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The Beacon, March 29, 2007

Florida International University

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Ceremony recognizes alumni

CAMILA MARTIN
Contributing Writer

In an effort to acknowledge the positive work of FIU alumni, the University is recognizing 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.

“arina’s said. Draughon said in a press release.

The goal behind the annual Torch Awards is to recognize the positive actions of FIU alumni in their professions, 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. Collejo 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 Leadership Award and the Outstanding Achievement Award, among others.

After graduating, students usually keep in touch with 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

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CEREMONY RECOGNIZES ALUMNI

ART FUSION

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 on every corner. They’re taking over. They’re everywhere, they’re taking over. They’re on every corner. They already have a Starbucks everywhere, and students have begun expressing their discontent for the new coffee shop.

“I love their frappuccinos, shakes, pastries, cookies and

Le BEACON
A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

ART FUSION

SOCIAL ART: “Aesthetics and Values,” an art exhibition presented by students from the Honors College, will be showing at the second floor gallery at Green Library until April 18. Students analyzed the social dialogue of art for several months under the guidance of professor and artist John Bailly before producing their pieces. A reception will take place April 4 at 5 p.m., and a discussion by Miami artist Xavier Cortada will take place April 11 at 12:30 p.m.

The Green Library coffee vendor Java City will be replaced by Starbucks next Fall. Starbucks’ plan includes building a table area at the library’s entrance. For detailed plans, see page 2.

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.

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Awards, page 2

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Coff ee, page 2


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Camila Garcia/Beacon

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“I 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 warming 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 everywhere, and 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 being written anonymously and reads, “Java City is better than Starbucks.”

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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 fast approaching.

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.

— Compiled by Betsy Martinez
**NICOLE ACOSTA AND CRISTELA GUERRA**  
**Beacon Staff**

Students within the School of Journalism and Mass Communication will 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 1 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 newsletter. According to the press release on the SJMC website, "the organization's goal by contributing to [students'] ability to communicate clearly to your command of the language, 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," Vazana quoted.

According to the press release, Allan Richards, chair for SJMC, said the center will particularly help "students who are just beginning their SJMC major by working with tutors, "work carefully and slowly through the building blocks of grammar." Richards said in the press release.

"The center is designed to help students put grammar into action. We are not here to rewrite students' papers. Clients who come to the writing center will be engaged in discussions about their writing," Vazana 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 out in class, and it's not always possible for an instructor to have a lengthy conversation with a student about their work in a 45 minute class," Richards 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 overall, but we will focus on those skills 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 11:15-1:30, Wednesdays 11 a.m. to 1:30 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.

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**THE WRITE STUFF**

Irene Vazano, 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," Ingrao said.

The committee was able to schedule Lee as a speaker through the American Programming Bureau, which is an organization that aids in booking guest speakers. According to Zach Trautenberg, the committee member who put Lee in touch with the American Programming Bureau, Lee’s appeal is not limited to his career.

"He’s not your typical, laid-back lecturer. He’s going to be very engaging and assiduous; he’s not going to be boring," Trautenberg said.

The lecture is organized by the Lectures Committee which is comprised of members from the Student Government Association, Student Programming Council, and Student Organizations Council, and student and staff volunteers.

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication is also collaborating by aiding in promotions and advertisements. During his career, Lee has held many titles as a film director, author, producer, and entrepreneur. "[He] applied to a wide range of students by discussing his film career and diversity," Trautenberg said.

Besides discussing the documentary, others hope Lee will bring up his usual commentary on political and social issues.

"[Lee] is one of the pioneering African-American directors and is known for his social commentary; [his work] should inspire discussion from our students and community," said Rafael Zapata, assistant director of Campus Life and Orientation.

The majority of Lee’s movies have focused on racially charged topics, such as his movies Malcolm X and Do the Right Thing. Born Shelton Jackson Lee, the director is regarded as one of today’s premier American filmmakers, according to the American Programming Bureau, which provided a press release to FIU.

The committee expects a turn-out of at least 600 attendees for this event, according to Zapata.

"Many entities have collaborated to ensure that attendance to this event will be at its maximum potential. We are hopeful that there will be no empty seats left in the room," Ingrao said.

Trautenberg said the lecture will be advertised in local publications via e-mail to all FIU students and to the film departments at the University of Miami and Miami-Dade College.

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.
companies have been in collusion. As reported by the American Anthropological Association, the claims against the company provide evidence of human rights abuses and show a degree of legitimacy. Some student groups searching for attention for their issues that relate to our neighbors in Latin America abroad. 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 interest in the matter. But while University administrators have yet to pay attention to the issue at hand, it is SGA’s 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 company, and if something is found, make the ethical decision and change sponsors.

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 Café 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 smaller, privately owned coffee shops 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 the one in the Green Library, is neither. The Java City locations at both UP and the Biscayne Bay Campus are stark and generic, not quaint and cozy. And as far as quality goes, the Java City in the library offers a meager selection and is closed half the time. It’s no wonder students asked that it be replaced.

In contrast, it’s a sure bet that the Starbucks that’s replacing it will have made the ethical decision and switched soft drink sponsors.

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.

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.

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The claims against Coke should be kicked off campus

Joseph Pagliery
Staff Writer

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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.

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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

LIFE! EXPERIENCE

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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 5

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Taking responsibility aids healing process

accounting, page 5

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 and network with entrepreneurial and successful firms, which helps them obtain an insight of the real world," said Thomas.

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. This website also includes applications and contact information.

Taking responsibility aids healing process

"To make those four or five significant relationships in your life count. Your impact on them insures your existence. As for the periphery people in your life, it’s important to consider them for karma’s sake. I’ll probably send Hopkins a 71st birthday card this year.

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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. This website also includes applications and contact information.
Tomic went beyond the norm to show she cares.

TOMIC, page 8

...many American movies, and we read the subtitles,” Tomic said.

After graduating from UALR in 1999 with a degree in health education, she was an assistant coach for six years at UALR, an assistant coach in Louisiana State University for two years until filling the head coaching job at FIU in 2005. As head coach she needed an assistant, so she hired fellow Croatian and UALR alumna, Tanja Eckart. They were both teammates at UALR, but their friendship goes back to Croatia. Eckart had looked up to Tomic in Croatia as a player, and told her that she too wanted to go to the United States. Tomic promised she would call Eckart when she reached the United States. One year later, Tomic and Eckart were e-mailing each other consistently.

“She was my first mentor, sister and coach throughout college,” Eckart said. “She keeps her word.”

Tomic said experience at UALR shaped her into the coach she is today. UALR’s volleyball head coach, Von Compton, was Tomic’s first female coach. She had always been coached by men throughout her whole career. Tomic says Compton was also the first coach, who wanted her to graduate and have a career. Tomic says Compton was also the first female coach. She had always been coached by men throughout her whole career. Tomic says Compton was also the first coach, who wanted her to graduate and have a career.

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Women’s softball swept away at home

Claude Panor
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- ers competed; 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 looks, 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 Hammer 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 Hammer. Kelly later scored on a wild pitch given up by FIU sophomore pitcher Penny Eastman. Moore advanced to third base and then came home and scored on a collision with sophomore pitcher Kerri Houck. 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.

“Troy’s defense behind me. Our team is used to this type of weather,” 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 I know and expect this type of weather. Yeah, the delays were in and out, but I don’t think that had any effect on our players at all. We are used 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 centerfield in the first inning when she chased down a hanging pop fly all the way from her position in deep centerfield to the shallow infield near second base.

“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.

“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 out 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 to knock them out of the tournament,” she said.