Medical school approval celebrated

BY REUBEN PEREIRA
Staff Writer

FIU celebrated the approval of the new School of Medicine with a grand and rousing ceremony at the Graham Center Pit on March 30.

The event was attended by many members of the University Board of Trustees, the administration, faculty and staff, as well as a large group of students.

Student Government Association President Alex Prado opened the festivities of the afternoon by giving a background on President Modesto A. Maidique before introducing the president, who walked to the stand amid applause.

Maidique raised his voice proudly and boldly as he announced how 35 years ago, FIU was started off by the first president, who stated that the University would never get a Division I-A football team.

“Since the beginning, we were a stealth operation,” Maidique said. “People said we would never get a School of Architecture. We got it. People said we would never get a Division I-A football team. We got it. People said we would never get a law school. We got it. And most significantly, people said we certainly will never get a medical school and you know what, 15-1, we got it!”

Junior Richard Lopez was really happy for FIU.

“It’s a phenomenal addition to the University,” Lopez said, when referring to the new School of Medicine. “It moves the University above and beyond what they can currently do. It will get FIU a stronger reputation as a school because now we have a medical school.”

As he introduced former provost and current chancellor of the State Board of Governors Mark Rosenberg, Maidique reminded the audience that Rosenberg had been the lead player in the accomplishment of a 10-year goal.

“I don’t want people to forget that the leader in all these years has been Mark Rosenberg, our very own chancellor of FIU at Tallahassee and my adopted son,” Maidique joked.

“I think it’s great to see Dr. Rosenberg back over here in Miami,” said Brian Swenson, president of the FIU homecoming council. “I think that Rosenberg, along with many other people, have worked hard for this.

“It is especially nice to see that the president has got the student government involved. It’s great to see him down here at the student level.”

Rosenberg thanked the students and the University in general for their support for the new school and the warmth and confidence the South Florida community has bestowed upon the University.

In his Provost Ronald Berkman added that the 30th

See MEDICAL, page 2

SGA presidential candidates discuss strategies

Alfonso Leon
UP Candidate

BY ANA SANCHEZ
News Editor

Alfonso “Alfi e” Leon served in the Student Government Association as Representative-at-Large this past year and is the only candidate at University Park to run for SGA president alongside Providence Okoye as his running mate for vice president.

Leon recently sat down with Leon to discuss running unopposed, giving advice to students running for the Representative-at-Large position and why students should vote in the upcoming elections taking place April 5 and 6.

Q: How does it feel to run unopposed?

It’s a humbling experience, instead of the elections being the highlight of my year, it will be the moment I realize that we have accomplished all the goals as a council this year.

Q: What is your goal during campaign week?

Getting students informed about voting. We want students to be informed. Through the campaign, we want students to voice their concerns. In the past, when people

See LEON, page 2

Zach Trautenberg
BBC Candidate

BY BETSY MARTINEZ
Biscayne Bay Editor

Having had several positions with the Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Association throughout his college career, Zach Trautenberg, who currently sits as the organization’s comptroller, has decided to run for president in the upcoming elections taking place April 5 and 6.

The Beacon recently interviewed Trautenberg about his experience for the position, the current administration and his plans for BBC.

Q: What SGA and student leadership experience qualifies you to serve the student body as a member of the Student Government Council?

I have been Academics Affairs chair, Student Union Board chair [and] am currently the finance chair. I was chair of the Medical School Ad-hoc Committee at BBC. I have sat on the Diversity Council.

See TRAUTENBERG, page 3

Camilo Silva
BBC Candidate

BY BETSY MARTINEZ
Biscayne Bay Editor

After serving on the Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Association for a little less than a year, current Lower Division Representative Camilo Silva has decided to run for president in the upcoming elections taking place April 5 and 6.

The Beacon recently interviewed Silva about his experience for the position, the future of BBC and his goals for the upcoming semesters.

Q: What SGA and student leadership experience qualifies you to serve the student body as a member of the Student Government Council?

