College of Medicine gets official name

EDITH SEVILLA
Asst. News Director

The FIU College of Medicine finally received a name amid great applause and fan-fare during a meeting held by the Board of Trustees Sept. 29. Following a vote, the board agreed upon the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine at FIU as the new name.

The decision was made in the Wolfe University Center’s Ballroom at the Biscayne Bay Campus. In attendance were guests, faculty and students, with 30 mock-up ads around the room set up to promote the college.

Other issues presented at the meeting included the proposal to develop a student support complex and an expanded football stadium, both on the University Park campus. However, the most highlighted proposal was the naming of the College of Medicine.

Armando Guerra, a board trustee, was asked by University President Modesto A. Maidique to make a nomination for the College’s name.

“I’m very honored and grateful for the opportunity afforded to present the motion on the board’s consideration,” Guerra said.

The college was named after Herbert Wertheim, a FIU board of trustee member and chairman of the Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Family Foundation. According to Guerra’s presentation, Wertheim has provided dynamic leadership to build FIU into a major research university.

Last year, Wertheim donated $20 million to the College of Medicine initiative, one of the largest contributions in the University’s history. This amount was eligible for a matching state grant, which raised the total to $40 million.

“I’ve usually never lost for words, but this is truly one of the highlights of my life, being able to take the resources that my wife and I and my family have earned and redistribute them in a way that it will help other people to live a better life and to be able to help this university become all that it can be,” Wertheim said with tears in his eyes.

The Florida Board of Governors approved the College earlier this year. A national search for the College’s dean is currently underway. The first class is expected to be admitted in 2008.

Other significant proposals presented at the meeting were also passed.

Marcos Perez, vice president of external affairs, proposed the concept of a student support complex and an expanded stadium at UP to be developed in different phases.

“Currently, the stadium has 7500 permanent seats, and we spend quite a bit of money every year to bring in temporary bleachers in order to meet the minimum for stadium seatings,” Perez said during his address to the BOT. “This would expand the stadium to about 20,000 permanent seats, including some luxury suites and club seats.”

Perez said phase one would be completed by 2008.

Phase two would be the construction of a student support complex composed of a welcome center for services such as registration, advising, financial aid and admissions. This project is expected to be completed by 2009, according to Perez.

Although the proposal was passed, Alex Zyne, associate vice president of real estate development, spoke about the financial aspects of the proposal and said the University was creating an FIU athletic finance corporation to accommodate the financing structure. The finances were not expected to exceed $35 million.

“I feel terrific,” Maidique told The Beacon after the meeting. “It was a great day for our University, a day in which we had the opportunity to recognize one of the most outstanding contributors and supporters of the University during its history.”

Edith Sevilla

SGA delays changing constitution until Spring elections

CRISTELA GUERRA
BBC Managing Editor

Major changes to the Student Government Association’s constitution were delayed during a meeting of the SGA University Wide Council (UWC) earlier this month. Council members said they would give students more time to understand what those modifications would entail.

SGA is broken into two councils, one for each campus. They come together at least once a month as the UWC, which is comprised of the presidents, vice presidents, commissioners and speakers of the houses from both Student Government Councils. Their latest meeting was Sept. 29 at the Campus Life office in the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Although SGC-UP President Alfonso “Alfie” Leon mentioned on Sept. 27 that he was confident the changes would be ratified Sept. 29, a motion was passed to table the issue. This caused a possible student vote to be moved to the spring elections instead of the upcoming special elections Oct. 3.

The vote was unanimous and Leon said the delay was for “the benefit of the student body.”

“We can’t expect to vote on something when they’ve only had five seconds to review it. We want them to be informed, not deter them,” Leon said.

The constitution has conflicting information regarding approval of its changes. Article 9, Part B, number 7, says that the UWC can propose amendments by a ¾ vote to later be ratified by a majority of student votes in the election. However, article 15 states that only a 2/3 vote is necessary by the UWC. Leon said that the UJC judicial board stayed up until midnight at their last meeting working on the constitution’s potential changes.

Some of these changes involve the vice-president’s position and specific duties required of him or her, specifically his or her participa-

tion in meetings and committee.

The vice president currently receives a vote on issues brought up to the house or representatives. This means the executive branch is involved in legislative duties such as voting on appropriations, bills and resolutions. The constitution, though, mentions that a separation of powers enforced by the judicial board is supposed to exist.

Another potential change would make the population of undergraduates and graduate students in each campus determine the amount of each school or college’s representa-
tive within a council.

At some point next semester before the vote takes place, students would potentially receive a summarized or abstract form of the constitution with the major changes highlighted. A website would show students the entire SGA constitution in its redeveloped format.

“We can be ready by January to have info sessions held in housing as well as town hall meetings to let the students have the opportunity to review the changes and provide input,” Leon said.

Another issue discussed was in reference to the judicial board affect-
ing bylaws during the special elec-
tions. In addition to the constitution, each council is governed by separate bylaws that dictate duties specific to their campus.

“Each campus is different in its bylaws; it depends on each of our needs,” said SGC-BBC President Camilo Silva.

“We’ve already been updating bylaws specifically for the judicial board at BBC and hope to have them completed soon,” said Gabriel Labrador, speaker of the house for SGC-BBC.

The councils agreed that each campus has the right to their own set of bylaws regarding policy in their specific area, but a standard constitu-
tion should pertain to both.

Additional reporting by Ange-

lina Troff, Beacon Staff
The Beacon – October 2, 2006

NEWS

THE BEACON STAFF from wire reports of State, County and Municipal Employees.

and will be represented by the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees.

plans offered to all other employees of the University, workers will have access to the same health care.

Most of those workers started at $6.40 an hour, but the new in-house positions will be set at $9.58 an hour, the federal living wage.

Workers will have access to the same health care plans offered to all other employees of the University, and will be represented by the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees.

The area around the Graham Center at University Park is one of many campus locations with low illumination at night.


For some students at University Park, that’s what the campus can become at night.

Director of Public Safety Bill L. King met with student representatives Sept. 27 to walk around UP and discuss students’ safety concerns.

Wolfgang Acevedo, the student services chair for the Student Government Council at UP, walked the walk around campus, which started in the Housing Quad at 7 p.m. He was joined by SGC-UP President Allan “Allie” Leon and a handful of students.

