Committee: 3-day schedule has official name

MARIA CHERCOLES
Asst. News Director

A website and a new name for the Monday/Wednesday/Friday class schedule were on the top of the list for the Classroom Utilization Implementation Committee during their first meeting of the year.

During the Jan. 5 meeting, the committee members' main focus was communication, especially towards faculty and student concerns addressed to the committee.

To do this, a website will address frequently asked questions, follow the implementation progress and provide updates on the committee's decisions.

It will also allow students and faculty to ask questions via e-mail. The website will be accessed from FIU’s homepage and is expected to start operating within one week.

“We are doing our best to try to anticipate faculty and students’ questions before the website goes live,” said Terry Witherell, associate vice president of External Relations and head of the committee’s communication division.

To address students’ concerns, the committee and the Student Government Association will work together to co-host forums to answer questions.

The first forum will take place Jan. 18 at University Park but there is no date yet for a Biscayne Bay Campus forum.

The committee also discussed creating guidelines to distribute to the different University’s departments.

These guidelines, which Corinne Webb, vice president of enrollment services and president of the committee, called University Classroom Scheduling Guidelines, will include the scope of the implementation, its objectives, process and monitoring.

The committee also hopes the guidelines will address concerns and explain to the University community the schedule changes and how individual departments and professors can better take advantage of it.

During the meeting, Webb questioned the proper name for the new schedule.

“No Place Like Home: Sophomore Antonio Tindor moves back to Everglades Hall Jan. 5 after the break. He’s been living on-campus for two years and doesn’t plan on leaving.”

NO PLACE LIKE HOME: Sophomore Antonio Tindor moves back to Everglades Hall Jan. 5 after the break. He’s been living on-campus for two years and doesn’t plan on leaving.

“Three day schedule misleads students into thinking they will only have to come to class three days a week,” Webb said.

Witherell agreed with a name change.

She added that “three day schedule” does not address the fact that the adjustment also involves space, capacity and classroom utilization changes, not just the fact that some classes will be offered thrice a week.

After discussing different names such as “new daytime schedule” and “new class schedule,” the committee voted to officially name the program “New 3-Day Schedule” because of the term’s wide-spread usage.

SCHEDULE, page 3

Celebrations begin for MLK Day

NICOLE ACOSTA
BBC Assistant

Robert Coatie, senior director of the Multicultural Programs and Services office, hopes the theme of the 16th Annual Revered Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 2007 Celebration will drive the FIU community, and the community at large, to grow a sense of “community” rather than “chaos.”

“We live in a community and a world that is full of chaos,” Coatie said. “So I think the question is: How can we find hope in the midst of the chaos? Without hope, one might have to question life and survival within the community.”

The events scheduled for the MLK celebration, held at University Park and the Biscayne Bay Campus, will take place Jan. 9 through Jan. 13.

A list of guest speakers includes Barri ngton Irving, a student at Florida Memorial University who is attempting to become the youngest - and first African-American to fly solo around the world; Kembera Smith, a college student who was sentenced to 24 years in federal prison for being a first-time nonviolent drug offender and was granted clemency in 2000 by former president Bill Clinton; and Julian Bond, chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and an active participant in the Civil Rights movement.

The week-long events will take off with the MLK Youth Forum, which will take place at BBC’s Wolfe University Center Ballroom at 9 a.m. The forum will feature Irving as the guest speaker, and he will talk to an audience of middle school and high school students, as well as the FIU community.

The Peace Walk will immediately follow, in which students, faculty and members of the community will walk around in a circle around BBC.

Ophelia Weeks, associate professor for the he Department of Biological Sciences, as well as the co-chair for the MLK youth forum and Peace Walk planning committee, said the forum and walk are mostly geared towards...
Class studies Da Vinci Code symbols

The course does not focus on The Da Vinci Code’s plot but instead analyzes the novel from the aspects of literature, history and art by studying Geumetrica; Gnostic sex and the view of women; the history of the Christian church; the Holy Grail; the mysteries surrounding the Holy Grail; the origins of the Freemasons and the Catholic order Operi Dei, which Dan Brown portrays in a harsh light.

The goal is not just to end every class with a verdict about whether Dan Brown is correct about this or that, but to make students understand and discuss the issues in a course, said Erik Larson, a professor teaching the Germanic and Romance Languages.

“Teaching the Da Vinci Code is harmless entertainment,” Larson said. “It’s fun to deal with these issues, but students would strongly disagree. The course is an entertainment in itself.”

The Da Vinci Code raised a controversy behind the novel — not making it just another sensational news story, said Christine Guadet, a department chair.

The intent of this course is to show students that there is no new controversy behind The Da Vinci Code — not making it just another sensational news story.

“Before the controversies exploded by glaringly careful research at the original sources and learning how to evaluate both, we might think that there is nothing, not discussing their opinions and learning the truth behind the fictional novel,” Larson said.

BEN E. BADGER JR.
Staff Writer

Expected to launch during this spring semester, the MyFIU is expected to change the way students use the PantherSoft system. MyFIU will be a new system that will be incorporated into the current PantherSoft system offering a wide variety of features to help students manage their information, such as allowing them to check their FIU e-mail, register for classes and check class schedules.

