Replacement has some big shoes to fill

With the news that Modesto A. Maidique is resigning as FIU’s president, a search for his replacement has already begun.

“It’s going to take a while to find a new president,” Maidique said at the Nov. 14 Board Of Trustees meeting. “Don’t worry, I will be here... When you are comfortable and you believe that you have found the right person then I will move on.”

The Board Of Trustees will take the advice of a community advisory board and hire a firm to perform a national search for Maidique’s successor.

The firm will be in charge of finding the candidates, and Mark Rosenberg, Chancellor of the State University System of Florida, already showed interest in the presidential position.

He does have an interest in being a candidate for the next president of FIU.” said Bill Edmonds, director of communications of the Board Of Governors in an e-mail.

Rosenberg has served as provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs at FIU from 1998 to 2005 and was named FIU’s acting president from January to July 1999.

He announced in September that he will be returning to teach at FIU.

Speculations have been made about Provost Berkman being considered for the job as well.

He said on Nov. 14 that it is too soon for him to think about that and that he will “wait for the search process to start,” according to a Miami Herald article.

“We’re going to do a national search,” said Chairman of the BOT David Parker at the Nov. 14 meeting. “There may be excellent candidates locally, but with that said, we want a future leader who has the same level of intensity, leadership and impact that Dr. Maidique has had on this community for 22 years.”

Parker said he will seek Maidique’s advice in the search of the new president, but Maidique said he will not play a grand role in the matter.

“The job of picking my successor is the responsibility of our Board of Trustees,” Maidique said.

STILL ON THE JOB

As Maidique announced his retirement plan, after 22 years on the job, one thing was made clear: he will still be president until a replacement is found.

The current president and his replacement will face a host of pressing issues: re-accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 2010; hiring replacements for five dean positions; surviving a four-year probation imposed on Athletics by the National Collegiate Athletic Association for violation of its bylaws and watching as the College of Medicine receives its first 40 students in August 2009.

“I want to get the next round of funding for the medical school,” Maidique said. “I want to welcome the 40 medical school students on campus and I want to make a complete and solid case for accreditations.”

‘Frosties’ excited about opening new art building

JULIA CARDENUTO
BBC Managing Editor

With the news that Modesto A. Maidique is resigning as FIU’s president, a search for his replacement has already begun.

“We’re like a big family, we even call ourselves the ‘Frosties,’” said Allison Garcia, an architecture student.

As dedicated as Damian has been to the “Frosties,” these students are now focused on designing and curating for opening day, which will be on Saturday Nov. 29. They have done everything from drafting press releases, preparing guest lectures and marketing.

“I think [Damian’s] really great. If you go to other places you see interns running errands or getting coffee. She really wants you to get physically involved in the work you put in,” said Nicole Espaillot, a sophomore in art history.

Their most delicate work, however, has been the handling of 6,000 art pieces from the permanent Frost Art Museum collection, which for the first time will be housed in the new building. Since the summer of 2008, all the art pieces have been securely nestled in the second floor of the museum.

“It’s the first time we don’t have to drive 30 miles to Artes in Davie to retrieve pieces,” said Jaramillo, who has helped in curating exhibitions.

Transporting thousands of dollars in century old art is not an easy task, especially making sure each piece is documented and accounted for.

“Is a lot like being pregnant,” Jaramillo said. “You are constantly worrying if an art piece is going to break, or something is going to be damaged.”

“Frosties” excited about opening new art building

JOSEPH KOSANKE/THE BEACON

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NEWS FLASH

FIU

Professors look to aid countries in preparing for natural disasters

FIU has been awarded a $4.5 million federal project to help reduce high casualties from natural disasters in areas around Latin America and the Caribbean, according to a news bulletin on the University website.

The five-year project is headed by University Chair of the Political Science department, Richard Olson, alongside future FIU Professor Juan Pablo Sarmiento, who will be traveling around cities in Latin America and the Caribbean to help better prepare these areas that are heavily prone to natural catastrophes.

Both professors will work with scientists, engineers, non-governmental organizations and civic leaders to analyze past natural disasters and see what mistakes were made in preparation. The project also looks to bring communities together in order to enhance success and minimize fatalities.