The meeting was scheduled at night so that King could see first hand why they believe the campus is unsafe after dark, Leon said.

“The main concern is insufficient lighting,” Acevedo said.

He suggested more lighting be added, especially throughout the Housing Quad and on the path to the Recreation Center.

“If we could have the same lighting that was installed around Lakeview throughout campus it would be great.”

The bulbs in the new light posts that surround the Lakeview housing building are whiter and brighter than bulbs used elsewhere on campus.

Almost all the light posts give off a yellowish and dim light. Some of the lights, such as the ones behind the Ryder Business building, don’t turn on at all and others turn on hours after darkness falls.

“Lighting doesn’t really fall under Public Safety, but at the same time, those poorly lit areas are of concern as far as patrolling,” King said.

He encouraged Acevedo to contact the facilities operations and maintenance department to discuss those issues.

Walking past the nature preserve behind the baseball stadium, Acevedo also addressed the wild dogs that often roam the campus and seem to be living in the preserve.

“Are we concerned about someone getting bit,” King said. “But there are also students and faculty feeding them.”

King said they were looking into fencing off that area, leaving only limited access.

Throughout the walk, Acevedo also tested a few emergency call boxes to make sure they were in working condition. Although they were all functional, King said the call boxes are hardly ever used.

“We have made some arrests of people who are not students coming on campus and messing with cars,” King said. “But our statistics are not showing the same numbers of cars are being broken into.”

He said the explanation for that is idle talk. If one person’s car window is broken and he tells two people, then those two people tell others. Soon, 10 people are talking about it, and it’s not that 10 cars were broken into, but that they’re all talking about the same car, King said.

“Don’t leave items in cars in plain sight,” King said. “And if you have a car that’s been broken into, come to us and report it.”

Newsflash

FLU

FLU, other universities receive $1.4 million grant

The W. K. Kellogg Foundation approved and funded a joint proposal with several Florida universities worth more than $1 million.

FIU, University of South Florida, Florida Atlantic University and the University of Central Florida are part of the agreement in the amount of $1,382,568, which will be distributed over three years to support Engaging Latino Communities for Education.

Higher pay, full benefits for janitorial positions

According to a statement released Sept. 27, janitors at the University will be eligible for salary increases of almost 50 percent and access to health care under a new plan to make the janitorial staff positions in-house.

Most of those workers started at $6.40 an hour, but the new in-house positions will be set at $9.58 an hour, the federal living wage.

Workers will have access to the same health care plans offered to all other employees of the University, and will be represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

Compiled by Betsy Martinez and Yesenia Forte, Beacon Staff from wire reports

Correction

In the issue dated Sept. 28, 2006, the editorial incorrectly mentioned a possible Metrorail station at 107th St. The correct address was 107th Ave.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

Wait until dark: The area around the Graham Center at University Park is one of many campus locations with low illumination at night.

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Cuba expert addresses island’s political future

CHRISTOPHER LAZAGA
Contributing Writer

Is a free Cuba feasible or possible at all? Frank O. Mora, professor of international studies at Rhodes College, is not very optimistic.

Mora spoke on behalf of “Between Fidel and Raul,” a lecture sponsored by the Cuban Research Institute addressing the future of Cuba at the end of Fidel Castro’s leadership. Mora opened his presentation with remarks on the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba released by the U. S. government in July 2006.

His argument is that the CACF II report is fundamentally flawed.

The report assumes a crucial dynamic required for a movement toward democracy exists. According to Mora, it exists at an insufficient level.

In the 30s, Fidel Castro led a small group of rebels against Cuban president Fulgencio Batista. Castro and his rebels, calling themselves Guerrillas Armadas Revolucionarias (Revolutionary Armed Forces), succeeded in overthrowing Batista’s regime. Following Castro’s revolution, Cuba turned into a totalitarian government.

Mora believes Castro’s regime drastically changed after the fall of the Soviet Union.

“Castro dubbed this time span the Special Period,” Mora said. “To ensure that his reign over Cuba continued undisturbed, he tightened his hold by re-mobilizing the FAR to take care of most operations: civil, economic and military.”

The result was a small elite class made up of military officers and government members, many of whom fought alongside Castro during the revolution. An overwhelmingly large lower class made up of the rest.

“The crucial dynamic for change [in Cuba] is the strength of civil society force versus the strength and degree of cohesiveness of the regime.” Mora said.

In order for change to occur, there must be sufficient cracks and fissures within the government in power, he said.

“These cracks manifest themselves as unrest among government or military officials or defections of those in power to the opposing force,” Mora said.

This, coupled with a strong civil society with a true yearning for democratic freedom, is essentially the recipe for change.

The key is for unrest among those in power to give space for the people to mobilize against them.

Unfortunately for Cubans, in the eve of Castro’s life, his regime remains strongly united and the people remain collectively weak and oppressed, according to Mora.

An advantage is that Castro’s successor and younger brother Raul Castro cannot rule like the dictator; he lacks the charisma and general pull of the revolution’s originator. Either way, he won’t have much time.

“Raul Castro will not remain in power for long. He is very old. So are the rest of those who fought in the revolution fifty years ago,” Mora said.

Professor among finalists for award

BEN BADGER JR.
Staff Writer

The National Society of Collegiate Scholars has announced their top 10 finalists for their Faculty of the Year Award and FIU’s Maria Magnus, an associate professor of dietetics and nutrition, is among the top 10.

The NSCS is an honors organization based in Washington D.C. that, according to its web site at NSCS.org, recognizes first and second-year students for outstanding academic achievement.

The faculty of the year program was first introduced in 2004.

The winner receives a $1000 stipend and $5000 donated in his or her name to a scholarship fund for his or her university.

Magnus was one of a thousand professors nominated for the award.

“I was nominated anonymously by a student,” Magnus said. “So there is no way for me to know who nominated me. But I was delighted when I found out I reached the top 10.”

Magnus was notified Sept. 20 that she was in the top 10, but when she was first told she had made the initial group of 1000 nominees, she reacted in a unique way.

“I had never heard of the group before, so I threw the documents they sent me away,” Magnus said.

MORA
Nutrition professor nominated for faculty award

**ANDREW LEINS**  
Staff Writer

A group of researchers at FIU’s Engineering Campus are currently making advances in nanotechnology – breakthroughs that can one day help humans live better and create computers with larger storage capacities, according to the researchers.

