. As far as I know, there will be more space and more equipment.

Q: Are there any future plans for construction at BBC, if so, what role would you play in that?

Well, I know work has begun on the marine biology building. I’ve looked at the plans; it’ll be one of our nicest buildings.

Q: The current cafeteria for BBC does not offer much variety of food, what will the new facility offer to students?

We’re deciding now if we’re going to stick to ARAMARK, which are the [current] vendors. We want to start a meal plan like the one at University Park.

Q: What characteristics of yourself do you believe helped you earn your position in SGA?

My openness; I’m open to meeting with people. Keeping a open mind is a challenge for some people, but it definitely isn’t for me.

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STAR WARS
DOES THIS EPIC STORY LIVE UP TO THE HYPE?

By GERMAN SILVERIO
Staff Writer

“Star Wars” sucks, and I make this claim unapologetically. I have seen the movies, read the plots and understand all the characters and the roles they are supposed to play. It still sucks. But don’t get me wrong, the “Star Wars” movies, especially the last three to be released, were very much eye-candy for the viewer; the special effects were amazing and much originality was needed to create some of the landscapes that appear in the movies. Yet when it comes to things such as the plot, characters, dialogue and acting, I think it’s generous to say that in this respect, the movies were mediocre at best.

This summer, we finally got to see the final piece of the Star Wars franchise, “Episode III: Revenge of the Sith,” and the anticipation of a surprisingly global audience for this movie was more than what I had ever witnessed for any other movie, be it for any of the “Lord of the Rings” or “The Matrix” movies. It was capitalism, Americanization and pop culture at its best. The saga, extending almost three decades, was now gloriously coming to an end.

“Star Wars” fans from all over the world made lines, some of which extended for miles, just to be one of those first people to see the movie. Enthusiasts from Hamburg, Germany to Lima, Peru were dressing up to go to the theater with their equally-costumed friends to partake in this mas-sive mini-culture.

The movie, which was released worldwide by May 19, reeled in $70.7 million in the United States alone, while in the rest of the world, a staggering $504 million. Isn’t it unbelievable, all this, and for a movie with no real plot? Director George Lucas didn’t succeed in creating a master piece, he succeeded in creating the equivalent of crack for popular culture. Like student Sean Nicolle said, who is majoring in psychology, “The whole thing has become commercialized.” This in itself is the only conceivable reason to explain the frenzy that arises every time one of these movies comes out.

Anyone who takes an objective look at any of the films will realize how lacking they are in essence, making them very superficial, albeit amusing pictures.

The films, which are not produced to become Oscar-winners but rather crowd-pleas-ers, tend to have simple, linear plots which don’t make any movie particularly interesting to watch. Instead, they all try to blend in to supplement the greater theme and plot of the franchise.

What one is left with are child-like stories that make up a bigger one. Characterization isn’t a goal of the “Star Wars” series, when most characters lack any significant depth and tend to be somewhat shallow.

In the case of Anakin Skywalker, or Darth Vader, an attempt is made to give him a complex nature and to inspire in the viewer some sympathy for him, but to be frank, only a “Star Wars” aficionado would find the failure of a protagonist to be believable.

The dialogue is equally unconvincing, owing gratitude in part to the fact that the movies are so riddled with stupid catch-phrases (such as “I have a bad feeling about this”) that anyone earnestly giving these movies a shot will find himself turned off by how ridiculous the conversations between charac-ters can get. It becomes more than obvious that the actors are simply repeating memorized lines and not actually engaging each other in any real dialogue.

Finally, when it comes to acting, I admit, I’m not erudite in this art; suffice it to say that I remained un unnoved by the performance delivered in any of the franchise’s films.

I’ve seen the movies, not with the intentions of downplaying them, but because I would enjoy watching them. In this same way, I’m sure I would enjoy crack, but that doesn’t mean that crack is a good thing. Film- wise, the “Star Wars” franchise is a bad product and the mini-culture that has derived from its ridiculousness.


See what movies like these have to offer, and compare them to what’s been mistakenly labeled as a masterpiece. You’ll get the picture.
Graduating senior dispenses advice to incoming freshman

So far you have accomplished nothing. You’ve gotten into college, congratulations, but this is just the beginning.

By JUAN CARLOS PEREZ Contributing Writer

In a little under two months, my years as an FIU student will come to an end. I still remember my first year as a transfer student walking around campus and calmly approaching students to ask the question “Excuse me, where can I find PC 214?” Four years later, I’m now being asked that same question almost daily.