Interior Design department showcases creativity through Festival of Trees

The Department of Interior Design is presenting the 22nd annual Festival of the Trees. This year the exhibit will be held from Dec. 2 through Dec. 23, 2008, according to the College of Architecture and the Arts.

The annual festival showcases holiday tree designs made from various materials. Each guest will receive a ballot at the entrance and can vote for their favorite tree. At the end of the night the votes will be tallied and two winners chosen—judge’s choice and people’s choice. The opening reception on Dec. 2 is a preview which annually attracts over 800 people. Tickets can be purchased prior to the event or at the door.

Net proceeds from the festival will be used to fund scholarships and help students pursuing a degree in Interior Design at the College.

Students give tours during first week of the Frost Museum

Shawna Malawskey, a special education major, and Roque Corona, a TV production major, give information on studying abroad in Spain during the Study Abroad Fair on Nov. 5.

Online classes a better fit for vets looking to learn

“Online education is increasingly attractive for military veterans,” said Bruce Ricketts, vice chancellor for military programs at University of Phoenix and Troy University, according to Eduventures, a research and consulting firm specializing in higher education.

Jim Seibe, assistant vice president for lifelong learning at the American Council on Education, said about 50 percent of active-duty service members receiving tuition reimbursement from the Department of Defense are taking online courses. In the 2007 fiscal year, Navy, Army, Marines and Air Force personnel took more than 710,000 online and traditional courses, according to the council’s most recent data.

Richard Garrett, program director and senior research analyst at Eduventures, said an estimated 10.5 percent of students at schools nationwide are enrolled in online programs.

Newland, who grew up on a farm north of Dayton, Ohio, was wounded while on patrol in Adhamiyah, northeast of Baghdad, on Dec. 4, 2006.

Diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and recovering from a grenade attack, Iraq war veteran Ian Newland wanted to pursue a business degree after his discharge from the Army last year. What he didn’t want to have to do was set foot in a classroom.

And thanks to the Internet, he doesn’t have to.

The world of online higher education has given thousands of vets like Newland — and active-duty soldiers — the opportunity to work at their own pace.

“Being online, I can work on my college work at 3 a.m. if I’m feeling rambunctious,” said Newland, 28, who often does homework when he can’t sleep.

Online education is increasingly attractive for military veterans, according to Denver-based Jones International University, a Web-exclusive institution accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. About 350 current or former soldiers are pursuing a degree at Jones, three times the number last year. The university has a total of 2,000 students. “Being fully online, we go to wherever that service member goes,” said Bruce Ricketts, vice chancellor for military programs at the Jones University, which has pursued military students. Some students keep up with their classes from Iraq and Afghanistan. “A deployment doesn’t mean that your education necessarily has to stop,” Ricketts said.

Other universities with online programs that accommodate service members and veterans include American University, the University of Phoenix and Troy University, according to Eduventures, and consulting firm specializing in higher education.

EXPANDING HORIZONS

Students give tours during first week

“Ivan Moreno

AP Writer

Diana Garza

The Beacon

Online classes a better fit for vets looking to learn

“We are designating an area in the museum, and we have to learn how to delegate the understanding of each art piece,” said Ana Garcia, an art history student interning at the Frost Museum who hopes to be an art dealer some day.

The program offers a holistic approach to museum studies where interested students are trained to make connections between different art pieces. However, the program is open to students of any discipline or major.

During the opening week, the students will also be in charge of giving tours to faculty, staff, and students. All in all, the “Frosties” look up to Damian, a woman whose dedication and hardwork helped make the new museum a reality.

“She [Damian] gets on a personal level with you. She really does want you to get the most out of this job,” Espallot said.
Maidique accomplished what he wanted

BUDGET CRISIS
For the 2008-2009 fiscal year, according to Chief Financial Officer Vivian Sanchez, the University might suffer further budget cuts.

During this year’s budget crisis, where Florida state universities suffered a 6 percent cut in state funding due to unexpected state tax revenue, University administration made some tough decisions regarding the future of the University. Cutting 23 academic programs, affecting about 150 staff and a 15 percent increase in tuition were among them.

Next year, a 7 percent cut is projected, Sanchez said at the BOT Finance and Audit Committee on Nov. 13. “The decreased budget will be addressed and further actions taken.”