Fundied by grants from the Office of Navy Research, the National Science Foundation and other contributors, researchers at the facility are working towards advances in technology through the use of nanotechnology.

Nanotechnology works with particles and devices at the nano-scale, which is between one to 100 nanometers. A nanometer is one-billionth of a meter.

Devices of this size are fabricated at the facility using high-tech equipment, including transmission electron microscopes that can magnify up to a billion times the vision of the human eye.

When entering the Motorola Nanofabrication Facility, a 2,000 sq. ft. facility located on the Engineering Campus, team members are almost put on special “gowning” designs to enter the clean room facility. The room has to be free of any dust and other particles that can contaminate experiments.

The lab has an anti-vibration floor and the equipment is reinforced so as not to sense any vibration, which can also hurt the experiments.

The projects often involve professors from different fields including material science, biomedical engineering and electrical engineering; they work on applications for computers, biomedical sensors and improving materials.

One of the recent breakthroughs came from Arvind Agarwal, assistant professor for the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and his team of researchers. They found a way to improve the coating of biological implants such as joint replacements in the body. The coating on these metal implants can become brittle and begin to dissolve inside the body.

Agarwal sprayed the coating material with small nanoparticles, which strengthened the coating, making it less brittle. Agarwal’s research also looks into building larger structures from small nanoparticles. He believes that through this process stronger materials can be designed that would be cheaper to produce.

Government agencies such as NASA and the U.S. Air Force have also sponsored some of Agarwal’s research.

Getting money for research is never easy, Agarwal said.

“Getting success rate for funding is less than 10 percent. For every ten grants applied for, I’ll maybe get one,” Agarwal said. “The process can become very time consuming.”

Agarwal can sometimes spend up to 80 hours a week between teaching classes and researching his projects. When asked about how much time he spends working Agarwal laughed. “There is no number.”

When professors seek out applications for grants, the Office of Sponsored Research Administration handles the money received.

Doctoral student Xuan Wang is involved in experiments at the facility and in the testing of devices. “It can be exciting when you are trying to identify a problem and then find a solution, you have to test and re-test your results,” he said.

Roberto Panepucci, a professor for the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering researches heat-assisted magnetic recording devices that could improve computer storage beyond the current limits. His work also involves working with optics to improve the speed of communications.

Panepucci likes what is being done.

“FIU research is positioned to continue pushing the state of the art,” Panepucci said.

He tries to go to the lab almost every day to work on his main projects. Panepucci also has a team of four full-time graduate students working on his projects who spend about 20 hours a week inside the lab.

“The passion she has for teaching and research can only be matched by the students working on his projects who spend about 20 hours a week inside the lab. The passion she has for teaching and research can only be matched by the students working on his projects who spend about 20 hours a week inside the lab. The projects often involve professors from different fields including material science, biomedical engineering and electrical engineering; they work on applications for computers, biomedical sensors and improving materials.

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“Like knowing that I am adding to the knowledge in the field and other researchers can build on what we have done,” said Patricia Fievere, a doctorate student in electrical engineering.

Magnus into the top ten tier.

“Behind each exceptional scholar stands at least one extraordinary educator, and this year’s finalist have a passion and dedication to academic excellence that places them in an elite class,” Drake said in a press release. “This year, Dr. Marcia H. Magnus from Florida International University ranks among the best.”

The official winner of the NSCSE’s Faculty of the Year award will be announced Nov. 1. Magnus, who has taught at FIU since 1991, has remained humble to the notion she may win the award throughout the nomination process.

“My students are my first priority,” Magnus said. “If I don’t win, then the NSCS missed an opportunity to celebrate with me. But kind of activity is great. It’s good to know someone thinks you are doing a good job.”

**MAGNUS, page 3**

away,” Magnus said. “Last that afternoon Magnus was congratulated by then-department head Dian Weddell.

“After the department head came, I took the documents out of the garbage,” Magnus said.

The current dietetics and nutrition department head, Fatma Huffman, believes that the nomination alone will be extremely beneficial to FIU.

“This is quite an honor for Dr. Magnus,” Huffman said. “I think if she wins it that will really put FIU and our program on the map.”

Magnus’ students are happy with their teacher’s nomination and agree that this was something she deserved.

“She is absolutely amazing,” said graduate student Staci Shacter. “She is one of the best professors I have ever had. The passion she brings into the class really helps people understand.”

“She is one of those teachers that encourages you to take your experience from class out into the community,” said junior Bidrose Olivet. “We went to the Camillus House recently and served food to the homeless as part of an extra assignment.”

According to LaToya Drake, representative from the NSCS, these are the qualities that got Magnus into the top ten tier.

“Behind each exceptional scholar stands at least one extraordinary educator, and this year’s finalist have a passion and dedication to academic excellence that places them in an elite class,” Drake said in a press release. “This year, Dr. Marcia H. Magnus from Florida International University ranks among the best.”

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First students admitted to China campus

MEKALA AUDAIN
Contributing Writer

At the end of August 2006, FIU students began the Fall semester, including its students in China. As of this past summer, FIU’s Hospitality and Tourism Management Center now has a campus in Tianjin, China.

Although Miami is halfway around the world, the Chinese government invited FIU to build a university in its country nearly two years ago. The government said it wanted to do this to modernize its tourism and hospitality facilities – not only to accommodate tourists who have Western standards, but also to prepare for the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing and its increasing tourist appeal.

“[China’s] going to be the number one tourist destination,” said hospitality and tourism management major Shaneil Sibblies.

FIU’s presence will prove to be an advantage to students. Attending FIU in China allows Chinese students to obtain in American university education.

“We take the school there, instead of them coming here,” said Associate Dean Lee Dickson, who recently returned from the new center.

The many differences between the FIU in Miami and the one in China, in China, all of the students are of the same age group and do not have after-school jobs. In addition, because its dorm can hold 1,000 students, all of its current 313 students live on campus.

Although the school was officially inaugurated Sept. 15, only one class, Beverage Management, was available to the students over the past summer.

Mohammad Qureshi, adjunct hospitality and tourism management professor and food lab manager, taught this class for three weeks over the summer to 38 students.

“I felt more like a pioneer because I was the first teacher from FIU to teach there,” Qureshi said.