I look back on my time as a Golden Panther and can’t help but wish I’d listened to some of the advice I received when I first walked through the doors of the Graham Center. Had I not been so stubborn and presumptuous (I thought at 18 that I had figured it out), I would’ve definitely tried to pay closer attention to what my parents, teachers and peers had to say.

As a graduating senior, I feel that sharing the wisdom I’ve gained over the last four years is the least I can do for all incoming students.

To begin with, it is very important to understand something that probably no one has ever told you in your entire life – so far, you have accomplished nothing. You’ve gotten into college, congratulations, but this is just the beginning.

It’s not just enough to get to this level, but to graduate with a degree and go out into the world a better person for society, should be your goal.

Whether it takes you four years, or you adhere to the Van Wilder motto “Don’t be a fool, stay in school,” doesn’t matter as long as when you walk away from FIU, you are better prepared to have a successful life.

As far as choosing a major goes, unless you are 100 percent sure that you know what you want to do with your life, and only a small minority do, it is simply better to get your core courses out of the way and decide later.

I promise that although you may think you know yourself now, your idea of who you are will change as you progress through your education.

I started off as a major in psychology before realizing that there was no way that I was going to retake Statistics! I’ve since switched my major to English. Trust me when I say it’s better to keep your options open than to jump into a major without really knowing if that’s what you want to do.

It’s a common thing for students to feel very confused during these four years of school. Don’t stress yourself out by thinking, “Oh my God, I’m the only one of all my friends that has no idea what they’re doing with their lives” because nothing could be further from the truth. The majority of people around you are experiencing the same exact thing.

If you think that you might want to be a lawyer, there are organizations on campus such as Phi Alpha Delta that can help you get a feel for what a career in law might be like. You might also want to try and get an internship with a company dealing with your planned major.

The experience definitely won’t hurt and it’ll look great on your resume.

If you realize that what you’ve been studying isn’t for you, don’t fret about changing majors. It’s better to change your major and stay in school a little bit further from the truth. The career that you’re not happy with and then experience a mid-life crisis somehow down the road.

Another thing you need to remember is not to forget to live. College is supposed to be fun. You should look back on your time at FIU and remember it being a pleasurable experience.

There is nothing wrong with partying hard with friends, however, make sure you’re doing it responsibly.

If you’re drinking, make sure you’re not driving. A DUI on your record will close a lot of doors you haven’t even yet knocked on.

Also, recognize when it’s time to stop, because although drinking games can be fun, they can easily turn into bad experiences. If you’re new to this city and don’t know many people, there are tons of organizations on campus that you can join that will allow you to make new acquaintances that may end up becoming some of your best friends.

Whether it’s a fraternity or sorority (don’t pay attention to those who tell you that you’re paying for friends) or some other organization such as Pan- ther Rage or Student Council, it’s good to be involved on campus somehow. You’ll meet people, you’ll work on your net-working skills and you’ll feel like you’re a vital part of something.

Whatever you do, don’t become a Graham Center zombie. Go to class and then find something else to do with your time. You’ll find that if you become a “GC rat,” you’ll end up becoming Pollo Tropical’s best customer, gain weight and never do anything productive (people have extended their time at FIU by three or four years by sitting in Grace’s Grill doing nothing all day).

Believe people when they tell you about the “Freshman 15.” It is not a myth. My friends and I feel ashamed of ourselves when we look at our high school pictures. There’s so much down time in college that if you don’t find things to do with your time, you end up eating more than usual. So take advantage of the gym (it’s free), bring food from home and keep yourself busy.

It’s mind blowing, really, just that few years from now you’ll be entering the real world. It doesn’t seem like a reality to you now, just as it didn’t seem like one to me when I was 18, but now that I just finished applying for graduation, I know that it is really it.

So take your time, listen to what others have to say, believe it or not, you might use some of the advice that people give you and try to make wise decisions. Whatever you do in these next few years may very well define who you’ll be in the future.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Why did you decide to attend FIU?

• It was my first choice. Golden Panthers number 1!

• It wasn’t my first choice, but FIU is a bargain education.

• It’s close to home … my mommy made me.

• This is only a temporary stop. I plan on transferring somewhere else.

• I got rejected by every other school I applied to all … thirty seven of them.

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

WINNER & LOSER

WINNER

Fresh meat: Congratulations to the incoming freshman! May your days be filled with chaos, bewilderment, stress and most of all, fun.

