FIU receives grant to train future intelligence analysts

The early part of this month marked a dramatic change in FIU’s image nationwide. On March 10, FIU received a grant from the federal government worth over $750,000 for an 18-month pilot program to train future intelligence analysts. The United States Intelligence Community, which is made up of a consortium of 14 agencies that include the CIA, FBI and Department of Homeland Security, gave the grant to the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Policy and Citizenship studies at FIU’s Center for Transnational and Comparative Studies. According to Caryn A. Wagner, executive director for the U.S. Intelligence Community Affairs Office in Washington, D.C., the program is part of a legislative initiative to diversify the ranks of intelligence analysts.

Five schools were awarded money throughout the country. The other four were the Georgia Institute of Technology, Clark-Atlanta University, Tennessee State University and Trinity College in Washington, D.C. Georgia Tech and Clark-Atlanta are participating under the same grant. Classes will be open to any interested FIU student and could be compared to programs such as ROTC or security studies – two programs already available on campus.

Initially the programs will offer only a certificate, but the goal is to develop a graduate degree. After the 18-month pilot program draws to a close, the consortium may choose to renew the grant for over four years, which would award the university up to $3 million.

FIU’s Provost and Vice President, Mark B. Rosenberg stated that the university has shown that it can compete nationwide for federal resources.

“We have shown we can compete nationally for resources that ultimately enhance the value we provide the nation, the state and the community,” he said.

Rosenberg added that the new initiative will also provide many scholarships which will be competitively awarded to students who apply and meet the minimum standards.

Students could use the scholarships to pursue the advanced study of languages as well as other academic training.

“We have a strong track record of educating students for public service in fields such as nursing, education, public health and the military,” Rosenberg said. “The Center for Academic Excellence Program will extend this to the national security professions.”

Ralph Clem, director for the Center for Transnational and Comparative Studies and an international relations professor, acknowledged that the classes proposed by the program were not very different from those already offered at the university.

“It’s subjects and skills [are those] such as political science, geography, statistical analysis and foreign languages. The program would coordinate all these subjects and add others to produce graduates who are competitive for jobs in Washington, D.C.,” he said.

Students learn anatomy by dissecting human corpses

The two corpses lie on metal gurneys at the end of the room, both half-covered and in blue body bags. Their skin is leathery and peeled back, revealing the dried remains of sinews, organs and bones. One face is partially concealed. The other face is in plain sight, its eyes, mouth gaping wide and twisted slightly to the side.

Stored in a Health Life Sciences classroom at the University Park campus, the bodies are probed each week by students of various majors who take part in ZOO 3731L, the human anatomy course for Biological Sciences Department.

“Yes, we do use cadavers, and students get to interact with them,” said Ferdinand Gomez, coordinator for the anatomy demonstration labs. “It’s a very hands-on type of class.”

According to Gomez, the department has been using donated bodies since the mid-1980s. FIU is one of the few universities in the state to allow undergraduate students to use cadavers.

The University of Miami’s School of Medicine supplies the dried and preserved corpses, which are a part of a donor program approved by the Florida Anatomical Board.

Florida Funeral Homes deliver the bodies to FIU at a cost of $1,000 each. The funds for the bodies come from student lab fees and funds from the College of Arts and Sciences.

“All the work is taken care of before the specimens arrive,” Gomez said. “All we have to do is perform maintenance by spraying them with preserving fluid. The students take care of that, and it helps prevent mold or excessive drying.”
ANATOMY, from page 1

Though the lab once made use of 10 to 12 bodies per semester, Gomez says the classes now make do with only two to five bodies per calendar year, because requirements for biology changed and various specimens were no longer needed.

“The [human anatomy and survey of regional anatomy] classes use the cadavers share [the bodies], and they last throughout the year,” said Gomez.

The fact that there are corpses on campus—however, few—has made students nervous.