“This will be a one stop shop for students,” said Robert Grillo, executive director of the University Technology Services.

Of the $180,000 cost total of MyFIU, $100,000 went to the PeopleSoft portal application, $75,000 for hardware, and the remaining $5,000 towards incidental expenses related to the project. The University provided funding for the PeopleSoft application in 2004, and UTS, Enrollment Services and the University Graduate School funded the hardware, while the incidental costs were paid for by UTS.

In addition, once MyFIU goes online, the Student Information Systems website six.fiu.edu will be taken offline. Anyone who goes to that address will be redirected to MyFIU.

“It’s been anticipated,” Cabarga said. “Everything goes more on line.”

Once operational, MyFIU will be only available to registered students. Students will be able to have everything in one place. As it is, I go to PantherSoft and get lost,” said Cabarga.

And to further aid the selection of classes, Melissa Sabatier, Student Government Association’s academic affairs chair, says MyFIU will also include its own version of RateMyProfessor.com, a popular website account that students can use to rate and review professors.

“My experience has been that students want to have everything in one place. As it is, I go to PantherSoft and get lost,” said Cabarga.

“I’ve been working to get a feature on MyFIU,” said Sabatier. “In addition, once MyFIU goes online, the Student Information Systems website six.fiu.edu will be taken offline. Anyone who goes to that address will be redirected to MyFIU.”

“MyFIU has been an idea for a long time,” said Sabatier. “I’ve been working to get a feature on MyFIU. In addition, once MyFIU goes online, the Student Information Systems website six.fiu.edu will be taken offline. Anyone who goes to that address will be redirected to MyFIU.”
Pino Center offers students entrepreneurial skills

GEOFFREY ANDERSON JR. Asst. Life! Editor

A lone red door in the otherwise washed-out Viertes Haus building at University Park marks the entrance to the Eugenio Pino and Family Global Entrepreneurship Center. The color red, chosen as the center’s signature color for symbolizing power, also plays a peculiar role in one of the center’s prime events: The New Venture Challenge Business Plan Competition, where students showcase their business plans to entrepreneurs and investors to compete for start-up funding.

“Alan Castrud, our executive director, wears red cowboy boots to the competition and tells the judges, ‘I want you to leave blood on the floor, and I don’t want to stain my boots,’” said Pino Center Associate Director Colleen Post. “We want our judges to be tough, not the center’s prime events: The New Venture Challenge Business Plan Competition, where students showcase their business plans to entrepreneurs and investors to compete for start-up funding.

“Alan Castrud, our executive director, wears red cowboy boots to the competition and tells the judges, ‘I want you to leave blood on the floor, and I don’t want to stain my boots,’” said Pino Center Associate Director Colleen Post. “We want our judges to be tough, not weak.”

Preparing students interested in entrepreneurship for life after graduation is one of the goals of the center, which first opened at UP in 2003 after FIU won a $3 million grant that year for the advancement of entrepreneurial education. According to a December 15, 2003 press release from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, FIU was selected as one of eight U.S. universities to receive grants from the foundation after participating in the Kauffman Campuses competition.

In 2004, Chairman and CEO of Century Homebuilders Sergio Pino gave a multi-million dollar gift to the center, and the center was subsequently named in honor of his father, Eugenio Pino.

No specific budget information about the center’s operations was given to The Beacon but the center is funded through the Kauffman Foundation as well as workshop dues, individual donors and event sponsors, Post said.

The College of Business Administration, the College of Engineering and Computing, and the College of Arts and Sciences also contribute, according to Post.

To incorporate entrepreneurship into different disciplines, the center encompasses a range of institutes and programs, including the Entrepreneurial Academy and the Institute for Technology Innovation. Students seeking to learn more about entrepreneurship, the practice of starting up a new business, can take classes administered through the academy.

“Entrepreneurship is important because it’s a way of approaching life,” said Prats. “If a theater major wants to open his own company, there really aren’t any vehicles in place for that, so educating students about entrepreneurship is essential.”

The academy offers an entrepreneurship track for international business and management majors as well as an entrepreneurship minor and an entrepreneurship certificate program for non-business majors and other undergraduate students.

The Institute for Technology Innovation gives curious students another opportunity of learning and applying entrepreneurial ideas: the Technology Ventures Laboratory, where students work on on-campus research labs to come up with commercialization plans for technologies developed at FIU.

Other branches of the Program

Pino Center include the Institute for Family Business, the Entrepreneurship Research Institute and the Institute for Community Innovation.

For students who want to make an impact on the standard of living in their communities, Students in Free Enterprise, a group formed under the umbrella of the Student Entrepreneurs Council, gives them that chance.

Arlette Prats, Vice-President of SIFE, believes that the organization helps members apply entrepreneurship ideas and processes in the community.

“We focus on going to companies and helping them with a variety of projects, such as helping with budgets,” Prats said. “With SIFE, if you have an idea, it’s not you by yourself, you have people to work with.”

One of the most rewarding opportunities that the center offers students, however, is the New Venture Challenge because it lets students take part in a real-life situation (pitching a business idea in front of judges) and potentially win $15,000 in cash and prizes for their new venture while offering good practice for the real world, according to Post.