“We are managing, we are vigilant, we are concerned, but we are planning,” Sanchez said.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Despite the turmoil of the budget crisis, Maidique showed leadership and established that “no budget crisis, big or small, will slow down FIU’s growth,” on a memo he sent to the FIU community on Sept. 2008 where he referred to “FIU 3.0,” his vision of an improved University.

“His performance and leadership earned him bonuses and outstanding ratings. On Friday’s meeting the BOT voted to give Maidique a $50,000 bonus and award him a superiority rating. Also, at a BOT meeting one year ago, he received a 5 out of 5 performance grade.”

Maidique is the longest serving university president in Florida and had the second longest tenure of any U.S. public research university president.

During his tenure, enrollment has more than doubled, reaching 38,000 students. The Cuban American president added 22 new doctoral programs and 18 undergraduate programs, and research expenditure grew from $6 million to $110 million - all this played a role in transforming what was once known as a commuter school to a major research university.

“I arrived to FIU when there were five buildings and about 13,000 students. The growth of the University is wholly attributable to him.”

During Maidique’s tenure, a colleges of law, architecture and public health and a School of Journalism and Mass Communication were added. In addition, in August 2009 the College of Medicine will receive its first students.

Maidique changed the athletic teams’ name from Sunblazers to Panthers, thus beginning a sports tradition at the University. That same year, 1987, athletic teams began competing in Division I-A. In 2002, FIU was considered the fastest University to achieve Division 1-A status.

Athletics weren’t always good news for Maidique, though; in 2007, more than 17 scholarships due to low academic Progress Rates were lost and FIU Athletics was placed under a four-year probation.

He developed FIU. He was able to push against the legislature. He delivered a full scale University to the Miami community,” said Butler Waugh, one of FIU’s founders who was related to the University from 1969 to 2003. “The upper administration has to work closely with the political aspect of the state. He’s politically astute and he can take a punch and counter punch.”

Maidique said he will spend more time with his family, teaching and researching. “The mission that I set out is accomplished,” he said after resigning.

Disabled soldiers find solace when logging in

ONLINE, page 2

“Some of the other soldiers, McGinnis was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.”

Newland said about 40 pieces of shrapnel hit his legs, arms and face. He suffered a brain injury, short-term memory loss, stuttered and started seeing words backward, as if he was dyslexic.

Newland returned to the States and found out about Jones International University, a San Ramon, Calif.-based nonprofit that serves severely wounded soldiers, awarded him a four-year scholarship, placed him in a home in Denver and got him a job at a reality company where he handles phone calls in the information technology department.

Newland said he still limps, uses a cane and has to work part-time to support his family, teaching and spending time on his schoolwork. McGinnis was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor – all this played a role in his school and in transforming what was once known as a commuter school to a major research university.

“I could do it after I came home from the war,” Newland said about his course work, “but I’d be sacrificing something else.”

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SGC discusses creativity, passes parking proposal

BARBARA QUIANO
Staff Writer

Departmental services should be more creative and visible with marketing, according to student surveys taken Sept. 2008. The first reading for the resolution promoting available campus departmental services, written by Student Government Council-BBC interns Zahra Arbab Afski and Eddie Giglio, took place Nov. 12 at the SGC-BBC meeting.

The departments mentioned in the meeting were the Multicultural Programs and Services, Career Services and International Student Services.

According to Sholom Neistein, speaker of the senate for SGC-BBC, there needs to be more interaction with the students so the messages being sent by these departments is received. Students can then become more aware of SGA and the different departments within the school.

“I came about from surveys we took earlier on in the semester, and students complained about a myriad of things. Career Services wasn’t focusing on student body, only handing out flyers so students can be involved. [Career Services] needs to be more precise,” Neistein said.

During this first reading, which is required for a resolution to be passed, the resolution was discussed, and council members agreed that there was a need for more specifications on how each department needed to promote its services.

“I would like to make a friendly amendment to add ways in how the departments can promote or market their services,” said Ana Maria Silva, SGC-BBC president.

“Because if we pass this resolution, we’re basically saying that these services are not marketing to the student body, so we should mention that they are marketing, but they shouldn’t pass their services by these following ways with the help of Student Government.”