“I’ve always heard that there was a morgue at UP and that they kept frozen bodies,” said junior Dan Streiden. “I don’t know if that’s just a rumor or not, but if they do have a morgue, that can’t possibly be sanitary.”

Gomez believes the rumors are fueled by misunderstandings among students and by campus gossip.

“There are probably many misconceptions about what goes on in here,” said Gomez. “This isn’t like an autopsy room where the bodies are still fresh. The specimens have been embalmed beforehand and don’t even look real anymore.”

Students who are currently taking the class admit that they too were initially scared by the prospect of handling corpses.

“Before I got into the class, I knew that this was going to be very different from anything I was used to,” said senior Adam Leisy, who is majoring in biology. “I had dissected cats before, but a human corpse was a totally new ballgame.”

Though students are told that the class will involve interaction with corpses before signing up, some still felt nervous about what they would encounter.

“Before I saw the body, I was freaked out. I had images of horror movies in my head and didn’t know what to expect,” said Brenda Piantini, a sophomore in nursing.

However, the students stated that after a semester of working with the bodies, all negative reactions faded, and they became comfortable with the idea of handling human remains.

“I think at this point in the semester, our class, including myself, [has] become a little more desensitized to the fact that we are working on human bodies. There isn’t the same hesitation that I noticed before, and people are more casual around them,” said Leisy, who nicknamed one of the subjects “Apollo.”

Though most of the students in the class are studying science or medicine related fields, Gomez encourages students from all majors to take part in the course if they are interested in enhancing their learning experience.

“We are all essentially made of the same things—skin, muscle, organs, bones. This class shows us this and how we can appreciate what we’re made of and who we are as people,” he said.

For information on the course, students can visit the website at www.fiu.edu/~gomez.
“SWEET!”

“NAPOLEON DYNAMITE” BREAKS THE TREND

By CRISTELA GUERRA
Staff Writer

“Whatever I feel like doing! Gosh!”

It seems that our generation has a new role model to live up to. No, he isn’t a politician or a model (I don’t know how many would want to look like him), but the majority of those who have seen the movie “Napoleon Dynamite” will tell you it’s become a new fad among trendsetters “to do what Napoleon does.”

As a housing resident and FIU student it’s hard to even walk to class without hearing someone say “Gosh!” or “Idiot,” two of the movie’s popular catch phrases. What is ironic, however, is that this small-budget indie film is one of cleanest “teen movies” that’s come out in a decade. Why is it that sex, booze and semi-slutty sweetheart who wins our hero’s heart, and a variety of drug use and sexual innuendo – it has all been done.

Thus, it intrigued me that, for once, although its plot is a complete antithesis of most everyday teen films. “Napoleon Dynamite” is in many ways the complete antithesis of most everyday teen films. Whether it be classics like “Road Trip” or it’s more recent clone “Euro Trip,” each of these films consist of the same plot in which the whole storyline revolves around this particular girl the protagonist is head over heels over. Like a fairy tale gone badly, “prince charming” has to climb over mountains and through incredibly cheesy and often gross situations to reach the perfect woman. It has the usual comic relief, the horrid guy, the incredibly hot, semi-slutty sweetheart who wins our hero’s heart, and a variety of drug use and sexual innuendo – it has all been done.

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“Napoleon Dynamite” is in many ways the complete antithesis of most everyday teen films.

The winners of the 2005 Student Government Association elections will begin the transition into their official positions in the next few weeks. Considering over 30,000 students attend both campuses, we were surprised at such a low voter turnout – 3,158 votes at University Park and 546 votes at Biscayne Bay (an improvement from last year’s less than 100 student votes at BBC). Everyone is given the right to vote and we are concerned that not enough students are taking the time to educate themselves and make a wise decision.

With such low turnout numbers, we feel that most students are taking the outcome of the SGA elections for granted. More students should keep in mind that the president and vice president of SGA are given control of a large budget made up of funds which come out of our own tuition fees – approximately $72 million.

