CRIME SCENE

SOMETHING SMELLS FISHY: Paola Prada, a second year Ph.D. student, performs an experiment in the forensics lab to see how human scents can be used to convict suspects in crimes.

Students use forensics to solve crimes

KHADJA HARRIS
Contributing Writer

The popular CBS drama “CSI: Miami” kicked off in 2004. But in 1997, Kenneth Furton had already founded FIU’s International Forensic Research Institute – the only program in the nation that has full accreditation for its undergraduate and graduate degree programs, and currently has over 80 students registered.

Although shows like the nationally viewed investigative drama series “CSI” may have created an interest in the field, Furton doesn’t think the TV show realistically portrays forensics.

Even though “CSI” is inaccurate and doesn’t show what forensic scientists really do, it generates interest in the field, so it isn’t a really bad thing,” he said.

Besides having a brilliant intuition, which is what shows like “CSI” portray, Furton offered other qualities required to become a forensic scientist.

“Students must be inquisitive and have an interest in solving problems,” Furton said.

Furton added that the average forensic scientist doesn’t work with dead bodies. Autopsies are instead performed by the medical examiner or the coroner’s office.

FIU had been ferring forensic science programs for over 30 years at various levels before the institute formed 10 years ago. The IFRI currently is one of the largest academic forensic science centers in the United States and is funded by government grants and over $1 million from annual state funds.

Because of IFRI’s advanced equipment, the institute is truly making a name of itself in the forensic field. It has partnered with laboratories in countries around the world, mainly in the UK and Australia, where the labs exchange research findings. Also, IFRI works with labs in Latin American and the Caribbean to help develop counterterrorism techniques.

The IFRI excels at the local level as

FORENSICS, page 2

Mail list promotes community service activities

CHRISTOPHER DIAZ
Contributing Writer

Patricia Temino, assistant director for the Center for Leadership and Service, believes altruism is in the heart of FIU students. It’s just a matter of finding an outlet for them to do so.

“Being a leader is not about being a student, Temino said. “It’s about wanting to be involved and the only requirement besides wanting to be involved is to be a student, Temino said.

For those interested in taking on a leadership role, the center needs a project manager for either the entire semester or for a single activity.

Being a project manager requires no previous experience, Temino said.

Harold Silva has been a project manager with RCC in different activities such as beach clean-ups and child tutoring.

Project manager is an opportunity to gain leadership skills, Silva said.

For more information on the Center for Leadership and Service go to GC 2240 or call 305-348-6995.
**Students help lobby for funds**

Besides some downsfalls – such as the student’s bus had a tire on the way back, leaving the group stuck on the road for three hours – the students succeeded at voicing their concerns and asking state senators and representatives for more funding.

“I am very passionate about my university; I bleed blue and gold. Every student that went on this trip, if they did not have this same passion they wouldn’t have been able to speak with the legislators. They all have this passion for the University.” Providence said.

### Technology used in forensics program

Major Depressive Disorder affects approximately 9.9 million people in the U.S.

Although today’s treatments can be effective, researchers are trying to find better ways to study depression.

### Volunteers needed for investigational clinical research study for depression

Volunteers are needed to participate in an investigational clinical research study for depression, using new ways to examine your response to treatment.

You may qualify for this study if:

- You are between the ages of 18-65,
- Are not currently taking psychotropic medications,
- You have a primary diagnosis of Major Depressive Disorder with recent symptoms.

You may qualify for this study if you or someone you know would like to be involved in this study, for more information please contact:

**Aurora-Cuerno Clinical Trials**

1-888-902-7434

volunteers@auroralatrails.com
Alumni promote kids’ book on penmanship

CARLA ST. LOUIS
Staff Writer

For FIU alumni Leroy Adam and McSai Jean-Baptiste, reading to elementary school students is their passion.

“We love children and working with children. We’ve found that’s where our passion lies — feeding of the energy that children give you,” Jean-Baptiste said.