I have involved with the SGA BBC for almost a year. Currently, I am the lower division representative and speaker of the House of Representatives.

Q: What makes you the best candidate for the job?

See SILVA, page 3

Students should exercise their right to vote, Pg. 5 | Fun classes Part 2, Pg. 8 | West dismissed from team, Pg. 12
Opinions voiced on medical school

The leadership experience that I gained through SGA and the people I met prepared me. I’ve been able to get involved in every aspect of campus and student life. They have helped me understand that there is no FIU student mold, we are all different and through them I have learned the value of community service and leadership. I thank my friends for preparing me – these people have given me ideas that have prepared me to be a student leader.

Q: The attention has shifted to the Representative-at-Large position. What advice would you give to the candidates? I would tell them to create the buzz for elections. It’s up to them to set the stage. It’s going to be all about style and delivery.

Q: What advice do you give the student body during elections? These are your representatives. They help allocate over $8.5 million of student money. Treat them the same as you would treat your professors or your friends. Be respectful.

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Students urged to donate blood

Lauren is a long haired blonde from Dallas, TX. This 10-year-old enjoys gymnastics, ballet and modern jazz dancer. She has also been battling leukemia since she was three. Biscaeyne Bay Campus students are taking action by holding a blood and bone marrow drive to find a matching donor for Lauren.

The drive will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. April 3 through April 5 in front of Academic II at BBC.

Lauren’s doctors have given her a 50 percent chance of survival, but if no donor is found it will drop to 8 percent. “The topic was brought up in our crisis management class,” said Melanie Bousquet, a student of the Integrated Communications: Advertising and public relations graduate program. “This little girl is in a life-threatening situation. We had the opportunity to take on a real crisis and just ran with it.”

Lyne Farber, who is an assistant professor currently teaching crisis management, introduced the students to this opportunity. The class took on the challenge.

In just three days the Public Relations Student Society of America at FIU; along with graduate students in the ICAP program, Community Blood Centers of South Florida and The Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation, South Florida’s office have organized a three-day drive in hopes of finding a donor for Lauren.

“Anybody is a potential match, but people of German, Irish or English heritage have a better chance of being a match because of her background,” said Catherine Ables, associate professor of advertising and public relations for the ICAP program.

Anyone matching those ethnicities is a probable match, but others are encouraged to donate.

All blood donations will be tested for possible bone marrow donors. In February, Lauren lost 95 percent of her red blood cells, making it too risky to perform a marrow transplant. Recently, her blood count has increased by 90 percent. Her recovery has been faster than expected, which means that she will need a transplant before her count drops again. “Miracles do happen,” said David Gonzalez, area manager of Community Blood Centers of South Florida. “It’s taking team effort to help this little girl, everyone who helped organize the drive and the donors are becoming life savers.”

The donations will serve many purposes. The blood that is not a match will go to several South Florida’s hospitals and the bone marrow screenings that don’t match Lauren could save another life. “It’s a win-win situation,” Gonzalez said.

Every year the FIU chapter of PRSSA holds an organ donor drive on campus. This year, they heard about Lauren and decided to do a bone marrow drive instead.

As the students started to research the new drive they found out that the bone marrow registration nation-wide is underrepresented among Hispanics and African-Americans. Students of these ethnicities are encouraged to donate not only for Lauren but to increase registration among minorities.

“We are trying to find as many people as possible to donate so we can save this little girl’s life,” said Melanie Bousquet, a graduate student in the ICAP program and member of PRSSA.

Lauren’s last name has been withheld due to privacy issues.
POLICE BEAT
TUESDAY • MARCH 21

• The project superintendent of the new marine biology lab at Biscayne Bay Campus arrived at 8 a.m. to find water damage to the first and second floors of the building. A fire main groove cap had been removed from the ceiling in room 210 and a fire plug removed from the ceiling in room 121. After the cap and plug had been removed, water from the fire system leaked into the ceilings of floors one and two, causing an estimated $20,000 in damages to the building. The crime scene had been secured from 1:30 p.m. the day before. No signs of forced entry into the building were found.