LOSER

The price of beauty: Police are looking for a woman who injected five others with illegal silicone injections. Two of the women are in critical condition and another one is not expected to live. Now, who’s the bigger loser – the fugitive woman or the other five who let themselves be injected by some random lady?

QUOTEABLES

“Contrary to reports, I was not overheard in a restaurant saying ‘Oh no, not again.’ That’s absolute rubbish.”

– Danielle Spencer, Russell Crowe’s wife, on finding out that her husband had been arrested.

“He didn’t smell too good when I was working with him and he was in that suit.”

– Gary Oldman, actor, on Batman Begins co-star Chris- tian Bale.

“George Lucas is a sadist, but like any other young girl in a metal suit chained to a metal (creature), I keep coming back to him.”

– Alex Prado, TV personality, on the newly announced Star Wars movie, at the AFI Awards honoring the films’ creator.

“We chose her middle name because when she’s pulled over for speeding she can say, ’But Officer, we’re on the same side.’”

– Penn Jillette, magician-comedian, on naming his new-born daughter Moxie CrimeFighter.

“Supposedly it won’t take away from the noise so you can still hear what’s going on from the pit, it’s just the aspect of leaning over the balcony that won’t be there anymore. It was the best we could do.”

– Carrie Fisher, actress, who played Princess Leia in the first three Star Wars movies, at the AFI Awards honoring the films’ creator.

“You shouldn’t get married until you’re thirty seven of them.”

– Patrick Dempsey, actor, from Grey’s Anatomy.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off in GC 210 at the University Park campus, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or sent to beaconopinion@yahoo.edu. Letters must include the writer’s full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. If brought in to an office, a legitimate ID may be accepted instead of a phone number. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 400 words.
ART IS LIFE: Kate Kretz’s Grace and Shame documents the spectrum of human emotions, while Tori Arpad’s confluence aims to pay tribute to Mother Nature.

By RAYNEL KINCHEN
Contributing Writer

On June 17, the Frost Art Museum at University Park campus held an opening reception for the Florida Artists Series. Associate art professors Kate Kretz and Tori Arpad are displaying exhibits, Grace and Shame and confluence, respectively. The exhibits are a refreshing and honest look into human emotion and life, as well as the crucial balance of the environment and our place within it.

Karen Kretz’s Grace and Shame features a mixed media exploration of emotion. Some presented works include the impressive “Defense Mechanism Coat,” an ordinary wool coat turned into a striking type of armor. The outside of the coat is covered entirely in roofing nails, representing the hard exterior many members of society may wear at one time or another. The inner lining is blood red with detailed embroidery of actual veins, representing the insides that must be protected at all costs.

Kretz also displayed other articles of clothing with bold and poignant statements represented on them. For example, in “Bleed,” two shrunken leather gloves in a dyed dull red are outstretched, as though asking for something crucial to existence.

Her piece entitled “Summer Night Breeze” is an elegant tribute to her childhood memories of falling asleep outside while watching the leaves rustle in the trees. “Fertilization Dress” is a sedate little black dress adorned with embroidered sperm with faux pearl heads all aiming toward the area of reproductive organs, except for one that is aiming for the embroidered replica of a human heart. It implies that fertility definitely affects us in more than just a physical way.

“Sacred Ovaries” is a painting that takes a stark look at the decision of whether or not to have a child when your position in life is not beneficial to the child at all. “[This painting] is filled with symbols of human frailty. It’s about the questions ‘Do you bring a child into the world when you know that no matter how hard you try, you’re going to bring some baggage with you…’ and ‘Will I bring a child into this world when I know there are ways in which I’m going to mess it up no matter how hard I try, no matter how much I educate myself?’ And so that’s sort of what it’s about,” Kretz said. “The symbol of the sacred heart of Jesus is what it’s appropriated from, and that’s a symbol of redemptive love and I thought what love is more redemptive than reproductive love?”

Kretz’s “Fate of a Technicolor Romantic” is a sentimental look at the differences between the real and the ideal. An acrylic, oil and canvas painting, it draws you in immediately with its impressive size and relatable features. With nail polish and nail polish remover on a table, stuffed animals everywhere, bokeh...
Bateman Begins soars over expectations

GONE BATMAN: "Batman Begins," starring Christian Bale, has grossed a total of $72.9 million since its U.S. release on June 17. COURTESY PHOTO

By LEONCIO ALVAREZ
Managing Editor

The Batman extravaganza has returned, and this time in the form of a long-awaited prequel. Being a fan of the original Batman comic book series by Bob Kane ever since I was young, I was not looking forward to the film that much. The thought of seeing yet another mainstream actor take on the role of the caped crusader enraged me, but after watching the film, I knew exactly why Christian Bale was chosen to play Batman.