Adam and Jean-Baptiste were able to promote their educational children’s story, Get a Grip, Patrick, on Feb. 9 while pursuing their passion at Natural Bridge Elementary School.

The Beacon first reported on Get a Grip, Patrick in the article Students Address Poor Handwriting Oct. 9.

The authors co-wrote and illustrated the book with the aid of Schneyder Marc Thelus, a student majoring in computer animation at Ringling School of Art and Design.

The authors currently have not found a publishing deal. However, their book has established a cult-following of institutions and professionals in the Miami-Dade community due in part to the book’s aim, which is to correct improper penmanship, and the authors’ interactive presentations.

The book is beneficial for all young students and teachers such as Barbara Masuyama.

“We are still shouting ‘Get a grip, Patrick’ in our class,” Masuyama said. The title is also the book’s main catchphrase. “I find the students making the effort to write correctly. It accomplished more in 30 minutes than I have been able to do all year,” said the third grade teacher after the Feb. 9 reading.

The duo read and displayed original pen illustrations of the book and involved the students by asking questions about the plotline, penmanship and demonstrating the tripod method, a gripping method changing the idea of placing fingers in a convenient alignment.

Having experience in the classroom as educators, the authors know firsthand the difﬁculty of teaching young children.

“Other stories, I don’t think, really focus on the fact that you have to start where the children are. A lot of times you have to say ‘I’m struggling, too,’” Jean-Baptiste said.

Kadienne Gomez, a kindergarten teacher whose students are. A lot of times you have to say , in and so I sort of boldly volunteered to be editor in chief.

Q. How did you go about becoming a journalist?

I started out in junior high school. I started doing journalism when I was in eighth grade. Our junior high school had just been built, and there was no junior high school building before and no junior high school paper, so one of the teachers held a meeting for people who were interested to volunteer for positions they were interested in, and so I sort of boldly and recklessly volunteered to be editor in chief.

Q. What do the new journalism students and the new journalists that just graduated have to look forward to?

I think there are real challenges here because there are economic challenges to the business model of traditional news or organizations. There’s also the challenge to the whole idea of there being such a thing as a professional journalist that differs from both the right and the left from the “mainstream media.”

Q. Were you ever told by a public ofﬁcial that a meeting was private or ofﬂimits to you?

Usually it was pretty clear what was and what wasn’t. When I was a reporter in different parts of the country, in New Jersey, in Illinois, the Sunshine laws (the public meeting laws) were pretty clear and I think sometimes we even had little cards that our editors gave us that kind of gave a quick rundown of what the public meeting law was, so we had that for reference.

Q. A lot of people will say the main role of the journalist in a democratic society is the role of “watchdog.” Do you think that’s true?

I can’t really speak to all journalists doing all things all the time, but the role of being a watch dog is a hugely important role, and I think there have been a lot of ways in which the current administration has tried to change the idea of what’s private, whether it involves what’s accessible in federal archives, or whether it involves Cheney’s meetings with people from the oil industry. And obviously, the whole lack of civil liberties in different aspects of the war on terror. I think all of that has made journalism’s work in being a watch dog.

“Repetition and being very detailed helps them to grasp everything — even with learning how to read,” she said.

The duo has presented interactive presentations at such elementary schools as Palm Lakes, Hubert O. Sibley, W.J. Bryan and Bride.

Joseph explained that this partnership will include a series of book readings at the organization’s school program sites, and aiding the authors in obtaining a publishing deal.

“America Scores Miami and I, personally, have committed to a long term partnership with the founders of the Get a Grip, Patrick initiative,” Joseph said.

Indeed, there’s a need to get a Grip, Patrick, according to Masuyama.

“I have been a teacher for 11 years and this is the most effective method I have seen to teach the kids how to hold their pencils properly; I want that book.”
In Florida, a law created in 1869 banned convicted felons from voting, even after they have served their sentences. In order to regain their right to vote, ex-felons must appeal to the clemency board in Tallahassee, a process that takes months or even years, due to an extensive backlog of applications. Anestimated 950,000 ex-felons are ineligible to vote under this law.