Qureshi also said that the students had learned English from Scott Kass, the Reader Services Department head at the BBC Library and hospitality and tourism management professor, and that the over-all test scores were satisfactory.

According to Kass, this education will not only serve as a benefit to graduating students entering the Chinese job market, but will also be a positive thing for the Tianjin economy.

“These students will become the tourism management leaders of China. They are going to be members of an elite group in the country,” Kass said.

Although this is only the first semester, there are high expectations for FIU’s Hospitality and Tourism Management Center in Tianjin.

“We want it to become the best hospitality and tourism management educational center in Asia,” Dickson said. This center, however, is not only for Chinese students, but also FIU students in Miami. Making this program available to Miami students is a priority.

“We are expecting a study abroad [program] to begin next Spring,” Dickson said.

The delay is because some internal developments, such as computer labs, food labs and more classrooms, were not completed by the beginning of the Fall semester.

“It’s amazing how fast they finished the building,” said Sibblies, who went to Tianjin in May to see the center before its completion.

Despite China’s Communist government, both Qureshi and Dickson assured that it is safe for American students to attend.

“I would feel safe because it’s directly affiliated with FIU,” said Zorida Suarez, a hospitality and tourism management master’s program student. Although this center is new, FIU plans to expand programs to other countries in the future. However, there are no concrete plans at this time.

Right now, the primary focus is getting the program exposure in China and Asia.

Anyone interested in the program can visit their website at http://hospitality.fi.u.edu/tianjin.htm.

New York Times, SJMC offer joint seminars, workshops

SERGIO CARMONA
Contributing Writer

The FIU School of Journalism and Mass Communication recently partnered up with The New York Times for a series of events and seminars.

An editing workshop was held Sept. 21 at the Biscayne Bay Campus with three of the paper’s editors: Don Hecker, Nicole Colburn, and Nancy Shackar.

Around 30 students participated after being nominated by SJMC faculty.

The visiting editors discussed everything from headline writing to the salary of copy editors and important resources for journalists looking for internships or jobs.

The editors were impressed with students who attended the workshop.

“Their skill level was excellent,” Hecker, a copy editor at the paper, said. “We’ve done workshops all over the country, but I think on some issues, the students understood more than any other school.”

Although this was the first time that the paper has held the workshop at FIU, they have held similar workshops at other universities, such as Berkley.

The editors mentioned that they would definitely be interested in returning for another editing workshop in the future. The New York Times has been interested in FIU’s journalism school for almost a year.

In fact, The New York Times has selected FIU as the site of its Journalism Institute for student members of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. The Institute is expected to begin January 2007.

“The quality of the program really attracted us to the university and FIU stood up head and shoulders above anything else,” Hecker said.

Hecker also encouraged anyone interested in the Journalism Institute to visit the website at www.nytimes-institute.com.

Journalism professors have been encouraging students to sign up for these programs, as well as looking for similar opportunities.

“The New York Times is a magic name,” said Allan Richards, chair for journalism and broadcasting.

“One of the things we as professors do is to inform students about programs, internships, jobs and try to expose them to as many events to broaden their education. I have many students going for the event and it’s good for FIU.”

The New York Times, though, isn’t the only publication with an interest in the SJMC.

The program was given national recognition Sept. 1 after Editor and Publisher magazine, one of the nation’s leading trade journals on the newspaper industry, praised the school for its efforts in teaching bilingual and Spanish-language journalism.

The article was written by Mark Fitzgerald and was titled, “Once little known, Florida International University now takes the lead in training Hispanic journalists.”

“The School of Journalism and Mass Communication in FIU is no longer a secret,” Richards said. “I feel good about it and it’s great and fun.”

In the article, Fitzgerald noted that FIU’s Spanish-language journalism master’s program was the first in the nation.

He also pointed out the introduction of a master’s in bilingual journalism, and that the school offers a master’s in business journalism.

“It’s enormous for the school,” Richards said. “Editor and Publisher magazine is considered the bible and the quote, ‘Once little known university,’ says it all.”

Students interested in applying to the Journalism Institute must be NAHJ members, have completed one semester at a student newspaper or major newspaper, be in good academic standing and write a 500-word essay about being a journalist.

For more information, students can visit http://www.nytimes-institute.com/howtoapply.html.–Additional reporting by C. Joel Marino, Beacon staff
Institute offers lifelong learning

EDDITH SEVILLA
Asst. News Director

Before Dorothy Harris retired last November from her position as a business manager in a neurosurgeon’s office, she could understand some Spanish but could not speak the language. After retiring, though, she began searching for a part time job only to find employers seeking bilingual candidates. Like many others, Harris decided to enroll in basic Spanish, one of the many classes being offered at the Osher Lifelong Institute.

The institute provides students over the age of 50 the opportunity to learn in a short period of time without having to be concerned about tests, much less grades. “I thought [learning Spanish] was an important thing for me to get out of the way if I ever wanted to do anything again,” Harris said.

The institute, which began operating as the Osher Lifelong Institute this past summer after being awarded a $100,000 dollar grant by the Bernard Osher Foundation, has been offering various Fall classes including “Understanding Antiques,” “E-mail Skills and the Internet” and “A Psychological Perspective on Foreign Films,” among others, since Sept. 11.

Classes such as “Basic Computers” and “Writer’s Workshop” will be offered during the Fall B term between Oct. 30 and Dec. 15, including other courses with topics such as “Is God a Democrat or Republican?”

Dimaio said. Harris, who decided to enroll in a Spanish class for work purposes, Carole Dimiao, a former accountant for The Sports Authority Company who is now retired, decided to take the “Basic Spanish” class to help prepare for her upcoming trip to Mexico.

“We’re going to be going to Mexico and it would be nice to be able to negotiate a little bit and to know what’s going on,” Dimaio said.

Other students such as Minerva Andino, a nursing assistant who retired a year ago, decided take the “E-mail Skills and Internet” course to get up-to-date with the ever changing technology. “I’m learning e-mail and Internet to get busy and do something constructive, you know. That’s really what it is and I would like to learn the new technology before going on,” Dimaio said.

“Our students don’t like any of the connotations that come with getting old and that’s why you really won’t find any courses in here that deal with aging.”

The program, which has been running for over 20 years, was formerly known as the Academy for Lifelong Learning and prior to that, it was known as the Elders’ Institute.

