 Israeli consulate visits Middle East politics class

EDUARDO Morales
Staff Writer

The Consulate General of Israel, Paul Hirschson, visited the Politics in Middle East class at FIU on Monday, Sept. 15 to discuss his roles within the consulate as well as the current events and happenings surrounding the state of Israel.

Hirschson began speaking to students about the history of his native country and of those surrounding it. He did not shy away from controversial topics and made time to discuss the conflicts in the Middle East. The discussion instigated classroom debate but Hirschson was never afraid to answer any questions.

“The issue I’m addressing is Israel and what’s going on in Israel,” Hirschson said when asked about issues he’d like to cover with students.

The Consulate General was very honest with his answers and spoke about his position as well as his stance in the conflicts going on in the Middle East.

He was also intent on discussing the qualities of the country not normally shown in the news.

“Israel is much more than a place where periodically in the Middle East there are wars,” Hirschson said. “You wouldn’t have a cell phone without Israeli technology, you’d never have a laptop without Israeli technology and you wouldn’t have a huge amount of medical technology.”

Hirschson discussed his views on the relations between Israel, Iran, Iraq and Lebanon and asked students to share their own views. He also spoke of Israel’s relations with Egypt as well as the country’s major trading partners. In the later half of the discussion, he openly spoke about the conflict over possession of the Gaza Strip.

The classroom visit gave international relations majors the opportunity to talk with political figures they read about in class and hear about in the news.

Students took advantage of the opportunity and openly discussed both political and personal problems.

“We can have an argument, myself and somebody from the other side, about how we got to where we are,” Hirschson said. “The question is not so much how we got to where we are, the question is how do we move forward from here?”

FIU prospers amid budget difficulties

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO
News Director

Top administration officials got the memo from University President Modesto A. Maidique on Monday: no budget crisis, big or small, will slow down FIU’s growth.

Although framed around the budget crisis, Maidique’s first leadership meeting of the year concentrated on the University’s new stage, “FIU 3.0,” and its effects on colleges, schools and faculty.

“Many of you in this room carried the burden of making the difficult choices about program and employee terminations. I know you agonized over each decision and every dollar, but the University now has to look [to the] future,” Maidique said.

The University’s vice presidents, deans and directors sat through an hour-long discussion that emphasized undergraduate education, graduate and faculty research, internationally focused curriculum and improved student customer service as “FIU 3.0” cornerstones.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, FIU ranks far below both national and Florida standards for student-faculty ratios; an FIU Foundation survey finds nine percent of alumni
Drinking games face banishment

school, the problem might be at its worst.

Trustees there are poised to approve a ban on drinking games, kegs and "beer balls," which held the equivalent of 55 beer cans. Other Florida universities have similar policies. UF spokeswoman Janine Sikes said the school had four or five alcohol-related deaths several years ago, which prompted the school to revise the student code with changes that likely will pass beyond that, she said. "You will see the generation saying it's so senseless, and we can do things without that," said Mike McCoy, Orange County public safety director and co-chairman of the underage drinking task force, said attitudes about what's unsafe could change. "Back then, we thought we couldn't do anything, but I think we will pass beyond that," he said. "You will see the generation saying it's so senseless, and we can do things without that."
In a partnership with the Miami Herald, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication will be reporting on and working with HIV/AIDS victims.

SJMC students, including some who have witnessed the epidemic first-hand in South Africa and others who reported from the Worlds AIDS Conference for MTV Latin America, will begin producing, shooting and editing a four-part web series documenting the real stories and statistics of people infected with the virus.

Each two to three minute segment will detail the private side of the outbreak and tell the stories beyond the facts, figures and statistics.

Starting production in September, the project seeks to move beyond anonymous data, and provide a meaningful and necessary human element to the story – all in an effort to give a face to the faceless killer.

The project is scheduled to launch during the upcoming holiday season, and new episodes will be released weekly on the Miami Herald Web site.

The Miami Herald aims to show readers that there is a serious health crisis in South Florida that is increasingly affecting our community, and the individuals living within it, according to SJMC professor Kate MacMillin, a veteran television producer.

