FIU artists exhibit work at museum

Camila Martin Contributing Writer

Over the past years, the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum has given students the opportunity to expose their art in the museum’s walls, showing their artistic talents to other students and faculty members. The 2007 Annual Student Art Show will take place Feb. 9 at 8 p.m., and will be presented by special guests such as Rosalyn Sugranz, a long time member of FIU’s Board of Trustees, who will be presenting some of the awards to the best art pieces in 20 different categories.

Another guest at the event will be Alfonso “Alfie” Leon, Student Government Association president, who will be the Master of Ceremony.

The art competition was open to all students, and works could be submitted in any medium, such as photography, ceramics, wood paint, graphite, audio/visual, acrylic and oil.

For the first time, the “Best in the Show” award will be given this year.

Benedicto, the museum’s curator, is part of the jury who will be selecting the winning art pieces.

“Only 70 or so art works were chosen for the Annual Student Show from hundreds of submitted works, and only about 20 of them will actually receive awards,” Cerejido said.

Different issues and themes inspired students’ artworks.

Mariela Rossel and Kacey Westall, both juniors majoring in fine arts, collaborated in a piece called Serial, Cereal that is going to be exposed at the museum during the show. The medium for their work was digital media.

“The inspiration for my piece was the serial killer Ed Gains,” Rossel said.

Cristina Molina, also a juvenile majoring in fine arts, used video as her medium for her work titled Foot Cooling and Gorgeous Legs.

“In the video I interview seven women. My inspiration was to see how issues of beauty and aging affect women at all ages,” Molina said.

She plans to continue working on the piece after the exhibition and interview more women to enhance her work. Molina is also planning on submitting her work to other art contests.

At the opening ceremony, the exhibition of the student works will remain open until March 11, when the art pieces will be taken off and all works will be returned to the artists who created them.

This year’s show has many sponsors including Border’s Framing; Artnotes, Inc; Nu Press, Books & Books, Inc; Ray Stormont; David Blumenthal; and President Modesto A. Maidique, who also made a donation for the awards ceremony.

The show will take place at The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, Feb. 9 at 8 p.m.

Entrance is free and open to everyone.
Foul weather hits Florida and kills several endangered birds

All 18 young whooping cranes led south from Wisconsin last fall were killed in storms that hit Florida. The losses have dealt a devastating blow to the project coordinated by Operation Migration, a nonprofit organization, to create a second migratory flock of the endangered birds in North America.

The cranes were being kept in an enclosure at the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge near Crystal River when the storms moved in and intensified on the night of Feb. 1. Senior pilot and co-founder of Operation Migration Joe Duff said the birds were checked on late afternoon the day before and were fine.

Residents want independent commission to investigate levee failure

A group of residents are asking Congress to set up an independent, bipartisan panel similar to the Sept. 11 Commission to investigate why levees failed during Hurricane Katrina. Levees.org is also asking for a "8/29" commission Feb. 5, named for the date Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in 2005.

However, new Democratic leadership in Congress has been lukewarm on setting up an entirely new commission. "9/11" investigations can be conducted through existing investigations directed by the Sept. 11 Commission.

The losses have dealt a devastating blow to the project coordinated by Operation Migration, a non-profit group which sponsors international bird migration projects. The group has been especially active in relocating whooping cranes which were killed in the 2005 hurricanes in Florida.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our office at 305-348-2709 or visit our website at www.beaconnewspaper.com.
Catholic concert celebrates religious, racial diversity

**CARLA ST. LOUIS**
Contributing Writer

Known as a day of praise and worship, the third annual Faith Fest Concert’s goal is to demonstrate a person’s fellowship with God—a universal fellowship with God all while enjoying themselves, said Wendy Bourgault, who is involved with the Catholic Campus Ministries organization at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The concert is being sponsored by ministries from various South Florida college campuses in conjunction with BBC’s Catholic Student Association. It has become a blowout celebration with a variety of multicultural aspects since it first came to fruition.

This year, it is being held at St. Thomas University from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., Feb. 10. Tickets are $5 per person.