Bale recently lost over seventy pounds for his role on "The Machinist," but he certainly becqued up for the role of Bruce Wayne. Some say Bale is doing a great job, but I disagree. The film has a lot of potential, but Bale seems to be the weak link.

Still, the film has its moments. The action scenes are thrilling, and the chemistry between Bale and his co-stars is good. But overall, the film is a disappointment. I give it a B-.
Dave Matthews Band evolves with new album

By STEPHANIE MACHADO
Contributing Writer

This role. He brings a certain dark character to Batman that has not really been seen in prior “Batman” movies, or even television shows for that matter. The movie is a re-imagining of the idea of Batman, and it just seemed as if he was playing himself; believable, and completely different from the television set versus the reality of a 40-watt light bulb dimly lighting this interior. It is true that books and movies helped form my ideals, that make it kind of tough to live in the world because I have this very idealistic notion of what I bargained for.

Confluence by Tori Arpad is a journey into Florida’s own backyard. It is an elaborate exhibit that the viewer can walk into and experience the view. The main portion of this exhibit is a dimmed room with a multi-dimensional projection of eight different aspects of the Everglades.

The different sections included the sky, footage from under the clear green water, and a wealth of information about the water, plants, and animals. The exhibit ends with a large section that highlights the Everglades. During filming, the camera was placed on her arm; the video contains no sound. The movie is a kind of self portrait. It has all the books and movies of the television set versus the reality of a 40-watt light bulb dimly lighting this interior. It is true that books and movies helped form my ideals, that make it kind of tough to live in the world because I have this very idealistic notion of what I bargained for.

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or poem. They are told to bring only
one piece, whether it is a screenplay, novel
or something else. They are told to leave
their distractions behind and enter a
distraction-free environment where
they can produce their next master-
work. "Haunted" is not an ordinary
novel. Then again, Chuck Palahniuk
is not an ordinary author. Palahniuk,
who also wrote "Fight Club", has a
reputation for writing dark, nihilistic
and often gruesome novels
documenting the darkest
aspects of human life. His
novels are harsh and devo-
te, but also surprisingly
realistic in their depiction of
human emotion and
thought. "Haunted" is no
different.

Eighteen strangers
answer an ad promising
three-months cut-off from
the outside world in a quiet,
distraction-free environment where
they can produce their next master-
piece, whether it is a screenplay, novel
or poem. They are told to bring only
the necessities and are asked to aban-
don their given names in exchange for
descriptive nicknames. These strangers
expect to leave with their life's greatest
achievement, but instead, get more than
what they bargained for. Before the novel
is over, all of them suffer self-inflicted
injuries, accidentally kill themselves or
are killed by someone else.

Palahniuk creates an interesting and
unforgettable cast of characters, all of
which have shady and troubled pasts.
Nicknames like Saint Gut-Free, Chef
Assassin and the Reverend Godless hint
at the dark secrets each person holds,
also the things they are trying to escape
from.

Due to the unusual format the novel
has – it begins with the main plot, fol-
lowed by a free verse poem about a
certain character, followed by
that character’s “story” – one
gets to catch a glimpse into
each character’s life in a way
other novels could not afford
do without sacrificing rel-
evance to the main plot. But
in “Haunted”, the main plot
and the individual tales flow
together and compliment each
other so well that without the
tales, the plot would be noth-
ing.

This novel is not for the faint of heart.
"Haunted" is at times disgusting – delib-
erate amputation of limbs, cannibalism,
etc. – but there is something about this
novel that won’t let the reader put it
down. It lures one in with three-dimen-
sional characters and a suspenseful plot,
and pulls the reader into its trap. Much
like the characters’ plight in the book,
one once begins “Haunted”, there is no
way out until it’s finished.

"ALL FAMILIES ARE PSYCHOTIC"
By Douglas Coupland
279 pages, 2002

Let’s face it – not all families are
cookie-cutter perfect. They have faults
and flaws, have gone through difficult
times and aren’t always complete with a
mother, father, daughter and son. Some
are so broken that they have lost all
semblance of a family long ago. But this
doesn’t mean that the members of these
imperfect families don’t love
each other. Sometimes, events
that would usually destroy a
group of people instead bring
them together.

In “All Families are Psy-
chotic”, one family, each member
with his or her own problems,
struggle to stay together even
when they are at the breaking
point.