• At 8:40 a.m., a worker at the marine biology lab at BBC slipped and fell while retrieving samples around the boat ramp. She was treated by fire rescue for cuts and bruises to her left arm and was later taken to Baptist Hospital for further treatment.

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 22

• The football office trailer at University Park was burglarized sometime between 5 p.m. March 21 and 8:30 a.m. March 22. Two windows were smashed and a laptop was stolen.

— Compiled by Andrew Leins

Looking for journalism experience?
The Beacon is now hiring!

We are currently looking for:

Writers and Photographers

Stop by GC 210 or WUC 124 and pick up an application
As SGA elections draw closer, students encouraged to vote

We could write an editorial every week encouraging the entire student body to voice their opinions as much as possible; whether it is in the form of attending Student Government Association meetings, participating in student events or even submitting a letter to the editor.

We could sit here until we are blue in the face, or rather have succumbed to a violent case of carpel tunnel, telling you how important input is to be involved.

With a budget of approximately $8.6 million, SGA is, without a doubt, the single most important student-run organization on campus.

It is an utter shame that last year only 3,158 students voted in the SGA elections – approximately less than 10 percent of the entire student population.

It is one thing not to attend the meetings SGA holds on a weekly basis, but it is a totally inexcusable thing to ignore their influence and forfeit the power granted to you in the form of a vote.

In a nutshell, SGA not only passes under the noses of students, without their knowledge, let alone input.

There is a simple solution to this problem. We are not asking you to clear your schedule to make time to make it to the SGA meetings nor are we asking you drop everything and lobby congress alongside its members.

All we are asking of you is that you take 10 minutes, the usual time it takes to stand in line at Pollo Tropical, and review the platforms and cast your vote for who you feel is the best candidate for the job.

The Beacon has even made it extremely easy for you. We’ve done all the work already. Just flip to our Beacon Recommends section (next page), and make an informed decision based on the various platforms.

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@b.fiu.edu.

Letters must include the writer’s full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 300 words.
To coincide with the Student Government Association elections, The Beacon’s editorial board releases a list of candidate recommendations for the presidential ticket, representatives-at-large and lower division representatives at University Park and president and vice president at Biscayne Bay Campus. These recommendations are based on an in-depth interview accompanied by questionnaires the editorial board provided to each of the eligible candidates running for office.

UNIVERSITY PARK

PRESIDENTIAL TICKET

Candidates (unopposed)
Alfonso “Alfonso” Leon (P)
Providencia Okevy (Y)

We recommend Leon and Okevy to be the only one ticket running. They seem to have the strongest potential in becoming the leader of their class and have a great chance of succeeding. We also recommend that Leon and Okevy run unopposed.

LOWEST DIVISION REPRESENTATIVE

Candidates (2 elected)
Wolfgang Acevedo
Paige Anne LaPointe

Lower Division Recommendations

The following candidates for rep-at-large did not interview with us due to lack of time. We recommend the following candidates for the position of rep-at-large: Laurell Linton, Alfonso Leon and Jennifer Ruiz.

BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS

PRESIDENT

Candidates
Lauren Linton
Zachary Trautenberg

Out of all of our decisions, the decision for president at BBC was the most difficult. Both Linton and Trautenberg presented strong but different platforms. We recommend Linton due to his experience as a student president and the likes of what he has accomplished in the past. We recommend Trautenberg for his understanding of student issues and being able to work with others.

VICE PRESIDENT

Candidates
Breit Maxmin
Vanessa Ramirez
Pamela St. Fleur

We recommend Maxmin for vice president as he can bring back the students’ goals and understand how to work with others. We recommend Ramirez and St. Fleur for their ideas towards the beautification of BBC by painting several walls an artistic style and would like to see more students involved in the process.

Other candidates: Robinson, Trautenberg, and others who are worthy individuals but were not included in the process due to time constraints.