“It is beneficial since this event allows campuses to unite: like-minded individuals get to meet each other,” said senior Edison Lozada.

Despite the event being sponsored by a Catholic organization, it welcomes students and individuals from all faiths and cultures.

“The Faith Fest Concert is about celebrating your universal fellowship with God—all religious faiths are welcomed,” Bourgault said.

The concert will consist of performances by spiritual artists and guest speakers. These special guests were selected to represent the theme, “Go Make a Difference.”

The concert’s headliner is Steve Angrisano, a recording artist. Angrisano will also give a keynote speech about making a difference through simple actions.

Other performers include Tocando a tu Puerta, a Latino Christian band, and Biju, an Indian musician.

Senior Elizabeth Schwartz believes the Faith Fest Concert will make a positive impact on students and the South Florida community at large.

“This event is beneficial for FIU students because students are brought together in a family-oriented environment which enables them to re-establish and reinforce beliefs and morals,” Schwartz said.

**Wendy Bourgault**
BBC Catholic Campus Ministries

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**CAMPUS TALK**

**Athletic fee increase for stadium: Good or bad?**

**Angela DeJesus**
Freshman

“It pains my stomach because I’m hungry and I could use that dollar for an extra meal.”

**Joe Mintz**
Freshman

“I think it’s ridiculous. FIU had a good baseball program and now they’re pouring all of the money into the football program, which is an embarrassment.”

**Ian Noga**
Freshman

“I think it will bring more popularity to the University, especially with having such a big stadium.”

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EYES ON THE PRIZE: Al Gore was recently nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for making the global warming awareness documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*. The movie grossed over $23 million.

**Gore shouldn’t get Nobel Prize**

CELINE PELOFI  
Contributing Writer

Who knew that trying to get the world to recognize global warming could get you nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize? I sure did not, and it was utterly dumbfounding when I found out that former Vice President Al Gore was recently nominated by two Norwegian parliamentarians for just that.

The fact that someone could be voted for the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for such a thing is preposterous because global warming is a condition that can’t be reversed. Just being aware of its presence does not change the fact that it exists and that it could be potentially harmful in the future.

Democrats have always been very environmentally conscious and Al Gore has always seemed to take that to the extreme. Just last year he created a documentary called *An Inconvenient Truth* on climate change, but does that make him worthy of the Nobel Peace Prize?

Talking to the world about the weather and global warming does not bring peace to the world, or help further that motive; it only brings peace to the world, or help further that motive; it only help the unstable situation in the Middle East, or making the world more aware of each other’s differences and increasing communication between our powerful leaders, and helping underdeveloped countries come out of poverty. These are all valid efforts that would be rightful qualifications for the Nobel Prize.

In 1964, Martin Luther King Jr. won for his effort to bring racial harmony to American society. In 1999, John Hume and David Trimble won for their efforts to find a solution that would bring peace to Northern Ireland; Kim Dae Jung won the Prize in 2000 for working toward peace and reconciliation between North and South Korea.

These three past recipients, out of over one hundred, have done great things to try to bring peace to our world.

Al Gore has done nothing but make the world aware of an environmental issue. The United States Environmental Protection Agency gives out an Environmental Award each year and Al Gore would be a perfectly qualified candidate for it, not for the Nobel Peace Prize.

However, the Nobel Prize committee should consider any of its other 190 nominees who have made more of an impact on our world through peace and restoration. Other nominees such as Bono and Bob Geldof have made significant efforts to diminish poverty in developing nations and have dedicated much into doing so. They are much more qualified for the award and should be recognized.

The Washington Post, Fox News and numerous other periodicals and cable news stations claim that Al Gore has made a significant difference, and they could not be more wrong. Boerge Brende, a Conservative member of Norway’s Parliament, told Reuters, “I think that climate change is this century’s most important and most threatening environmental issue, and I think Al Gore has made a difference in putting climate changes on the global agenda.”

What Brende does not realize is that we cannot change the weather. Humans do not necessarily cause global warming, and the Earth has undergone great changes in temperature before. However, there are many other things that we can advocate to improve the condition of the world.

