For the first time in 10 years, the University is applying for reaccreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. SACS reviews institutions seeking reaccreditation in an area encompassing 11 southern states.

Becoming reaccredited boosts the credibility of student degrees from an academic institution, according to Belle S. Wheelan, president of SACS.

"SACS exists to ensure a process of quality control is in place so that the general public is secure in their belief that an institution that successfully documents compliance with the principles [of accreditation] is providing quality programs and services to students who enroll and earn a degree," Wheelan said.

A university maintaining its status as an accredited institution makes students eligible to receive federal grants and loans. Reaffirming accreditation evaluates the University’s progression and setting goals for the future, according to Wheelan.

"Reaffirmation of accreditation gives an institution the opportunity to assess where it has been for the past 10 years and where it wants to go for the next 10 [years]," Wheelan said. "The process entails a detailed look at every aspect of the institution: the academic program offerings, finances, governance and administration, support services, facilities, and all of the things that impact the institution."

Preparations for the 2010 reaffirmation began as early as mid-winter 2007.

Reaccreditation Benefits

- Allows students to become eligible to receive federal grants and loans.
- President of SACS said reaffirmation increases the quality of a University’s degree programs.

The process of securing reaccreditation for the University involves adhering to several requirements that the SACS implements for all schools.

ACCREDITATION, page 2

HAVA HAVANA

TASTES LIKE CUBA: Melissa Hubicsak (left) Ryan Rodriguez (right) star in Eduardo Machado’s “The Cook.” The last show was on Oct. 5.

Blackboard said it would fix the issue within 72 hours from when a request is submitted. For Sheerin, the wait was longer. He said he waited more than one week to get the problem solved.

Just recently Professor Michael Sheerin, assistant dean for the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, submitted course requests in Blackboard, but didn’t get them online until the morning of the course itself.

"It kind of puts you as a professor in a bind as to when you’re going to get it," said Sheerin, who no longer uses paper syllabi and depends on Blackboard to present his syllabus to his students.

Blackboard said it would fix the issue within 72 hours from when a request is submitted. For Sheerin, the wait was longer. He said he waited more than one week to get the problem solved.

Although the system is now running much smoother, Sheerin said the University is still looking at other products.

"As a university we’re always looking at new technology. We’re always looking at more cost effective ways in which to provide support to faculty and students -- and that’s a natural part of what we do on a daily basis," she said.

The event brought nearly 700 middle school and high school students.

"FBLA thrives on membership, a bigger membership means a bigger chance to win first place," said former PBL state president Chris Cuan.

The organization was honored as "Best Business Organization of the Year" by the Council of Student Organizations last year.

"That alone says a lot about this organization," Perera said.

While the organization is known to train students, the advisors from the different middle and high schools also attended their own workshops.

They were taught methods that allowed them to better train their students to win these rigorous and strenuous competitions.

"Training is a must," said Tonya Alvarez, FBLA director of Mater Academy Charter School. "By participating in these training sessions we all grow as leaders and have the opportunity to interact with other schools and learn from them as well."

The FBLA-PBL organization met twice a month in room CBC 154.
New PantherSoft system builds upon predecessor

RONALD M. BERKMAN  
Special to the Beacon

As an FIU student, you have joined us at an exciting time in our history. Compared to many other universities, we are young and with youth comes a great deal of change and many opportunities to create history and tradition.

You are aware that we’ve had significant budget cuts this fiscal year, which means that some academic programs have been addressed and everyone is being given an opportunity to complete the degree program they have already started.

The strategy has been, and will continue to be, to preserve the quality of the education we offer you above all else. In future editions of The Beacon, I will be sharing with you my perspective on a number of issues that affect us here at FIU and in higher education in general. I hope this will open a dialog among us for the betterment of the institution and your experience here.

One of the topics we will explore in future columns, is the next stage of our development as an institution – a plan President Modesto A. M. adeigue has dubbed FIU 3.0. One of the areas of focus of FIU 3.0 is to pay special attention to the entire student experience, including the quality of the undergraduate classroom experience and the customer service we provide.

One important step in improving a range of student services will be taken on Oct. 27, when we unveil an upgraded version of PantherSoft: Student-Campus Solutions 9.0. You will find this new system is easy to use and offers features that will help you make steady, efficient and predictable progress toward completing your degree.

