Spotlight

At the Bay (Nov. 6-4)

Journalism school partners with three South Florida newspapers to share and publish students’ articles.

Sports

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A new semester always brings new students and faculty, but this semester also brings an entire new school dedicated to the discipline of global affairs and foreign policy.

The School of International and Public Affairs is set to open its doors Jan. 5 and into UP’s Gracie’s Grill for the Student Take your singing out of the shower and into UP’s Gracie’s Grill for the Student Take your singing out of the shower and into UP’s Gracie’s Grill for the Student Take your singing out of the shower and into UP’s Gracie’s Grill for the Student Take your singing out of the shower and into UP’s Gracie’s Grill for the Student Take your singing out of the shower and into UP’s Gracie’s Grill for the Student Take your singing out of the shower and into UP’s Gracie’s Grill for the Student Take your singing out of the shower and into UP’s Gracie’s Grill for the Student Take your singing out of the shower and into UP’s Gracie’s Grill for the Student Take your singing out of the shower and into UP’s Gracie’s Grill for the Student Take your singing out of the shower and into UP’s Gracie’s Grill for the Student Take your singing out of the shower and into UP’s Gracie’s Grill 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BONE AND PRODUCTION STAFF

CHERYL MALONE Staff Writer

The new College of Nursing & Health Sciences building at University Park will be ready for students in just a few months and will offer something unique among other schools and current campus buildings.

The CNHS building is environmentally designed under Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design registration. LEED offers both environmental and financial benefits. According to its Web site, "it will offer a healthier and safer environment for occupants, while qualifying for tax rebates and reducing waste sent to landfills, lowering operating costs.

In 2007, President Modesto A. Maidique signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, which works toward achieving environmental sustainability. "Last year 1, on behalf of the entire FIU community, made a public commitment to continue on a path of environmental responsibility and sustainable development," said Maidique, according to a press release earlier this month.

LEED functions under the U.S. Green Building Council which is a non-profit organization composed of more than 15,000 organizations working toward healthy, profitable and environmentally friendly developments. LEED is not exclusive to schools and also services homes, banks, interiors, libraries and hotels, according to its Web site.

However, John Cal, associate vice president for Facilities Management, explained that the University as a whole will not be LEED certified, based on LEED rating. The construction for the nursing building will allow for a silver rating.

"The construction and documentation are the average of 1-2 percent of the construction cost of certification, 3-5 percent for silver, and 5-10 percent for gold or platinum," Cal said.

"Each level has a certain number of points that must be met," said Cal. "A minimum of 26 points get certified rating, 33 points for silver, 39 points for gold and 52 points for platinum."

According to FIU Magazine's winter 2008 edition, President Maidique places great emphasis on his wife, Nancy Maidique, for contributing her own special touch to the campus.

"She has helped me to understand how small changes can make a difference," he said, explaining how he and his wife want to bring healthy lives and bring a little green to the University.

Dean for the College of Nursing & Health Sciences Divina Grossman said, "Since the new building occupants are in nursing and the health professions, we definitely are committed to healthier work and study environments."

According to Cal, students can expect higher efficiency lighting, occupany sensor controls, variable air volume controls and energy recovery on the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning system. Some other "green" features to the CNHS building include "eco-highlights" such as a grass roof over the second floor.

"LEED certified buildings are healthier work and living environments, which contribute to enhanced health of faculty, students and staff, and also lead to higher productivity," Grossman said. "We stand to help save our environment and save on energy costs."

Design gets the ‘green’ thumbs up

LEED certified buildings ... contribute to enhanced health and comfort of faculty, students and staff...

Divina Grossman, dean
College of Nursing & Health Sciences

Geoffrey Marconchini, a history major. "This just goes to show you that FIU has every intention to be one of the greatest universities in Florida."