Ultimately, it seems as though the choice of the people picked to handle such a great amount of money is made through 3,800 votes. A true and fair election should involve more student participation, which in turn would put additional pressure on the candidates to present legitimate and researched platforms. If candidates were forced to reach out and meet the demands of a larger, more active student body, election campaigns wouldn’t just be a popularity contest. In the end, despite the campaign blitz of flyers, debates and free food from the candidates and the university, it is up to the students to do their own research on candidates and platforms that will affect their years at FIU.

– Compiled by John Lovell, Managing Editor

C. Joel Marino, Senior Staff Writer

“IDIOT”: Deb (Tina Majorino) and Napoleon (Jon Heder) dance the night away. Courtesy Poster

“Napoleon Dynamite” is in many ways the complete antithesis of most everyday teen films.

The usual “girls gone wild” ladies we normally see: bring laughs while still keeping their clothes on. This multitude of unique and weird characters make this film fun, and the box office and DVD sales prove that, in this case, sex doesn’t have to be prevalent to sell a movie. So then why does it seem so necessary to motivate young adults from 18-25 to view movies by including these bare necessities? It’s a lie which has been breeding shallowness and superficiality in our society. This could very well be our mark as we go on to be adults; it breeds a cycle of superficiality and shallowness. And we wonder why we are not taken seriously?

I’m not saying movies need to constantly educate and contain a wise adage at the end (that’s why we have educational television), but there is a difference between random, off-the-cuff humor and extreme images of recklessness and promiscuity which promote rash decisions and instant gratification without consequences. Are movies and reality TV really a character’s personal life? No. Neither does “Napoleon Dynamite”... but at least it doesn’t praise some of the worst aspects of our society as great accomplishments.
British rock band’s work – Coldplay’s. This is no surprise because Coldplay’s frontman Chris Martin actually wrote the lyrics to the song “Gravity,” the second track on the album. Even though Martin is only credited as having written that one song, his influence can be heard everywhere on the album.

There is no real high point on Out of Nothing. The song “Ashes,” a lukewarm rock anthem, starts off the album. Once the song’s chorus kicks in and the choir (yes, choir) starts singing, it’s just about as much cheesiness as I can take. But I forged on thinking that I was wrong. Every track on the album sounds like the last. Almost every song on Out of Nothing includes orchestral arrangements, power chords and sappy sounding lyrics that, when listened to closely, don’t make much sense.

The only song that truly stands out on the album is “Near Life.” The only reason it stands out is because this track is uncharacteristically bleak and dark, a departure from the overall optimistic tone the album has.

Danny McNamara’s voice switches from emotional to apathetic for “Near Life,” and off-beat, echoing guitar riffs give the song, and album, a much-needed change in tone. All in all, I felt the change came too late. Out of Nothing lacked variety, character and originality.

By JESSICA ISER
Opinion Editor

I’m a fan of British rock. From The Beatles to The Smiths, Oasis, Muse and even Coldplay – I love it all. That’s why I was surprised to realize that I don’t particularly like Embrace.

The British quintet consists of brothers Danny McNamara and Richard McNamara on lead vocals and lead guitar respectively, Steve Firth on bass, Mick Heaton on drums. The group came together at the height of British pop in the mid-90s and has since come out of nowhere. Particularly like Embrace.

In fact, Out of Nothing is their latest effort. After listening to the whole album about 12 times, I can safely say that it is nothing special.

In fact, Out of Nothing reminds me of another famous British band’s style, nothing new to the U.S.
The spirits of great pianists and composers like Chopin, Mozart and Liszt shared in the appreciation of the music of their less-acknowledged female contemporaries at the Women Composers & Song Transcriptions Concert, held April 9 at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall on the University Park campus.

The night was filled with piano music as students from the FIU School of Music Piano Department brought to life the works of various composers, primarily women of the 18 – 21 centuries.