“(The series] is a community outreach effort to educate Miamians about the rise of HIV/AIDS,” MacMillin said.

MacMillin will be working alongside Allan Richards, interim associate dean of SJMC, to showcase the school’s brightest talents, many of whom already have extensive experience reporting on the disease.

The FIU and the Miami Herald hope to combat the social stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS by using available South Florida media to spread awareness.

An independent study group composed of 10 print journalism students and television production students, in cooperation with University Health Services, is looking for suitable candidates for a study examining HIV/AIDS sufferers.

Selections are expected to be completed by late September.

Miami has the third-highest HIV/AIDS contraction rate in the country with 56,804 people infected, according to Florida HIV/AIDS Resources & Statistics.

Tiffany Parkes and Jillian Simms recount their travels last spring as part of a recent FIU-sponsored excursion to South Africa.

In coordination with members of the United States Agency for International Development, as well as dozens of other local and international organizations and media outlets, including the Light House Project, students were able to get a first-hand look at and acquire an intimate understanding of the HIV/AIDS problem.

Hearing personal accounts from individuals dealing with HIV/AIDS opened the two journalism students’ eyes to the life-changing effects the virus has on its victims.

The program also showed how people worldwide are using various mediums to spread information devoted to prevention and awareness of the illness.
THE SOAPBOX: An Op-Ed Column

Students can change the world through a single vote

HECTOR SUCO Special to The Beacon

If you were to bet on a competition and you knew that the slides were 37,000 vs. 357, which one would you put your money on? In the year 2000, 357 won. In 2008, the whole new ball game. As most of you already know, Professor Rubio clinched the state of Florida in 2000, giving him enough electoral votes to win the White House by 537 votes.

That election changed the world and it came down to our state. This semester alone, there are nearly 37,000 students at FIU. A good number of those students are not registered to vote.

If you’re saying to yourself, “My vote doesn’t matter,” or “I don’t care about the election,” then think again. If 357 FIU students voted differently about voting in 2000, it could’ve changed the world.

Fellow students, do not be alarmed. This is merely the work of an educational institution which you have paid a tuition fee for.

Imagine if 5 percent or even offensive, doesn’t make sense a little more crowded and empty; the classrooms
decide it necessary to amaze us.

As Mahatma Gandhi once said, “Be the change you wish to see in the world.”

Hector Suco is the president of FIU Students for Obama.

NEDA GHOMESHI Contributing Writer

To some, language is a virtue, to others it’s just another form of communication. However, language must be practiced, just like a sport. Some people practice to perfect language, such as scholars. The only question is, at what point has one learned enough about a language in that they can communicate fluently? (insert language here).

Recently, I was sitting outside of the Graham Center at University Park. As I looked around, I noticed the diversity of students who roam about the campus.

Within the next 30 minutes, I heard five different languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese and honestly, I couldn’t tell the fifth one.

It was fascinating to hear a sample of the many languages there are in this world, which according to the Ethnologue, a database of the world’s spoken languages, is over 6,900. The whole concept of different languages got me thinking, how can one perfect a language?

Who determines if one has perfected a language and what exactly is perfection when it comes to language?

When I was growing up, I was taught to speak Farsi at home. In fact, I didn’t even learn English until I began elementary school at the age of five. By the time I was 17, I thought I had a good grasp of the Persian language.

However, it wasn’t until I visited Iran that summer that I realized I knew no more than 50 percent of the language.

I went one day from believing I had succeeded in a language, to the next day discovering I knew nothing. I went back to my professor, who was teaching me Farsi. He helped me eviscerate my imperfect language.

As I looked around, I noticed the diversity of students who roam about the campus.

“Fluent” means one speaking or writing in a natural manner which is used easily.

I speak Farsi as if it is my second nature, and it comes to me naturally.

I believe that I am fluent in Spanish, however I can improve my Spanish skills, but they will never be perfect because we don’t live in a perfect world.