Jacomino pointed out that FIU’s classroom usage ranked very low when compared with other universities because many classrooms had a classroom code but were used as office space, lowering the usage rate.

Jacomino informed the committee on her work since the last meeting on verifying and updating FIU’s records on classroom capacity, classroom code number of doors, square feet, etc.

The next classroom utilization implementation committee meeting will take place Jan. 19 at 1 p.m. at the Engineering and Computer Science (ECS) building room 451 at University Park.

New schedule should bring funds to improve classroom technology

SCHEDULE, page 1

spread usage among students.

Who is the target?” asked Debra Sheridan, associate director of educational technology services. “If students are already calling it three-day schedule, we have to include a three in the name.”

The committee discussed updating the name, already in progress, of 20 e-classrooms, that is, classrooms with the latest teaching equipment.

This includes classroom monitoring from the media equipment office, which will be able to turn on and off the equipment from its office, help with problems, and monitor the number of hours the projectors are used.

E-classrooms will also include a digital document camera, which is a high-resolution projector, and speakers. Those e-classrooms with more than 100 seats will also have a starboard interactive monitor and computer and a lapel microphone.

Distinguishing between e-classrooms and regular classrooms will allow for better space utilization by scheduling courses to the proper rooms based on technological needs.

By June 30, the committee expects 18 e-classrooms to be in full-operation.

However, the committee still has to work out some kinks before it can start determining how the new schedule will actually work.

One of first steps is updating the classroom information records, which is under the charge of Gloria Jacomino, director of academic space management.

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If there’s a time and place to fail, it’s here because it won’t drastically affect you as it would in real life,” she said.

Because of the money involved in the competition, the center has taken precautionary measures to ensure that competition winners don’t take the money and run.

“The check is written in the name of the business, so it has to be used toward the business.”

For more information on the Pino Center and upcoming events, visit www.entrepreneurship.fiu.edu.

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January 8, 2007
www.beaconnewspaper.com

**Flu season:** It's not over yet

Limited number of campus vaccines left

**ANA DAVIS AND NICOLE ACOSTA**  Beacon Staff

With the flu season having begun in December and lasting through March, the Health and Wellness Center has started offering flu shots to aid in the prevention of the disease.

According to Pamela McGinness, a registered nurse and HWC staff at the Biscayne Bay Campus, the flu shot has been available for the 2006-2007 year since October 2006 but the number of shots available are dwindling.

“We have now 40 shots left. We will stop offering the shots when they run out,” McGinness said.

So far, 90 people consisting of BBC students, faculty and staff have been given the flu vaccine, McGinness said.

The rush for a flu vaccination has mostly died off for the 2006-2007 school year. “Most people tend to get their vaccines between October and December. It tapers off as December and January wear off,” McGinness said.

Elvira Velez, the center’s director and health administrator, agreed with McGinness.

“Sometimes there is a craze for the vaccine. There might be an outbreak early in the season and students rush for the shot. Not this year,” Velez said.

The flu vaccine, which is offered at both University Park and BBC, costs $12 for students and $16 for faculty and staff.

McGuiness strongly recommends requesting an appointment prior to receiving the shot because they might have to wait a long time for an appointment at any given time,” McGinness said.

According to McGuiness and Velez, it is important for FIU students to get the shot because it will prevent students from getting sick.

“If students are sick with the flu, their schoolwork will suffer. It’s just not pleasant,” McGuiness said.

“The Health Center offers this shot to prevent students from becoming ill. Prevention is an imperative factor of disease control; it is definitely easier than to cure a bad flu,” Velez said.

It is important to note that students, faculty and staff must be healthy in order to get the shot.

If a person is experiencing symptoms of any disease, they must wait until the disease is run its course before getting the shot, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the instructions for the shots listed by the vaccine manufacturers.

McGuiness said that the CDC conducts an extensive study every year in order to narrow the types of flu that most commonly affected people in this country and designed the vaccine to prevent it.

Velez said that FLU OFFERING THE flu shot will give students “a fighting chance against the flu.”

“Although nothing in this life is absolute, this shot will surely help,” Velez said.

The flu, not to be confused with the common cold, is a combination of very strong symptoms that develop abruptly. These include high fever, loss of appetite, nausea, and vomiting, among others.

The disease can last from two to three weeks.

Other things can be done to prevent the flu aside from getting the shot, McGuiness said.

“Washing your hands frequently and not sneezing into the palm of your hand, if you do, crystalize it over a lamp or sink,” she said.

The shot has been offered at FIU for the past five or six years. McGuiness said the shots ran out early on in the flu season last year.

“We had to narrow down students because the demand was so high. They had to fulfill a specific criterion in order to be eligible,” she said.

McGuiness hopes to be able to administer the 40 shots left at BBC.

“Hopefully, we’ll give out all of them. If not, the shots are thrown away because every year, there are new flu strains,” McGuiness said.