The audience was transported through the different eras of piano composition. The classical style associated with notable composers such as Mozart and Beethoven in this concert represented the work of blind pianist and composer, Maria Theresa von Paradis. Along with von Paradis, other composers through the Romantic Era linked with such famous names like Franz Liszt, as well as the contemporary sounds of living performers like Van Cliburn, who overcame various obstacles as a blind African-American composer, were noted in the concert.

The program’s variety and focus on women, was of great importance. According to Jose R. Lopez, coordinator for keyboard studies, “It’s important to showcase composers that should be known,” said Lopez, noting that often the influence these women may have exerted on their male counterparts continues to be overlooked.

Lopez was the variable’s objective and he chose the compositions and transcriptions for the night’s performances accordingly. Composition, speed of the pieces and contrast between style were among the top interests cited by Lopez in his decision process.

“We hope it’s not the only concert because there are a lot of women composers out there that need to be heard,” Lopez said.

In listening to the work of Mariana von Martinez, who actually shared a piano bench and keyboard with Mozart, the link to the 18th century was obvious. With its classical upbeat notes, Martinez’s work certainly contains the influence of Mozart, but through their constant interaction, the possibility of influence flowing in both directions is certainly a strong one.

In addition to the sharp, quick-paced sounds of the classical era, students performed pieces by women of the Romantic Era such as Clara Wieck Schumann, a woman known as much for her incredible musical talents as for her constant interaction, the possibility of influence flowing in both directions is certainly a strong one.

“Like the performance; I love piano,” said freshman Karen Argenal, who is majoring in music education. 

“If she stays sharp, she may just rise above mediocrity. In a scene just another “novelty female rap act.”

Fellow attendee, Jorge Diaz, a freshman majoring in piano performance, agreed.

“We hope it’s not the only concert because there are a lot of women composers out there that need to be heard.”

While still being considered “young” to the game, Ms. Kra-Z has a tough female rapper. She needs to embrace and develop it, otherwise she will be panned off as just another “novelty female rap act.”

Ms. Kra-Z may not be able to rhyme like Foxy Brown or Remy Martin, but with a little work, she could pick up where 36 Mafia’s “Gangsta Boo left off.

BACK IN TIME

April 14, 1894

Thomas Edison’s Kinetoscope first appears in a New York City arcade. The peep-show film machines accommodated only one viewer at a time and showed short films of entertainers like Annie Oakley and Buffalo Bill.
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South Alabama beats FIU in extra innings

BASEBALL, from page 8

2-for-3 with two homeruns and five RBI. Cadera and junior Luis Rivera each added two hits and one RBI as FIU had 12 hits in the game.

The game was scoreless until Yema broke the silence in the bottom of the fourth inning with a two-run homerun to right field. The very next inning Yema struck again, this time with a two-out, three-run homerun to right field.

The Golden Panthers scored six runs in the seventh inning to make it 11-1. It was the seventh this season FIU scored six runs in an inning.

The Jaguars added three runs in the final two innings.

SOUTHERN ALABAMA 12
FIU 7

Having 12 or more hits for the third consecutive game didn’t help the Golden Panthers as South Alabama scored six runs in the 11th inning, blowing the game open and taking the win and the series.

“We battled back in the thing,” Price said. “We tied the ballgame, went ahead, [but] it’s just one of [the] conference games. They fought through it; we fought through it; we just broke down there in the end.”

South Alabama tied the game at six after a runner who reached base followed a throwing error by Gonzalez came around to score on a sac fly.

The very next batter hit a homerun to left field.

The game went into extra innings after being tied after nine. It wasn’t until the eleventh that a team struck again. South Alabama struck hard as it took three FIU pitchers to get out of the Jaguars’ six-run inning.