To some this may seem like justice. After all, why should someone who broke the law be allowed to have a say in the affairs of law-abiding citizens? The problem is not that they broke the law and must now suffer the consequences; the problem is that they have already paid the consequences with their very freedom. Some of these felons have spent years in prison for their crimes and have followed all the requirements of their sentences. If this were not the case, they would still be in prison.

One of the foundations of the Republic is the right to cast your vote. If you have your voice be recognized as valid, and deriving from it, political power. These felons have already been denied that power by cap-
ICY DAYS. HOT NIGHTS.

For an icy blast of flavor, I grab the New Iced Coffee at McDonald's®. In three great flavors – **Vanilla, Hazelnut and Regular**. Available anytime of the day so I can always quench my thirst.

![new ICED COFFEE](mcflorida.com)
At times, a nearby home-away-from-home can be a tempting solution to an expensive Spring Break. Whether it’s because you’re a little low on cash and looking to save some of it, or because you just need to get away from dorm room, no matter the cost, renting a hotel room might just be a quick fix in your hunt for Spring Break fun.

Miami, being the tourist hot spot that it is, sometimes has too many hotels to choose from. So how do you know which ones keep their promises of white fluffy pillow-top beds and which ones destroy any signs of customer satisfaction right from the start?

If the best parties are those in your own backyard, these are a couple of places that are sure to bring something of Bayside, The Fortune House is near such attractions as Bayside Marketplace, microdermabrasion facials and hot stone therapy. Standard Room – $245 / Junior Bedroom Suite – $199 / 2 Bedroom Suite – $139

All the hottest South Beach clubs conveniently surround this cheap hidden gem. The Tudor’s mega Art Deco style one bedroom suite is relatively cheap and fits a party of five comfortably. The traditional queen room is good for those party hoppers who just need a quick nap after the club and before an important meeting. Traditional Queen – $90 / Deluxe King – $109 / 1 Bedroom Suite – $139

If a life of luxury is the only way you want to spend your Spring Break, then this hotel and spa should be the first place you look at. The Chesterfield offers six types of rooms, including a lavish rooftop penthouse suite with its own tiki bar and outdoor showers. The spa is open seven days a week and offers such services as French manicures, Swedish massages, microdermabrasion facials and hot stone therapy. Standard Room – $245 / Junior Suite – $260 / Premium Suite – $345 / Rooftop Penthouse – $450

The Fortune House

185 S.E. 14 TERRACE

305-349-5001

Fed up with the beach crowds but still want to be near the action? Then you’ll be very fortunate to have found The Fortune House. Situated in the heart of Bayside, The Fortune House is near such attractions as Bayside Marketplace and Vizcaya Museum and Gardens. The rooms are very spacious, but if comfort is a major issue for you, then maybe you should look somewhere else. But if you’ve ever dreamt of sharing a twin-sized bed with two passed out friends and a not-so-gracious stranger, then maybe this should give you this hotel a shot. One Bedroom Suite – $92 / Two Bedroom Suite – $145

SONESTA HOTEL AND SUITES

2889 MCFARLANE ROAD

305-529-2828

Sometimes trusted, secure names make guests feel more comfortable during their stay. The Sonesta Hotel and Suites in Coconut Grove is exactly this—a known name, but in a unique location. Coconut Grove is the newest hot spot in Miami, and if you want to experience what all the buzz is about, The Sonesta is here to help. A major perk this hotel offers is shuttle services to South Beach, just in case dealing with South Beach traffic is what you’re worried about. City View Deluxe – $189 / One Bedroom Suite – $225 / Ocean View Palm Suite – $324

THE CARLTON

1433 COLLINS AVENUE

305-672-3838

Do you just want to be with your special someone during the break? The Carlton’s guestrooms are small, comfortable and very—perfect for a new couple that wants to get to know each other a little better. Spend a night of food and dancing down South Beach and then come home to your prefit room at the Carlton. Don’t forget to stock up on the complimentary European spa and bath products. Deluxe Queen Suite – $130 / Superior King Poolside – $137.69

There you have it—seven of the best spots in Miami for a weekend getaway, far from whatever it is you need to be away from.