“When the college of continuing and professional studies took over the program, I changed the name from Elders’ Institute to Academy for Lifelong Learning. The participants were very happy about that because they certainly liked the idea of being part of a lifelong learning program much more than being part of an elders’ program,” Jay said.

“Our students don’t like any of the connotations that come with getting old and that’s why you really won’t find any courses in here that deal with aging.”

For more information, call 305-919-5910 or visit www.caps.fiu.edu/academy.

- Compiled by Maria Chercoles

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The Beacon is currently making changes to make the paper even better!

We appreciate your patience and welcome comments and suggestions. They can be sent to beaconproduction06@yahoo.com (attn. Chris Nceuze)
New Fuels: All Hype, No Hydrogen

Politicians should focus on realistic alternatives, not fantasy cars

KRYSITAN MORENO  Contributing Writer

Seldom do we associate the term “visionary” or “innovative” with the politicians who make up our government. In today’s world where sound bites, press releases and expository opportunities are the bulk of what we hear out of Washington, we find very little dissection on a theme like the hydrogen economy.

When going on the record about solutions for our current energy crisis, we hear politicians from all sides argue about the future role hydrogen will play in our society. Surely, the possibilities of hydrogen lead us into an entirely different world, but what if that world never arrives?

The idea of running our cars and powering our world on the universe’s most abundant resource can be captivating to the imagination. But at this stage in the game the hydrogen economy has about as much presence of coming to fruition as do teleportation or flying cars.

You don’t hear the politicians shouting that from the hillsops. The energy politicians invest in creating hoopla about hydrogen would be put to better use by creating and implementing policies that bolster awareness and support for more promising alternative fuel sources such as cellulosic ethanol — a way of creating viable fuel from refuse — and hybrid cars.

Not only are there questions about the true environmental benefits of hydrogen — the vast majority of hydrogen production comes from natural gas and coal — but there are also serious questions as to the economic viability of creating, transporting and distributing it.

With today’s inadequate technology and high consumption rates hydrogen would be about four times as expensive as gasoline at the pump, untaxed, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Billions more will be needed to build the necessary distributing infrastructure.

There are cars on the road today that run on hydrogen, but creating a hydrogen powered car is only the tip of the iceberg. The real problem is finding a way to take all the oil out of the equation and replace it with hydrogen in a cost-effective, environmentally conscious manner that won’t make the whole system go boom.

The real problem does not lie in manufacturing an arche-type of a “green automobile,” it lies in getting that automobile into the hands of American drivers. It requires doing away with 100 years of infrastructure surrounding the internal combustion engine and replacing fuel stations, tanker trucks and even mechanics. This won’t be easy.

To understand the scope of the changes involved in implementing the economy of the future, you must first understand the role played by fossil fuels in our current economy.

Everything we use in today’s world requires fossil fuels at some stage of production, especially where the transportation and energy sectors are involved. No matter what your opinion of them, fossil fuels are an eco-

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Excellence comes to those who ‘labor’

“Excellence therefore, is not an act but a habit.” Aristotle misquotations aside, it used to be that we studied in order to broaden our horizons, to challenge our preconceptions, and to get beyond the narrow confines of our present-day culture.

Some consider that unfair. Please, have some cheese with your whine!

Fortunately for the students at FIU, there’s an institution that actually defends the integrity of education. The Honors College at FIU may be accused of being “elitist.” It’s also true that they measure excellence through “really high GPA’s.”

Yet, we’re all pretty talented at spewing empty intellectual rhetoric. Honors students might agree that it’s a necessary skill. Yet, however eloquent it may be, it’s never fared well when standing up to hard facts.

The facts are that the Honors College, as well as its faculty and staff, tirelessly promote six separate skills in their students: interdisciplinary knowledge, strong analytical skills, engagement in research collaborations, mentoring and internship experiences, responsible civic engagement, and an appreciation for the individual person.

Most importantly, they succeed in fostering a sense of community among the students as individuals with unique talents and responsibilities to the self, the community and society.

The Honors College accomplishes all six aims with excellence, in every sense of the word. You can’t beat that, brohomies!

Furthermore, the vast majority of Honors College students work part time, get involved in extracurricular activities, and still find time for their family, friends, and community! Despite all this, they maintain at least a 3.3 GPA — I think their ability to keep their priorities straight is what’s really excellent, impressive and praiseworthy.

An even deeper truth is that the Honors College not only cares for our success, but also does everything it can to guarantee it. This includes fighting so you can keep your scholarship, awarding you with a computer so you can do your schoolwork, or distinguishing you for your superior talents.

Knowledge and integrity are indispensable to a successful future.

The Greeks got it right in believing that “every man a man, every woman a woman, every person a person, but naught without labor.”

The Honors College believes students are capable of achieving excellence. It just takes a little labor.

Rocio Perez
SGA Honors College Representative
Junior

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Would you attend an FIU home football game to win a free ticket to the FIU-UM match?

-Yes – I like to attend FIU home games anyway. 33%
-Yes – I’d do anything for ‘Canes tickets. 20%
-No – Nah, I’m not the football type. 47%

Total participants: 49
Car your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com
Under the Radar:
The Women’s Center

HELPING WOMEN RECOGNIZE THEIR POTENTIAL

GEOFFREY ANDERSON JR.
Asst. Life! Editor

If you’ve walked through the Campus Life hallway on the Graham Center’s second floor and been distracted by the large number of flyers posted on the bulletin boards, you might have missed the Women’s Center.

Financially supported by the Student Government Association, the Women’s Center is intended to create awareness of issues affecting women while developing women’s potential.

The center does this by offering several services and programs. According to Suzanne Onorato, associate director of the Women’s Center, the Mentoring Partnerships Program and the Wild Succulent Women forum are among the center’s notable programs.

The mentoring program, done in partnership with the Office of Alumni Relations, encourages students’ growth in certain aspects of their lives by pairing them up with a FIU staff member or alumnus.

“The mentoring program … builds a community of mentoring throughout the campus and assists students in their personal and professional development,” Onorato said.

The other program, the Wild Succulent Women forum, is a more controversial program that the center hosts. At this forum, the discussions address heated topics such as women’s sexuality and body image. Created and facilitated by the Women’s Center Graduate Assistant Tara Warshaw, this monthly forum brings together both men and women late at night in the residence halls for elaborate dialogue.