For example, the Schedule planner allows you to check for time conflicts, prerequisites and repeats before submitting your registration request. The class enrollment process has been redesigned to allow for faster location of a class and all its available sections. When a course is cancelled, the system will generate an automatic email message to students registered for that course.

Students will be automatically notified any time a class session is cancelled or the class location is changed. PantherSoft 9.0 includes a new user-friendly online admissions application interface for both graduate and undergraduate students. We expect this new system will help reduce the number of issues that arise during the registration process and will assist faculty members, advisors and everyone in Enrollment Services in being more responsive and efficient. Please note that PantherSoft will be frozen (available for view only), starting on Oct. 18 through the launch date of Oct. 27.

You will find this new system is easy to use and offers features that will help you make steady, efficient and predictable progress toward completing your degree.

Ronald M. Berkman is FIU’s Provost and Executive Vice President. Read his column every other Monday.

Do you like NEWS?
Do you want to report for the Beacon?
Fill out an application in GC 210 or WUC 124

POLICE NOTES

Sept. 24 - Sept. 29

Sept. 24: An FIU student reported to police that while leaving his vehicle parked in the President’s Lot, unknown suspect(s) damaged the driver’s door handle. Suspect(s) also stole his baseball glove that was inside the car. The interior electrical power control of the same door was damaged.

Sept. 28: A small fire erupted in the Recreational Center’s laundry room. A staff member smelled something burning in the room, to discover sparks coming from a large, in-dryer, dryer. Smoke filled the room when the staff member opened the dryer, triggering the fire alarm. Police responded to the scene but by the time of arrival, the fire had been extinguished.

Sept. 29: An FIU student said that when coming home after class in Primera Casa 241, he noticed a small pocket in his backpack opened. Upon inspection, he realized that an unknown person(s) removed his wallet that was placed inside the pocket. No witnesses were available.

-Compiled by David Barrios

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Students will have the opportunity to learn more about current political issues at the presidential debate on Oct. 6.

The debate, which took two months of planning by the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, will be broadcast in Spanish on Univision Radio.

According to its organizers, the event aims at educating students about the presidential candidates and their platforms.

“Once the students get to the voting booth, they will have a better understanding of the issues and the candidates,” said Teresa Ponte, interim chair and associate professor of journalism and broadcasting. “It’s a clarification of visions, a conversation more than a debate.”

The event will feature speakers from both the Democratic and Republican Parties.

Democrats will be represented by Maurice Ferre, former mayor of the city of Miami, and Luis Lauredo, nominated ambassador to the Organization of American States by President Clinton.

There is a new drama club at the Biscayne Bay Campus, and it’s called Arketipo. The initiative to open a new club was approved by the president of the student government. It’s dedicated to promote, discuss and explain the language, incoming director Fernando Figueredo said.

The name arketipo comes from the word archetypal, which in theater terms means a character, motif or symbol that is frequent in different literary genres, and that becomes a recognized element or universal symbol.

The group meetings are every Thursday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., according to Mejia. This first-year student in the Spanish Journalism program is currently looking for permits to hold the event on campus and its surrounding areas.

The club also welcomes anyone who wants to learn Spanish while enjoying theater, according to Mejia.

“It’s good because you can get to practice the Spanish language, and since it’s through education, it is a great idea,” said Vinesh Punwasee, a senior business management major.

The group meetings are every Thursday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Mejia said the club is currently looking for permits to hold the meetings at the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater.

The debate will take place at the BBC Mary Ann Wolfe Theater from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. It will be open to students and guests and does not require attendees to register or RSVP prior to that date.

“We would like to highlight FIU students,” Figueredo said. “Since most only get to see one election during their time here.”

On the Republican side will be Marco Rubio, former speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, and Helen Aguirre Ferre, the first woman to chair the Board of Trustees of Miami Dade College and Opinion Page editor of "Diario Las Americas," a Spanish newspaper in Miami.

“Students will be able to understand that there are different positions that the Republican and Democratic Parties take on how to govern the country,” said Fernando Figueredo, chair and associate professor of advertising and public relations.