Now that you have your stunning room, don’t spend so much time in it that you forget school started again.

All information taken from Yahoo! Travel

THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN RENTING:

- Many hotels require someone over 21 to either check in or stay in the room.
- Beach parking is difficult to find, valet parking typically is a daily $20 fee.
- Confirm reservations with a phone call especially if you’ve booked through a third party website (e.g. expedia.com). This way, you can also ask if any amenities are out of service.
- Not everyday in Miami is paradise. Check weather forecasts before you travel.

Spring Break 2007

Local hotels offer alternatives to costly vacation

LEONCIO ALVAREZ

Staff Writer

Once, I remember well, my life was a feast where all hearts opened and all wines flowed.

— Arthur Rimbaud, A Season in Hell

I’m not going to deny it—I’ve been taking the easy way out with this column, spotlighting people I know in my ongoing search for the meaning of life. Though I’ve sought to compare life to an adventure, a sad routine and the extravagance of a rock star, the people I used to exemplify these themes were acquaintances that just happened to fit that week’s mold.

This week, I decided to go out on the street and ask strangers if life had any meaning for them, just to see what reaction I’d get.

Most people I ran into laughed and wouldn’t take the question seriously or just ignored me. A girl I saw studying in the Green Library picked up her things and silently moved to another side of the building, perhaps scared off by the way I started the conversation (I asked her if she was into metaphysical literature and then I drifted into the meaning of life question. She was, after all, standing next to the library’s bust of Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges).

Rejection didn’t bother me as much as the awkward answers, though. A group of sophomores I interviewed sitting by the turtle pond near the Byker business building giggled and gave me rhetorical gems such as “Is there life to a meaning?” and “Which came first, the meaning or the life?”

So some answers manage to surprise me. Reena Smith, a junior majoring in English, didn’t mind telling me that her life is just a quest for practical knowledge.

Her hero is Arthur Rimbaud, the rebel teen poet who made a career out of scandalizing French society as much as he did writing lyrical masterpieces.

“I think scholars remember Rimbaud as the kid who—f—other famous gay poets and wrote some interesting things on the side. But I read his biography in high school and I just fell in love with what he stood for, what reaction I’d get.

He was a poet but he was also an explorer of life,” Smith said. “More than I’m furlonging out why we’re here, I want to know how we got here and what we’re going to do now that we’re here.”

Although I was fascinated by Smith’s educated response to my question, it was the easiness with which she answered that really intrigued me.

I consider my search for the meaning of life to be a valid quest while still realizing that the question has become a philosophical cliché parodied in popular culture (see The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy for further clarification).

I’m surprised, however, by the reluctance I met from people who did not want to answer the question. Or student even gave me his number and told me to call him back later. I didn’t pick up.

In Thomas More’s Utopia, citizens of an imaginary country spend their idle hours discussing philosophy and the meaning of life. I’ve found that in the real world, hearts aren’t open so easily, that perhaps one’s life is too intimate to share with a stranger asking questions by a bust of Borges. I wish, though, that with a question like this, people would be more willing to stop and I find not share, at least consider the query.

The search continues every other Monday in The Beacon’s Life! section.
FIU SPORTS REPLAY

Winning becoming a habit for softball and tennis

The Golden Panthers’ softball team has won five of its seven games thus far during the Blue and Gold Felsberg Memorial Tournament being held from March 2-13 at University Park. The tournament consists of five teams: Stonybrook, Mount St. Mary’s and UNC-Wilmington, Western Kentucky and Rutgers.