Freshman Corey Lozano hit a home-run in the bottom of the eleventh to make the final score 12-7.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call the commencement hotline at 305-548-5666 or visit the website at www.fiu.edu/ orgs/commencement

SOUTHERN ALABAMA 12
FIU 7

March 23, 2005
11 a.m. College of Arts and Sciences
3:00 p.m. School of Journalism and Mass Communication
College of Health and Urban Affairs
TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2005
10:30 a.m.
College of Architecture
College of Engineering
College of Education
3:00 p.m. College of Business Administration - All undergraduate Candidates EXCEPT School of Accounting
7:30 p.m. School of Hospitality and Tourism Management
College of Business Administration:
• School of Accounting
• Chapman Graduate School
• All Business Majors and Doctoral Candidates

IMPORTANT DATES
Your commencement pas and guest tickets will be available for pickup at the Office of the Registrar between Monday, April 25, 2005 through Friday, April 29, 2005. In this case you designated on the Commencement Confirmation Form.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
Academia regalia is required for participation in the ceremony. Purchase your cap and gowns on or before April 15, 2005 at either of the FIU Bookstores.

Candidates and guests who require special assistance should contact the Office of Disability services at 903-548-3532.

Family and friends who cannot be present at the commencement ceremonies cannot view the celebration live via the Internet by going to www.fiu.edu/which/commencement.

This link is only available during the ceremony.

2005 Spring Commencement Ceremonies

MONDAY, MAY 2, 2005
10:00 a.m.
College of Arts and Sciences
3:00 p.m. School of Journalism and Mass Communication
College of Health and Urban Affairs

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FIU in extra innings.
ORE breaks records in sweep of UNT

BY NIKOLAY OREKHOV
Assistant Sports Editor

The Golden Panthers swept North Texas during a four-game weekend series on April 9 and 10, and Tiffany Ore set two school records along the way. Ore struck out 12 batters in the second game of the doubleheader on April 9. She also struck out the first 12 batters she faced to break FIU’s consecutive strikeouts record.

The four wins improved FIU’s record to 26-16 overall, and they remain unbeaten in the Sun Belt Conference at 4-0 for the season.

The Golden Panthers will next play host to the defending conference champions No. 14, Louisiana-Lafayette in a pair of doubleheaders on April 16 and 17 at University Park.

APRIL 9: FIU 5, NORTH TEXAS 3

FIU took the first game of the doubleheader, as Jennifer Powell provided most of the scoring for the team. Powell finished the game 3-for-4 with two runs scored and an RBI.

The Golden Panthers got out to a 2-0 lead in the first inning, when Powell scorched a double down the left field line to score Deomni Murray. Powell later scored on an RBI double by Lindsay Tippings to make the score 3-0.

Amanda Nealer picked up the win and improved to 13-9 on the year. She was perfect through the first four innings, including striking out the side in both the third and the fourth innings. She gave up three runs, one earned, on five hits while striking out 10.

Kary Maxey (1-7) took the loss for NT, scattering five runs on eight hits while striking out two.

APRIL 9: FIU 5, NORTH TEXAS 0

In a record-setting performance, the Golden Panthers and Tiffany Ore continued their winning ways as they capped off the doubleheader with a shutout of the North Texas team. Ore’s current record of 12 consecutive strikeouts breaks FIU’s previous record of nine. Ore finished the game with a complete game shutout, her second of the season. She gave up just two hits and improved to 7-5 for the year.

Kristina Fowler (5-10) took the loss for North Texas. Powell, Withrow and freshman Brook Ruiz combined to produce the Golden Panthers’ five runs to win the game. Powell finished the game with two hits and an RBI, while Ruiz and Withrow drove in runs off each.

APRIL 10: FIU 9, NORTH TEXAS 2

The Golden Panthers, trailing 2-1 to the Mean Green, rallied for eight runs in the sixth inning to pick up the game’s victory.

Tabitha Embry helped spark FIU’s late offensive surge, as she finished the game 4-for-4 with three RBIs.

Her teammate Brittany Withrow picked up three hits in four at bats and recorded two RBIs.

Amanda Nealer pitched a complete game, giving up two runs on six hits while striking out five for her sixth straight win to improve to 14-9 on the season.

Mandy Hacker (1-5) went five and one-third innings, surrendering eight runs on 11 hits for the Mean Green.