Douglas Coupland has cre-
ated a completely realistic family,
even though nothing about this one is
‘normal.’ Mother, Janet Drummond, and
dad, Ted Drummond, divorced years
ago; Ted later married a younger woman.
Janet and Ted’s daughter, Sarah, is an
astronaut, their son, Bryan, is manic-
depressive and the other, Wade, has
AIDS. In a twisted set of events, Janet
herself contracts AIDS and copes
with her ill health throughout the
novel. With their own distractions
– affairs, pregnancies, and illnesses
– the Drummond family somehow
pulls it together in order to support
Sarah and watch her first shuttle mis-
sion into space.

The whole novel revolves around
that one event and sidetracks into the
various individual situations family
members get themselves into. “All
Families are Psychotic” is funny, scary
and touching all at once.

All family members are accessible,
even though most people will never
goose through what some of
the family members went
through. Even though
some characters deserve
what they get, one finds
himself caring about their
plight. This novel is an
easy read, but not for those who frown upon
foul language and racy
subject matter.

“All Families are Psy-
chotic” is exactly what the
title says. Sometimes, families are insane
and on the verge of meltdown, but with
love and understanding, even the most
troubled families can be saved.

THE BEACON WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME
ALL INCOMING FRESHMAN AND
TRANSFER STUDENTS TO FIU!

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positions available at The Beacon.
If you’re thinking about getting a job or an
internship at a newspaper, it would behoove
you to get some experience with us.
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Advertising Representatives
Writers
Photographers

Stop by our offices in GC 210 or WUC 124 for
an application or e-mail
Recruitment Editor C. Joel Marino
at beaconrecruit@yahoo.com.
University to address water resource problems

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) signed a $3.75 million, 5-year cooperative agreement with a consortium, led by FIU, to address water resource problems around the world through technical assistance and training.

The Global Water for Sustainability program (GLOWS) engages in a multitude of water-related issues ranging from improved water supply and sanitation to protecting important aquatic ecosystem services that sustain human communities.

FIU environmental studies professor and GLOWS project director Michael McClain endorses the concept that water must be managed from the perspective of entire river basins. GLOWS is mounting pilot projects in three of the world’s most important river systems: the Mara River tributary to the Nile River system in East Africa, the Pastaza River tributary to the Amazon River in Peru and a third project currently under design in Asia.

FIU will provide special expertise in the studies required to guide management plans and higher level government actions. These include analyses of water resource quantity and quality, assessments of institutional strengths and weaknesses and the evaluation of creative financial mechanisms to facilitate improved water management.

Law school makes history, graduates 52

The College of Law graduated its first class last month, with 52 students walking away with law degrees on May 22 at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center. Reportedly, about half of the new graduates have landed jobs. However, Leonard Strickman, dean of the law school, told The Miami Herald that he expects 90 percent of the students to have jobs by the time the school takes the official count early next year.

FIU fought for some 12 years to open the College of Law, the only public law school south of Orlando.

The law school has a temporary accreditation. The school can’t attain full accreditation until the $34 million Rafael Diaz-Balart College of Law Building, currently under construction, is complete.

Meanwhile, students have been taking classes in the library and other office spaces. When it’s finished, the new building will be in front of the Pharmed Arena.

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Wade serves as role model for future NBA players

By JUAN CARLOS PEREZ
Contributing Writer

It’s not surprising that many people have become disenchant with the sports world these days. They’re fed up with the ridiculous salaries that athletes receive and fed up with their childish antics. Names like the NFL’s Randy Moss, the NBA’s Latrell Sprewell and MLB’s Barry Bonds come to mind. But it’s time for everyone to relax. Dwyane Wade has arrived.

In spite of recent trends to skip college and head straight to the pros for the immediate paycheck, Wade instead chose to attend Marquette University, where he maintained a grade point average over a 4.0. Not an easy task at a Jesuit school.

After his junior year, Wade was drafted fifth overall by the Miami Heat in 2003, but was a stand out in a draft that included LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony. Yet, Wade was the only one whose team advanced to the second round in last year’s playoffs.

Wade carried the Miami Heat on his young shoulders by raising his scoring average from 16.4 points-per-game during the regular season to a team-high 18.0 points-per-game in the playoffs. Not only did he lead his team in scoring, he also led the team in field goal percentage and assists, joining the ranks of Stephon Marbury, Bill Wuczynski and Michael Jordan as the only rookies to have done so in the shot clock era.

Not an easy task for a first year player.