BUILDING TO PROVIDE SOLID FOUNDATION

Designers and planners of the new FIU College of Nursing & Health Sciences building say the 188,472-square-foot facility is one of the most advanced health care instructional facilities in the country. A $182 million project that began in February 2007, the new building is expected to open in the fall of 2009 at 10925 SW 3rd Ave.

"This building will be ready for students in just a few months, and it will offer something unique among other schools and current campus buildings," said John Cal, associate vice president for Facilities Management.

The 18-story building is an architectural showcase for FIU and South Florida. Designed by Arquitectonica, the new building will allow for a silver rating from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system.

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Leeward Village Health Center

Kendall Regional Medical Center

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LEED certified builds... contribute to enhanced health and comfort of faculty, students and staff...
Bank partners with University

**ARENA, page 1**

aspect of the agreement between the University and U.S. Century Bank, Gonzalez-Levy said that the two will be working together on programs beneficial to students. “They were willing to not only donate some dollars but also participate in a number of programs. This is sort of like a partnership. This is not only [about] the naming [of the arena] per se but actually a partnership between U.S. Century Bank and the University.”

“We have participated in the College of Business committees of the advisory board and they are working with us to do other programs as we speak, in terms of giving talks,” she said. “We’ve been speaking with them about also [offering internships],” she said. The University’s football and basketball stadiums may be the next venues to attain new names; donors are being sought for these two stadiums as well.

“We’re looking at everything right now. For the football stadium, we’re actually awaiting word on whether we get a Major League Soccer deal,” Garcia said.

The name change has been official since November when an inaugural event at the newly named arena has been set for Jan. 7 at 5 p.m., preceding a women’s basketball game vs. Western Kentucky at 6 p.m.

University alumnus, CEO and President of U.S. Century Bank Delrio Hernandez, as well as other Bank executives, have been invited to the event. “They’ll be inviting not only their board and executives, but they’ll also be inviting their customers and clients,” Gonzalez-Levy said.

The University’s Board of Trustees and Board of Directors will also be present at the event and an invitation has been extended to Florida Governor Charlie Crist.

The Beacon – Monday, January 5, 2009

ODALA VELEZ

**Staff Writer**

AS A part of a graduate level course called Health Demography in the Stempel School of Public Health, a group of students conducted research that led them to discover that many hospitals around the United States were not following Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Title IV requires hospitals receiving federal funding to take the necessary steps to make sure those whose first language is not English have access to hospital services in their own language.

It was found that this disparity was prominent among Hispanics when it came to accessing information regarding hospital services on the Internet.

“The worst part here is that the target population (Spanish speakers) pay taxes and their money should provide hospital services to the population,” said Podemski.

“These services are not being provided,” said Jesus Medina, Stempel Public Health Association president and one of the researchers.

During research, the students looked at the Web sites of hospitals receiving federal funding located in counties that have a 50 percent Hispanic population.

The research did not provide reasons behind the lack of Spanish Web sites offered.

When asked if more research would be conducted, Medina said, “I was thinking about it. I took leadership when it came to choosing the topic. I wanted to conduct more research and have a chance to publish research and add that research to their résumé.”

“The problem is, we really didn’t do research so far is $3.3 billion, a 12 percent reduction in what they used to,” Podemski said. “It’s downward spiral.”

The students involved in the research during the fall of 2008 were Jesus Medina, Grettel Castro, Jaivy George, Louis Perez, Marina Obispo, Maria Concepcion Shaw, Mildrey Perez, Ping Xu, Rimsky Denis, Wendy Barillas and Claudielo Miceli.

“It was an opportunity for the professor to give a final project instead of a final exam,” said Medina. “The professor showed different topics. I took leadership when it came to choosing the topic. I wanted to conduct more research and have a chance to publish research and add that research to their résumé.”

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Welcome Week events include iceless skating, barbecue

As the school year begins, students are letting go of the slow pace of winter break and trading it in once again for books and exams. To bring in the excitement that comes with a new semester, Campus Life and Orientation is inviting students to participate in Welcome Week events, all free of charge.

