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 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 replace-

ments 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

When the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum opens in late November, its success may lie on the shoulders of the students who interned last summer.

Catalina Jaramillo, a Bachelor of Fine Arts graduate, is part of the tight knit group of students involved with the museum.

Jaramillo remembers the day two years ago when Carol Damian, director at the Frost Museum, split her $3,000 paycheck with her.

She was a new mother and as Damian’s assistant, was given the task of digitizing a whole art history class Damian was teaching. She willingly agreed and Damian thanked her generously with a part of the check.

“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 Espalliot, 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.

“It’s the first time we don’t have to drive 30 miles to Artex 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.

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

Maidique, page 3

Frost, page 2
Students give tours during first week

FROST, page 1 happen.

During opening week, there will be six shows available to the public in which students will be in charge of giving tours to faculty, staff, and students. Through the Ambassador Program offered by the Frost Museum, interested students will get the chance to learn first-hand how to give tours of the museum.

“We are designating an area in the museum, and we have to learn how to facilitate 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 hard work 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,” Espallol said.

Online classes a better fit for vets looking to learn

Diana Moreno
AP Writer

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.

The forms for JIU, which has pursued military education for vets looking to learn

The Beacon office is located in the Graham Center, room 210, at the University Park campus. Questions regarding display advertising and billing should be directed to the Advertising Manager at 305-348-2709. Mailing address: Graham Center, room 210, Miami, FL 33199. Fax number is 305-348-2712. Bis-cayle@fiu.edu, 305-348-4722. Office hours are 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. E-mail: Beacon@fiu.edu. Visit us online at: www.fiu.com.

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Interior Design department showcases creativity

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 night the votes will be tallied and two winners chosen — judge’s choice and people’s choice. 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.

The event will be free to the public.

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

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

William Beesting, Asst. Dean
Undergraduate Studies

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, when 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 Maidigue a $50,000 bonus and awarded 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.

“One arrived to FIU when there were five buildings and about 13,000 students,” said William Beesting, assistant dean of Undergraduate Studies, who has been at the University since 1983. “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 team’s 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 I-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 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

Taking 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, slurred and started seeing words backward, as if he was dyslexic.

Newland returned to the States and found out about Jones International University after Sentinels of Freedom, 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 realty company where he handles phone calls in the information technology department.

Newland said he still limps, uses a cane and had to learn to type with only one hand. Initially, getting an online education seemed far-fetched, given his limited background in computers.

"Yesterday, I wrote three papers and took around 50 phone calls," he said. "Plus, I’m reading about four textbooks at a time."

Mike Conklin, executive director of Sentinels of Freedom, said taking online courses is often the best way to go when disabled soldiers leave the military. Some have been blinded, others paralyzed and others have full-time jobs.

"All of these guys have reasons for why the classroom is not where they want to be right away," Conklin said.

Newland, who is married and has two children, said the flexibility of being able to write papers on renewable energy sources and space exploration while working allows him to spend more time with his family.

"I could do it after I came home from work," Newland said about his course work, "but I’d be sacrificing something else."
SGC discusses creativity, passes parking proposal

BARBARA QUIJANO
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 Zaha Arbab Aoki 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 Shalom 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.

"It 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, [like] 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.

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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 eligible for the honors, with mention, according to Wilbers. Entries must be the original 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 Surfcomber Miami-South Beach Hotel and a complimentary Sunday brunch for 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.

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EATING RIGHT, LATE AT NIGHT

ATTENTION ATTENTION: Raising awareness for healthy, lifestyle changes in the Bay Vista Housing Dorms, Arthur Lindermann 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.

"I think that is a dubious resolution. I think it'll pass in the senate if it gets more in depth; it'll show administration that [departmental services] are not giving back to students in their fullest capability," Neistein said.

Other business included a resolution in support of the reapportionment of parking spaces at BBC.

The resolution was discussed Nov. 6 after its second reading, with nine votes in favor, zero opposed and zero abstained.

The resolution states that, at minimum, 15 faculty parking spaces from Lot 1G be reapportioned for the utilization of the student body. The 1G lot is located in the western side of the parking area, in front of the Library.

"We’re not taking all of their faculty spaces in that lot; we’re just taking one portion," Neistein said.