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OFF TO THE RACES

CHRISTOPHER NECUCE
Production Manager

Nov. 7 was the date of the 2006 United States midterm election. The highly anticipated event could possibly change the balance of power in Congress, with all 435 seats in the House of Representatives, 33 seats in the Senate and 36 governorships up for grabs. I awoke the morning of Nov. 8 and flipped on the TV, anxious to see which party had come out on top. According to the latest data provided to the news station I was watching, Rudolph Giuliani still had a slight lead in the polls over John McCain and Hillary Clinton’s lead over the popular Barack Obama was still significant, but shrinking. Notice anything odd? There is something terribly wrong with this picture and reasons are blatantly obvious.

These pundits and TV personalities were not talking about the results and possible consequences of the elections that had occurred the day before. Instead, they were discussing the possible presidential candidates for the 2008 election cycle. Now you don’t have to convince me that 2008 is going to be a pivotal year in the world of politics, but we’re not in 2008 yet— we have just barely scratched the surface of 2007. The 2006 elections were disastrous—at least if you are a Republican like me. You would hardly know it, however, by watching the news. With Democrats taking control of Congress, there will be plenty to talk about in the coming two years. While I will admit that I am eager to know who is going to be in the running to be my next president, I also think that the nation has issues that it needs to face right here, right now. We are a country at war and cannot afford to ignore the matters at hand.

That said, the only question that remains is why? Why would there be so much speculation about something so far away, something that, for the moment, the public has little or no control over? Of course, nobody can stop prospective candidates from creating exploratory committees to test the waters before deciding to spend million upon millions of dollars on a campaign. Yet there is something terribly wrong when news outlets spend more time speculating and gossiping than providing the public with actual information. The media treats politics like a professional sport of sorts. The impression they give is that of an entertaining and ultimately inconsequential contest, a game where the athletes, or politicians, gain or lose points in order to hopefully score their name on the ballot come election day, the political equivalent of reaching the superbowl. I understand that politics may seem like nothing more than a sport at times, but it’s really not. Sorry to disappoint. A sport is solely about competition whereas in politics, winning is only the beginning. By focusing largely on the competitive aspect of politics, news organizations are depriving viewers of the type of information that actually might come handy when it comes time to cast their ballot.

The “news” media spends its time telling viewers irrelevant information like how much smack candidates are talking, how much money they are raising, spending, or what they did last weekend—they might as well be telling people the candidates’ favorite colors. One would think that responsible journalists would have more common sense, but alas, even journalism falls prey to ratings driven and profit motivated. The “news” media is nothing more than a sport at times, but it’s really not. Sorry to disappoint. A sport is solely about competition whereas in politics, winning is only the beginning. By focusing largely on the competitive aspect of politics, news organizations are depriving viewers of the type of information that actually might come handy when it comes time to cast their ballot.

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FROM                      TO

www.beaconnewspaper.com

LIFE!

January 8, 2007

Percussion, samples among elements on 2006 indie hits

SAMANTHA QUIÑON
Staff Writer

This album uses horns, mandolins, accordions and fun hand percussion, set to just enough rhythm from a synthesizer to keep it from sounding dated. The result is a genre blending indie-Eastern European Folk-Gypsy-Mediterranean-Byzantine-Mariachi sound underlying singer/songwriter Zach Condon’s voice, which has the timbre and fullness of a French horn and the longing of his 19 years in New Mexico to actually see the Europe about which he’s singing.

Download: “Postcards from Italy”

This album of duets should be sold with a prophylactic. Mark Lanegan’s husky, cowboy baritone and Isobel Campbell’s ethereal Lolita voice will make the hair on the back of your neck stand up. The simple arrangements of pianos, guitars and strings let the duo’s voices and sexual chemistry take command.

Download: “Revolver”

This hip-hop/dance/pop album takes mash-ups to a whole new level: one that may induce seizures, if you can’t keep up with all the songs that are sampled. And no song, decade or genre seems to be off limits. Some of the best samples include songs from Elton John, Notorious B.I.G. Pavement, Paul McCartney, 2LIVE Crew, M.I.A., Ciara and Neutral Milk Hotel.

Download: “Smash Your Head”

Back after a 23-year “break-up,” the legendary Mission of Burma pulls through and releases material just as good as that of their underground heyday — only they rock it like the 50-year-old geezers they are, not wannabe versions of their ‘80s fantasies. If you haven’t listened to pre-Nirvana underground rock, The Obliterati will be like seeing the Mona Lisa at the Louvre when you’ve only seen her on a postcard. Next time you listen to those posers from Interpol, you’ll realize whom they’re trying to copy.

Download: “2wice”

Pirates, Spidermen to seize theaters this year

REUBEN PEREIRA
Senior Staff Writer

For the most part, the year 2006 offered sequels, prequels and remakes. The last three months, however, were quite different with a lot of quality offerings. 2007 won’t be much different from last year, though, with a record number of sequels and remakes clogging the first nine months of the year and the last three months offering highly anticipated Oscar baiting adaptations. Here are some of the films to look out for this year.

300 (MARCH 9)

Director Zach Snyder (Dawn of the Dead) brings the Battle of Thermopylae to life courtesy of the same technology that Robert Rodriguez used for Sin City. Gerard Butler leads the cast of Spartan warriors against the armies of the Persian Empire. Having seen the stunning trailers of the film, it’s easy to guess that the film will contain plenty of blood and violence.