Languages are beautiful. They allow humans to interact with one another. They enable us to communicate and pass on ideas.

So, why can’t we converse with one another and not worry about the minor grammatical errors, or the lack of heavy vocabulary?

“As long as you understand your point, I’m fine,” said junior Jenny Bakalar. Isn’t it pleasant if Bakalar’s theory applied to the world?

[Rubio] helped eviscerate our state’s education budget, and in the process, forced our school to lay off 200 people.

CHRIS CABRAL Staff Writer

We are all witness to one of the greatest things to ever happen to FIU. Every once in a great while, administration at this University deem it necessary to amaze us.

As you walk through the halls this semester, you may notice they seem a little emptier; the classrooms may seem a little more crowded and your major may have disappeared. Many students, do not be behind these cuts being paid with our tuition money.

The answer is that Rubio is a great and noble man. His hiring is everything you and I stand for. Why? Because our school’s administrators say so. And what they say is always true. I think I read that somewhere.

You see, just because we love students may find this hiring to be audacious, despicable, horrifying or even offensive, doesn’t make it so. Just because the “facts” say that Rubio is responsible for these budget cuts doesn’t make him a bad guy. In fact, I’m sure he feels really bad about the whole thing.

Instead of criticizing this decision and expressing our outrage collectively, and doing all we can to force FIU to reconsider its decision, let’s take a moment to instead admire this man we now call Professor Rubio.

I imagine the outrage it must take to spend 15-20 hours a week among students and professors who are forced to suffer through the financial crisis he helped create. Imagine the guilt he must feel, spending 15-20 hours a week teaching in a classroom, and the other half is coming from anonymous donors.

Now, some alarmists will express outrage at this shocking turn of events. After all, why should a man responsible for so much of the state’s education problems be employed by an educational institution?

I think the answer is Rubio’s Spanish skills, but they will never be perfect because we don’t live in a perfect world.

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**HEALTHY RETREAT**

Focusing on helping students gain newfound confidence

DIANA JORDAN  Contributing Writer

The Art of Living is an internationally recognized organization interested in promoting community service and dedicated to helping all individuals find clarity and peace. The Yes! + division of the organization, which will be visiting FIU, is committed to promoting health, healing and peace.

The retreat is open to all students and will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 23, through Friday, Sept. 26, from 7 to 10 p.m.; on Saturday, Sept. 27, from 4 to 10 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 28, from 7 to 10 p.m. Problems confronting university students, such as time management, will be discussed and students will be given the opportunity to unwind from their hectic schedules.

The cost of the program is $200. This price allows those who have participated in the program once to participate multiple times on a donation basis and also includes follow-up sessions.

A long with renewal retreats, the organization also focuses on serving the local and international community by catering to those experiencing natural disasters or extreme poverty.

Members of the organization recently visited Haiti and have traveled to countries stricken by natural disasters such as India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand in the past, along with states like New Orleans and Mississippi devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

The organization’s ultimate goal is for members to realize they can make a difference in the world. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the Founder of The Art of Living and current World Culture and Peace Ambassador, will also be on campus on Nov. 4 and 5 speaking about finding inner peace and giving back to the community through charitable acts such as food drives. FIU is the first school he will have visited.

The organization is working closely with the yoga club at FIU, which is facilitating all events and seminars. The week-long retreat at FIU will be a joint effort by the two groups and will be a way to initiate the beginning term of FIU.

The club’s main goal is to promote an internal balance within each of its members and teach about the impact humans have on others in the community and on the world around them.

The yoga club is free of charge to students and open to anyone wanting to try something new.

A Divinity and Femininity Luncheon and exposition, was held on Friday, Sept. 5 in the Graham Center. It will also be sponsoring free yoga sessions on Wednesdays from 12 to 1 p.m. on the lawn in front of Graham Center.

The club stresses that beginners are more than welcome to come try a session. In addition to finding an inner balance, members also improve their posture and breathing, are more relaxed in general and find they can handle situations with positive, confident attitudes. A mantra believes that through yoga comes clarity, which is followed by choice and ultimately, power.