The Beacon recommends students vote for the candidates they feel are best suited for the position.

REPRESENTATIVE-AT-LARGE

Candidates (3 elected)
Ryan Ali
Robert Borgmann
Marbely Hernandez
Arthur “AJ” Meyer
Cindy M. Ramey
Tonga Papipe
Jennifer Ruiz

With three representatives-at-large, the decision of recommending candidates is one that should be made carefully. We recommend the following candidates for the position of representative-at-large: Ryan Ali, Arthur Meyer, and Jennifer Ruiz.

TREASURER

Candidates (2 elected)
Maximin LaPointe
Lauren Linton

Maximin LaPointe: He has been a successful SGA member and has accomplished many goals during his time in office. He is a strong leader and has the ability to make decisions quickly. We recommend Maximin due to his experience and leadership skills.

Lauren Linton: Despite having some difficulty in answering questions, she is a strong candidate for treasurer. Her goals and platforms are attainable and well thought out.

The Beacon recommends Maximin LaPointe for treasurer and Lauren Linton for president as a ticket.

The Beacon recommends that students vote for the candidates they feel are best suited for the position.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Candidates (3 elected)
Camilo Silva
Pamela St. Fleur
Rebecca “Becky” Andrews

Camilo Silva: He has demonstrated his leadership skills as the head of Pine Center and is a strong candidate for the position of sustainability community council. He is a strong leader and has the ability to make decisions quickly.

Pamela St. Fleur: Despite having some difficulty in answering questions, she is a strong candidate for the position of sustainability community council. Her goals and platforms are attainable and well thought out.

Rebecca “Becky” Andrews: She has demonstrated her leadership skills as the head of Pine Center and is a strong candidate for the position of sustainability community council. She is a strong leader and has the ability to make decisions quickly.

The Beacon recommends Camilo Silva for sustainability community council and Pamela St. Fleur for the position of sustainability community council.

The Beacon recommends that students vote for the candidates they feel are best suited for the position.
Introduction to dance class offers academic flexibility

This is part two of a five-part series that features fun classes available to students.

BY REUBEN PEREIRA
Staff Writer

Katherine Kramer tap dances in the middle of the studio as Nat King Cole’s “L-O-V-E” plays on the stereo. Fifteen students stand around her, following her every move as she leads them over the taps in the chorus.

Throughout the semester, students in Kramer’s class have received training in various dance forms such as salsa, swing and currently, tap dance.

Introduction to dance (DAN 2100), taught at the University since the early days of the dance program, gives students an overview of dance from a variety of cultural and traditional perspectives. Created for non-dance majors, the class is offered for students as part of the liberal arts education major or for extra credit.

Kramer has choreographed many of the University’s dance and theatrical productions including Hair. She believes that through this class, non-majors get exposure to dance forms they would not normally know about.

“It’s part of a liberal arts education and it encourages students to embrace creativity, open-mindedness and creative thinking,” Kramer said.

However, Kramer stated that the course is highly engaging and it not only gives students the opportunity to experience a variety of dance forms and to learn about the origins of dance, but also to understand technique and to train the body.

“[Students] have the opportunity to experience a handful of different dance forms physically; some of them more artistic, some of them more social and recreational and some of them more ancient or cultural,” Kramer said. “They get a sense of where dance comes from and they learn the craft of choreography.”

Senior Ricky Rojas, a finance major, enrolled in the class because he didn’t want to enroll in another stressful academic class. He also wanted to learn salsa.

“I took this class as an elective. I thought to myself— ‘Why not take dance instead of a math or a science class?’” Rojas said. “I wanted to learn salsa and I learned that at the beginning of the semester.”

Senior Yalena Martinez, an English major, needed an elective class on her class schedule before she graduated at the end of this semester.

“It’s my last semester and I wanted a class to relieve all the stress I was going through,” Martinez said. “I took it because I thought it would be fun and I liked dance, so I wanted to see what this class was about.”