GRINDHOUSE (APRIL 6)

Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino collaborate to recreate the “grindhouse” theatre experience of the 1970s by presenting two feature length movies for the price of one. The experience will include fake trailers and an intermission as well to complete the experience of a “grindhouse” theatre. Rodriguez’s movie will be a zombie flick with Rose McGowan starring as a woman with a gun for a leg. Tarantino’s film will be a slasher film about a madman who stalks beautiful women at night. This being Tarantino and Rodriguez, expect lots of gore, fantastic dialogue and top-notch filmmaking.

SPIDER-MAN 3 (MAY 4)

There’s not much to say about this third installment of the Spider-Man franchise that hasn’t already been said. With Spider-Man facing Venom (Topher Grace) and Sandman (Thomas Hayden Church) as well as the revenge seeking Harry Osborne (James Franco) along with dealing with Mary Jane (Kirsten Dunst), one thing’s for certain — Spider-Man (Tobey Maguire) will have his hands full. This will definitely become one of the top three highest grossing films of the year, if not the highest grossing.

MOVIES, page 9
Annual Student Show

Presented by The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum and The College of Architecture + The Arts, Florida International University

Juried by renowned gallerist Fred Snitzer, this exhibition is a selection of the best works submitted by FIU students of all disciplines.

CALL FOR ARTISTS

The Annual Student Show is a juried exhibition open to all FIU students. All submitted artwork will be judged, and selected pieces will be exhibited at the Frost Art Museum. Submit your work for a chance to exhibit at the Frost Art Museum.

Submissions accepted at:
The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum
107 Ave 8 SW 8th St
University Park, NC 110
Miami, FL 33199

For more information:
Call 305.348.2800, or visit our website at frostartmuseum.org

JOIN US

Join us for the awards ceremony, complimentary wine, hors d’oeuvres and music.
6:30pm • Frost Art Museum, NC 110
Lack of masculine reading material common at jury duty

Instead of leaving town for the holidays, I spent my first day of Winter Break in court. No, I wasn’t arrested for exposing myself – I had jury duty. I was originally scheduled for it in early October, but matters forced me to postpone it. In retrospect, I should have made a lame excuse to get out of it, but I thought, “Hey, it might be a cool experience.” It wasn’t. At least I wasn’t alone – my friend Robert Ramirez, a junior at FIU, was also chosen for jury service that same day.

We arrived at the Richard E. Gerstein Justice Building by 8 a.m., the time stated on our summons, and were surprised that several people were wearing FIU shirts. Apparently, I wasn’t the only student who had the pleasure of delaying his service until the first day of vacation. We ended up filling out a questionnaire that asked us a multitude of questions, including how many other men were going to be called. She also announced that books would be shown and that books were available while we waited. The list of movies included the masculine How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days and The library that same day.

“Just Married.” The library (aka 3-foot bookshelf) failed to entertain, too: bare-chested men riding stalling the covers of the faded romance novels lying on the shelves. This was going to be a long day.

Halfway through How to Lose a Guy, the movie was paused (the men rejoiced), and jurors were selected at random. I wasn’t picked.

I reached the third round before my number came up. Along with 29 other victims, I followed the bailiff and walked to the assigned courtroom. When we entered, everyone in the courtroom, including the judge, stood up out of respect for us. I sat down and looked at my fellow jurors – one was playing PacMan on her Game Boy Advance and the other one was either sleeping or praying. I couldn’t tell.

Our case involved an attempted robbery. Before we were interviewed, however, the judge called for a lunch recess. When we returned, the case was over – the defendant had accepted a plea bargain. “Great, I can go home now,” I thought.

I was wrong. We had to report to an aggravated assault with a firearm case. And this time, we actually got interviewed. Well, I didn’t. The whole time, the attorneys avoided asking me questions. The only time I spoke was when the attorneys asked about people’s feelings toward guns. I said, “My mom was shot by two black men when I was five.” Silence ensued. I had written the same response on the questionnaire.

Once the questioning ceased, the selection began. 10 jurors were chosen – I wasn’t one of them. The chosen ones stayed behind while the other jurors exited. Once outside, I received a certificate that excused me from jury service for a year. I looked at my watch; it was 6 p.m.

Despite spending 10 hours in a depressing courthouse with nothing to do except wait, I learned a lot. The judges taught me about the workings of a trial, and I learned how the interview process is used to select impartial jurors. I believe I wasn’t chosen because of the answer I gave regarding my mother’s experience with firearms – the defendant in the case was black, and the attorneys probably thought I would be biased. Then again, I’m glad I wasn’t chosen – one day is enough. Be warned: if you have a driver’s license, you can receive a summons just like I did. I’m just glad I don’t have to watch How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days for another year.

Last year’s releases reach from psychedelic to mysterious

Citrus is hard to classify. Reviews of the album use diverse and contradictory words like “shoegazer,” “dream-pop,” “Blondie,” “fuzzed out,” “psychedelic.” My Bloody Valentine’s New Orleans And all of them are right. This Japanese girl group is light-hearted and fun with sugary vocals and great baselines.