"I have a faculty decal, and I park in front of the Library every day and all day, [I see] free parking spaces for faculty, and half of it is empty," Silva said.

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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 both in 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 photos will need to submit a small write-up about their picture.

Entries may be either mailed or hand-delivered, along with the official submission form, to the ISSS office in WUC 363. "The photo contest will not only provide students the opportunity to display their artistic abilities, but it will also allow viewers to ponder the world through a new lens," Wilbers said.
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 I get to cook all day. 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 a 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 fruit of the kitchen. But like Tim Gunn says on Project Runway, “we make it work.”

First, thank you Vitamin Water for making me feel like I am being healthy. Yes, at the vending machine. Sure, I know you are coated in sugary goodness, but the Defense flavor really makes me feel good.

No thanks to you, coffee. Sure you 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 soups, 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. I like a squeeze of lemon juice in my tomato-flavored 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 stove top. 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 waters just thinking about how tasty 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 veggies, give them a rough chop, and throw them into the water. In a few hours, after straining, you have a stock that you can store in your fridge for the next time you make a soup or stew. Sometimes, when you get that post midterm flu, you can have some homemade chicken soup all for the price of one rotisserie chicken.

No thanks to you, VMware. 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 stove top. 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, foam! 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, foamgasm. Have a happy holiday, hopefully filled with foodgasm. Enjoy this time of year because it is probably the only time you can go to a local restaurant and order the whole menu. I know we have a life?

Finally, thank you chocolate. Whether you are a candy bar or cake, you are the number one “de-stresser” and foodgasm-giver in this article. Without 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 Farm Milk chocolate bar, or an old Kit Kat bar, take a deep breath and relax because cooking on Thanksgiving should not make you want to kill yourself.

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Finally, thank you chocolate. Whether it’s a candy bar or cake, you are the number one “de-stresser” and foodgasm-giver in this article. Without 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 Farm Milk chocolate bar, or an old Kit Kat 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 you can go to a local restaurant and order the whole menu. I know we have a life?
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 ever setting foot in a real classroom. You might have heard of a teacher inspiring them. This is not about the curriculum. The rayoned drawings and gold stars are not important in themselves; they provide a backdrop 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 learning, like Seung-Hui Cho, Ted Kaczynsky and the Columbine generations, will be more prone to drop for what is really occurring in the syllabus.

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.

You are given a “good luck” e-mail from the professor and a hollow wasted feeling near the end of the semester.

True scholarship, to me, is the installation of an enduring curiosity that will last a lifetime, not this regurgitation of facts or opened textbooks.

I’m sure most students have heard this before. But my stance toward education, consideringของการที่เรามีความรู้ที่ไม่เพียงพอ, and adapted to

Nature has a process of selection as to which life to keep up with these changes. Therefore, life on Earth must adapt accordingly to keep up with these changes. But that doesn’t make us God. We as people tend to sacrifice what’s right for what’s profitable and in doing so we write our own dooms.

Jurassic parke: 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 achievements in science. Since the birth of Dolly the Sheep, the first mammal to be cloned, geneticists have sought more

Jurassic Park and its sequel, The Lost World, are the most dramatized examples of cloning and cloning’s ability to clone, but as stated in the Spider-Man flick, “With great power comes great responsibility.”

The technology we created to develop nuclear weapons is amazing and a testament to what we as a species are capable of. But that doesn’t mean we should use it. We as people tend to sacrifice what’s right for what’s profitable and in doing so we write our own dooms, as well as the dooms of those who put us at risk. We have the amazing ability to clone, but as stated in the Spider-Man flick, “With great power comes great responsibility.”

Jurassic Park, described as a “rap of the natural world” into a reality.

Yes, we humans are amazing. We have our own dooms, as well as the dooms of those who put us at risk. We have the amazing ability to clone, but as stated in the Spider-Man flick, “With great power comes great responsibility.”

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Stars of latest “Bond” installment talk making of...
Online networking that goes beyond the usual suspects

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

Since Facebook and MySpace have been hogging the social networking market for years now, 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 a number of 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 friends top eight.

VIRB

From the creators of PureVolume, a music networking site for unsigned bands, http://VIRB.com is effortlessly what MySpace wishes it could be: an arts and music oriented social site with few ads and a clean basic design.