**FIU 2, STONYBROOK 1**

Sophomore outfielder Kim Rodrigue hit a solo home run against Stonybrook and senior catcher Tabitha Embry’s extra-inning single scored the game-winning run.

Junior Kerry Houck (2-7) allowed five hits during her eight innings of work.

**FIU 8, MOUNT ST. MARY’S 0**

Sophomore Penny Eastman (3-5) dominated Mount St. Mary recording a one-hit shut-out. Junior shortstop Monique White contributed with four RBIs and Rodriguez hit her second home run of the day and her fourth of the season.

**FIU 6, UNC-WILMINGTON 1**

Eastman (4-5) pitched her second complete game of the series as she allowed one run on five hits and notched seven strike-outs. Junior Amanda Cox hit her first home run of the season. The Golden Panthers scored three runs in the sixth to double their lead.

**UNC-WILMINGTON, FIU 4, FIU 3**

Seahawks pitcher Jess Luckett allowed three runs during her complete game victory. The Golden Panthers headed to the bottom half of the final inning trailing 4-1. Luckett struggled as she allowed a two-run home run to junior outfielder Ashley Falk.

Despite the home run, Luckett fished the game recording a groundout.

**FIU 7, MOUNT ST. MARY’S 0**

Eastman (5-5) was four outs away from recording a no-hitter. Pinch hitter Amanda Buckel’s double to left field was the first Mount St. Mary’s hit of the game. Eastman won her third consecutive game in as many starts.

White went 3-for-3 with a three-run home run.

**FIU 5, MOUNT ST. MARY’S 2**

Mount St. Mary held a 1-0 lead in the first inning and did not lead the rest of the game. The Golden Panthers answered with two runs in the bottom of the first. Besides the fourth and fifth innings, the Golden Panthers scored at least one run in every inning.

Kerri Houck (4-8) allowed two earned runs during seven innings of work.

**FIU 7, MPU 0**

The Golden Panthers’ No. 22 ranked tennis team (7-4) ended their recent skid against Florida State with a 7-0 victory versus East Tennessee State (5-7) on March 7, at University Park courts. They won all singles matches, including I’ve in straight sets.

They lost one of three doubles matches, which was the only loss for the Golden Panthers against East Tennessee State.

**FIU 7, MU 0**

The Golden Panthers tennis team (8-4) duplicated their success against Michigan State (9-2) by not losing one singles or double match on March 8, at the University Park courts.

-Copied by Sergio Bonilla

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**Townsend knocks in game winning run**

BASEBALL, page 8

pitch, which prompted the Eagles to make a pitching change.

Boston College first baseman, Michael Belfiore was brought in to pitch, but his home run against Stonybrook and senior catcher Tabitha Embry’s extra-inning single scored the game-winning run.

Junior Kerry Houck (2-7) allowed five hits during her eighth innings of work.

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-Copied by Sergio Bonilla

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**We are accepting applications for:**

**Editor in Chief - The Beacon**

**General Manager - WRGP**

*Applications due by Friday, March 16, 4 p.m.*

*E-mail or drop off applications to Robert Jaros, Director of Student media in GC 210 or call (305) 348-2709.

**Summers JOBS:** Recreation Camp Counsellors/Supervisors for summer recreation program 6/11-07-8/03/07 for children ages 5-15. WSF/Lifeguard and Maintenance Aides (5/07-6/07). Exp. Desirable. Apply at City of Plantation (west of Ft. Lauderdale) 400 NW 73 Ave., Plantation, FL 33317. Attn: Human Resources or e-mail jtanghow@plantation.org

**Photographers Needed.** Bob Knight Photo is currently hiring part-time photographers to work local college and high school graduation ceremonies in May, June, August, and December. Applicant must understand basic digital 35mm cameras, own a dark colored business suit, possess a conservative appearance, and attend two paid mandatory training sessions in April. We have plenty of work throughout May but all photographers need to be available on weekends in late April and May and during our busiest week of May 18-31. Pay starts at $50.00 per event. Please visit www.bkhire.com for additional information and to fill out an application.
Late inning heroics spark comeback win over Boston College

Junior diver Lindsay Lowell has always looked up to her mother for advice when it came to athletics. It was never more apparent than the first time she experienced diving.