According to Figueredo, one of the main organizers of the event, a Univision talk show host will be moderating the discussion.

The panelists will express their views during the first hour, in which participants should write down any inquiries or comments on the topics that interested them. The second hour of the debate will be open to audience questions.

“[The audience] will get to see how important the Hispanic community is to the results of the election,” Figueredo said.

According to the Univision Web site, Univision Radio is the first ranked Spanish-language radio group in the USA, reaching over 10 million listeners every week.

Univision operates four radio stations in the Miami area, which it considers to be their Hispanic market.

The debate will take place at the BBC Mary Ann Wolfe Theater on campus.

If you are interested, please e-mail julia.carde nuto@fiu.com or come by The Beacon office in WUC-124, in front of the Bookstore.
**Literary Liberty**

Readers must defend printed word

IRIS FEBRES  
Asst. Opinion Editor

The vision of Ray Bradbury’s “Fahrenheit 451” – to burn what you read – is still seen today through the present challenges to censor and ban literature. Professors at FIU recently celebrated Banned Books Week, which ran from Sept. 27 to Oct. 4. Major University officials, including President Modeste Madele and Provost Ronald Berkman read excerpts from challenged books in a “Read-Out” on Sept. 30.

Sponsored by the American Library Association, the week long event aims to inform individuals about censorship and freedom of expression.

**A “NOVEL” IDEA:** University Provost Ronald Berkman discusses banned literature during University Park’s “Read-Out” on Sept. 30.

We should be able to enjoy stories for their own merits, despite their apparent shock values and gasp factors.

IRIS FEBRES  
Asst. Opinion Editor

The admission cut would further reduce classrooms, while the cap does not put a limit on academic quality. The overall student experience also cannot be compromised; it is a primary source of funding. Doing so will inevitably lead to a threat, we have every right to fight.

People have had problems with children’s books, including “Captain Underpants,” a comic’s fables and even the story of Little Red Riding Hood. But why bother going that far? People have had problems with children’s books.

For if we do not fight, we may as well burn everything down. Yes, there may be a couple of books out there that may try to push an agenda (books by Ayn Rand certainly come to mind), but it is up to us as readers to understand these agendas and educate others – including youth – the pros and cons of each. We must remember, though, that this struggle for censorship is in fact a good thing. Even though we are frustrated (and sometimes amused) at efforts made to block children’s books or literature that contain sex scenes or violent scenes, we have to recall our own rights and liberties.

When we are pushed to respond to a threat, we have every right to respond to such a threat so long as it does not infringe upon the rights of others. We have a right to write a letter to the editor, to a friend, a neighbor or a public official, to make our voice heard.

**LITERARY LIBERTY**

Readers must defend printed word

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Open mic event met with warm reception

PAULO O’SWATH
Staff Writer

William Shakespeare once said: “All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players.” For students, the Starbucks on Graham Center’s second floor was their stage and for one night, they were the players.

Poetry Slam and Open Mic Night opened up to a receptive crowd of students sitting and drinking coffee while they listened to original poems presented to them by their peers.

“I wasn’t expecting this when I came to get coffee,” said Nicolas Ospina, a junior. “Watching this was very interesting and it is also new for me.”

Approximately 20 students attended the event, presented by StudentsWRITE, an organization that is dedicated to helping students at FIU with writing and editing skills.

“We wanted to create a culture of literature here at FIU,” said Carlos Sucre-Parra, president of the StudentsWRITE organization. “We want to spread the word around and show that FIU has great authors and writers and we want to share that with the world.”

According to Sucre-Parra, there are 40 to 50 members that consist of students and faculty.

“Everyone on campus is welcome to join our organization,” Sucre-Parra said. “Faculty members are more than welcome to join us.” StudentsWRITE, which was founded at the University, organizes writing projects that both undergraduates and graduate students can participate in. Each year, they receive hundreds of submissions from writers that can be published by the StudentsWRITE Press.

“We are currently planning at least two more events here and also one more event around the time of the book fair,” Sucre-Parra said.

Students who witnessed this type of event for the first time were surprised and satisfied.