“I would say that the audience for the forum is about 50 percent women and 40 percent male,” Warshaw said. “We do different talks and activities such as ‘Erotic Robots,’ where we explore the decisions that determine what’s right for you sexually and whether sexuality is like an on-off switch.”

Although Onorato did not discuss specific budget information about the center with The Beacon, she did state that SGA has provided the center with extra funding this year for particular events.

“This year,” SGA provided us with additional funds to facilitate the ‘Sisterhood Retreat’ Oct. 13 through the 15,” she said.

The Sisterhood Retreat, a new addition to the Women’s Center schedule this year, will be taking place in Alva, Florida, where participants will spend a weekend off-campus to further engage women’s issues.

“We’re going to have discussions and several workshops that deal with identity and other topics,” Warshaw said. “It’s free, but there is a $15 deposit that is given back the minute they step onto the bus.”

While new events such as the retreat are being introduced by the Women’s Center this year, traditional events such as Take the Bus will be continuing with additional funds to facilitate the ‘Sisterhood Retreat’ Oct. 13 through the 15,” she said.

The exhibition is comprised of nine themed galleries that deal with the skeletal, muscular, nervous, circulatory, digestive, respiratory, reproductive and urinary systems of the body.

Jimenez did, however, decide that the exhibition was performing an environmentally humanitarian act.

“We’re not wasting people, and that’s always a good thing. Recycling is a good thing,” she said.

Butkovitz, who is an exercise physiology major, said, “It was a great exhibit. I saw things I’ve wanted to see all of my life,” Butkovitz said.

What fascinated Butkovitz the most about the exhibit was that the exposed bodies were stripped of their skin, revealing only muscle, tissue, and organs—the very essence of what makes up a human being.

“Seeing was no race, no ethnicity. You just see humans as humans and you realize we’re all the same on the inside,” she said.

This controversial cadaver exhibit found a home at The Shops at Sunset Place, located at 5701 Sunset Drive, after it was banned from various venues.

Both the Ft. Lauderdale City Commission and the Museum of Discovery and Science rejected the exhibit due to concerns over the origins of the donated bodies, according to a recent article published in The Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel.

Under the Radar: The Women’s Center

Helping women recognize their potential

NIcole acosta
BBC Assistant

FIU alumna Melissa Jimenez saw “Bodies…The Exhibition” in Tampa eight months ago as a favor to senior Robin Butkovitz.

Jimenez’s idea of a vacation did not include cavorting near a collection of cadavers.

“At the beginning, it was kind of weird seeing all of these dead bodies,” she said. “I had no interest in seeing dead people.”

“Bodies…The Exhibition” made its debut in Miami Sept. 22. It features 20 whole body specimens and more than 250 partial body specimens, all of which are real.

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According to the press release, all of the bodies can be traced to the Dalian Medical University Plastination Laboratories in China. Each body was either donated or unidentified.

All specimens died of natural causes.

Yet, there were some cases where the medical direction was able to identify and label the apparent medical problems of certain cadavers in the exhibit.

For example, one display showcased a healthy pair of lungs and a pair of cancerous lungs. Therefore, it can be assumed that the specimen with cancerous lungs died of complications from the disease. However, it is important to note that it is illegal to disclose any information concerning the identity of the specimen and/or its cause of death.

Daniel Kellett, general manager for the exhibition, says the reason the bodies are actively posed is for educational purposes.
It's where barefoot hippies meet Burberry-clad yuppies, biker babes hang with beach bums and haute cuisine is served with a side of bluegrass.

For years, this one-time general store and current Picolo's Restaurant and Red Bar have anchored the Florida Panhandle artists' enclave and celebrity hideaway of Grayton Beach.

The Red Bar is best known for its crab cakes – a recipe perfected by Belgian-born chef and co-owner Oliver Petit – its funky decor and its live music.

"People have been attracted to this area for years – artists, musicians, cooks. It was the place in the Panhandle where a band could come and do something besides covers. And this building was the center of that. It is one of the oldest buildings in the county," said Kyle Ogle, guitarist for the popular bluegrass band Dread Clampitt, a favorite at The Red Bar.

Petit, who has co-owned the establishment with brother Phillipe for 11 years, said the decor is modeled from a nightclub their father once owned in Liege, Belgium. He calls the look his "tribute to pop culture."

The ceiling of the Red Bar's small main dining room is covered in foreign film posters and red Christmas lights adorn its walls. A silver disco ball and crystal chandeliers add light along with an illuminated plastic Santa Claus. A collection of random street signs, black and white photos, statuettes and an antique cash register add to the eclectic look. Mismatched tables and chairs are tightly packed on the worn wood floors.

Sheryl Crow and former fiancé Lance Armstrong are "friends of the restaurant," as well as NFL quarterbacks Peyton and Eli Manning, Petit said. Willie Nelson has hung out at The Red Bar and pop star Steve Winwood told a record producer friend about Dread Clampitt after hearing them perform there.

"I think seeing them play at the Red Bar is like seeing them play in your living room because it is so relaxed," she said. "I love their songs, their music, it's happy music, it makes everyone want to get up and dance."

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out in the world, which is quite ironic, considering the first single on the album is titled “I Don’t Feel Like Dancing.”

The cheerful first single has one of the happiest – and I refuse to say “gayest,” for all that it implies – melodies the Scissor Sisters have recorded. That’s no surprise once you consider the fact that Sir Elton John plays piano on it. Rather than be taken aback by their own camp, the Scissor Sisters have opted to embrace it as a vehicle for thoughtful and resonating music.

Jake Shears, front man for Scissor Sisters, displays again his talent for song craft with a distinctive aftertaste – the kind you find yourself humming long after it’s been turned down. In the song “I Can’t Decide,” a depressive ringo time melody belies the resentful tone as Shears sings, “It’s a b**ch to make you like you/ if I stop now, call me a quitter/ but if lies were cats, you’d be a litter.”

The song is about the indecision to kill someone who has wronged you – brilliant! Haven’t we all been there before? Yes – and because we relate, we dance.

Ana Matronic, Jake Shears’ female counterpart on stage, is sidelined in this album, but that punky-but-polished vibe is the front. Matronic delivers the song in the style of Blondie, and the Pink Floyd-inspired guitar riffs give the electric song its nails – its blood red acrylic nails. Lyrics like “Watch me start a fire in your shade” are a prime example of the lyrical flair that can be found on this album.