Download: “Thursday”

In composition and performance, Ward displays an ear for the distinct hallmarks of so many American music genres. On this album, he blends them all together into a personality of his own. The emphasis is on Ward’s unique singing voice, his transcendent guitar playing and his skill at writing melodies that last. His singing has a presence to it that brings to mind jazz vocalists, but also the grittiness of a deep-South bluesman. No one else sounds exactly like him.

Download: “Chinese Translation”

Inspired by Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans mainstay Allen Toussaint and the eclectic Elvis Costello collaborated to make this soulful album. Costello sings relatively familiar fare from Toussaint and a few obscurities, and Toussaint supplies his distinctive piano and horn arrangements with Costello’s Impressions serving as the rhythm section. But the gems are the new material, including the title track and five new Costello/Toussaint compositions that have Toussaint’s signature sound and Costello’s creative contributions.

Download: “The River in Reverse”

This album is pure indie pop. With playful girl problem/ growing pain lyrics reminiscent of Weezer’s Blue Album, The Format uses horns, pianos, very percussive drumsticks (and drums), accordions and synthesizers to create a versatile sound centered around layered vocal harmonies. The highlight is a cabaret-style lament/revenge song in which he spells out his ex-girlfriend’s name in a sort of musical acrostic.

Download: “Dog Problems”

Like an opera, And The Glass Handed Kites is something you listen to in one sitting. Each track floats together to create a dramatic guitar and piano rock orchestra, songs laden with octave-shifting layered vocals and sprinkled with dainty silver bells. The final result is somewhere between Radiohead’s OK Computer and Sigur Ros’s Takk.

Download: “Seeing Rain Weeps for You (Udo Prudal)”

This is the album of the year. Sarah Assbring’s gentle, bouncy vocals are tinged with melancholy and mystery on this self-titled debut. Intriguing the music with bittersweet contrast, heartbreakingly lyrics like “Is it so hard to see?/I don’t want cause more trouble/I just want to be a part of you” are set to Phil Spector girl group harmonies, daring guitars and other ‘60s pop elements.

Download: “Party”

Another semester has begun. We’d like to welcome you back to Life!
Comfort, confidence a must in Spring fashions

LEONCIO ALVAREZ
Staff Writer

Spring fashions are here so it’s time to splurge all of your financial aid money on clothes. Well, maybe not all of it, but at least a good portion of it.

FLASHBACK: The first thing anyone should know about what’s hot in 2007 is that in order to look forward in fashion, you must look back in time. Bell-bottoms, capris, leggings, neon-colored headbands – all trends that have been seen over and over again.

So when you’re wondering whether or not that shirt goes with that belt, just look through your mom’s high school yearbook and see what was going on back then. You’ll be very surprised when you find Tia Martica wearing your favorite jeans.

JEANS will never going out of fashion – just stay up to date with what’s going on with them. Tapered jeans seem to be making a comeback for both men and women this season, while ripped jeans seem to be the head- on a hiatus.

Paired with flat shoes and a white top, these sometimes-too-tight-for-comfort pants aren’t that expensive at your nearest Comfort, confidence a must in Spring fashions.

SHOES can either make or break an outfit. Conversees have been around for four decades and can now be found in almost any color or pattern, which makes them very useful when color coordinating. Converse.com offers a very cool customization section where you can customize your own converse to the tee. You can even add you initials on the outside of the shoe.

No matter what you decide to add to your closet this season, make sure you feel comfortable in what you wear. An outfit won’t work unless you don’t feel confident in it.

PHOENIX

MOVIES, page 6

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD’S END (MAY 25)
Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) and crew return in their third voyage. Although no official premise has been announced, the film should kick off where the last film left off with Will Turner (Orlando Bloom), Elizabeth Swan (Keira Knightley) and their crew of misfits heading off in search of Sparrow to the world’s end. Asian superstar Chow Yun-Fat joins the cast as a Chinese pirate as well as Keith Richards as Sparrow’s father.

RATATOUILLE (JUNE 29)
A Pixar film is always anticipated and this one is no exception. Director Brad Bird, who also directed Pixar’s The Incredibles – arguably the studio’s best work – is back in the director’s seat. Ratatouille’s (pronounced rat-a-too-ee) hilarious teaser trailer featuring a talking rat in Paris stealing a piece of cheese was highly acclaimed. The film deals with a rat living in Paris who loves good food and dreams of becoming a chef while avoiding getting killed.

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX (JULY 13)
Harry Potter and pals return to the big screen after a year of absence. Joining the ever growing cast in this installment are Oscar nominees Imelda Staunton as the hateful new teacher Dolores Umbridge and Helena Bonham Carter as the evil Bellatrix Lestrange.

The film will be directed by renowned television director David Yates, who will be making his film directional debut. Potter fanatics will flock to theaters in droves hoping to see Harry battle Lord Voldemort as well as witness the death of one of the series’ most beloved char- acters.

AMERICAN GANGSTER (NOVEMBER)
Director Ridley Scott, Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe team up in what looks to become one of the year’s finest films. Frank “Superfly” Lucas (Washington) was the biggest heroin dealer through the ’70s, and the film will chronicle the events leading up to Lucas’ arrest. The anticipated price of watching Crowe and Washington together on screen is worth the price of the admission alone.

SWEENEY TODD (DECEMBER)
Tim Burton and Johnny Depp team up for the sixth time in this adaptation of the highly acclaimed Broadway musical about the demon barber out to avenge those who wronged him.