By practicing yoga, students will not only improve physically but also mentally, and will gain a newfound sense of awareness. The yoga club is always searching for students who want to learn a new form of exercise, find a sense of inner peace or simply wish to make new friends.

Together, the Art of Living and the yoga club will teach participants and members how minor changes to their lives can result in a greater awareness of the world around them and how they can be integral components in aiding those in dire need on local and international scales.

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Big name sequels fill this fall’s game line-up

Due to the exorbitant amount of must-play video games released every fall, it’s not uncommon to find gamers who overdraft their bank accounts, stay locked indoors for weeks at a time or have to explain to their significant others that going out on Saturday night is no longer an option. Here are a few stellar titles to look out for when selecting what game will gobble up your study time.

**FABLE II**

The predecessor was hyped by its creator Peter Molyneux as the greatest role-playing game of all time, yet the original Fable fairly good game, did not deliver on its promise. With FableII, Molyneux hasn’t made statements as bold as his previous ones, yet he is still aiming to give fans of the role playing genre a truly unique experience. Taking place 500 years after the original title, this ambitious role playing game introduces guns into the world of Albion, a pet dog that acts as the player’s companion throughout the game and online cooperative play. Fable II hits shelves Oct. 21.

**RESISTANCE 2**

**PLAYSTATION 3**

The follow-up to the highly successful PS3 launch game, Resistance 2 takes place right where the original left off – with main character Nathan Hale left stranded in a snowfield, armed with only one grenade. Resistance 2 will feature two campaigns: a single player campaign and a cooperative campaign.

The cooperative campaign can be played with up to eight of your buddies online via the PlayStation Network, or two players on a split screen. The online fun doesn’t end there. Resistance 2’s multiplayer offering will boast unprecedented online matches containing up to 60 players. Yes, that is a six and a zero.

The war against the Chimera continues when this greatly anticipated first-person adventure releases Nov. 4.

**GEARS OF WAR 2**

**XBOX 360**

Continuing this fall’s sequel trend, Epic Games plans to blow our minds on Nov. 7 with the release of Gears of War 2. This game has been dubbed by lead designer Cliff Bleszinski as, “bigger, badder and more badass” than the first iteration of the franchise.

Epic hopes to deliver not only a bigger, “badder” single player experience, but a more polished, less glitch-heavy multiplayer experience, after the original’s online multiplayer was plagued by several bugs.

Players will again fill the shoes of chainsaw-wielding main character Marcus Fenix as he leads his squadron into the next chapter of the war against the Locust. Besides new weapons and new enemies, everything about Gears 2 looks bigger, “badder” and – you get the point.

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who wants you to be
well connected?

**GALLERY EXPLORES ART, IRONY THROUGHOUT MODERN POLITICS**

**POLITICAL CIRCUS**

Page 5

Kretz recently departed from the art and art history department. My top three picks of the show are significantly varied, from little experience to ten-years at the history department.

The Gallery explores art, irony throughout modern politics. From Sept. 5 to Nov. 1 at FAU’s Ritter Art Gallery. For more information, go to www.fau.edu/galleries.
Soccer teams remain winless

JOSEPH RAMOS
Asst. Sports Editor

WOMEN’S SOCCER
The Golden Panthers were on a roll. After Marcos Balladares scored his first career goal to tie the game against USF in the 81st minute, FIU (0-4-1) could finally step back as the game was tied for the first time since the 27th minute in the first half.

Less than 200 seconds later, the Bulls (2-1-1) scored on a step back as the game was tied for the first time since the 27th minute in the first half.

The Golden Panthers lost their seventh straight game on Sept. 14, as Caly Poly scored five unanswered goals. FIU (0-7) allowed four goals in the first half as Poly quickly put the game out of the Golden Panthers hands.

Despite goalie Melanie Raimo’s seven stopped shots, Poly’s offense was too overpowering for the defense.

The Golden Panthers have not scored a goal five meetings, as they enter a two game home stand beginning Sept. 19 when they host Middles Tennessee.