“I was very surprised to see this happen when I walked in,” junior Stefanie Mecozzi said. “They caught me by total surprise when I saw them setting up the microphone and speakers. It was a wonderful experience and I had a lot of fun listening to students express themselves creatively the way they did.”

According to Sucre-Parra, the turnout was very good and he was “happy with the results.”

“What they did was great,” Mecozzi said. “I love this type of event. I am very happy I was able to see it. I hope they do this again soon.”

Claudia Santana
Staff Writer

“What would it mean to you as an individual, or to us as a community, to not have access to those words, if they were not available in the library, if they were not accessible anywhere in the country? What would that do to our culture?” That was the question Laura Probst, dean of libraries, asked on Tuesday, Sept. 30, when university administration, employees, faculty, students and alumni met to discuss banned books.

The books’ subject matter ranged from being almost justifiably banned, like Vladimir Nabokov’s “Lolita,” to books that were prohibited for more trivial reasons, such as Roald Dahl’s “Matilda” and Dav Pilkey’s “Captain Underpants” series.

Along with the display, members of the University community were invited to read excerpts from the books of their choice.

Claudia Santana
Staff Writer

“Banned books illustrate cultural impact of words”

BANNED BOOKS, page 6
President Modesto A. Maidique chose Cuban writer Heberto Padilla’s book of poems, “Fuera del juego,” which was banned in Cuba. Before his reading, Maidique said, “Poets, authors, members of the intelligentsia ... were marginalized by the Cuban regime.”

Padilla’s book was banned because of his unwillingness to conform to the Cuban regime. “I think having an open mind about everything is very important and the more information you have, the better able you are to make a wise decision about anything. What scares me is that people even want to ban books,” said junior psychology major Carrie Cavanaugh.

Other excerpts were read from books like Isabel Allende’s “Paula,” which was written about her daughter while she was in a coma, and Ray Bradbury’s “Farenheit 451,” which deals with the burning of all books.

“I think that censorship in art, in any context, is very bad because art is meant to be an expression of those deep parts of ourselves that we can’t really express in a very tangible way on a day-to-day basis. The part that I found really interesting was [from “Farenheit 451”] when it says that by reading the books, we sort of become the books,” said Chris De Varona, a 2003 finance and real estate graduate.

A nother discussion took place at BBC on Thursday, Oct. 2. Lauren Christos, reference librarian at BBC’s library and chair-elect of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table, organized the event.

That morning, students gathered around in the gazebo and listened to professors of journalism and English, while library employees read more passages from banned books, including Aldous Huxley’s “Brave New World” and “The Song of Solomon” from the Bible.

Although this year’s turnout was better than the previous four years, Christos hopes that next year’s will be even bigger. “It’s an enjoyable thing to do, and it is so important to have the freedom to read,” said Christos.

De Varona agreed. “Every time that you read a book, you add your own experiences and factors in, so when you really read a book, it’s not that you take someone else’s ideas in, you’re an example of why that book makes sense and you bring it into your own life and you keep the story alive.”

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The BEACON is always looking for talented individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don’t be shy.

Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.
McCall throws four TD passes in win over N. Texas

FOOTBALL, page 8

their job and that makes it a lot easier on T.Y.,” McCall said. 

Defensively, the Golden Panthers contained the Mean Green but relied mainly on turnovers as North Texas committed four.

Sophomore quarterback Giovanni Vizza (32-of-46, 274 yards) was intercepted three times while running back Lance Dunbar fumbled on a 24-yard run. Sophomore cornerback Anthony Gaitor, who also recorded an interception in the game, recovered the fumble.

“As long as we play our style of defense we’re going to be good,” Gaitor said of the unit which yielded its lowest point total of the season, just 10 points, and has carried the team over the past several weeks.

The unit (ranked 82nd in the FBS before the contest) allowed 428 yards of total offense but only allowed a field goal in the third quarter (28 yards) and a 1-yard touchdown run by running back Michael McCall after the Golden Panthers chose to rest their starters late in the game, with the outcome all but decided.

With the victory, the Golden Panthers not only defeated the Mean Green for the second consecutive season, but guaranteed themselves an improved record from last year in which the team finished 1-11; it took just five games to accomplish that for the Golden Panthers.