The second reading will take place Nov. 19. It will be followed by a vote to determine if the resolution will pass, depending on whether it must be amended.

If passed, it will be sent to administration for approval.

I would like to make a friendly amendment to add ways in how the departments can market their services.

Ana Maria Silva, president

SGC-BBC

Photo contest allows students to showcase originality

ANDREA CRUZ
Staff Writer

Photography aficionados, as well as those who just happen to have a camera at the right moment, will get to show off their work through the 2008-2009 International Photo Contest sponsored by International Students & Scholar Services at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The photo contest is an initiative to raise awareness, and promote the breadth and richness of the cultural diversity that exists on our campus,” said Julie Wilbers, coordinator of ISSS.

According to the official contest rules, which can be picked up along with a submission form in room 363 at the Wolfe University Center, all currently enrolled students can submit five high resolution images.

Faculty and staff are also encouraged to participate, and though they are ineligible to win, they are suitable to have their work of the entrant and must be photographs taken outside of the United States. Each photograph must fall into one of five categories: people, landscape, culture shock, panthers abroad and overall.

“International students will be able to portray a glimpse of their home countries, while study-abroad students can reflect on their experiences in a foreign country,” said Wilbers, who is the main contest orchestrator for ISSS.

The prizes donated by sponsors so far include a two-night stay for two with full American breakfast at the Hyatt Regency Miami, a $50 gift certificate to Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., a two-night, three-day stay at the DoubleTree Surftomer Miami-South Beach Hotel and a complimentary Sunday brunch in two at the Rusty Pelican Restaurant in Key Biscayne.

Wilbers said she is in the process of acquiring one more sponsor to add more prizes to the list.

The contest is an opportunity for these sponsors to advertise their businesses and get involved with the student community, according to Wilbers.

Color, as well as black and white images are accepted. Entries must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Dec. 12.

According to the official contest rules, submissions must be in both electronic and print formats. Prints should be unmatted and enlarged to a minimum of 8” x 10”. Electronic versions must be on a CD, saved as a JPEG of at least 300 dpi.

The winning photographs will be displayed on campus and on our Web site,” Wilbers said. “Other photographs will be displayed in the conference room in our office.”

According to Wilbers, the photographs will be judged until the spring, and winners will be announced during that semester.

“I am still working on getting a panel of photographers together to judge the images on their technical and artistic merit, originality and communication of culture and place,” Wilbers said.

According to the official rules of the contest, the owners of the winning photographs will need to submit a small write-up about their picture.

Entries may either be mailed or hand-delivered, along with the official submission form, to the ISSS office in WUC 363.

“The photos will not only provide students the opportunity to display their artistic abilities, but it will also allow viewers to ponder the world through new lenses,” Wilbers said.

ATTENTION ATTENTION: Raising awareness for healthy lifestyle changes in the Bay Vista Housing Dorms, Arthur Lindemann heads the semester-long food demo series. The demos showcase easy-to-make food recipes the residents can recreate on their own, instead of ordering fast food take-out.
Simplicity is best: giving thanks to foods that make your life so much easier

Thanksgiving is almost here. It is one of my favorite holidays because not only does it usher in the festive season, but also because I get to cook all day. I usually wake up at 8 a.m. and have a timeline prepared so that I can maximize oven space.

The turkey usually goes in around noon, while I make cranberry apple pie and green bean casserole from scratch. Basically, I don’t sit down until dinner time at 6 p.m., totally pooped while my family enjoys their home-cooked meal. To be honest, it’s quite exhausting.

Now don’t get me wrong. I love to cook, and Thanksgiving is a table top smothered with my favorite foods like mashed potatoes, gravy and my lemon sage turkey. But I think it’s the time of year when we should give thanks – thanks to the products and foods that make college life easier.

Let’s get real – we don’t cook everyday. We don’t even look at our kitchens during midterms and finals, and if you work too, you are probably a professional take-out chef with your top five restaurants on speed dial.

My “foods I’m thankful for” list that follows might not include the most epicurean treats or mouth-watering meals, but I think Tim Gunn says on Project Runway, “we make it work.”

Yes, I thank you Vitamin Water for making me feel like I am being healthy.

Yes, I thank you vending machine. Sure, I know you are coated in sugary goodness, but the Dannon flavor really makes me feel good.