“Every Fall and Spring, we put on Welcome Week for students to let them know what the campus has to offer and how to get involved,” said Didier Georges, Student Organizations Council president and a junior management major.

Welcome Week begins the first day of the semester, Jan. 5, and ends Jan. 9, with each day having different activities for students to participate in.

This semester’s Welcome Week is going to include traditional events, such as the Blue and Gold breakfast, which takes place Jan. 6 and consists of a free breakfast of eggs, pancakes, fruit and juices. Old favorites such as the Late Day Latte and the SOC fair will also take place during the week, along with a few other non-traditional events.

“Students will be particularly surprised to find out that there will be ice skating in Panther Square,” said SOC Vice President Jessica Shekon, senior public relations and marketing major.

On Jan. 8, Panther Square is going to be transformed into an ice rink, where students can rent ice skates to use on plastic ice sheets. “It is going to be a big piece of artificial ice in the middle of Panther Square,” said Georges. “We have known the school for a long time, and we know the program and its quality and doing this seemed good,” said Mauker. “We’ve had good luck with FIU interns at The Sun-Sentinel and we are very excited.”

Joan Chirinos of The Miami Herald, David Cazares, assistant editor at The Sun-Sentinel and Emily Roach, assistant bureau editor at The Palm Beach Post, are the assigned editors to work with students for the new service.

Students enrolled in advanced writing classes such as Feature Writing and Online News Reporting will work with their professors on their reporting and writing for different news articles, which will then be posted in the South Florida News Service Web site, created by the SJMC. The assigned editors from each publication will then choose the articles they want to use and publish them.

Not only will students have the opportunity to work closely with the editors, according to Richards, but they will also have the chance to work in newsrooms where there will be desks designated specifically for them.

“Students will have the benefit of working with editors. They will be the students’ mentors,” said Richards. “They will work with students on fundamental things like writing a lede and a nut graph.”

Students whose articles are chosen and published on one or more of these three publications will get the bylines and the experience of working closely with the media industry.

“It’s like a deeper internship,” said Richards. “Students will register for classes and the newspapers will assign an editor to work in liaison with the class.”

The shared content will not be limited to written articles. Students will also work with multimedia files and articles both in English and Spanish, which gives room for graduate students in the Spanish master’s program to participate in the project.

“I think this is what we journalism majors need. It is hands-on experience from what we learn in the classrooms without the need to spend a lot of extra hours,” said senior Melissa Vargas, a journalism major. “With this opportunity we can get the most of our classroom time and get a great idea of what it is to do journalism.”

The initiative comes as a result of the changing media industry, according to Richards. The service will initially run for six months, but it could be extended successful.

“We are taking baby steps. We’ve never done anything like this before. This involves a lot of people and a lot of coordination.”

Each publication will contribute $10,000 to cover the different expenses, such as student travel, gasoline and incidental expenses that the partnership will entail in its first six months, according to Richards. SJMC is also hoping to raise money from grants “so that students can get paid for their articles as well.”

“I think that in the time we’re living in, in terms of the media as an opportunity to develop new ideas, we are not going to just sit on our hands while the industry is changing. It’s a time of great changes, but also a time of great opportunity to be entrepreneurial,” Richards said.

BATHROOM RENOVATIONS: The bathrooms in the Academic I building were being renovated during winter break. The old sinks, toilets and urinals were replaced with new ones by B-tech Construction, Inc.
Removal of invasive trees paves way for restoration

SERGIO MONTEALEGRE
Staff Writer

The trees around the Biscayne Bay campus are disappearing as construction workers clear vegetation and prepare the land for new buildings. The result, however, may actually improve the campus.

“The Port of Miami, in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Protection, Oleta River State Park and the Miami-Dade County Environmental Resources Management Department, is spearheading a 63-acre red mangrove enhancement program around seven areas of the Oleta River State Park,” said Rebecca Dinar, outreach coordinator for the Office of the Vice Provost.