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*Composure is one of the most important intangibles any team can have, and almost a have to have. Having been named a contender is one thing, and perhaps the Golden Panthers were named just that at the beginning of this season, but to be one about becoming one, and is an entirely different animal.

Learning how to win after the wheels came off and the adversity is a totally different entity.

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CONTINUING SUCCESS: The Golden Panthers (9-1) continued its strong start by defeating Penn, UCF and Oral Roberts in the first FIU Invitational Tournament since 2006.

The 9-1 start isn’t a surprise to some, after all, the Golden Panthers ranked third in the pre-season Sun Belt poll, boasted two all conference selections and the pre-season player of the year.

The biggest surprise may have been the loss, and not so much losing on the road to Iowa State on Sept. 6, which began the season ranked No. 18 by the American Volleyball Coaches Association, but how the Golden Panthers played.

Considering FIU was coming off an impressive road victory over the then-No. 19 Clemson Tigers (25-21, 25-22, 23-25, 26-24), to win Clemson’s home tournament, the Big Orange Bash, was quite a perplexing finish at the Blue Raider Bash in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

The Golden Panthers dropped their contest against Iowa State, in straight sets, 25-18, 25-9, 25-6, in a contest where stating that FIU faded down the stretch would be a tremendous understatement. The Golden Panthers turned in the worst performance of the season at a curious time, with only 24 kills, and attack percentage of .071. The defense wasn’t much better, only blocking three shots and allowing the Cyclones a sizzling .451 attack percentage.

Some of the blowout could be chalked up to fatigue. It was FIU’s third game in two days; some of their performance to the caliber of opponent. The Cyclones (8-3) were a ranked opponent, and are still, receiving votes in the AVCA poll.

I think the majority of the issue was not being able to recover when faced with adversity on the road.

In every college sport, consistency and composure are at an absolute premium, and although some would say the phrases are over used, it truly is difficult to get up for every game, and win on the road.

Throw in the loss of five seniors, and only having two year letter winners on this year’s team, and that makes finding leaders that much more difficult. Add all that together and set the stage for the FIU Invitational, a weekend where the Golden Panthers hosted Oral Roberts, Penn, and UCF, with a chance to bounce back.

The first two matches, sweeps against Central Florida and Pennsylvania, allowed FIU to get back into their rhythm, moving to 8-1, but the most interesting match took place against Oral Roberts. FIU dropped the first set (20-25), for only the second time this season (see Iowa State), but rebounded to win the second 25-17. FIU found itself in a dogfight, and for just the second time this season, FIU was in a match tied at a set apiece.

The Golden Panthers looked to...

ANDREW JULIAN
Sports Director

The Golden Panthers’ Women’s volleyball team won the FIU Invitational tournament on Sept. 13 at the FIU Arena.

Led by two-time All-American, and tournament MVP Yarimar Rosa (JR, Vega Baja, Puerto Rico), FIU captured the championship, after failing to do so the last time FIU held its home tournament in 2006.

FIU swept its first two matches, Sept 12 against UCF (25-23, 25-17, 25-19), getting contributions from all around. Rosa led the way in kills with 13, and Natalia Valentin (SO, Caguas, Puerto Rico) registered 21 assists and 11 digs.

In the second contest, on Sept 13, FIU toppled the Penn Quakers in five sets, winning 25-11, 25-19, 25-19. Three Golden Panthers registered double-digit digs, Mariana Drumeva (SR, Sofia, Bulgaria) had 15, a season best, Valentin had 12, and junior Isadora Rangel (Sao Paulo, Brazil) tied a career high with 11.

FIU took on Oral Roberts in the third match, and it was the Golden Panthers’ first five set match of the season, as FIU struggled at times in the match, but ultimately prevailed 25-20, 25-17, 13-25, 25-23, 15-12.

Drumeva and Rangel were named to the all tournament team.

FIU will be in action Sept. 19, when they travel to Birmingham, Alabama for the UAB/Samford Invitational. The other participants in the tournament will be Tenn.-Chattanooga, Memphis, and hosts UAB.