North Texas got on the scoreboard first when Danielle Rupp singled to lead off and scored on an RBI triple by Monica Garcia with two outs to give North Texas a 1-0 lead.

Held in check for most of the game, the Golden Panthers erupted for eight runs in the sixth to record the win.

Withrow provided FIU with its first lead on a two-run double, and the Golden Panthers never looked back.

Embry capped off the scoring with a two-out bases loaded triple down the left field line to put FIU up by seven.

APRIL 10: FIU 4, NORTH TEXAS 1

FIU completed the sweep with its fourth consecutive win over North Texas. The win improved the team’s winning streak to seven.

Tiffany Ore went the distance for the Golden Panthers, giving up one run on six hits to improve her record to 8-5. Kristina Fowler (5-11) went six innings for the Mean Green, giving up seven runs on eight hits while striking out three.

After a rally from the Mean Green, the Golden Panthers finally put the game away on a solo home run by Jennifer Powell over the left field fence.

Baseball loses two of three to South Alabama

BY XAVIER VILLAMARZO
Sports Editor

After an 18-5 rout at the hands of FAU, a game in which the Golden Panthers scored 16 runs in the second inning, the Golden Panthers continued their mediocre conference play, losing two of three games to the University of South Alabama, April 8-10 at the Baseball Stadium at University Park.

“I was real pleased with the effort this series,” said Head Coach Danny Price. “We just got beat [allowing runs late in the game].”

FIU’s season record is now 23-14 with a 4-5 record in Sun Belt Conference play. The series loss marks the second consecutive conference series in which FIU has lost two of the three games.

The Golden Panthers resume conference play with a three-game home stand against New Mexico State University, April 15 at 7 p.m.

SOUTH ALABAMA 8, FIU 7

The Golden Panthers blew a 7-1 lead with two outs in the eighth inning as a late grand slam swung momentum in the Jaguars’ way. South Alabama went on to score seven unanswered runs in the final inning and one-third.

FIU ace David Asher (6-0) pitched seven and two-third innings before being pulled after he allowed the grand slam. The senior lefty allowed five runs and eight hits, walked four batters and struck out five.

Senior closer Danny Hernandez was saddled with his third loss of the season after South Alabama’s tying and winning runs scored in the ninth. Both runs were unearned.

Junior Yahmed Yema went 3-for-4 with a double, three RBI and a run scored. South Alabama struck right in the first inning after an RBI single by Yema scored two runs scored in the ninth. Both runs were unearned.

Bryan Pullin and Junior Michael Lopez began with back-to-back singles. Yema hit a double to center field which scored Pullin. Redshirt junior Nick Cadena singled to left field and Lopez scored. Cadena proceeded to steal second base which allowed Yema to score from third on the throw to make it 3-1.

The Golden Panthers scored a run in both the second and fifth inning. They scored two more runs in the seventh inning off a sacrifice-fly by Lopez and an RBI single by Yema to make it 7-1.

With two outs in the eighth, South Alabama cut the lead to two runs with a grand slam off of Asher. Junior Frank Gonzalez got the final out of the inning for FIU.

In the ninth inning, South Alabama quickly scored on an RBI single to make it 7-6. The tying run scored off a play which featured two FIU throwing errors. The winning run scored off a double to left-center.

FIU 11, SOUTH ALABAMA 4

FIU bounced back from the disappointing loss off the bat of Yema and the arm of freshman starting pitcher Elihan Vilanueva.

“After losing [the previous] game, and it was a real heart breaker, to come back and fight today, it’s real important,” Price said. “We’re fortunate to hang on there and get it done, but we have a long way to go.”

Vilanueva (6-2) got the victory, almost going the distance, as he pitched eight and two-third innings, allowed four runs, walked two batters and struck out seven.

“I struggled my last two times out,” said Vilanueva. “But I made a couple of adjustments and I felt good today. I was more in the strike zone.”

Yema led the way as he went 7-for-9 with his third three-run game of the season.