No thanks to you, coffee. Sure keep me awake, but you stain my teeth and give me insane cravings. Not to mention, you have zero vitamins.

Get with the program.

Thank you, noodle soup, for being cheap and easy. I only need a microwave, and I’ve got a quick lunch on the run.

Pour the water in, two minutes in the microwave, a spoon and you can get to class. Sure it’s not gourmet, but it’s delicious, and you can spice it up by adding flavors you love to it. Like a squeeze of lemon juice in my creamy-favored broth.

No thanks to you, ramen. You don’t come in a convenient cup, and you require me to get a pot, put water in it, and approach the wasteland that is my stovetop. And you just don’t offer the easy, fast, on-the-run aspect that the cup of noodles gives me. Like I told coffee, it’s time to get with the program.

Thank you, rotisserie chicken. Oh, my mouth water is just thinking about how creamy it is to run into a supermarket and pick up a hot meal. In 10 minutes tops you can run in, grab your favorite seasoned chicken, whether it’s lemon pepper or BBQ, and you have a hearty protein you didn’t even have to cook.

My favorite part of rotisserie chicken is how diverse it is. First, on Monday night, eat your chicken right off the bone. Then on Tuesday, throw your carcass of bones in a pot of boiling water with some veggies. Don’t worry about picking the fresh, pretty veggies, or even chopping them into symmetrical pieces – remember we are giving thanks to easy, not complicated.

Choose your bruised veggie, give them a rough chop, and throw them into the water. In a few hours, after straining, you have a stock that you can refrigerate or freeze, so that when you get that post-midterm flu, you can have some homemade chicken soup all for the price of one rotisserie chicken.

No thank you to having to worry about sideshies. Publix should really get on that, and package some corn on the cob right in the bag. Don’t they know we have a life?

Finally, thank you chocolate. Whichever form you take, whether you are a candy bar or cake, you are the number one “de-stresser” and foodgasm-giver in this article. Whether you, PMS would destroy our campus like Godzilla did Japan, I would cry uncontrollably under pressure, and I would not be able to make it through the 10 hours of home cooking on Thanksgiving.

This holiday season, grab your favorite form of chocolate. Whether it’s a Peppermint M&M cookie, or an old Kikat bar, take a deep breath and relax because cooking on Thanksgiving should not make you want to kill yourself.

The best part is that no preparation is required. Quick and easy, that’s what I’m talking about. Your only job is to unwrap it, put it in your mouth and then of course, foodgasm.

Have a happy holiday, hopefully filled with foodgasm. Enjoy this time of year because it is probably the only time your shopping list consists of more ingredients than on this list of college life foods. Remember, if you’re just adding hot water, it’s not home cooked.

Thank you, chocolate. Columnist Bianca Rojas, eats her favorite foodgasm-inducing chocolate bar.
E-classes leave out critical life lessons

MATTHEW RUCKMAN
Staff Writer

Have you ever taken an online course and felt dissatisfied as if you didn’t get much out of the “class” besides an “A” and a peculiar surcharge? Well, thanks to the ingenuity of Florida’s Department of Education, kindergartners will be able to experience that same regret through what has been coined the School District Virtual Instruction Program.

That’s right. Starting in the 2009-2010 school year, students will be able to pass through not only kindergarten and grade school but middle school and high school as well, without every sitting in a teacher or stepping foot in a classroom.

The measure is being implemented under the auspices of “choice,” the idea of moving from a real education and a fake one. One that teaches you life lessons and one that eases the guilt of ignorance and revenue will become your ally. We’ll be able to spend that money on tons of stuff or open-end subways.

How could this even be considered?

One answer is obvious - cost. Florida has a budget crisis and some bureaucrats see “virtual schools” as the solution. This is ridiculous, if education isn’t important, what is?

If you’re going to throw the baby out with the bath water, what use is the nursery? Education is the bedrock of any civilization. Those cuts, any cuts, go too far.

They damned the state’s progeny to hell factories and pixelated professors. The bureaucrats go fat, muscle and bone, to amputation and botulism - sacrificing minds for money.

It is a travesty. If education and expenses become your enemy, then it follows that ignorance and revenue will become your ally. We’ll be able to spend that money on tons of stupid crap, like the $1.7 billion to buy sugarcane fields or football stadiums.

Beyond the cost is the social factor. Everyone knows that kindergarten is not about the curriculum. The crayoned drawings and gold stars are not important in themselves, they provide a back drop for what is really occurring at that tender age – socialization.

Kids are learning what other kids are like, what makes them laugh, what makes them bruise, what life is like outside.

This nascent period is vital. Students who miss crucial steps in development, like Seung-Hui Cho, Ted Kaczynsky and the one bomber all skipped ahead in school. They were more prone to live isolated and sometimes homicidal lives.

The quality of these virtual schools is the real problem though. Anyone who has taken a course here at the University knows that the hardest part of any virtual class is probably reading the syllabus.

W.B. Yeats once said, “Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.” A student who matriculates completely through K-12 online will be an intellectual enigma; having all the parts but none of the desire.

Those in Tallahassee seem to be missing the forest for the trees, not considering the installation of an unquenchable curiosity that will last a lifetime, not this regurgitation of facts or opened-noted tests.

To me, the true installation is the teaching of a teacher inspiring them. This would not have been possible if it occurred over the internet. Teaching by its very nature is interactive, almost in an intimate way. Something is imparted from mentor to student, something that can’t be compressed or digitized.

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Decision makers must come to its end.

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Maybe I’m just short-sighted though. Virtual schools could just be the next step in a society trending toward the faster, the less expensive, the easier. The Spark Note generation, it would be called, so abridged that “satisfactory” is measured by knowing the title and author.

The Facebook age, the friendship place, the death to everybody’s status but not how they look or feel. The Blackboard College of So-And-So, giving out credits for a $100 a pop. Maybe it is the next step, but my stance toward education has always been summed up by the famous B.F. Skinner warning which stated, “We shouldn’t teach great books, but a love of reading.”

Does Tallahassee really believe that a love for learning can be downloaded?

Jurassic Park: Extinct species should stay that way

ANDREW SOLOMON
Contributing Writer

The ability to clone is one of humanity’s hallmark achievements in science. Since the birth of Dolly the Sheep, the first mammal to be cloned, geneticists have sought more and more ways to harness this remarkable technology.

When Dolly was cloned in 1996, the technology was still considered experimental. But now, in 2009, the technology has matured to the point where geneticists are considering cloning a human being. This raises several important questions.

For example, what does it mean to be a human being? Is it just a matter of DNA? Or is it something more? And if we can clone a human being, should we do it?

These are questions that scientists and ethicists are now grappling with. And while some believe that cloning is a moral imperative, others argue that it is a slippery slope that could lead to the eradication of the human species.

In 2009, a team of scientists in Japan announced that they had succeeded in cloning a human being. The team, led by Hiromichi Arai, used a technique called somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT). In this process, the nucleus of an egg cell is removed and replaced with the nucleus of a skin cell from a donor.

The resulting embryo is then implanted into a host animal and allowed to develop. If successful, the cloned human being would be born.

But this doesn’t mean that it will happen anytime soon. The process is extremely complex and has only been successful in a few cases. And even if it were successful, there would be many ethical concerns to consider.

For example, what if the cloned human being were not healthy? Would it be better to raise it or to destroy it? And what about the parents of the donor? Would they have any rights in this situation?

These are just a few of the many questions that need to be answered before cloning is a viable option. And until then, the idea of cloning a human being remains nothing more than science fiction.
The University may be a top-notch research institution now, but it’s also home to a premier literary search institute that rakes in millions of dollars. According to Pete Borrebach, Master Cultural Affairs was suspended two years ago, and subscriptions have declined. The grant received from Miami-Dade Cultural Affairs would have nurtured top-selling authors and poets. According to Pete Borrebach, Master Cultural Affairs was suspended two years ago, and subscriptions have declined. The grant received from Miami-Dade Cultural Affairs would have nurtured top-selling authors and poets.

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Online networking that goes beyond the usual suspects

So you’re realizing there’s more to life than virtual pokés and friend counts! I’m glad you’re catching up!

Since Facebook and MySpace have been hogging the social networking market for years, it’s only fair that you should be introduced to new places to hang out online that you can get more out of than the current offerings of virtual baseball card collection of friends and acquaintances.