Sacha Baron Cohen (Mr. Borat him- self) will be starring opposite Depp as his adversary and Helena Bonham Carter will co-star. Just the thought of watching Depp and Cohen dueling each other and singing under the direction of Tim Burton will be a sight to behold.

PREQUELS, sequels mark upcoming year’s films
Sara Giovannoni, sophomore swimmer

I knew I could do something else and I need a degree. But at the same time I didn’t want to quit swimming, because I was doing pretty good and I knew I could do it for a few more years.

By the time she turned six, Giovannoni was already competing in every event except the backstroke for the club team N.C. Ghirlanrina, which she continued competing for until she arrived in the United States.

Despite the amount of time she’s been swimming, her parents, Diner and Cosetta, have been fully supportive and have never pushed her to do anything she didn’t want to do. “They had fun,” Giovannoni said.

“They were cheering with the other parents [and] meeting other people, but they really didn’t [push me].” Her parents’ support encouraged her to attend FIU.

In Jan. 2005, Giovannoni attended the Coral Springs Swim Club training program headed by Michael Lobberg. “It was for the experience abroad, to learn English a little more and, obviously, also to improve my time and see a different work out,” Giovannoni said.

Lobberg, a six-time Olympic swim coach, also happens to be good friends with FIU’s swimming and diving coach Noemi Lung-Zaharia and spread the word with FIU’s swimming and diving coach, also happens to be good friends.

Unfortunately, her time did not stand up to the national level, Lung-Zaharia said. “She brought in a tremendous work ethic and dedication and really a drive that has inspired the entire team.”

That impact was especially seen last season on Feb. 25 when Giovannoni, just two months as a Golden Panther, set a school record time of 1:05.81 in the 100 breaststroke. The very next day, she set the record for the 200 breaststroke with a time of 2:17.40 and subsequently made the NCAA “B” Standard time.

Her time in the 200 also makes the NCAA “B” Standard.

“I’m really happy about the time,” Giovannoni said. “I was supposed to do this time probably [in the Sun Belt Conference championships], so I already achieved this goal [earlier than I expected].”

Even though her time gives her a good possibility of getting into the NCAA Finals, Giovannoni still hopes to improve to an “A” standard time of 2:13.65 or faster — an attitude that she applies to her school work as well.

“I’m a really ambitious person, so I’m trying to do everything the best — like have the best grades,” Giovannoni said. “And I’m really strict to my stuff, too. I just want to improve my time and see if I can make the ’A’ cut. I really really want to go to the NCAA’s this year.”

Lung-Zaharia would like to see her swimmer continue to improve, but is confident her time will be good enough.

“Nothing is official until the end of February, but I think she’s going to be invited,” Lung-Zaharia said. “Plus, she’s going to prove that between now and then as well.”

“I think for the first time ever in the history of FIU we will be going to the NCAA’s.”

Swimmer’s success reaches beyond the water

Before she began setting school records at FIU, sophomore Sara Giovannoni was faced with one of the most difficult decisions in her life: give up the sport she loves or postpone getting a degree.

“I knew that I could do something else and I need a degree,” Giovannoni said. “But at the same time I didn’t want to quit swimming, because I was doing pretty good and I knew I could do it for a few more years.”

After graduating from high school in Italy, her native country, Giovannoni enrolled at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia in early 2004. Soon thereafter, she found out how difficult it was going to be to balance classes and practice.

Not only was she studying industrial engineering, she was also driving 40 minutes to school everyday from her home in Modena.

In Oct. 2004, Giovannoni competed with the Italian National Team in the 7th International Swimming Federation Short Course World Championships held in Indianapolis, Ind.

“I was missing so many classes, and in Italy the universities don’t really care about sports — even if you’re on the national team,” Giovannoni said. “If it’s not soccer, they don’t care.”

Giovannoni began swimming when he was 5-years-old with her brother, Andrea, because she was told to do so by doctors. Andrea, who is two years older, was diagnosed with scoliosis and doctors told the family swimming would help him.

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Lobberg, a six-time Olympic swim coach, also happens to be good friends with FIU’s swimming and diving coach Noemi Lung-Zaharia and spread the word about Giovannoni’s talents.

That summer, Giovannoni competed again with the Italian National Team in the Mediterranean Games in Almeria, Spain, and won the silver medal in the 200 breaststroke.

On Dec. 27, 2005, Giovannoni stepped foot on the FIU campus in order to begin practice with the team and prepare for her classes in the Spring semester.

Once the season began, those around her saw just how good she was. “She had a huge impact; her back- ground being a very high level — an international level,” Lung-Zaharia said. “She brought in a tremendous work ethic and dedication and really a drive that has inspired the entire team.”

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RECORD BREAKER: Sophomore swimmer Sara Giovannoni holds the FIU record in the 100 and 200 breaststroke. She also competed with the Italian National team in 2004.

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Q: Even though we’re in the dead period of recruiting, how has it been going so far and how are you selling the program to kids?

