Maidique to hand out diploma to 100,000th student

OUT OF THE 2,000 students waiting to hear their names called out during this year’s commencement ceremonies on May 1 and May 2, one student in particular will have a chance to take part of FIU history: he or she will be the 100,000th graduate since Modesto A. Maidique became the University’s president 20 years ago.

“The act of awarding the 100,000th degree holds symbolic significance for me personally,” Maidique said through a university-wide press release. “Knowing that we’ve had such a profound impact on so many lives is very gratifying.”

The student who will receive the special recognition has not been announced and will be spotlighted during one of the five graduation ceremonies taking place at Pharmed on May 1.

Certain University alumni and community leaders will also be honored during the ceremony.

Some of the awards will reflect what Maidique has called one of FIU’s greatest accomplishments, the approval of a medical school by the Florida Board of Governors in March.

Carolyn Roberts, chair of the BOG, will be presented with a Pillar Award for “her leadership of the state education system.”

Jeffrey Horstmyer, president of the medical staff at Mercy Hospital (which may partner-up with FIU once the medical school funds are approved by the State Legislature), will be given the Cal Kovens Community Service Medal.

The University has awarded more than 114,000 diplomas since it admitted its first class in 1972. Around 75,000 alumni live and work in South Florida.

Spring 2006 Graduation Schedule:

Monday, May 1, 2006
10:00 a.m.

College of Health and Urban Affairs
Journalism and Mass Communications

College of Arts and Sciences

Monday, May 2, 2006
10:00 a.m.

School of Architecture
College of Engineering and Computing
School of Computing and Information Sciences

College of Education

College of Business

Administration

School of Hospitality and Tourism Management
School of Accounting

Abramson Jr. Graduate School of Business

Grad student achieves long-awaited goal

After losing his sister about a month before he was to begin the graduate program at the School of Hospitality and Management, David Edwards decided to take some time off.

“It was really tough on my family, and I didn’t want to start grad school with those images on my mind,” Edwards said.

During his two-year academic hiatus, Edwards worked for Baymont Inn and Suites, located in Ft. Lauderdale, as an assistant manager, but he was searching for more than a job. He wanted a career.

He resigned at the hotel and enrolled in the School of Hospitality and Management graduate program in 2004. He said he would have been impossible to work as a graduate student.

Originally from Mandeville, Jamaica, Edwards arrived in South Florida in 2001 and enrolled in FIU’s Hospitality Management undergraduate program. Several years earlier, he had graduated from The Joint Board of Teacher Education, a three-year program offered at the University of the West Indies, where he obtained a professional certification in teaching.

Instead of teaching, he went on to become a sports journalist and worked for The Gleaner, one of the largest newspapers in Jamaica, and then pursued a career in sports radio. However, although “it was fun, it wasn’t challenging,” Edwards said.

His adaptation to South Florida went smoothly because Edwards had friends in Miami and had already visited the city several times before he moved. For Edwards, the challenge was in the books.

“It’s a lot more intense because FIU is a research institution and every class requires a huge research paper,” he said.

“People told me that you read for a degree, and grad school taught me what that means.”

But after completing several 30-page papers and conducting group research projects Edwards said that the program was well worth the effort.

Art student discusses time at University

After five years at the University, Andrew Horton will be able to call himself an alum when he receives his degree May 1.

A graduate of Christopher Columbus High School, Horton is graduating with a bachelor in fine arts and a 3.1 grade point average.

Horton’s current work is on display at the Frost Art Museum’s BEA exhibit.

The Beacon talked to Horton about his time at FIU and what he wants to accomplish in the future.

Q. What is your most memorable moment as a Golden Panther?

The first time I showcased my work in the University student show in 2004. It was the first time I showed my work anywhere, something very important to me.

Q. Is there a particular professor you credit for your success here at the University?

Out of the top of my head there are two – drawing professors Clive King and Gretchen Scharnagel. They both helped me find out what I was trying to do and pushed me to go further. They were both willing to spend a lot of time with me and the people that would help bring the art along.

Q. Through the years, which class challenged you the most?

II class because it forced me to look critically at my own work and start exploring other artists. It was a real critical point in me to the next level as an artist.

Prado reminisces on experiences, tenure

BY Reuben Pereira

Staff Writer

Alex Prado, who graduates this week, never envisioned himself as Student Government Association President or, for that matter, even running for the position when he first enrolled at the University.

However, as he got more involved on campus with various student organizations, he realized that the best way he could make a difference was by getting involved with the SGA.