Wade clearly established himself as the future leader of the Miami Heat and made team President Pat Riley and General Manager Randy Pfund look like geniuses for selecting him.

Wade also shares something else in common with Jordan, Magic Johnson, Wilt Chamberlain, Oscar Robertson, Bob Cousy and Larry Bird: they are all the only players to ever average 25 points, eight assists and six rebounds in a playoff round – as Wade did against the Washington Wizards this postseason. This was all accomplished while guarded by Larry Hughes, who was named to the All-NBA Defensive 1st Team.

Not too shabby for a guy no one had ever heard about two years ago.

After the Heat acquired Shaquille O’Neal last season, the first thing that Dwyane Wade did was clear the air between himself and Shaq. He wanted the “Big Aristotle” to know that he was not Kobe Bryant and that he was more than willing to let Shaq have the spotlight and be the leader of the team.

That is the type of person and player that Wade is. He does not have the ego of your typical athlete. He is humble and friendly. He is selfless, as he proved in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference Finals when he took one of his famous shots to extend the game. Wade did the best he could do with a strained rib muscle that stole his biggest assets: his athleticism and his ability to drive the lane and draw fouls.

After the game, when he was battered and in unbearable pain, Wade didn’t have the heart to tell his son, Zaire, that daddy was too tired to play. Instead, he stayed up until three in the morning playing with his son.

This NBA season, Wade ranked in the top ten in points per game (24.1), free-throw attempts (762.0), free-throw percentage (82.3) and assists per game (6.8). He was named to the All-NBA Second Team as well as the All-NBA Defensive Second Team.

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Sheri-Ann Brooks (pictured below) won the NCAA title in the 200 meters. Finishing with a time of 22.85 seconds, 0.1 seconds ahead of the runner-up, Brooks becomes the first Golden Panther to win an individual title in Track & Field. Brooks also earned her second All-America honors.

Four FIU baseball standouts – Yahmed Yema, Dennis Diaz, David Asher and Luis Rivera – signed contracts with MLB teams (see more on page 12).

Former soccer standout Bobby Boswell scored his first MLS goal in D.C. United’s 4-3 win over the Chicago Fire. His goal, which came in the 86th minute, turned out to be the deciding goal of the match. Boswell, who was picked up by D.C. United in March, is also the only player to have started every game this season.

Bill Wuczynski, former assistant of Loyola of Chicago and UNLV, was hired to the FIU men’s basketball staff. Wuczynski will replace Joe O’Brien, who departed the Golden Panthers staff following the 2004-05 season. Wuczynski will take on multiple responsibilities, involving himself with recruiting, game-day and practice coaching and assisting with the Sergio Rouco Worldwide Basketball Camps.
The NCAA placed FIU’s football team on a three-year probationary period after the school’s own internal investigation discovered that a former assistant coach committed off-season workout violations that occurred between 2002 and 2004.

“It is my sense that the NCAA’s decision was to give us one year of probation for every season in which the violations occurred. Even though the violations were a total of 85 hours,” said Athletic Director Rick Mello.

The probation does not include any loss of scholarships, bans on post-season play or television appearances and will not affect the three-year-old football program’s move to Division I-A.

“We are relieved to have all of this behind us and that no student athletes will be negatively impacted,” Mello said.

The violation occurred when a former assistant coach knowingly violated NCAA rules when he conducted and supervised off-season workouts – when coach-supervised workouts aren’t allowed – before spring practice and during July in 2002, 2003 and 2004, according to FIU’s report to the NCAA.

According to an article in the Miami Herald, the coach named in FIU’s report to the NCAA was former offensive line coach Steve Smith.

Smith was fired last summer, two days after FIU discovered the violations. Mello would not confirm the coach’s name.

“We’re going to run a clean program . . . When things get out of line, action must be taken strongly and quickly.”

Mello and his staff took some self-imposed measures of corrective action which included some of the following:

• Hiring A.C. Tellison, assistant athletic director for student-athlete development.
• Increasing the frequency of compliance meetings for all coaches and athletics administrators, which will be videotaped for review purposes.
• Adding a dedicated educational period specific to NCAA rules compliance for the monthly Student Athlete Advisory Committee, which consists of athlete-representatives from each of FIU’s 17 intercollegiate sports teams.
• Hiring an administrative assistant dedicated solely to athletics compliance.

The Golden Panthers are in their second year of a transition period to Division I-A and will join the Sun Belt Conference this fall. Their first game in Miami is scheduled for Oct. 1, the 69th annual Orange Blossom Classic against FAMU.