Kramer’s class is one of two introductions to dance classes being offered this semester. Unlike most academic classes offered, Kramer doesn’t insist on a set curriculum every semester. At the beginning of the term, she talks to students about what dances they would like to learn and what interests them.

“I get information from them about what their interests are because, as an introductory class, I want to be able to address their interests,” she said.

“I don’t grade students on how they dance. They have to write papers and take a few quizzes on the information they digest.”

“I think her plan was to at least give us a taste of everything. She asked [us] in the first class what we wanted to learn and then we started learning it,” said senior Christina Pla, a theatre major who’s taking the class as a dance requirement.

Kramer said that history, theory and exams are important but the most important thing that she looked for in students was their participation in class.

Participation was exactly what Rojas said he was looking for when he took the class. “When I enrolled in this class, I expected it to be fun and interesting and that’s what I got,” Rojas said. “Actually, I got more than I expected and I can confidently say that it’s the only class that I leave with a smile on my face.”

Campus Invasion brings mainstream rock to University

On April 11, the mtvU Campus Invasion tour will fill Pharmed Arena with sounds from rising rock bands Motion City Soundtrack, Straightway Run and Hellogoodbye.

The tour will be brought to the University by the Student Programming Council, and ifFU will be the only campus on the tour broadcasted on mtvU networks.

The mtvU Campus Invasion tour is an annual tour stopping at college campuses nationwide to showcase new rock music. The tour was first brought to the University in Spring 2004 with headline Hootbask and opening bands Lost prophets and Ima Robot.

This year, headline Motion City Soundtrack is touring in support of their latest album Commit This to Memory. Their hit single “Everything is Alright” is receiving regular airplay on mtvU, and the band recently finished touring with pop-punk band Fall Out Boy late last year.

Supporting act Straightway Run is also touring to support their latest disc, Titled Prepare to Be Wrong, the disc is an extended play (EP) album featuring six new songs. The group’s self-titled 2004 debut included the hit “Existentialism on Prom Night.” Hellowgoodbye, the other opening act, expects to release a new disc sometime later this year.

“I’m really excited about seeing all the bands perform,” said SPC member Rosalyn Delgado. “I really think that this concert will be a great opportunity for bands like Motion City Soundtrack and hellowgoodbye to gain exposure.”

Tickets for FU students are available at the Campus Life office in GC 2240. Students will receive one ticket per student ID.

Additional tickets can be purchased at the Pharmed Arena box office for $5.

Since March 13, the official start date for concert promotion, over 500 FU students have acquired free tickets for the show. Slightly over 100 public tickets have been purchased at
Ample promotion increases ticket distribution

Drumroll please.

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Jamie Gow
Daniela Jolodosky, intern
Ana Paredes, intern
Damian Santo
Shane Sasso, intern
Diego Suarez
Roberto Zaldivar

“We expect a big portion of our sales the day of the show. A lot of students wait until the last minute to get their tickets, so we expect a big turnout when April 11 comes around,” said SPC Concerts Committee Chairperson Jackie Gadea.

To promote the event, SPC members have been posting posters and handing out flyers around UP. Aside from promotion within the University, outside promotion has been prevalent as well.

“We gave 480 complimentary tickets to radio stations and news outlets for giveaways,” Gadea said. “Stations like 93 Rock and newspapers like The New Times have all received tickets to give away. We are also giving tickets away at SPC’s advance movie screenings.”

Leading up to the event, a concert mini-series called First Strike is taking place every Monday and Wednesday in the GC Atrium and Gracie’s Grill. Free food is being given out to any students stopping by the events to learn more about the upcoming concert.

In addition to receiving free food, students can also sign up to win backstage passes to the Campus Invasion concert.

On the day of the event, the mtvU Village will be set up in the Betty Chapman Plaza from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

At the Village, attendees will have the opportunity to meet some of the bands and receive free stuff from the show’s sponsors.

“The Village will have tents set up for the tour’s seven main sponsors including Butterfinger and Neutrogena. LIFE beat, a nonprofit organization, will also be out to help promote AIDS awareness,” Gadea said.