Looking back at his time at FIU, he considers the three days leading up to the moment he was announced as University Park SGA president as the single most memorable moment of his college tenure.

“It all came down to the day when I was lifted up,” said Prado, referring to the moment when he was lifted up by his fraternity brothers after the election results were announced. “I’ll never forget those three days.”

Prado first got involved on campus with the Pi Kappa Alpha (Pikes) fraternity, with whom he rushed for his first year as his freshman year. However, he credits the peer advisors as the first time he had people to welcome him into the University.

Prado considers his term as SGA president as one of the best experiences of his life and one that helped him become a better person.

“From the very beginning, when I went into office until now, I’ve grown a lot as a person. I’ve learnt things that many people won’t learn until they’re 30 years old and I’m not exaggerating,” he said.

Alfonso “Alfi e” Leon, incoming SGA president, was enthusiastic when praising his predecessor who he said taught him that no matter how prepared you may be, you have to understand that every year is different from the other.

“As SGA president, Prado has added more to the role and has raised the bar on what a president should be,” Leon said.

Among the accomplishments that Prado is extremely proud of are the implementation of extended hours at the recreation center and an initiative for the School of Medicine and the School of Pharmacy extending hours and increasing services.

See PRADO, page 12

See GRAD, page 12

Horton's current work is on display at the Frost Art Museum's BEA exhibit.

The Beacon talked to Horton about his time at FIU and what he wants to accomplish in the future.

Q. What is your most memorable moment as a Golden Panther?

The first time I showcased my work in the University student show in 2004. It was the first time I showed my work anywhere, something very important to me.

Q. Is there a particular professor you credit for your success here at the University?

Out of the top of my head there are two – drawing professors Clive King and Gretchen Scharnagel. They both helped me find out what I was trying to do and pushed me to go further. They were both willing to spend a lot of time with me and the people that would help bring the art along.

Q. Through the years, which class challenged you the most?

II class because it forced me to look critically at my own work and start exploring other artists. It was a real critical point in me to the next level as an artist.

See ART, page 11

Horton’s current work is on display at the Frost Art Museum’s BEA exhibit.

The Beacon talked to Horton about his time at FIU and what he wants to accomplish in the future.

Q. What is your most memorable moment as a Golden Panther?

The first time I showcased my work in the University student show in 2004. It was the first time I showed my work anywhere, something very important to me.

Q. Is there a particular professor you credit for your success here at the University?

Out of the top of my head there are two – drawing professors Clive King and Gretchen Scharnagel. They both helped me find out what I was trying to do and pushed me to go further. They were both willing to spend a lot of time with me and the people that would help bring the art along.

Q. Through the years, which class challenged you the most?

II class because it forced me to look critically at my own work and start exploring other artists. It was a real critical point in me to the next level as an artist.

See ART, page 11
FIU students visit 9850 SW 8th Street, show your current college ID now through the month of May, 2006 and receive a discount!
## The Beacon – May 1, 2006

### College of Business Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Specialization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Juan Carlos Alvarez</td>
<td>Doctor of Philosophy in Business</td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Curry</td>
<td>Master of Science in Finance</td>
<td>Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Johnson</td>
<td>Master of Science in Human Resource Management</td>
<td>Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Rodriguez</td>
<td>Master of Science in Business Administration</td>
<td>Systems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Landon Undergraduate School of Business

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Specialization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Patel</td>
<td>Bachelor of Business Administration</td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Davis</td>
<td>Bachelor of Business Administration</td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### College of Law

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Specialization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Brown</td>
<td>Master of Science in Taxation</td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benito Martinez</td>
<td>Doctor of Philosophy in Business</td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Manhattan School of Professional Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Specialization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Murphy</td>
<td>Master of Science in Business Administration</td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Sanders</td>
<td>Master of Science in Business Administration</td>
<td>Administration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Attention Recent Grad Classes

**ENTRY LEVEL SALES OPPORTUNITIES** for Fortune 500 Companies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Snelling Personnel Services</td>
<td>Sales Representative</td>
<td>Miami 33161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Call 305-591-8835 or e-mail blond007@bellsouth.net for more information.

---

### Give The Gift Of Life

Egg Donors Needed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Are Completely Confidential</td>
<td>1-866-246-5837</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Campus Events

**Resource Management**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reimbursement Event</td>
<td>May 1, 2006</td>
<td>Miami 33161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### Best Career Opportunities!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SNELLING PERSONNEL SERVICES</td>
<td>Sales Representative</td>
<td>Miami 33161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Call 305-591-8835 or e-mail blond007@bellsouth.net for more information.