It’s hard to classify the Scissor Sisters, and that is a big part of their charm. Thus, labeling them as “gay music” (even though Shears is an out musician) is both unfair and inaccurate. Good music should be fun and exciting – and what’s more fun than a surprise?

The Scissor Sisters know this, the songs reflect that philosophy, and they have produced an album that won’t fail to surprise or amuse. The music is fresh and exciting because it’s contrary to what people will expect – that’s a great theme for a band that has been wrongly judged before.

If that somehow makes them “gay,” then I guess we all better throw on a feather boa and some body glitter – this album will get you to dance, even if you don’t feel like it. Surprise, surprise: great music doesn’t need a name or label.
Looking smart despite the reality

More often than not, it’s important to look more intelligent than you actually are. Prospective suitors, job interviewers, loan and later parole officers all rely on a visual impression of you to judge your worthiness. It’s too often that we want to impress one person above, and about, intelligence (which makes your charm look like the twin that survived). Therefore, in order to get through these difficult social situations, you have to lie. Well, if you don’t like lying, you have to “play pretend” that you’re actually smart. If you don’t, you’ll never get a date with that bookish raven-haired hottie from Starbucks (call me).

THE LOOK

The proper “smart” costume can overcompensate if you’re shy, mute or have a voice like Gilbert Gottfried (I’d prefer to be mute). Start with anything ironed. Smart people love starched shirts. You can also add flair with maybe a blazer or anything corduroy and you’ll look like you came straight from the cover of an Ivy League school’s catalog. Another option is to wear an item of clothing from another culture. You can show up to a party in a kilt then whip out a bagpipe. Additional accessories: a cup of overpriced coffee and an ethnic friend.

THE WALK

Smart people don’t necessarily have a swagger, but they carry themselves with confidence that says, “I know the capital of French Guiana.” In any case, you have to walk like you have a purpose. If you frown your brow while you walk, people will think you’re contemplating the world’s problems. Don’t look too occupied, though, or people will think you have an intestinal problem to solve.

The capital’s Cayenne, by the way. I didn’t know either.

THE TALK

The most important part of feigning intelligence is to gauge when to open your fat mouth. Since smarthes are usually choosy with their words, you should cap yourself to about three interjections a conversation. Make them vague, but have some sort of knowledge – because when you don’t, you look like a jerk.

As an example, I’ll tell you the true tale of a co-worker (unlike the usual web of lies I spin for you each week). We had an employee here at The Beacon (let’s call her Lady Lydon) who would often make it a point to mention how well read she was. One of us became wise to this deception and one day, in the usual rundown of conversation of what books we’ve read, he mentions H.P Lovecraft. To you who don’t know, this book. Now, for those of us that have read it, we’re really impressed by the Necronomicon. This co-worker then goes off on a heroic retelling of how illuminated she was by this book. Now, for those of you who don’t know, this “Necronomicon” is a nonexistent book containing occult ideas in the horror short stories of H.P. Lovecraft. As an example of being caught in a lie, that evokes pity/ridicule.

The moral of the story: know your audience. Don’t go into an art crowd and talk about Trivial Pursuit cards in your pocket for emergencies. Did you know that the male mosquito only lives a week? THE BACKFIRE

Sometimes trying to look smart can completely backfire on you. When talking with the air of an expert, especially in a group of people in the know, you need to have some basis of knowledge – because when you don’t, you look like a jerk.

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Girardi’s expected firing premature, uncalled for

This is all so freaking childish.
I would have thought that people would have learned how to play nice in grade school, but I guess Florida Marlins’ owner Jeffery Loria and the rest of the Marlins’ executives must have taken a nap at the time.

Not even the average 25-year-old Marlins players bicker like this.

From the moment Mar-

lins manager Joe Girardi was hired to lead this year’s team, with a $15 million payroll and comprised of 22 rookies, he was on the hot seat.

Loria hired Girardi without even consulting with General Manager Larry Beinfest, who was the architect that brought in all the talent this year and was hired to lead this year’s team, with a $15 million payroll and comprised of 22 rookies, he was on the hot seat.

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Beinfest was never high on Girardi and a nasty fight between management and Girardi, following a loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers on Aug. 6, sealed his fate.

What I find strange is why Loria wasn’t question-

ing Girardi’s moves or filled with rage when the team’s record was 11-31 in May?

A couple of months ago, Loria was in love with Girardi and now they can’t even speak with another one. Talk about a marriage gone bad.

Nobody expected any-

thing from this team. Base-

ball writers thought the 2006 Marlins would lose more than 100 games.

The only person that had different expectation from his players was Girardi. He kept the team loose and focused when the time called for it and he is the perfect fit for this club.

His cool demeanor, which he picked up while watching New York Yan-

kees manager Joe Torre in 2005, proved vital to this season.

Both parties are will-

ing and eager to separate already. Girardi will move on to a team where he will be properly appreciated and the Marlins will be able to hire a manager they will be able to control.

And the loser in the middle of this soap opera will be Marlins fans.

Within the 13 years of the Marlins’ existence, fans have enjoyed two World Series championship parades, gone through two firesales and now witnessed an owner run off a great manager who won the hearts of fans.

There is no possible way for Loria to spin this positively.

Even from the get go, Girardi came in here thinking he was going to have Carlos Delgado batting clean up, Josh Beckett striking out batters every fifth day and the rest of the $60 million team that barely missed the playoffs in 2005.

Instead, he’s been given the same treatment South Florida has received from the Marlins’ organization.

Cold fish.

With behavior like this, Loria and the other Mar-

lins executives shouldn’t have to wonder why South Florida hasn’t embraced their franchise.

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For the second time this season, freshman Yarimar Rosa was named Sun Belt Conference Volleyball Player of the Week. The outside hitter, who is fifth in the nation in kills per game, led her team with 6.2 kills per game in FIU’s first ever undefeated start in SBC play with victories over conference opponents Louisiana-Lafayette, Louisiana-Monroe and New Orleans Sept. 22-24 at Pharran Arena.

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Padrick chose FIU over UCF

82 yards on 15 rushes, averaging 5.4 yards per carry with 3 touchdowns.