Some undoubtedly obvious examples would be trying to help the unstable situation in the Middle East, or making the world more aware of each other’s differences and increasing communication between our influential leaders, and helping underdeveloped countries come out of poverty. These are all valid efforts that would be rightful qualifications for the Nobel Prize.

Al Gore has been nominated for an award that is supposed to recognize the effort to bring peace to our globe, and he has not accomplished that endeavor.

The Nobel Peace Prize will be awarded on Dec. 10 2007 in Oslo, Norway, and hopefully the person receiving it will be deserving of its prestige, honor and acknowledgment.

Pan-African controversy unleashes racial tensions

By most accounts, race relations have come a long way in America since the height of the Civil Rights movement in the 50s and 60s.

We may have left behind institutionalized segregation, but the more nuanced and implicit—and sometimes not so nuanced and implicit—attitudes and arguments that remain from centuries of racism are still deeply lodged in our social tissue.

More often than we’d like, those conflicts come back to haunt us. We still don’t always know how to talk about—let alone deal with—the complicated issue of race.

This has recently become evident at FIU, in the conflict between the Student Programming Council and the Black Student Union surrounding the Pan-African Week’s activities. SPC has had trouble organizing events for the week that make every black student organization on campus feel they’ve been properly represented. They’ve had trouble including these organizations, and most notably, the BSU, in planning those events. The BSU feels excluded and misrepresented, and they’ve had problems expressing their discontent in a constructive way.

They accused SPC of allocating a smaller budget for Pan-African Week than they had for other heritage weeks. This turned out to be false.

According to an e-mail by Ayya Barbel, the cultural celebrations chair for SPC, this year’s budget for Pan-African Week will be $17,718, while the budget for Hispanic Heritage last fall was $16,794, nearly $1,000 less.

Now, they are engaging in a silent protest, in which BSU members show up at the week’s events wearing black shirts that read “Not our history” in large white print.

Each faction’s measures, rather than ameliorating the situation, have only further galvanized each side in their positions and have cast a negative shadow on a series of events that were supposed to be positive and inclusive.

The Beacon itself had trouble last week covering this situation properly. We tried to cover, not only Pan-African Week, but also the controversy surrounding it, and to relate each side’s concerns accurately. Instead, the article we published drew criticism from both sides. BSU, with each side claiming we had misrepresented them.

This only goes to prove that although the Civil Rights movement came and went, 50 years later we still don’t know how to talk about race.

It doesn’t help much that whatever terms and labels we use, whatever definitions we apply, they won’t ever adequately describe the unique mix of race and culture that gives each of us our own ethnic identity.

Though each of us may be different, we all would like to be warmly included, accurately identified and fully accepted. This desire is valid, and we should all struggle to meet that ideal. But there will never be a perfect way to talk about, let alone handle, all our differences.

In the meantime, conflicts like this week’s will surface time and again, and they will always be uncomfortable to deal with. Approaching these disagreements, and more importantly, talking about them, will allow us to continue facing our prejudices and misunderstandings.

The BSU is doing it by telling SPC, and other students, that they disagree with the programming for Pan-African Week. SPC is doing their part by trying to organize activities that—to their mind—and to the best of their abilities—include as many members of the FIU community as possible.

And The Beacon is doing it by trying to cover all of it the best we can.

As long as we all come to the discussion with some good will and a grain of salt, the outcome should be better than instead having said nothing at all.
Professor performs recovered Holocaust piece

Sarah Rodriguez
Staff Writer

The story begins with three families affected by the Holocaust: the families of Polish conductor-composer Paul Kletzki; American Symphony Orchestra Music Director Leon Botstein; and FIU professor and artist in residence Robert Davidovici, whose mother was in Auschwitz concentration camp.

The American Symphony Orchestra will play Kletzki’s “Violin Concerto, Op. 19” on Feb. 9 at 8 p.m. in New York’s Lincoln Center. This is the first time the concerto will be performed since it was almost obliterated during World War II. Conducting it will be Leon Botstein and performing its solo will be none other than Davidovici.