If you know something about hyper-text markup language and cascading style sheets, then VIRB becomes your fully customizable sandbox.

Imagine life beyond two column layouts. And the best part ... if you come to VIRB you won’t find your request inbox flooded with spam.

Whether you’re a blogger or a live game coverage. Hosted by Andrew Julian "TechnoPress" it will let you toggle the design back to the default to save your retinas.

In 2007, Virb launched a music networking site that will let you upload free that others have uploaded to their site. So you can instantly be noticed by those who create relevant MP3’s from unsigned artists – legally!

And the best part ... if you come to VIRB you won’t find your request inbox flooded with spam.

iLike and Last.FM

Audiophiles – these are your networks! Join 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 musically minded members and their collections as well as let you download free mp3’s from unsigned artists – legally! An account with http://Last.fm will hook you up to the largest streaming music catalogue online. Like iLike, Last.fm will connect you to musical twins and let you listen to full songs and albums for free that others have uploaded to their server.

Free mp3 downloads are available but, based on your preferences, Last.fm will do the work for you of finding songs according to your taste’s ever changing.

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

Good Reads and Shelfari

For those of you looking to share more than music, age, sex and location, http://goodreads.com and http://shelfari.com are there for you with brain food: books.

Connect to either Good Reads 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.

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

The only difference between both bibliophile sites is aesthetics: sign up to Good Reads if you’re a utilitarian Spartan, Shelfari in has had to live without shiny web 2.0 eye candy.

Regardless of which of the two you choose, you’ll still relish the superiority of your friends intellectual tastes when comparing lists with real people in your bookshelf friends on other, glitter graphics saturated social networks.

MEETUP

Want to share your love of vintage skateboard decks with other aficionados? Get an account with meetup.com and start building up your real world friends. The site lets you know when real world friends are sharing lists with real people in meetpace to talk about your hobbies.

If starting and maintaining a group sounds like too much effort, you can finally be yours.

Book Fair gives literary magazine a second chance

Thursday • November 20

Book Fair gives literary magazine a second chance

This past Nov. 15 and 16 provided much needed relief for the magazine. The Miami International Book Fair served as a safe haven for the literary arts.

"It was a great opportunity to spread the word about what we’re up to and to sell some back issues," said Corey Ginsberg, an MFA student and assistant editor of Gulfstream.

A ccording to Ginsberg, Gulfstream was set up in the Book Fair for about a decade. This year, however, due to financial problems, they are sharing a booth with ConExpo, a publishing company that sells books about poker.

Gulfstream will also present readings at Write Out Loud Cafè on Sunday, Nov. 16, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The group of about 12 MFA graduate students will be alternating at the Gulfstream booth, trying to make an appearance felt in the literary world.

Borrebach hopes that by selling back issues with the support of the authors that will be presenting this year, Gulfstream will be able to generate enough money and subscriptions to publish other issues.

"We really should be seen as Miami's premier literary magazine," Borrebach said.
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 a 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 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 placed second in the FIU Homecoming step show last year. Last year, some of the sisters of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc went all the way to New York City to step in the “Step Correct” competition.

This competition is a huge deal because chapters from different sororities and fraternities throughout the nation participate in it, and you have to be invited to take part in it. The competition was even on MTV’s True Life show.

This year, I’ve seen Zeta Phi Beta’s coming out show, and Alpha Phi Alpha’s step show at the A Alpha Male pageant, where I got a glimpse of these organizations’ abilities to step and stroll.

Next Spring, Alpha Phi Alpha plans to participate in more competitions, as well as many other organizations, so it looks like we will be seeing a whole lot more of stepping in the near future.

There will be plenty more opportunities to see these steppers in action if you haven’t already.

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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Volleyball dominates FAU in 3 sets

For the first time in school history FIU Volleyball reached 26 wins as well as being alone atop the Sun Belt standings at the end of the season. With FIU’s sweep over FAU (25-14, 25-22, 25-20), FIU clinched the regular season Sun Belt title.