Padrick also completed 221-of-366 passes for 2,461 yards, making this year his third consecutive season with more than 2,000 passing yards. He threw touchdown passes in nine of 11 games and passed for 324 yards in a win over Western Kentucky.

Although many other programs, such as North Carolina-Greensboro and the University of Central Florida, were initially impressed with Padrick’s numbers in high school – he passed for over 1,300 yards his senior year – Padrick chose to become a Golden Panther.

“It was mainly the coaches that I wanted to play for,” Padrick said, “I knew [assistant coach Hurlie] Brown from high school and FIU, at the time, was a start-

ing program. I thought it would be great to help start it.”

As expected, the team would have to battle through some rough outings the first couple of years. But the team knew that they always had another chance to redeem themselves.

“That’s the good thing about football,” Padrick said. “Every week you get another chance to play a new team, do better and prove yourself.”

When the team is faced with a tough situation or loss, Padrick knows it is important to stay as calm as possible and try to give his teammates confidence throughout the game.

Before game time, many athletes go through some kind of routine, whether in the locker room or on the field. For Par-

dick, it is just a certain way of stretching or a particular food.

Whatever it is that Padrick does to prepare himself, before a game or during practice, Strock believes it’s working.

“He’s really got a grasp of the offense and that’s why we give him a leeway in changing the plays,” Strock said. “He only wants to get better, as does the rest of the team.”

Off the field, Padrick realizes that with-

out his family’s constant support he may have never reached the level of play he is currently in. His coaches and teammates helped him throughout the seasons as well.

“(The coaches) teach me about the defense and have helped me become a better player,” Padrick said. “My team-

mates have helped me become a better person and a better man. I really enjoy hanging out with the team.”

Although he is his last year as a Golden Panther, Padrick does not seem to be let-

ting up, despite a rough start this year at 0-4. Winning the conference for the first time, the seniors and the coaches is his main focus.

During the first four games of the season, he has 736 passing yards with a 101.92 passing efficiency.

As for the much-anticipated FIU and University of Miami game Oct. 14 at the Orange Bowl, Padrick realizes that this is a great game for the program and that the team has to prepare to play against a school like UM.

“We’re going to give it our all,” Padrick said. “But there is another two weeks left and we need to prepare like we do for every other school. [UM] is a great team, but right now we have to focus on this week and winning the conference.”
New assistant coach brings Olympic experience

ALUKA-WHITE, page 16

Still eager to go further with her basketball career, the native Nigerian seized the opportunity to participate for her home country’s national squad at the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece before a short stint with the Dallas Fury in the National Women’s Basketball League.

Now that she has landed her first big coaching gig at FIU – where her responsibilities will include assisting with recruiting, on-floor game and practice coaching, promotions and camps – Aluka-White says she is looking forward to gaining as much knowledge as she can from team coach Cindy Russo, who she believes has a wealth of experience and knowledge, and will do everything that she can to better the team.

[Russo] has been here almost 30 years and she has always had a good team so I couldn’t imagine going somewhere else,” said Aluka-White. “I am coming here because I know that I am going to learn from one of the best in women’s basketball … I just want to gain more experience and learn about coaching women’s basketball.”

She firmly believes that the team has a lot of talent and potential for the upcoming season.

“I think that we have an opportunity to make it to the NCAA tournament,” Aluka-White said.

Besides looking forward to the upcoming season, White looks forward to getting to know the team better.

“Off the court, they are a great bunch of girls who are very respectful and hardworking. On the court, I can see that they are hungry for it and they want to do well and whatever we can bring to give them in practice they are ready for it,” Aluka-White said. “The girls know that, even though I am older, it wasn’t that many years ago that I was going to school and I have been through what they are going through now.”

Aluka-White joins former University of Miami standout Desma Thomas, who will also serve as an assistant under coach Russo this coming season.
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Fun for the whole family with the Golden Panther DJ, dancing, FIU mascot Roary, games, giveaways, face painting, catered food, prizes and more.
Tragedy inspires player’s decision to coach

RENALDO SMITH
Contributing Writer

As a freshman, Josh Padrick was not supposed to be the starting quarterback for the FIU football team. But when injuries pushed him to starting duty, everything was changed.

Completing nearly 50 percent of his passes, Padrick was named FIU’s Most Valuable Player during his first season as a Golden Panther. That same year he became the first FIU quarterback to throw for over 300 yards in one game; he passed for 370 yards against nationally-ranked I-AA Georgia Southern. He also had 12 touchdowns that year, including a couple of three-touchdown games against Georgia State, Western Kentucky, and Jacksonville.

However, the 6’3” senior quarterback from Merritt Island, Fla., admits that he was not very confident when he first stepped into the starting role.

“I was a little nervous (about starting) at first,” Padrick said. “It was a different offense and the game was faster.”

Padrick remained the starting quarterback and continued to improve as a sophomore during the 2004 season. He became the first Golden Panther to pass for more than 4,500 career yards. That same year, Padrick also improved his percentage of completions to 56.7 percent and his passing efficiency to 113.74. He had 22 touchdowns, including four games with two scoring passes. “He has only continued to get better every year,” said coach Don Strock. “He improves every game.”

During the 2005 season as a junior, Padrick was named a second-team All-Sun Belt Conference quarterback that ranked at the top in passing yards per game, averaging 223.7 per game. He was ranked second in total offense (224.8), and second in passing efficiency (122.6). Before the season was over, he totaled eight of 10 games finishing the year with 12 touchdowns, including four games with two scoring passes.

Putting it Up:
Senior quarterback Josh Padrick attempts a pass against Bowling Green Sept. 16 at FIU Stadium. Through the first four games this season, he has thrown for 724 yards.

Joanne Aluka-White, assistant women’s basketball coach

[Coach Cindy Russo] has been here almost 30 years and she has always had a good team, so I couldn’t imagine going somewhere else. I am coming here because I know I am going to learn from one of the best in women’s basketball.

As of Sept. 29, through FIU’s first four games this season, Williams has caught a total of 26 passes for 294 yards and has averaged 73.5 yards receiving per game and 6.5 receptions per game. He leads the Sun Belt Conference in all those categories and is ranked 11th in the nation in receptions per game.

The Biletnikoff Award recipient will be announced at the ESPN College Football Awards Show in December at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla.