Ceremony recognizes alumni

CAMILA MARTIN
Contributing Writer

In an effort to acknowledge the positive work of FIU alumni, the University is celebrating the success of 18 distinguished former students at the upcoming sixth annual Torch Awards Gala.

This year’s celebration will take place March 31 and will be hosted by Barry Johnson, president and CEO of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. Other speakers at the event include University President Modesto A. Maidique and Bill Draughon, vice president of alumni relations.

“In a few short years this event has become a tradition among our alumni,” Draughon said in a press release.

The goal behind the annual Torch Awards is to recognize the positive actions of FIU alumni in their profession, community and for the University, said Stephanie Martinez, the alumni relations’ coordinator of special events.

“The awards honor alumni for their accomplishments in the community. They have done so much that acknowledging their work also brings good publicity for the University,” Martinez said.

This year, recipients will receive a glass hand-made sculpture of a flame during the ceremony as a symbol of their success.

Among the most prestigious of the awards presented at the Gala is the Charles E. Perry Visionary Award, which is always presented to an alumnus or aluma who has made great strides in the early stages of his or her career.

This year’s recipient of the Charles E. Perry award is David M. Callejo Perez, who completed his undergraduate studies in 1993, and then returned to FIU to earn a doctorate degree in education in 2000. He is currently an assistant professor at the department of theory and practice at West Virginia University and is being recognized for starting many educational programs at the university.

Danny Pino, who graduated in 1995 from the School of Arts and Architecture will be receiving the 2006 Distinguished Award for that school because of his achievements which include a role in the movie The Lost City, directed by fellow former FIU student Andy Garcia, and for his TV show “Cold Case.”

“He is one of the most distinguished alumni in this year’s ceremony,” Martinez said.

Other awards include the FIU Service Award, the Alumni Leadership Award and the Outstanding Achievement Award, among others.

After graduating, students usually keep their respective departments informed of their achievements or in other cases, the department tracks alumni work through the media, and departments base their nominations on this, Martinez said.

Each individual school and college

ART FUSION

This year’s celebration will take place March 31 and will be hosted by Barry Johnson, president and CEO of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. Other speakers at the event include University President Modesto A. Maidique and Bill Draughon, vice president of alumni relations.

“In a few short years this event has become a tradition among our alumni,” Draughon said in a press release.

The goal behind the annual Torch Awards is to recognize the positive actions of FIU alumni in their profession, community and for the University, said Stephanie Martinez, the alumni relations’ coordinator of special events.

“The awards honor alumni for their accomplishments in the community. They have done so much that acknowledging their work also brings good publicity for the University,” Martinez said.

This year, recipients will receive a glass hand-made sculpture of a flame during the ceremony as a symbol of their success.

Among the most prestigious of the awards presented at the Gala is the Charles E. Perry Visionary Award, which is always presented to an alumnus or alumna who has made great strides in the early stages of his or her career.

This year’s recipient of the Charles E. Perry award is David M. Callejo Perez, who completed his undergraduate studies in 1993, and then returned to FIU to earn a doctorate degree in education in 2000. He is currently an assistant professor at the department of theory and practice at West Virginia University and is being recognized for starting many educational programs at the university.

Danny Pino, who graduated in 1995 from the School of Arts and Architecture will be receiving the 2006 Distinguished Award for that school because of his achievements which include a role in the movie The Lost City, directed by fellow former FIU student Andy Garcia, and for his TV show “Cold Case.”

“He is one of the most distinguished alumni in this year’s ceremony,” Martinez said.

Other awards include the FIU Service Award, the Alumni Leadership Award and the Outstanding Achievement Award, among others.

After graduating, students usually keep their respective departments informed of their achievements or in other cases, the department tracks alumni work through the media, and departments base their nominations on this, Martinez said.

Each individual school and college

UP Library gets new coffee vendor

CHARLIE GRAU
Sports Editor

Sophomore Jenna Hiatt starts her mornings by drinking her usual cup of coffee. “Every morning, every afternoon, every night; I love coffee,” Hiatt said. “It keeps me going.”

This summer, coffee lovers at University Park will be able to choose from one more coffee vendor with the opening of another Starbucks, which is currently being built between the entrance and escalators on the first floor of the Green Library.

Java City, currently brews coffee from that spot, and Jonathan Garcia, Aramark resident district manager, said they would continue to do so until Starbucks’s grand opening.

According to Garcia, through Aramark’s research, they found that Starbucks typically do very well in the library environment.

The library was chosen due to decrease in the amount of students and staff passing through.

“It also adds an additional benefit to the University because it increases gate counts,” Garcia said. He was referring to the total number of students that go into library. However, not all students are coming up to the idea of Starbucks replacing Java City.

“I drink coffee from Java City. I prefer family owned or privately owned coffee shops. They have Starbucks everywhere, they’re taking over. They’re on every corner. They already have a Starbucks in the book store,” said sophomore Katie Makoos.

Construc-

tion has already begun on the Starbucks and some students have begun expressing their discontent for the new coffee shop.

A sign posted on one side of the construction site that points students in the direction of Java City was been written anonymously and reads, “Java City is better than Starbucks.”

But Garcia argues that Starbucks has a greater variety of coffees to offer students and staff. He also said that Starbucks will create a more tranquil atmosphere in the library.

Some students, like Tiffany Alley, agree. “I love their frappuccinos, shakes, pastries, cookies and coffee,”

COFFEE, page 2

UP Library gets new coffee vendor

CHARLIE GRAU
Sports Editor

Sophomore Jenna Hiatt starts her mornings by drinking her usual cup of coffee. “Every morning, every afternoon, every night; I love coffee,” Hiatt said. “It keeps me going.”

This summer, coffee lovers at University Park will be able to choose from one more coffee vendor with the opening of another Starbucks, which is currently being built between the entrance and escalators on the first floor of the Green Library.

Java City, currently brews coffee from that spot, and Jonathan Garcia, Aramark resident district manager, said they would continue to do so until Starbucks’s grand opening.

According to Garcia, through Aramark’s research, they found that Starbucks typically do very well in the library environment.

The library was chosen due to decrease in the amount of students and staff passing through.

“It also adds an additional benefit to the University because it increases gate counts,” Garcia said. He was referring to the total number of students that go into library. However, not all students are coming up to the idea of Starbucks replacing Java City.

“I drink coffee from Java City. I prefer family owned or privately owned coffee shops. They have Starbucks everywhere, they’re taking over. They’re on every corner. They already have a Starbucks in the book store,” said sophomore Katie Makoos.

But Garcia argues that Starbucks has a greater variety of coffees to offer students and staff. He also said that Starbucks will create a more tranquil atmosphere in the library.

Some students, like Tiffany Alley, agree. “I love their frappuccinos, shakes, pastries, cookies and coffee,”

COFFEE, page 2

UP Library gets new coffee vendor

CHARLIE GRAU
Sports Editor

Sophomore Jenna Hiatt starts her mornings by drinking her usual cup of coffee. “Every morning, every afternoon, every night; I love coffee,” Hiatt said. “It keeps me going.”

This summer, coffee lovers at University Park will be able to choose from one more coffee vendor with the opening of another Starbucks, which is currently being built between the entrance and escalators on the first floor of the Green Library.

Java City, currently brews coffee from that spot, and Jonathan Garcia, Aramark resident district manager, said they would continue to do so until Starbucks’s grand opening.

According to Garcia, through Aramark’s research, they found that Starbucks typically do very well in the library environment.

The library was chosen due to decrease in the amount of students and staff passing through.

“It also adds an additional benefit to the University because it increases gate counts,” Garcia said. He was referring to the total number of students that go into library. However, not all students are coming up to the idea of Starbucks replacing Java City.

“I drink coffee from Java City. I prefer family owned or privately owned coffee shops. They have Starbucks everywhere, they’re taking over. They’re on every corner. They already have a Starbucks in the book store,” said sophomore Katie Makoos.

But Garcia argues that Starbucks has a greater variety of coffees to offer students and staff. He also said that Starbucks will create a more tranquil atmosphere in the library.

Some students, like Tiffany Alley, agree. “I love their frappuccinos, shakes, pastries, cookies and coffee,”

COFFEE, page 2

UP Library gets new coffee vendor

CHARLIE GRAU
Sports Editor

Sophomore Jenna Hiatt starts her mornings by drinking her usual cup of coffee. “Every morning, every afternoon, every night; I love coffee,” Hiatt said. “It keeps me going.”

This summer, coffee lovers at University Park will be able to choose from one more coffee vendor with the opening of another Starbucks, which is currently being built between the entrance and escalators on the first floor of the Green Library.

Java City, currently brews coffee from that spot, and Jonathan Garcia, Aramark resident district manager, said they would continue to do so until Starbucks’s grand opening.

According to Garcia, through Aramark’s research, they found that Starbucks typically do very well in the library environment.

The library was chosen due to decrease in the amount of students and staff passing through.

“It also adds an additional benefit to the University because it increases gate counts,” Garcia said. He was referring to the total number of students that go into library. However, not all students are coming up to the idea of Starbucks replacing Java City.

“I drink coffee from Java City. I prefer family owned or privately owned coffee shops. They have Starbucks everywhere, they’re taking over. They’re on every corner. They already have a Starbucks in the book store,” said sophomore Katie Makoos.

But Garcia argues that Starbucks has a greater variety of coffees to offer students and staff. He also said that Starbucks will create a more tranquil atmosphere in the library.

Some students, like Tiffany Alley, agree. “I love their frappuccinos, shakes, pastries, cookies and coffee,”

COFFEE, page 2
Six COFFEE, page 1

Fun: Starbucks to offer more options

The Beacon – March 29, 2007

NEWS

www.beaconnewspaper.com

NEWSFLASH

FIU

FIU professors work to improve Colombian judicial branch

Two FIU professors are heading a team working to change the flow and accuracy of the justice system in Colombia.

FIU’s Center for the Administration of Justice is working on implementing a new criminal procedures code and switching from paper to electronic record keeping throughout the entire country.

One of the professors involved is Victor Uribe, an FIU law and history professor who moved to Colombia to head the project. The other professor is Luis Salas, CAJ Director.

The project is being funded by a $20.5 million grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Brazilian singer, composer to discuss personal music experiences

Renowned Brazilian musician Gilberto Gil is scheduled to discuss his life in the world of music March 30 at 2 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public although a ticket is required for entry. Doors open at 1 p.m. and no one will be admitted after 1:50 p.m.

For more information, contact 305-348-2894 or visit http://lacie.fiu.edu.

Employee Recognition Awards nomination deadline fast approaching

This year’s Employee Recognition Awards ceremony will be held May 3, but the nomination deadline is fast approaching.

Nominations must be given to Shanequa Fleming in the Division of Human Resources, Organization Development and Learning, in CSC 1146, no later than March 30 by 5 p.m. to be eligible for consideration.

Award recipients will be judged on how well they adhere to the University’s mission, vision and values, expressed throughout the entire university.

Once the nominations are completed, the committee is fast approaching.

AWARDS, page 1

nominates and selects their respective distinguished alumni award recipient and applications are accepted for a two-month period. Then the nominees are announced to the University and to the community.

Since the nominations are completed, the committee is fast approaching.

said that this in-house venue will emulate street pricing.

“A cup of coffee at Starbucks on the street whether you go to Miracle Mile or you go down 8th Street; the pricing will be the same here,” he said. “Aramark doesn’t want the students to feel that they are not getting the same value they can get in the street.”

Annual awards recognize alumni

The Torch Awards Gala includes the special guest performance by Andy Señor Jr., an FIU School of Theater alumnus.

Señor will be singing while accompanied by the sounds of a Latin jazz band.

Tickets for the event are $100 and all proceeds will go towards the FIU Scholarship Fund for the two awards given by the Alumni Association: the Panther Pride Scholarship and the Legacy Scholarship.

The awards will start at 6:30 p.m. and will take place in the Graham Center Ballrooms.

For more information go to www.torch.fiu.edu.
New center aims to turn students into better writers

NICOLE ACOSTA AND CRISTELA GUERRA
Beacon Staff

Students within the School of Journalism and Mass Communication now have the chance to hone their writing skills with the opening of the school’s new writing center.

Dikla Vazana, a junior majoring in advertising, said the writing center, which opened its doors March 28 at the Biscayne Bay Campus, is a necessity for communications students that was long overdue.

“Campus idea is perfect and should have been thought up a long time ago,” Vazana said. “Writing is such an important aspect of any communications major and it really is the foundation which will build our future careers. Writing will make or break you and this center will provide us with information we can actually use to advance in the future.”

The $150,000 Scripps Howard Foundation grant will be distributed evenly over the course of three years to the center, which is located in room 303 of Academic II. The grant will provide students with free one-on-one tutoring, small group workshops, literary resources and a weekly online chat room, according to a press release on the SJMC website.

The editing and coaching support within the center will come from SJMC instructors and graduate students, although the only tutors currently working with the center are Neil Reiner, associate professor for the department of journalism and broadcasting, and Kate MacMillin, adjunct professor for the department of journalism and broadcasting.

According to the press release, Allan Richards, chair for SJMC, said the center will particularly help those students who are just beginning their SJMC major by working with tutors, “to work carefully and slowly on a one-on-one level with those professionals.”

The grant money will also go to the re-stocking of supplies and general maintenance. Some of the money will also be used to bring in professionals within the communications field to lecture and hold the seminars.

“The center is designed to help students put grammar into action. We are not here to rewrite students’ papers,” clients who come to the center will be encouraged in grammar, style and technique. This is an exciting new venture for all of us,” Richards said in the press release.

Judith Clabes, president and CEO of the Scripps Howard Foundation, said all SJMC students can benefit from the writing center.

“You cannot be a good journalist if you are not a good writer – no matter whether you are a print journalist, a Web journalist or a broadcast journalist, or a public relations, marketing or advertising professional. Your ability to report, to tell stories, to spread the truth is directly related to your command of the language, your ability to communicate clearly and your ability to write well,” Clabes told The Beacon.

According to Richards, the school had two goals, or phases, in mind to improve the writing of its students.

The first phase occurred in 2004 when the SJMC received a $15 million grant to create a revised version of the grammar test. With the grant, the test that every SJMC student is required to take at least twice in order to enter and exit the school, transitioned to an electronic version.

The second phase, “would focus on the technical aspect…such drawing on the building blocks of grammar but now emphasizing the writing,” Richards said in an interview.

In October 2006, Clabes realized the organization’s goal by contributing to help SJMC improve its writing. According to Clabes, The E.W. Scripps Company, the foundation’s parent company, has networks in Florida, such as the Naples Daily News and WPTV, Channel 5, in West Palm Beach.

The writing center will be open from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and Thurdays 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. For more information or to make an appointment, e-mail MacMillin at macmilli@fiu.edu.

Director Spike Lee discusses New Orleans documentary

THE WRITE STUFF: Irene Vazana, a graduate student within the School of Journalism and Mass Communication’s Spanish Language Journalism program, utilizes the school’s new writing center, which opened March 1.

Every university wants to bring a speaker who represents contemporary issues and current affairs in today’s society. We certainly feel [Lee] will be a good image of this.

“Every university wants to bring a speaker who represents contemporary issues and current affairs in today’s society. We certainly feel [Lee] will be a good image of this,” Ingrao said.

As a result of the foundation’s commitment and interest in Hispanic student enrollment, Clabes visited Richards’s classrooms last fall. Richards then came up with the idea of a writing center for SJMC, pitched it to Clabes and she decided to invest in the idea.

MacMillin, aside from serving as a tutor for the center, is also in charge of student grants and scholarships. She said the center is not only a “quick fix center,” but rather a place where students can take their time to think about and discuss their writing outside of class.

“Most serious writers would like to have a conversation about their writing outside of the classroom. It’s not easy for all students to speak up in class, and it’s not always possible for the instructor to have a lengthy conversation with a student about their work in a 45 minute class,” MacMillin said.

Vazana said the center is something all SJMC students need in order to become better writers.

“It will resolve any doubts we may have about our own writing skills. We understand that we will not be taught to write well all over again but we will focus on our strengths which will ultimately help us become the best communicators we possibly can,” Vazana said.

The center’s hours are Mondays 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Thursdays 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. For more information or to make an appointment, e-mail MacMillin at macmilli@fiu.edu.

“[Lee] has a unique place in the world of film and he’s one of the very few directors that can bring students together and make them understand that this is not easy for all students to speak out,” Vazana said.

The event will be held at 7 p.m. in the Wolfe University Ballroom. Tickets are currently being distributed in WUC 141, in room 340 of University Park’s Graham Center, and in the Broward Pines Center in room 101. The event is free and open to FIU students and the public.

“Spike Lee and his films have been talked about and shown in film classes everywhere on campus and we have been fortunate to have him as a guest speaker before,” Vazana said.

The event is free and open to FIU students and the public.

“Spike Lee and his films have been talked about and shown in film classes everywhere on campus and we have been fortunate to have him as a guest speaker before,” Vazana said.

“His films have a storyline that are important and have helped many students learn something about the world and their community,” she said.

“Most serious writers would like to have a conversation about their writing outside of the classroom. It’s not easy for all students to speak up in class, and it’s not always possible for the instructor to have a lengthy conversation with a student about their work in a 45 minute class,” MacMillin said.

Vazana said the center is something all SJMC students need in order to become better writers.

“It will resolve any doubts we may have about our own writing skills. We understand that we will not be taught to write well all over again but we will focus on our strengths which will ultimately help us become the best communicators we possibly can,” Vazana said.

The center’s hours are Mondays 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Thursdays 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. For more information or to make an appointment, e-mail MacMillin at macmilli@fiu.edu.
Given that Florida International University holds one of the highest Hispanic populations in the country at 36 percent, it may be surprising to find that such little attention has yet been given to the movement that seeks to rid Coca Cola as the sole proprietor of soft drinks on campus, but that may soon change.

The “Killer Coke” campaign, led by United Students Against Sweatshops, sheds light on allegations of human rights abuses in Colombia, an issue that at first glance seems to affect Latin Americans abroad.

But despite efforts over recent months to promote awareness, some students have seemed comatose to the issue at hand.

No questioning, no responses, no pulse. There has existed little debate on either side outside USAS itself, much to the surprise of those who expect FIU to be a spearhead with international vigilance even worse.

To say that switching sponsors, as many have placed USAS alongside senseless activist groups searching for attention without reading the material. However, the group may have something to say.

The claims against Coke should be dispatched to investigate the claims, but the few representatives who agreed to assist the group have shown little interest in the matter.

The cause of the silence is disturbing, as many have placed USAS alongside senseless activist groups searching for attention without reading the material. However, the group may have something to say.

The claims against Coke should be dispatched to investigate the claims, but the few representatives who agreed to assist the group have shown little interest in the matter.

Making good on students’ requests for better coffee on campus, Aramark, the company responsible for all food vending on the University Park campus, is replacing the small Java City booth on the first floor of the Green Library with a big Starbucks. Student government requested the change – along with adding pizza, sushi and a Cafe Bustelo venue in the Graham Center – during Aramark’s 2005 contract renegotiation with FIU.

Some students have expressed their discontent with the change, arguing that they prefer buying their coffee at a smaller, privately owned coffee shop over large, corporate chains like Starbucks. There are two holes in that argument, though: for one thing, Java City isn’t a small, local shop. Like Starbucks, it’s also a large, corporate chain with locations in several countries. It’s just not as successful – or ubiquitous – as its competitor. Besides, the argument for supporting local coffee shops usually goes that the local joints are quainter and homier, and that they’re well, better. Java City, or at least a large, corporate chain with locations in several countries, is just not as successful – or ubiquitous – as its competitor.

Surprisingly, Coke refuses to allow for independent investigations of their bottling plants, forcing groups like the AAA to conduct secret interviews with workers who are put at risk by speaking to them in the first place.

In response, Coca Cola was removed from the Broad Market Social Index of KLD Research and Analytics Inc. on ethical grounds.

The highly respected TIAA-CREF, a $380 billion financial services group, then banned the company from their Social Choice Account.

To call USAS “radicals” as some have is a misnomer. The issue at hand shows a measure of validity – making SGA’s refusal to give the issue sufficient attention even worse.

Despite continuous efforts on the group’s part to work with SGA, much has failed. Both agreed to form a joint committee to investigate the claims, but the few representatives who agreed to assist the group have shown little interest in the matter.

Considering the significance of the claims against the company that provides all of FIU’s soft drinks, one would hope the matter would be given much more consideration.

But while University administrators have yet to pay attention to the issue at hand, it is SGA who holds the responsibility to help students communicate with those in charge – something not being done.

Despite a 600-signature petition and multiple public presentations, USAS has yet to meet with administrators.

Their requests are both fair and justifiable: investigate the matter, and if something is found, make the ethical decision and switch soft drink sponsors.

To say that switching sponsors takes away the consumer’s freedom of choice ignores the fact that there was no freedom to begin with – FIU is a Coca-Cola campus.

But the time to deal with this issue in an acceptable manner is running out. Trying various channels of communication, the group has found nothing but a dial tone on each.

They have been waiting patiently for months, but pushing against the current has been wearing their patience thin. It may be in the interest of administrators to deal with the issue before it lands on their doorstep, and it is SGA’s responsibility to bring them the message.

Making good on students’ requests for better coffee on campus, Aramark, the company responsible for all food vending on the University Park campus, is replacing the small Java City booth on the first floor of the Green Library with a big Starbucks. Student government requested the change – along with adding pizza, sushi and a Cafe Bustelo venue in the Graham Center – during Aramark’s 2005 contract renegotiation with FIU.

Some students have expressed their discontent with the change, arguing that they prefer buying their coffee at a smaller, privately owned coffee shop over large, corporate chains like Starbucks. There are two holes in that argument, though: for one thing, Java City isn’t a small, local shop. Like Starbucks, it’s also a large, corporate chain with locations in several countries. It’s just not as successful – or ubiquitous – as its competitor. Besides, the argument for supporting local coffee shops usually goes that the local joints are quainter and homier, and that they’re well, better. Java City, or at least a large, corporate chain with locations in several countries, is just not as successful – or ubiquitous – as its competitor.

Surprisingly, Coke refuses to allow for independent investigations of their bottling plants, forcing groups like the AAA to conduct secret interviews with workers who are put at risk by speaking to them in the first place.

In response, Coca Cola was removed from the Broad Market Social Index of KLD Research and Analytics Inc. on ethical grounds.

The highly respected TIAA-CREF, a $380 billion financial services group, then banned the company from their Social Choice Account.

To call USAS “radicals” as some have is a misnomer. The issue at hand shows a measure of validity – making SGA’s refusal to give the issue sufficient attention even worse.

Despite continuous efforts on the group’s part to work with SGA, much has failed. Both agreed to form a joint committee to investigate the claims, but the few representatives who agreed to assist the group have shown little interest in the matter.

Considering the significance of the claims against the company that provides all of FIU’s soft drinks, one would hope the matter would be given much more consideration.

But while University administrators have yet to pay attention to the issue at hand, it is SGA who holds the responsibility to help students communicate with those in charge – something not being done.

Despite a 600-signature petition and multiple public presentations, USAS has yet to meet with administrators.

Their requests are both fair and justifiable: investigate the matter, and if something is found, make the ethical decision and switch soft drink sponsors.

To say that switching sponsors takes away the consumer’s freedom of choice ignores the fact that there was no freedom to begin with – FIU is a Coca-Cola campus.

But the time to deal with this issue in an acceptable manner is running out. Trying various channels of communication, the group has found nothing but a dial tone on each.

They have been waiting patiently for months, but pushing against the current has been wearing their patience thin. It may be in the interest of administrators to deal with the issue before it lands on their doorstep, and it is SGA’s responsibility to bring them the message.
Franklin Hopkins has been a resident of Southwest Dade for several years. A couple years back, the retired Hopkins had decided one steamy July morning to run some errands in his brand new 2005 Dodge — it was his 69th birthday, after all. Upon turning the corner on SW 128 Street he noticed a car in his rearview mirror approaching him too quickly for comfort. Hopkins observed the car swerve off of the road, pass him on his right (in the grass, no less) and swerve back in front of him before colliding with oncoming traffic. Hopkins attempted to brake, but it was too late, and the impact ruined the front of his car — and most likely his birthday.

What’s worse is that I ruined his car, along with damaging two others in the Club crunches more than just numbers

LUCIA SASTRE
Contributing Writer

Just around this time every year, many professional accountants put in overtime to crunch numbers from the past tax season. The Accounting Association at FIU, however, aims to keep this energy year-round.

“Joining the AA is like having a full-time job with all the benefits that will last for life,” said member Vanessa Coronado.

Created in 1986, primarily for accounting, finance or MIS majors, the AA focuses on enhancing leadership skills as well as promoting constant involvement in the campus and the community.

For instance, the club conducts mock interviews every semester, which, according to president Krystel Ramos, is a helpful tool for students’ performance when seeking employment.

“These mock interviews facilitate a student’s chances into getting the job they want,” Ramos said.

Furthermore, once a year, selected members of AA are given the choice to travel to different parts of the country in order to attend the Association of Latino ACCOUNTING, page 6

IMPACT, page 6

MY LIFE! EXPERIENCE

Franklin Hopkins has been a resident of Southwest Dade for several years. A couple years back, the retired Hopkins had decided one steamy July morning to run some errands in his brand new 2005 Dodge — it was his 69th birthday, after all. Upon turning the corner on SW 128 Street he noticed a car in his rearview mirror approaching him too quickly for comfort. Hopkins observed the car swerve off of the road, pass him on his right (in the grass, no less) and swerve back in front of him before colliding with oncoming traffic. Hopkins attempted to brake, but it was too late, and the impact ruined the front of his car — and most likely his birthday.

What’s worse is that I ruined his car, along with damaging two others in the process.

Impact is a word we throw around to express anything from painful dentistry to our philosophies about our personal responsibilities in this world. In my case, impact was at 30 mph and I wasn’t wearing a seatbelt.

So, in turn, I broke both my legs (technically, my right ankle was shattered and my left tibia was fractured near the severed ligaments in my knee). But, this isn’t a heroine story about learning to walk, although it’s true what they say, it’s much harder the second time. And it isn’t one about seatbelt safety, even though one would have been useful, in retrospect. As for finding Jesus, I’m closer to finding Jimmy Hoffa.

In college, expanding your knowledge — or taking one too many philosophy classes — can make you question your very existence. Do I matter? Does anything matter? Why am I here? Will I be remembered? Usually epiphanies aren’t immediate.

To me there are two forms of impact. The first is the way your actions — even in an instant — can affect your future and how that momentary judgment, or lapse of said judgment, can mark your place in someone’s memory forever.

Personal accountability is a concept closely tied with this. Thanks to my own guilt, not to mention my mother’s daily reminders for the three months I was bedridden, I was aware of the consequences to my actions. Bills piled up, I no longer had a job or a car and was a year behind in my studies.

As for my impact on others, my recovery had consumed my then-boyfriend’s life. In addition, my mother’s insurance rates skyrocketed, my absence had opened up two jobs in the market and the loss of my car — the black Honda civic named Gary Coleman — had lowered gas emissions for a split second. Granted, this is taking it to somewhat of an extreme; I know I had at least ruined roughly $25,000 worth of cars.

As one transitions into adulthood, the accountability factor is crucial to maturity. Without it, the “I didn’t do it” attitude takes over.

For some, however, the concept could IMPACT, page 6

EXPERT PLANNER.
FINANCIAL SPECIALIST.
UM MBA.

Robert B. Newman Vice President — National Planning Corporation

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

CAMPUS VISIT

FRIDAY, APRIL 20TH AT 11:30AM SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ROOM 8CB 530.
TWO YEAR PROGRAM BEGINS AUGUST 2007.
ONE YEAR PROGRAM BEGINS JANUARY 2008.
RSVP 808.517.7172 MBA@UMIAMI.EDU
WWW.MBA.MIAMI.EDU/GRAD

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
Taking responsibility aids healing process

To me there are two forms of impact. The first is the way your actions – even in an instant – can affect your future and how that momentary judgment, or lapse of said judgment, can mark your place in someone’s memory forever.

Accounting Association enhances business skills

ACCOUNTING, page 5

Professionals in Finance and Accounting National Convention

“In these conventions, students learn leadership skills and the art of public speaking. They get to meet with professional entrepreneurs and successful firms, which helps them obtain an insight of the real world,” Thomos said.

Recently, the AA reached a goal of establishing a branch of ALPFA National Honor Society at FIU.

“It is truly remarkable that we were able to create the only Hispanic honors society for business in America. The involvement and dedication that it takes teaches you life lessons that cannot be found anywhere else,” said president of ALPFA for the Miami chapter Zameer Uphdya.

Although budget issues might seem like an issue due to the multiple activities taking place, according to Uphdya, there is no need to worry because a scholarship is granted to a student every semester.

“The AA member that is most flexible and involved will most likely be nominated,” Uphdya said. “Last semester four students were nominated and the money was shared between the members. It was something we’ve never done before because usually only one member gets the money, but then again being in the AA helps us come up with solutions to any problem.”

Events, such as the Student Organizations Council Club Fair and Business Industry Night aim to give attendees a positive outlook on their job search and prepare them for competition among firms.

The club offers chances for members to meet with prospective members at the beginning of each semester. An event called the Back to School Bash is held in the fall and the ALPFA Annual Convention, their next big event, will be held Aug. 4-8.

In business, communication between members is important, even in unlikely locales. For that purpose, volleyball tournaments are held in order to build stronger relationships within the group.

“Although you wouldn’t really associate volleyball to business, it is a great way for us to come together in a totally different environment. Every year in these tournaments, we discover something new about each other’s personalities,” Uphdya said. The next volleyball tournament will be held April 28.

The AA meets Fridays at 6 p.m. in the Graham Center, room 314. During these meetings, important firms and executives are invited to introduce internships and advice on the industry.

On Friday, March 30 at 6 p.m., Grant Thornton International, one of the world’s largest accounting firms, will be making a presentation. Anyone that wants to join is welcomed to attend.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the AA, information can be found at www.fiu.edu/~actassoc.

THURSDAY • MARCH 29

WHAT: GSA Gradskellers WHERE: 6 p.m. WHERE: Gracie’s Grill HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: Arnez J performs WHEN: 8:30 p.m. WHERE: The Miami Improv (3390 Mary Street , Suite 182) HOW MUCH: $21.40

WHAT: Miami-Dade County Fair WHEN: 3 p.m. – 1 a.m. WHERE: Tamiami Park HOW MUCH: $8

FRIDAY • MARCH 30

WHAT: SPC Films presents The Pursuit of Happiness WHEN: 7 p.m., 10 p.m. WHERE: GC 140 HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: Arnez J WHEN: 8:30 p.m., 10:45 p.m. WHERE: The Miami Improv (3390 Mary Street , Suite 182) HOW MUCH: $23.54

WHAT: Miami-Dade County Fair WHEN: 3 p.m. – 1 a.m. WHERE: Tamiami Park HOW MUCH: $8

SATURDAY • MARCH 31

WHAT: Comedian Lewis Black performs WHEN: 8 p.m. WHERE: University Center Arena at NSU (3801 College Ave) HOW MUCH: $575 and up

WHAT: Deadstar Assembly performs WHEN: 7:30 p.m. WHERE: Culture Room (3045 N Federal Hwy) HOW MUCH: $10

WHAT: Arnez J performs WHEN: 7:45 p.m., 10 p.m., 11:59 p.m. WHERE: The Miami Improv (3390 Mary Street , Suite 182) HOW MUCH: $23.54

WHAT: Miami-Dade County Fair WHEN: 3 p.m. – 1 a.m. WHERE: Tamiami Park HOW MUCH: $8

SUNDAY • APRIL 1

WHAT: Arnez J performs WHEN: 8:30 p.m. WHERE: The Miami Improv (3390 Mary Street, Suite 182) HOW MUCH: $21.40

WHAT: Erotica adult industry convention WHEN: 12 p.m. WHERE: Miami Beach Convention Center (1900 Convention Center Drive) HOW MUCH: $25

WHAT: Miami-Dade County Fair WHEN: 3 p.m. – 1 a.m. WHERE: Tamiami Park HOW MUCH: $8
Tomic goes beyond the norm to show she cares

**FIU Sports Replay**

**BASEBALL**

Third baseman Bryan Pullin’s first inning home run against Troy March 25 gave him 251 career hits – a new school record. Adding to the record-breaking night, the Golden Panthers defeated the Troy Trojans 9-1.

Pullin tied Dennis Díaz’s all-time hits record with a homerun in the eighth inning to help the Golden Panthers defeat Troy 9-1 on March 24.

The Golden Panthers were able to sweep Troy as they lost the first game of the series. Freshman pitcher Cory Poliziano was named Sun Belt Conference Pitcher of the week for his eight-inning outing against Troy on March 23.

**TENNIS**

The No. 29 Golden Panthers (13-4) picked up their seventh straight win after defeating Boston University 7-0 on March 25.

**FOOTBALL**

Heading in to spring practice, coach Mario Cristobal had finally hired his future staff. Three programmers assistant coach Apollo Wright was hired to coach special teams. While coaching at Villanova for six years, Wright helped develop Philadelphiia running back Brian Westbrook.

**Strong outing against Rutgers earns Allen weekly award**

**ALLEN, page 8**

the most important people in my life,” Allen said. “To be able to have an honor happen with those kind of people around you is something real special and something that I’m hoping to experience again.”

Allen ultimately ended up honing his skills at Lake-Sumter Community College, where he earned Academic All-Sun Coast Conference honors in 2004. After shoulder surgery, he transferred to Clemson where Tigers head coach Jack Leggett had high hopes for the junior college transfer. However, after one season with the Tigers, Allen decided it was time to move on.

“I wasn’t 100 percent sure where I fit in at Clemson, so I contacted [Golden Panthers assistant coach] Casas,” he said.

“The more I talked to each coach at FIU, the more it seemed like a real good fit and a great place to play.”

In his first seven starts this season, Allen is holding steady as a mainstay in the Golden Panther starting rotation.

“Chris is getting better with every start,” senior third baseman Bryan Pullin said. “He should be our ‘Mr. Friday Night’ guy. We need him.”

With Sun Belt Conference action heating up, Allen keeps a modest and focused attitude approaching one game at a time. “You can’t go about it any other way,” Allen said. “You are only as good as your last game. I just have to perform and do my best to help this team.”

If Allen can build upon starts like the performance against Rutgers and become “Mr. Friday Night” against Sun Belt Conference opponents, then success is in the store for the Golden Panthers.
Women's softball swept away at home

CLAUDIA PANO
Contributing Writer

The Golden Panthers (13-24) were swept by the Troy Trojans at University Park Stadium March 24-25 in a three-game weekend series.

"It was a tough series against a good team," coach Kim Gwydir said. "Our play-es was competitive, they worked very hard. It just didn't go our way this time."

TROY 4, FIU 1

In game one of the series, Golden Panthers couldn't seem to get much going. "We were hitting the ball right at them," senior centerfielder Deomni Murray said. We had some luck, but we just kept on hitting the ball right at them."

The first score of the game came on an RBI single to left field by Trojans' sophomore catcher Felicia Hammel that brought home senior infielder Amanda Ragans. Yet the low point of the game came in the top of the sixth inning when junior pitcher Kerri Houck gave up a home run to sophomore outfielder Heidi Johnson of the Trojans. It was the only home run Houck gave up in the series. Houck gave up 10 hits and four runs in seven innings of work.

TROY 2, FIU 1

Rain, wind, more rain and not much scoring was the theme of the second game of a double header played March 24. Heavy clouds appeared to threaten the progress of the game approximately every two innings. Three short rain delays interrupted the game. The last one came in the top of the seventh inning, as the game went into extra innings.

The Trojans made their mark on the scoreboard in the top of the eighth inning. Trojan freshman pitcher Rocky Paige doubled to left-center and advanced to second base. Paige was replaced by a sophomore pinch runner, Kim Kelly, who later advanced to third on a ground out by sophomore catcher Felicia Hammel. Kelly later scored on a wild pitch given up by FIU sophomore pitcher Penny Eastman. Moore advanced to third base and then came home on a collision with sophomore pitcher Penny Eastman. Which gave the Trojans a 2-0 lead. Eastman pitched the entire game giving up four hits and two runs in the loss.

ROUNDING SECOND: Despite some stellar defense in centerfield by Deomni Murray (above), it wasn't enough as Troy swept the Golden Panthers.

"Our girls fought and played hard. They put it all out on the field," Gwydir said. Gwydir said that the rain had no effect on her team's performance. "This is Miami and this is Miami weather," she said. "And we know and expect this type of weather. Yeah, the delays were in and out, but I don't think that had any affect on our players at all. We are in use to this type of weather."

TROY 2, FIU 1

Despite giving up two runs, Houck had more success against the Trojans in the final game of the series going seven innings and allowing two runs.

Senior outfielder Deomni Murray had several highlight moments in this game, one of them being a sensational defensive play in which she chased down a hanging pop fly all the way from her position in deep centerfield to the shallow infield near second base.

"I am a very aggressive player," Murray said. "On that particular play I saw the ball hanging in the air, and I knew I could get it, so I called for it and caught it."

She also added a stolen base to her team-leading 18 stolen bases. Desiree Fink had a triple in the game, but was later put on base by the Trojans catcher.

Despite the sweep, Murray and other teammates think that things are beginning to fall in place for the team.

"Keep on being aggressive and things will start falling for us," Murray said. "All we have to do is go out there and continue to execute, continuing working hard just as we have been doing," Coach Gwydir hopes the next time both teams meet, they will flip flop on the box score. "Our plan is to face them again and knock them out of the tournament," she said.