Kids have been waiting a long time for FIU to take off. We live in Miami and people want to stay home. The word is out: FIU is committed to becoming a big time, prime time program. Everything is in the works: the modern stadium, the beautiful field house, and new weight room. I’ve been around UM for most of my life. I’ve been fortunate enough to make some great contacts with all the local high school coaches extending as far as the tip of Florida. They’re going to come into play. Those relationships are strong. They know we’re going to hire great people and they want the players to be around great people. You want to make sure these kids are going to be in good hands.

We were making sure that we do not contact or visit recruits. We were making sure we claim those spots on the official visit so we could get these players on campus to see what we are about and see what FIU is about.

Q: Now that you’re here, it adds a little more excitement to the UM vs. FIU game. Are you and the players looking forward to the game?

You can’t even think about that. FIU has to focus on FIU. There are several things between now and opening practice that we need to do to put ourselves on course to become a great football team.

Q: Defensive assistant Bernard Clark is your first hire. What made him standout? What prompted you to hire him first?

I think we all know what kind of coach and person he is. He is one of the top coaches in the entire country.

I know him personally as well as a former teammate. I don’t have any children now; if I did, he’s the type of person I would completely trust my children with. These are the kinds of coaches we want here: knowledgeable, intense, charismatic.

He’s an energetic guy that lives and dies for the program. He truly believes in the vision this year and he’s going to do everything he can to make it happen.

Q: What are your immediate goals for the team?

Obtain the highest G.P.A. possible, to be accountable to each other, to be a team that has complete respect for each other as a teammate and as a person. Everything else will take care of itself.

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New head football coach looks to lead team into unfamiliar territory

Q: Have you had any mentors teach you and guide you?

I think the guys I’ve worked with have been great mentors. I think Butch Davis did a phenomenal job when he got to Miami. When I went to Rutgers with Greg Schiano, he took a program that had not traditionally done well. He did a great job changing the culture, making them buy into the program and his thoughts and beliefs. You see the result of that. You get a place that becomes a winner and that’s what we’re going to do at FIU.

Q: What type of identity do you want the team to have?

It’s going to be a team of intensity, it’s going to be aggressive and it’s going to have great character. We’re always going to make sure we do things the right way. The game of football is a game of emotion. It’s a game of passion. At the same time there are some lines there. You do have to demonstrate great sportsmanship. You do have to do it in a classy way. You can do whatever you need to do at the highest level and still uphold the integrity of the game.

It’s 1963 and Sister Elizabeth Marie demonstrates the mechanics of a lay-up to an 11-year-old girl in Portsmouth, Va. The St. Paul’s Elementary sixth-grader soon becomes captivated by the game of basketball.

More than four decades later, Sister Marie’s pupil stands by the sidelines of a game coaching her own basketball team, clapping hands and rallying at the top of her voice.

On Dec. 23, Cindy Russo – Sister Marie’s pupil and current coach of FIU’s women’s basketball team – achieved her 600th victory after her team defeated Central Connecticut 73-51, despite trailing by as many as 15 points in the first half.

Cindy Russo began her coaching career at her alma mater, Old Dominion, in 1975 as an assistant. Two years later, she would accept the part-time head coaching job at FIU. She departed from FIU the following fall, but returned for the 1980-81 season as a full-time head coach.

She has coached every FIU women’s basketball game since her return. No other coach in FIU women’s basketball history has had a winning season. Russo has accounted for 560 of the school’s 578 victories.

“My first goal was to build a basketball program. They gave me the opportunity, so I wanted to come in here and build a good program for them,” Russo said.

Despite her success, the odyssey to 600 victories required tedious commitment.

Her off-seasons include rest and relaxation along with a healthy dose of basketball preparation.

“I don’t know if there are off-seasons anymore in women’s basketball,” Russo said. “We run camps, recruit and take a little time off.”

Russo’s 600th victory is an achievement that acknowledges all her former and current players and coaches.

“[The win] signifies a lot of people who got me there,” Russo said. “This is not something you can do as a single coach. Good assistant coaches and the players are needed.”

Russo, had to conduct practices under less than perfect conditions in the infamous Tim Gynn, an airport hangar used as a practice facility at University Park during the 1970s and mid 1980’s.

She makes sure to remind her players of the struggles of those who have preceded them.

“She talks about the past players and what kind of challenges they have had and it helps me a lot,” said senior center Lasma Jekabsone.

Russo motivates her players to trust each other and play together using any means necessary.

She even agreed to get a permanent tattoo if FIU beat Miami.

“If getting a tattoo is what it takes, then I would make another deal just to make us win.” Jekabsone said. “She would do anything just to help us out.”

The decision on what type of tattoo coach Russo will receive is still pending.

Though Russo considers the 600th victory a milestone, she did not make the win the focal point of that night’s game.

“Honestly, she never mentioned it. Personally, I didn’t know. She is not here to get the accolades; she’s just here to win every game,” said junior guard LaQuetta Ferguson.

Russo is ranked 13th on the all-time NCAA Division I women’s basketball coach win list due to her work on the court.

She hopes to work with her players just as hard off the court.

“I’d like to think I made a difference in young women’s lives not only on the basketball court, but in real life as well,” Russo said.

LEGEND: Coach Cindy Russo is ranked 13th overall in Division I women’s basketball coach all-time win list.