Here are some social networking sites that aren’t Facebook or MySpace just waiting for you to sign up and make something more of yourself than the number one in your friend’s top eight.

VIRB

From the creators of PureVolume, a music networking site for unsigned artists. And the best part is that you can get more out of than music alone; it’s the largest streaming music catalogue online. Like iLike, Last.fm will connect you with other music-enthused minds and their collections as well as let you download free mp3’s from unsigned artists legally.

An account with http://ilike.com and let the site take stock of your iTunes and Windows Media Player library, then sit back and hear new music based on your known tastes. iLike will connect you with other music-minded members and their collections as well as let you download free mp3’s from unsigned artists legally!

Regardless of which of the two you choose, you’ll still relish the superior quality of your friends intellectual tastes when comparing lists with real people in your social networks!

MEETUP

Want to share your love of vintage skateboard decks with other aficionados? Get an http://meetup.com account and start a group to meet with real people in your area.

The only difference between bibliophile sites is aesthetics: sign up to Good Reads if you’re a utilitarian Spartan, and Shelfari in has had the ability to read, what you’re in the middle of right now and what you're hoping to get your hands on soon.

Read other users reviews to find new books to love or hate and even write your own to help others along their literary way.

ILIKE AND LAST.FM

Want to let friends know what you’re up to now and what you’re hoping to get your credit to your name, you can sign up to privately beta test their website and let the site take stock of your tastes ever time.

There’s only one bad point going for both of these sites: once you tune in, you might never tune out.

GOOD READS AND SHELFARIFor those of you looking to share more than music, age, sex and location, than music, age, sex, and location, Goodreads and Shelfari and start building up your virtual bookshelf to let others know what you’ve read, what you’re in the middle of right now and what you’re hoping to get your hands on soon.

WEDNESDAY • NOVEMBER 19

WHAT: Done In with the Divas
WHERE: FIU Faculty Club
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $8 in advance, $10 at the door

WHAT: Diplomatic in Residence/Education Alumnus International Business Etiquette
WHERE: GC335
WHEN: 11 a.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: International Student & Scholar Services: International Coffee Hour with International Students
WHERE: GC355
WHEN: 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: “Mr. & Mrs. DIT” Presented by
WHERE: GC Ballrooms
WHEN: 8:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $7

WHAT: Pat De Leon: Soho Acoustic Blues and Curtis Map: Sangsterian
WHERE: The Van Dyke Cafe, 846 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach
WHEN: 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Prices Vary

WHAT: Center for Leadership and Service: International Service Learning Panel
WHERE: GC 243
WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

THURSDAY • NOVEMBER 20

WHAT: Center for the Study of Spatiality: Soli
Poetry, Music and Working with Pierre Roger and the Mohamed Suisse
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE and Open to the Public

WHAT: Women’s Center: International Women’s Leadership Expo
WHERE: GC, 2nd Floor
WHEN: 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: La Casa Francia Mexicano: La Universidad de Lengua
WHERE: GC1740
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: Diego Rivera, Mexican Artist
WHERE: The Van Dyke Cafe, 846 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach
WHEN: 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Prices Vary

WHAT: FIU Volleyball v. South Alabama. Sun Belt Conference Quarter Final Round!
WHERE: GC140
WHEN: 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: Women’s Center: International Women’s Leadership Expo
WHERE: GC Pit
WHEN: 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: International Student & Scholar Services: International Coffee Hour with International Students
WHERE: GC335
WHEN: 3 p.m.
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MUNCH ON THIS

CRISPY CREPES: The French Club sponsored Crepemakers on Campus on Thursday, Nov. 13, in which student's lined up to buy the native French food.

GREEK LIFE

AMANDA BATECHELOR

Fraternities, sororities stomp up a stepping storm

Stepping has become extremely popular at the University over the past couple of years. This year in particular, stepping has been getting more attention from the University’s community.

Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity Inc. has been among the few fraternities and sororities on campus that participate in the art of stepping. Stepping originated in Africa, where many tribes would step and chant for religious ceremonies, to express themselves or just for fun.

"Stepping is important to us because it is a very large part of American tradition and history ... it is a blazon display of emotion and tradition for us," said Alexander Miller, president of Phi Beta Sigma, Fraternity Inc.

The brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha have participated in many competitions and events these past two years.

In 2007, they won first place at the Homecoming step show.

This year, they placed second. They don't participate in events only at the University, however.

In the spring of 2008, they stepped at Barry University's Homecoming step show, where they earned third place.

In Oct., they also participated in Nova’s Step, Stroll and Salute competition where they earned second place. They don't only participate in step competitions for NPHC. As a fraternity, they also compete against other chapters in the state at our District conference.

The winner of the Florida district goes on to compete in regionals and then nationals. 

Greek Life is a bimonthly column by Amanda Batchelor. Read it in the Beacon and FIUSM.com every other Wednesday.

Ideas for Greek Life can be sent to life@fiusm.com.

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88.1 Kendall, Homestead
95.3 University Park, surrounding community
96.9 Biscayne Bay Campus, surrounding community
Volleyball dominates FAU in 3 sets

At what point does a young team stop playing above its head? At what point does the team that regularly plays just one senior, and three true freshmen start to show its youth? At what point does a team who lost its first two matches out of the last three, but retook the lead 12-10. The Golden Panthers did, as the team won a 6-1 run after trailing 0-2 early. The Owls slowly fought back and eventually tied the set at 13, after which FAU jumped out to a quick one-point lead, 14-13, and subsequently traded points with FIU. With the score tied at 18, FIU went on a 5-0 run to take a 22-17 lead. The Owls fought back, but the game was over. The third set consisted of 11 ties and 3 lead changes. FIU went on a 6-1 run after trailing 0-2 early. The Owls slowly fought back and eventually tied the set at 13, after which FAU jumped out to a quick one-point lead, 14-13, and subsequently traded points with FIU. With the score tied at 18, closed out the FAU Owls on a 7-2 run to take the third set 25-20.

Rosa and fellow outside hitter Isadora Rangel led FIU with 15 and 13 kills respectively. Becoming the all-time leader in kills at FIU was not the only record Rosa broke this week. She won her fifth Sun Belt Player of the Week this season, and has 10 for her career, more than anyone else in Sun Belt history. Rangel recorded her 20th match with double-digit kills, joining Rosa with more than 20; Rosa has 29 this season.

"It was a very exciting match for all of us," Outgoing senior Vanessa Romano said. "We never let down, that's what it's about." Romano and fellow defensive specialist Mariana Dumouer were two of the seniors on FIU honored on Senior Night.

The second is further reaching than just this weekend, and perhaps is more encouraging of the two; this team projects to be better next year than it is this year.

Consider this: it will return an AVCA All-American (again), an All-Conference setter (projected), its entire front line, which at the moment has FIU ranked second in the Sun Belt in opponents hitting percentage, at .173. It will also return a player who did not play in the 2008 season that was a presser all-conference selection.

The resulting maestros might produce a dynastic side effect led by the FIU head coach, Daniela Tomic, who is ultimately responsible for the confluence of this selection of factors, and who it will ultimately fall back on.

Her charge is now two fold, and those modes mirror the pair of conclusions, drawn from the storm she's help to create.

At first, it is her responsibility to keep that team that presses into its conference tournament. One still without the pressure of a #4 seed. Never mind that FIU wasn't respect. It’s the second is further reaching than just this weekend, and perhaps is more encouraging of the two; this team projects to be better next year than it is this year.

Second, and further reaching than this weekend, managing those same personalities, who'll wea...
PANTHERS CLINCH IT

Women’s Volleyball achieve top speed in conference tournament

By JONATHAN ALPERT

Asst. Sports Director

“WINNING was sweeter because we were able to do it at home, and we were predicted to finish third in the conference,” Tomic explained, alluding to the resilience and focus she instilled in her team throughout the season.

The Sunbelt Tournament final will be held on Saturday at 3 p.m. “We’ve been preparing all year for this,” said Tomic. “The adrenaline rush you get when you know the championship is on the line gives you the extra edge. I think our team is in good physical shape, mentally we are right there, and it will come down to who wants to win it more. We have a huge advantage at home. It should be an exciting weekend.”

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“One More Step: Well actually three, but the first overall goal of the regular season was completed when FIU won the Sun Belt east division banner against FAU.

Looking Ahead

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LEADING THE WAY

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