Kletzki was born in 1900 and composed his concerto in 1928. The Nazis placed a Nazi on it and destroyed it. After fleeing Poland, he buried two trunks filled with his music but also to lay down his life’s work. After fleeing Poland, he buried two trunks filled with his music. After fleeing Poland, he buried two trunks filled with his music. After fleeing Poland, he buried two trunks filled with his music.

Botstein said on the American Symphony’s LIFE website: “I recall even then an aspect of resignation, if not bitterness, which the history of his career makes all too understandable.”

After the war ended, Kletzki continued his work as a world-renowned conductor. He never composed music again.

Years later, workmen in Italy found Kletzki’s two trunks. They immediately shipped them to his home in Switzerland. Incredulous that his work could still be intact, Botstein wrote: “It is my hope that this performance of his Violin Concerto will assist the overdue reexamination of Kletzki’s achievement as a composer.”

Davidovici holds the firm conviction that he must play each and every piece throughout Kletzki’s achievement as a composer. He explained: “I am in it to give joy to the world of the composer, I am successful.”

The trauma of displacement and suppression and, ironically, the good fortune of survival brought Kletzki to a comprehensible but compelling condition: that of silence.

Davidovici emphasized the importance of understanding and communicating Kletzki’s original intentions. He spoke of the musician as a sort of intercessor, a translator between the composer and the audience.

Students interested in hearing Davidovici’s renditions can find his CD on Amazon.com or in the Green Library.
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THURSDAY • FEBRUARY 8

WHAT: Shh… Series “Hip Hop is Dead… The Emergence and Triumph of the Bling Culture
WHERE: GC 140 (FIU-UP)
WHEN: 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: SPC Comedy Connection presents “Comic View at FIU”
WHERE: GC Ballrooms (FIU-UP)
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

FRIDAY • FEBRUARY 9

WHAT: Relay for Life
WHERE: FIU Football Stadium (FIU-UP)
WHEN: 6 p.m. – 6 p.m. (to 02/10)
HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: New World School Theatre presents “Angels in America”
WHERE: Colony Theatre (1040 Lincoln RD, Miami Beach, FL 33139)
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $12 (Student $5)

SATURDAY • FEBRUARY 10

WHAT: El Mundial De La Salsa 2007
WHERE: 401 E 65th Street, Hialeah, Fl. 33013
WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $15

WHAT: Valentine’s Concert
WHERE: Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre (FIU-BBC)
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 11

WHAT: Miami Heat vs. San Antonio Spurs
WHERE: American Airlines Arena (601 Biscayne Blvd, Miami, FL 33132)
WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Go to ticketmaster.com for details

WHAT: Comedian Adam Ferrara
WHERE: The Miami Improv Comedy Club (3390 Mary Street, Suite 182, Miami, FL 33133 USA)
WHEN: 8:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $12.84

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS EXPERIMENT.
Season’s success will depend on young arms

OUTFIELD
Like their infield, the outfield will be just as solid with senior Preseason All-Sun Belt center fielder Deonn Murray.

DEFENSIVE: Sophomore shortstop Monique White will be one of the new faces looking to anchor the Golden Panthers’ infield.

DESKTOP, page 8
Gas left in the tank and still be ready to go to pitch well and third base, the infield’s defense has yet to miss a beat.
Coach Gwydir is expecting big things from newcomer Monique White. The team’s new shortstop made some spectacular plays while playing at Daytona Beach Community College.

Gwydir also said that new first baseman Amanda Cox gives the team consistency at first.

Completing the solid infield will be Desiree Fink, who has developed a special chemistry with White in practice.

“We’ve never had this solid of a defense before and our hitting can really do wonders,” Embry said.

Playing third base, sophomore Katie Bell will be the only returning starter in the infield.

“We have a completely new infield,” Gwydir said.

“They’re extremely athletic. For our pitching staff, this will be a great asset.”

INFIELD
The Golden Panthers’ defense will be the backbone of this year’s team.

Though there will be new faces at shortstop, first and third base, the infield’s defense has yet to miss a beat.

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“We have a completely new infield,” Gwydir said.

“They’re extremely athletic. For our pitching staff, this will be a great asset.”

