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, faculty and staff. 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 reaccreditation 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

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HAVA HAVANA

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

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University’s Blackboard upgraded

After a year of asking for additional nodes that would allow Blackboard Campus Edition to run more effectively, the University finally got them at no additional cost.

According to Debra Sheridan, director of media and technology support at FIU, the delay may have been the result of a money issue.

At the time the University was planning its migration to Blackboard’s CE 6 from WebCT 4.1 last summer, Blackboard technicians assessed the University’s technological environment and determined that it could run with two nodes. A node is a piece of hardware that provides load balancing or traffic management on servers.

When the University began having balancing problems that caused Blackboard to completely shut down during peak hours, Blackboard suggested that the University upgrade to Vista, their enterprise version.

“But our argument against that was that we were originally told that the two nodes were fine for our environment and now we were being told it’s not and we were being forced to move to Vista,” Sheridan said. “We didn’t want to move to Vista. We wanted the additional nodes without the additional costs because that’s what we needed to function.”

The last time Sheridan checked the cost for Vista, it was valued at $100,000.

Two weeks ago, two additional nodes were installed at no additional cost to the University.

“That was critical for us especially in this budget year,” Sheridan said.

The nodes have provided a better handle on the traffic load, according to Sheridan, who said the University is now fully working with CE 6. Yet there are still some who are running into bumps.

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, Sheridan 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.
Ronald M. Berkman

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 have resulted in the discontinued programs and many opportunities to create history and tradition. We feel confident that the concerns of all the students involved with the discontinued 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, to continue to be, to preserve the quality of the education we offer you above all else.

Ronald Berkman
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. Those stations can be tuned in at 107.5 FM, 98.3 FM, 710 AM and 1340 AM.

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 R.S.V.P. prior to that date.

“The debate will give students an 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.

‘When 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 Llao, nominated ambassador to the Organization of American States by President Clinton.

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

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“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. One of the first activities in the fall semester will be a series of “drama excursions,” where members will meet, and watch plays on campus and its surrounding areas.

For more information, e-mail Rafael Mejia at rmelj008@fiu.edu or Tanya Alices at alvje001@fiu.edu.

Spanish drama club dedicated to theater, culture

ADA ALVAREZ Contributing Writer

There is a new drama club at the Biscayne Bay Campus, and it’s called Arketipo. The difference between this and other drama clubs is that it will focus on Spanish language theater.

The name Arketipo comes from the word archetypetype, 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 initiative to open a new club came from Rafael Mejia, a first-year student in the Spanish Journalism and Mass Communication master’s program, and now Arketipo’s president. Mejia, who also came up with the club’s name after researching drama vocabulary, suggested the idea for a new club to those who are now part of the directorate.

Arketipo is a group emphasized and dedicated to promote, discuss and experiment with theater arts in the Spanish language, Mejia said. “We want also to embrace the importance of theater in culture and creative activities that involve the university community.”

Mejia has experience in theater production. He worked in New York and his native Puerto Rico, and wanted to produce and practice theater at FIU. He didn’t find a group at BBC that met his needs, aside from the Dramatics, a theater club that performs in English.

―According to Diverse’s most recent Top 100 Undergraduate Degree Producer report, FIU graduates the most Hispanics under-graduates in the country. This was also confirmed by a survey conducted by the Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education Magazine in 2008.

―A Spanish-speaking theater group will reaffirm the University’s compromise with this population, and will provide a space for multicultural integration among the Spanish-speaking community,” said Jennifer M. Alvaré, a first-year student in the Spanish Journalism and Mass Communication master’s program, and secretary of Arketipo.

Mejia said that anyone interested in joining the club is welcome to do so. Students don’t need to be drama majors in order to join. In fact, Mejia is the only Arketipo member who is a drama major.

The club’s membership is 10 per semester. According to Mejia, this fee is applied to lectures, guest speakers, plays, school involvement and community service.

“I believe the idea is excellent, and that it will give a space so that Hispanic culture is shared. I believe many people will like it, and that there is a need for this type of activity at the University,” said Rafael Lama, a junior finance major.

Lama heard about the group and showed interest in participating in their activities, not as a member but as a viewer.

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.

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INTERESTED IN WRITING?
The Beacon is looking for dedicated and committed students to work as beat writers for the At the Bay section.

If you are interested, please email julia.carde-nuto@fiusm.com or come by The Beacon office in WUC-124, in front of the Bookstore.
October 6, 2008

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 “pornographic and offensive” books. FIU recently celebrated Banned Books Week, which ran from Sept. 27 to Oct. 4. Major university officials, including President Modesto M. Maidique 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.