“My mother was a gymnastics coach and judge, but I was never able to get into it,” Lowell said. “One day she began teaching diving at the local pool, and I fell in love the second I experienced it.”

Fourteen years later, she’s been a four-time state qualifier at Cooper City High School, received multiple scholarship offers, a pair of conference honors and, most notably, the Sun Belt Conference Diver of the Year. After all this, she hasn’t looked back.

Lindsay grew up practicing and working at the Swimming Hall of Fame in Fort Lauderdale. Often times she would watch the top international divers practice and compete, but never looked towards becoming an Olympian or even an international competitor.

“It distracted me how the professionals were completely consumed by diving,” Lowell said. “I wanted a scholarship, sure, but the key for me was to be able to balance sports with my life.”

Don’t think that means Lowell is slacking.

“It’s what scares a lot of people away from participating. Knowing that every action you make directly relates to your score keeps many from ever trying,” Lowell said. While attending Cooper City High School, Lowell qualified for the state championships all four years, and the hard work paid off. Schools like Connecticut and Massachusetts — among others — came calling, but she finally settled on the North Carolina State.

However, she felt she was not developing with her team or coach and decided that she would have to return to south Florida. Torn between the Golden Panthers and Florida Atlantic, it ultimately came down to FIU diving coach Bryan Gillooly and the relationship the two of them developed.

“Coach Gillooly has been amazing to me, both as an instructor and as a friend,” Lowell said. “His positive reinforcement and plain knowledge has been helping me more then I could have hoped for the past two years.”

Though diving has been such an intricate part of Lindsay’s life for the past 14 years, she recently came to a startling realization upon meeting with her academic advisor.

“It hit me that I only had one year left in college,” she said. “One more year of diving. It was then I realized that diving wasn’t going to last forever, that I was going to have to move it to the backseat soon and embrace my career.”

Lowell has held an internship with an advertising agency and is majoring in communications and public relations. With only a year left, her 14-year run will be coming to a close and it will be time to face the real world. But that doesn’t mean she’s satisfied with herself yet.

“Winning diver of the year was an amazing surprise, since I had been having a rough year and it was great to see my hard work paying off,” Lowell said. “But I still want to win both conference championships. I came really close last year and simple mistakes cost me.”

As the end inevitably draws near, Lowell practices every day, with the intention, as she puts it, “to be better than I was the day before.”

The Golden Panthers (10-6) would find themselves in a hole late in the game after Boston College scored five runs in the top of the seventh.

The Golden Panthers responded with four runs of their own in the bottom of the inning, led by junior outfielder James McOwen’s three run homer.

“Winning diver of the year was an amazing surprise, since I had been having a rough year and it was great to see my hard work paying off,” Lowell said. “But I still want to win both conference championships. I came really close last year and simple mistakes cost me.”

The very next batter, junior third baseman Corey Lorano, led off the inning with a double.

“TOWNSEND

Junior Raimy Fuentes led off with a double and eventually scored on a sacrifice fly by Brian Adams. The Golden Panthers found themselves in a hole late in the game after Boston College scored five runs in the top of the seventh.

The Golden Panthers responded with four runs of their own in the bottom of the inning, led by junior outfielder James McOwen’s three run homer.

“The pitcher threw a change up in, followed by a fastball away, the previous at bat,” McOwen said. “When he threw a change up this time around, I fouled him and he would continue with a fastball.”

Trailing 10-7 in the bottom of the ninth, the Golden Panthers again responded. Junior second baseman Corey Lorano led off the inning with a double.

The very next batter, junior third baseman Bryan Pullin, was hit by a