OUTFIELD
Like their infield, the outfield will be just as solid with senior Preseason All-Sun Belt center fielder Deonn Murray.

Last season, Murray wowed fans and opponents with her ball-hawking defense. Murray will also be the catalyst of the offense, leading off the batting order. She also stole 24 bases while batting .286 last season.

Next to Murray will be junior Ashley Falk in left field and Kim Rodriguez in right field.

Complimenting Murray’s super woman defense is the perfectionist defense of Rodriguez, who had a perfect fielding percentage of 1.000 last season.

Along with her stellar defense, Rodriguez drove in 21 runs last season while batting .263.

Falk only started in 23 of the 41 games she appeared in last season.

In her limited playing time, she batted .200 while driving in nine runs.

“Talent wise, we can go as far as we want to go,” Murray said.

“It’s up to us how successful we are going to be this year. On any given day we can beat anybody.”

OUTLOOK
Although the FIU was chosen to finish third in the 2007 Sun Belt Conference Softball Preseason Coaches Poll, the Golden Panthers have a shot to win their conference as long as their pitching improves throughout the season.

They have the ability to manufacture runs at any point and outscore an opponent if needed.

With a strong infield and outfield, expect some spectacular plays throughout the season.

“It’s going to be a tremendously solid team,” Gwydir said.

“We’ve got a deep team hitting. It’s got everything from speed at the top, to consistent hitters, to kids who can hit the long ball. We’ve got the best outfield in the conference – easily.”

FEBRUARY SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

9 Illinois State (5 p.m.)
9 Illinois (7 p.m.)
10 Louisville (4 p.m.)
10 Oklahoma (6 p.m.)
11 Bracket Play TBA
16 vs. Tennessee (12 p.m.)
16 vs. UNLV (6 p.m.)
17 vs. Utah (6 p.m.)
17 vs. Oregon (9 p.m.)
18 vs. California (2:30 p.m.)
22 Texas Tech (4 p.m.)
22 Stanford (7 p.m.)
23 Purdue (5 p.m.)
24 Marist (5 p.m.)
24 Texas State (7 p.m.)
25 Bracket Play TBA

Home games in bold * Conference game

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THIS WEEKEND IN FIU SPORTS

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FEBRUARY 10
Cross Country/ Track & Field Seattle, WA
Tennis vs. South Alabama (1 p.m.) Gainesville, FL
Baseball vs. Missouri (1 p.m.) University Park

FEBRUARY 11
Baseball vs. Missouri (1 p.m.) University Park
Tennis vs. Florida (12 p.m.) Gainesville, FL
Baseball vs. Missouri (1 p.m.) University Park

Home games in bold * Conference game
Team taking aim at top of conference

After the University of Louisiana-Lafayette was predicted in a preseason poll by coaches to win the 2007 Sun Belt Conference title, the women’s softball team is looking to prove all the doubters wrong. Last season, the women’s softball team got off to a tough start, but ended up finishing second in Sun Belt conference play. The Golden Panthers are looking for a different finish this season – on top.

PITCHERS

Pitching will most likely be the Achilles heel of Golden Panthers. Last year’s ace Sarah Belanger, who tossed 181.2 innings and recorded a 2.16 ERA, will be missed. Toeing the rubber for the Golden Panthers will be juniors Morgan Huling and Kerri Houck and sophomores Penny Eastman and Sandy Acevedo. Houck, who threw 85 innings last season with a 4.36 ERA, will be filling in the shoes Belanger as the team’s ace. Eastman, who threw 117.1 innings with a 4.18 ERA last year, will follow Houck in the rotation.

“We’ve just got inexperience pitching and the only way that gets better is with experience,” coach Kim Gwydir said. “The pitching will get better day in and day out, going out there.”

Since conference play doesn’t start until March 10, Gwydir will use a tough non-conference schedule to help develop Huling and Acevedo. Pitching the younger arms early will also give Houck and Eastman a break from tiring out their arms.

“I don’t want to run them into the ground early. We’re going to be using the bullpen early on,” Gwydir said. “It’ll keep them strong where were not over pitching them early in the early in the year. By spring, when we get to conference, they’ll still have a lot of