In the first set, Setter Natalia Valentín contributed two aces early to help the Golden Panthers to an early 4-1 lead over the Owls. FIU dominated the set, continuing on an 8-2 run and easily took it 25-14. Yarimar Rosa notched five kills during the set, and with her fourth kill, she became the all-time leader in career kills leader at FIU, in the rally era, breaking A-drina Fundora’s record of 1,641. FIU played a very efficient first set, attacking at an excellent .467 percentage and holding FAU to a zero attack percentage.

FAU jumped out to an 8-4 second set lead, but FIU climbed back and retook the lead 12-10. The Golden Panthers and Owls exchanged points, and when the set was tied at 17, FIU went on a 5-0 run to take a 22-17 lead. FIU easily closed out the Owls in the second set, taking it 25-22.

With FIU one set away from seizing the conference title, FAU didn’t concede easily. 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.

“FIU third in the preseason poll. It will be 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 Dumowa were the two seniors on FIU honored on Senior Night.

Volleyball looks to future after record setting regular season

At what point does a young team stop playing above its head? At what point does a team that regularly plays just one season, and three true freshman start to show its youth? At what point does a team who lost its second best offensive option go into a scoring funk that costs it a game or two?

Never that’s when ... well, at least not yet.

Over the first 31 matches of the season, the FIU Golden Panthers volleyball team has exceeded expectations, the conference writers picked FAU third in the preseason poll. It will now carry the regular season banner onto its home floor for a conference tournament it will undoubtedly be favored to win – hopefully advancing the team to its first NCAA tournament since 2001.

It’s always a little easier when you’ve got a player, in Yarimar Rosa, who could play and start for, and maybe even be the first offensive option at 99 percent of the other schools in the country. And when you have as great a home court advantage, in terms of fans, score, and sheer noise, as the Golden Panthers do, it makes for a perfect storm of youth, talent, and exuberance, and the fruits of this breeding whirlwind have been exposed in two parts.

The first of the two resolutions that can be drawn for these convergences is the more simple of the two; the fact that FIU has lost the Sun Belt standings from start to finish and has an excellent chance to hoist the trophy on Saturday afternoon.

The second is further reaching than just this weekend, and perhaps is the 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 FAU 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 preseason all-conference selection.

The resulting maelstrom may produce a dynamic side effect led by the FAU head coach, Daniela Tomic, who is ultimately responsible for the confluence of this collection of factors, and who it will ultimately fall back on.

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

At first, it is her responsibility to keep level a team that presses into its conference tournament. One still without the pressure of a 46-year win in the regular season. At FAU, the team has combined for 9 of the last 14 conference titles, both regular season and tournament combined.

Second, and further reaching than this weekend, managing those same personal ties, who’ll wear the “2009” target on their back, the day this tournament ends, so that when the conference tournament is held on someone else’s floor next year, the Golden Panthers will have that MTSU -WKU makeup, and will have an opportunity to make a run to the conference championship.

11

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Women's Volleyball achieve top speed in conference tournament

JONATHAN ALPERT
Asst. Sports Director

“This was our goal from the beginning of the season” head volleyball coach Daniella Tomic said upon winning the Sunbelt regular season championship.

“This is a special group of kids, but we’re not finished,” Tomic continued after FIU disposed of FAU in three sets, earning the Golden Panthers the number one seed in the tournament and disposing of FAU in three sets, earning the Golden Panthers the number one seed in the tournament and disposing of FAU in three sets.

“Team player,” spending time at three different positions during her time as a Golden Panther.

Christian also commemorated the achievements of two seniors: Mariana Drumeva and Vanessa Romano.

Drumeva, Tomic’s first recruit, ranks second all-time at FIU in service aces in the rally scoring era.

“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.

At 3 p.m. No. 5 Arkansas Little Rock will take on No. 4 New Orleans.

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 to who wants to win it more. It should be an exciting weekend.”

The top-seeded Golden Panthers open up the Sunbelt Tournament tomorrow at noon when they take on No. 8 South Alabama.

At 2:30 p.m. No. 5 Arkansas Little Rock will take on No. 4 New Orleans.

The winner of this match will face the winner of the FIU-USA match in the semifinals on Friday at 5 p.m.

No. 2 Middle Tennessee takes on No. 7 Alabama State-Middle Tennessee on Friday at 7:30 p.m.

The second semifinal match will feature the winner of Western Kentucky-Denver and Alabama State-Middle Tennessee on Friday at 7:30 p.m.

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