Banned Books Week “celebrates the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one’s opinion even if that opinion might be considered unpopular or unpalatable,” according to the A.L.A Web site, www.ala.org/books. The Web site noted that the A.L.A Office for Intellectual Freedom received a total of 420 challenges toward books. The challenges were “formal, written complaints filed with a library or school requesting that materials be removed because of content inappropriate for the audience.”

And everything under the sun has been challenged: from J.K. Rowling’s widely read “Harry Potter” series, whose books currently hold slot number one for “Most Challenged Books of the 21st Century,” to horror writer R.L. Stine’s “Goosebumps” fame.

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

I believe people take the time to challenge a certain book or piece of literature because they simply feel threatened, some printed words pose a sort of moral danger that could perhaps disrupt the fabric of their religious values, or possibly mar the growth and well being of their own children.

Parents have every right to express concern over what their kids read. But why do they have to drag the rest of us into their personal battles?

If a parent is unhappy with what their kid is reading, then they should make it their imperative to make sure their kid isn’t looking at what they shouldn’t see — and that includes holding a school accountable for what they offer students to pursue. They should do as much as they can to make sure their child is “safe,” without impeding on what others possibly want to read. “Stop your child, not everyone else from reading,” said University Archivist Vicki Silvera, head of the Special Collections Department at the Green Library.

I’m perfectly happy reading my books on wizards and skeletons, 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 “pornographic and offensive” books. FIU recently celebrated Banned Books Week, which ran from Sept. 27 to Oct. 4. Major university officials, including President Modesto M. Maidique and Provost Ronald Berkman read excerpts from challenged books in a “Read-Out” on Sept. 30.

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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 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.

"What they did was great," said Mecozzi. "I love this type of event, I was very happy 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."
BANNED BOOKS, page 5

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 just 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.”

Students, faculty meet to discuss banned books

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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.,” M’Call 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.

“A 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 past 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 Micah Mosley, 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 M. 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 a couple of years to really move because he needed 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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Photograph courtesy of Barry University

Day one

and you’re part of the team

Day one. It’s when you have the opportunity to focus on your career, your life and your community. It’s when your experiences, ideas and opinions count. And it’s when you’re welcomed into an environment embracing diversity. From our very first day, we’re committed to helping you achieve your potential. So, whether your career lies in assurance, tax, transaction or advisory services, shouldn’t your day one be at Ernst & Young?

What’s next for your future? Visit ey.com/us/evinsight and our Facebook page.

ERNST & YOUNG
Quality in Everything We Do
The freshman beat his defender and took the skinny post route for 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 1-0 on a blocked punt by senior defensive back O’Darris D’Hadi that led to senior receiver Alonzo Phillips recovering and running 11 yards for his first touchdown of the season and his career.

For 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.

The second half saw the Golden Panthers continue to strike first. Junior defensive back O’Darris D’Hadi that led to senior receiver Alonzo Phillips recovering and running 11 yards for his first touchdown of the season and his career.

The second half saw McCall reach out to several other receivers not named Hilton as he found senior and conference second team All-Sun Belt receiver Alonzo Phillips on an 8-yard pass in the third quarter and sophomore wide receiver D’Haiti that led to senior returner Greg Ellingson on a 28-yard pass in the fourth quarter. The touchdown receptions were the first of the season for both. McCall finished 11-of-19 for 234 yards with four touchdowns passing ties him for the school record set by Jaime Burke in the program’s first year of college football (vs. Albany, Nov. 11, 2002). The productivity from the group of receivers pleased the junior quarterback.

Everyone else is doing limited offensive mistakes, excellent special teams, big play ability and opportunistic defense. Those are the marks of well coached football teams.

It’s not that the Golden Panthers have become some sort of offensive juggernaut, although they have shown an affinity for the big play, and an ability to capitalize on the mistakes of others, it’s still been tough for FIU to sustain drives, but make no mistake, the offense is improving. It’s not that the FIU defense has become completely impregnable, after all it did allow 428 yards to what, in all likelihood, may turn out to be a last place team in the Sun Belt Conference, but has shown an ability to make life hard for opposing offenses, yielding just over 14 points per game in its 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 past 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 that personality from its head coach, who, could, if coach Mario Cristobal could find some eligibility, probably still offer a lift to his young offensive line, at 38. Passionate, focused and intense practices create passion, focused and intense football players. Any coach knows that, it’s being able to connect with the players so well that has coach Cristobal in his players helmets during the games.

It’s easy to ask questions like, "how can a team get outgained by 77-26?" The answers are so simple; it almost becomes elementary.

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