Doors open at 6 p.m. on the day of the show. The concert is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. More information can be found at www.yourspc.com.
Baseball players have always tried to gain advantages

STEROIDS, from page 12

and I blame the owners, the commissioner and especially the MLB players’ association.

Dating back to the 1994 strike, it was obvious that the players’ association had only one goal in mind: to become the most powerful organization in the world. No matter what the long-term ramifications for the game of baseball, they wanted more and more money and didn’t care how they got it. Therefore, they were more than reluctant to let the steroids issue progress because bigger stats meant a bigger fan-base, which meant greater owner revenue, which equaled more money for player salaries.

Thanks to Selig though, the players’ association got so much power that the league had to cancel the 1994 World Series, with the strike, and bring the steroid issue to the heights it encountered a couple of years ago.

Now Selig wants to act as if the steroid issue is such a big surprise that he needs to embark on an overdue investigation.

Obviously, there’s no way the hierarchy of baseball could be so dumb to not realize players were shooting up in the ’80s and ’90s. It was such a big deal in the clubhouse back then and there is no way it could’ve gotten past the eyes of managers or owners.

The problem is, baseball – and any other professional sport that deals with so much money – is all about gaining an edge on the opponent. Baseball players have been doing it for ages. Whether it’s studying game tape, getting scouting reports, corking bats or throwing spitballs, a money hungry organization like Major League Baseball will always be about getting an advantage and steroids are no different.

Managers didn’t say anything back then because ordinary players were becoming perennial all-stars and getting their teams in the win column. Owners weren’t saying anything because home runs drew fans and they were bringing in more money. And Bud Selig didn’t say anything because having two players break the home run record in 1998 brought baseball back on top.

So now, more than a year after baseball players met before Congress to “end the steroids issue,” it seems as though the problem is just beginning. By keeping quiet for so long, Selig and the rest of the baseball world has dug itself into a hole they seemingly can never get out of.

And it’s the fans that have to pay the price.

STOP BY OUR OFFICES IN GC 210 OR WUC 124 TO APPLY!
HONORED: Sarah Belanger was named Sun Belt Conference Pitcher of the Week for the second consecutive week. Belanger struck out a career-high 12 batters in a March 24 win against Florida A&M. For the week ending March 26, Belanger had a 2.55 ERA and 17 strikeouts in 11 innings.

11

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SPORTS

The Beacon – April 3, 2006

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PITCHER OF THE WEEK

LAW SCHOOL 101

Secrets to First-Year Success

At this free event, join nationally recognized law scholar, former dean and CNN legal commentator Dr. Paul Lisnek.

- Learn how to avoid becoming a “C” student
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Monday, April 10th @ 7pm
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TWO YEAR PROGRAM BEGINS AUGUST 2006 | ONE YEAR PROGRAM BEGINS JANUARY 2007
Running back dismissed from team

By Xavier Villamarzo
Sports Editor

With spring practices just getting underway, the football team has already made a couple of key offensive changes.

Ben West, who was the team’s leading rusher last season, has been dismissed from the team. Backup quarterback Tavares Kendrick will sit out spring practices due to academics.

In an interview with the Miami Herald, head coach Don Strock said West was “dismissed for violations of team rules and regulations.”

“[Tavares] Kendrick has to take care of his academics and, hopefully, he’ll be back in August,” Strock said to the Herald.

West played in seven games—including one start—last season, rushed for 537 yards on 98 carries and scored four touchdowns. West rushed for a career-high 214 yards Oct. 1 against Florida A&M and recorded a career-high three touchdowns Nov. 26 against Florida Atlantic.

Kendrick, the backup to starter Josh Padrick, played in three games last year, was 11-for-18 in passing attempts and threw one touchdown and one interception.

The football team, which began spring practice March 28, got into full pads for the first time March 31 and will conclude drills April 15 with the annual Blue and Gold Scrimmage.