University President Modesto A. Maidique, who was in attendance for the road game, mentioned the early progress and positive results that Cristobal has shown in just his second season at the helm.

“[Coach Cristobal] had told me that it was going to take them at least four or five recruitment classes and I think he’s outdoing himself,” Maidique said.

The Golden Panthers (2-3) return home to host the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders (2-3) in their second game at FIU stadium on Oct. 11th at 7 p.m.

Luca Messina can be reached at luca.messina@fi usm.com

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The Golden Panthers pounded Mean Green for second straight win

Golden Panthers pound Mean Green for second straight win

LUCA MESSINA
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers won their first road game in the Football Bowl Subdivision against North Texas last week against Toledo and were able to carry their success by clubbing Toledo and were able to carry their success by clubbing Toledo and winning 35-16 last week against their first road game in the Football Bowl Subdivision.

It's the small things that matter, just ask N. Texas

ANDREW JULIAN
Sports Director

It's not that the Golden Panthers have become some sort of offensive juggernaut, although they have shown an affinity for scoring a 65-yard touchdown.

"As soon as the ball hit my hands I just worked my magic," Hilton said. "The lead would be extended several minutes later to 14-0 on a blocked punt by senior defensive back O'Daris D'Hadie that led to senior receiver Alonzo Phillips recovering and running 11 yards for his first touchdown of the season and his career. After the early scoring to conclude the first quarter, the McCall-to-Hilton connection would strike one more time as the freshman found the end zone, this time on a 73-yard catch and run that gave the Golden Panthers a 21-0 lead on just a two-play drive. It was the third touchdown reception of Hilton's young career, and his fourth overall, and the touchdown pass was the second longest in school history, ranking only behind Samuel Smith's 89-yard touchdown grab against Maryland in September of 2006.

"His two biggest attributes are his pride and his courage. He is a guy that is really not afraid and he's only going to get better," Cristobal said of the freshman who finished the night with three receptions for 145 yards and two touchdowns.

Toward the end of the first half, the Mean Green had an opportunity to avoid the shut out but were denied after kickoff and fumble by North Texas defensive back Darien Williams on his way to scoring a 73-yard touchdown. It was second of the day. Hilton finished with 145 receiving yards.

JUKED: Wide receiver T.Y. Hilton (4) breaks a tackle by North Texas defensive back Darien Williams on his way to scoring a 73-yard touchdown. It was second of the day. Hilton finished with 145 receiving yards.

It's the small things that matter, just ask N. Texas

Any coach knows that, but is on his first multi-game head coaching job and you always want to make those plays because it makes life easier and really sparks an entire team," said head coach Mario Cristobal who not only is 2-0 against the Mean Green, but is on his first multi-game winning streak in his young career as a head coach.

Those quick drives that allowed Cristobal to all but eliminate the Golden Panther offense failed on a fourth-and-two attempt at the Mean Green 11-yard line. After the North Texas went three and out on the next possession, it took just one play for the Golden Panthers to strike first.

Junior quarterback Paul Jones was making his fifth consecutive start of the season, found receiver T.Y. Hilton after the freshman beat his defender and took the skinny post route for a 65-yard touchdown.

As exciting as it was, the Golden Panthers were able to turn 14 points per game into 17 points per game.

Limited offensive mistakes, excellent special teams, big play ability and opportunistic defense. Those are the marks of well coached football teams

translating limited offensive mistakes, excellent special teams, big play ability, and opportunistic defense. Those are the marks of well coached football teams, the ability to focus on the details, when you may not have the continuity the team across the field has, having had such a high coaching turnover on your own sideline, put the little things into practice.

They are the things that peewee coaches preach, and the Golden Panthers are buying in. Coach Cristobal will be the first to tell you that FIU has a long way to go, as a program, and as a team from a focus standpoint. 17 penalties for 128 yards over the last three contests. It's not even that FIU has taken momentum from wins this year to put together a two-game string of wins, although it did put together a nice performance at home against a Top-25 opponent in South Florida, and dating back to last season, won three of its last six games.

It is however, a first culmination of sorts and one that speaks directly to the personality of this team, and how it draws those who play for it. The team across the field has, having had such a high coaching turnover on your own sideline, put the little things into practice.