---

### Campus Events

**Resource Management**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reimbursement Event</td>
<td>May 1, 2006</td>
<td>Miami 33161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Call 305-591-8835 or e-mail blond007@bellsouth.net for more information.

---

### Best Career Opportunities!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SNELLING PERSONNEL SERVICES</td>
<td>Sales Representative</td>
<td>Miami 33161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Call 305-591-8835 or e-mail blond007@bellsouth.net for more information.
More men and women on the front lines are surviving life-threatening injuries than ever before for one reason: We have the elite nurses in the world. As a U.S. Air Force nurse, you receive the most advanced training and have access to the best medical technology on the planet. And whether you’re treating Airmen on foreign soil or their families on bases here in the U.S., you can put all that training to use. If you’re interested in learning more about a better place to practice medicine, call or visit us online.

1-800-588-5260 • AIRFORCE.COM/HEALTHCARE
Love of animals leads to creative art

Q. Now that you will graduate, what is your dream job?
Ideally, I would love to be able to work solely as an artist. It would also be really cool to be an art professor at the college level or work at a museum.

Q. Which drawing do you cherish the most and why?
There’s one drawing I have in the current BFA show that deals with an issue close to me, which is animals, especially dogs. I’ve had dogs all my life, and I’ve worked with the Humane Society. It’s a subject I take very seriously.

Q. What advice do you give to future art students?
Make sure to really learn about your art history and check with the counselor often. Q. Can you use one word to describe how it will feel when you receive your degree?
Relieved.
From PRADO, page 1

within the University Health and Wellness Center.

However, Prado admits that there were some things that he could have done better including expanding Panther Card services and having better communication with the faculty senate and some campus organizations at the beginning of his term.

Omer Bill Buchanan, Student Programming Council president and a friend of Prado stated that Prado will be remembered for his accomplishments as well as for his tenacity.

“Of all the things, I think he’ll be remembered for bridging the gap between the administration and the students,” Buchanan said.

Prado also credits Christine Denton, SGA vice president, as one of his greatest assets stating that their diverse personalities actually complimented and balanced each other.

“I’m very business oriented and she’s very spontaneous and bubbly,” Prado said. “And she’s very spontaneous and she’s very spontaneous and bubbly.”

During his year as president, Prado enrolled in more than 27 credits.

Prado described his typical day as waking up at 9 a.m., getting things done with SGA throughout the day, studying in the evening and then working at the office until 2 a.m.

“You know, I think I’m one of the craziest SGA presidents ever,” Prado said. “I didn’t go out on the weekends – all I did was study.”

Prado thanked his girlfriend Luisa Martinez for helping him cope with things through the year and considers her his sanity.

“She was my huge sanity. She helped me out with my apartment, and we’d go out to movies or to dinner. She helped me greatly throughout the year.”

After he graduates this semester, Prado plans to work with Anitere Flores, the State House Representative for District #114 (which is the district FIU falls under). He also plans to take the LSAT this coming fall and then enroll in law school by the fall of 2007.

When asked about what advice he would give to incoming FIU students and currently enrolled students, Prado emphasized that every student sets the bar of what the University will be and can be and that they should make the best of their college years.

“Experience all the things the University has to offer – from campus life, to housing and to student government,” he said.

“Students should come in willing to embrace the experience that FIU can offer them and that way they can, in turn, receive the best.”

From GRAD, page 1

One of the things he said he’ll miss most about FIU is “shooting the breeze,” which means hanging out with friends outside of the Hospitality Management building and looking out to the Biscayne Bay.

Edwards has a couple of employment offers lined up already.

The most promising offer is from The Hilton, which will soon be opening up in Ft. Lauderdale, and he got the interview through the School of Hospitality and Management a couple of weeks ago.

He said that his sister’s death gave him the inspiration to keep going and that he enjoys the hospitality field because it’s always changing.

“You’re in a business where you never work [less than] 40 hours a week and no day is ever the same,” he said. “A lot of people think that hotels are all about smiles, but its more complex than that.”

The University of Miami’s MBA Program was ranked #1 in Florida by corporate recruiters in The Wall Street Journal. Which means you’ll gain more than the knowledge to lead, manage and motivate. You’ll be part of a renowned alma mater that can open doors across the nation — and around the world. And you can do it with the convenience of choosing from a One or Two Year program. Both programs are fully accredited by AACSB International — the most prestigious accrediting association for business schools in the world. Join us for a campus visit and find out why the University of Miami is the right choice for you.