The plot of land, located at N.E. 151st St. and Bay Vista Blvd., on the southern side of the park is covered with Australian pines, a species not native to Florida. These trees are identifiable by their reddish-brown or gray bark and branches covered in needles.

The restoration project, which is being jointly funded by the organizations listed above, consists of replacing the pines with red mangroves.

According to a flier from Steve Dale, director of Oleta River State Park, seven separate areas will be created throughout the park, forming a total of 43 acres of red mangrove swamp habitat with tidal streams, tidal pools, mud flats and a deep-water pool.

The red mangroves are “easily distinguishable through their unique root system,” according to the flier. This gives the tree stability and offers protection from erosion on low-lying coastal lands.

My understanding is that area was infested with Australian pine trees, which are not indigenous to South Florida and were beginning to wreak havoc on the natural flora,” said Dinar. “This effort will help protect the area from the spread of invasive exotic species. They are spreading in a manner that is harmful to the native plant life.

“Australian pines are one of the three to four most damaging exotic invasive plant species in South Florida,” said David Lee, professor in the department of biological sciences. “They grow rapidly and can take over an area by the sprouting of new shoots from the rapidly spreading shallow root systems. The thin stems (there are no real leaves on these plants), decompose slowly and inhibit the growth of other plants.”

According to the Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants at the University of Florida, the Australian pine’s needles contain a chemical that causes allelopathy, which is the inhibition of plant growth on a molecular level. The needles, after falling, litter the ground and release the chemical, slowly killing all other plant life in the area.

The areas around Biscayne Bay are especially populated by these trees, though it’s not just limited to Southeast Florida. Problems with this species have been appearing statewide and in other parts of the nation, such as South Texas and coastal California, with similar clearing and restoration efforts occurring in these areas.

“You can see a really nice example of an ecological restoration after the removal of such trees at Bill Baggs State Park,” said Lee. “That would give you an idea of how nice the area could be. It would have a dramatic effect on BBC.”

The plan to restore South Florida’s native plants to the area isn’t entirely a positive thing in the eyes of some.

“We’re removing an exotic species that’s been detrimental to the area for quite a while, but at the same time, we’re also taking down quite a number of trees that are native to the area. Furthermore, who knows how long those trees have been there?” said junior Vince Laert, an English major. “I’m also worried about the growth rate, how long it’ll take before the area starts looking like a forest again, and how protected it will be against future invasions by exotic species. I just don’t think it’s fair that they’re taking down such a large area, especially considering how long it’ll take for those trees to grow again.”

The project is estimated to be completed by September 2009, and in effect on the campus will take time to be fully realized. According to Lee, the task will not be an easy one.

“It is not just a matter of killing the trees or cutting them down, because new shoots will quickly sprout and re-establish the roots,” said Lee. “So, it takes a fair amount of labor-intensive follow-through. However, once a canopy of native vegetation is established in the area, the invasive Australian pines will not survive.”

Cost-conscious students find book bargains online

JAMELLE TUCKER
Contributing Writer

During her freshman year at Florida State University, graduate student Asal Rahbar spent $570 on books by buying at the bookstore. Only after that did she found out about alternative textbook sources.

“Our teacher announced to a class that it may be cheaper to buy books online,” said Rahbar.

Ever since then, Rahbar has bought books online whenever possible.

“Buying online is half the price,” she said. “I will only buy from the bookstore if it’s a new edition or if it’s a lab manual and you cannot buy it online.”

With the country going through a recession, many students are looking to similar alternative sources for buying books in order to save a few dollars.

Although buying books online may come with a few setbacks, such as not being able to check the quality and condition of the book, many are willing to take the risk.

Searching the correct books and getting them on time are some of the other issues that concern potential online textbook buyers.

“Last semester, I bought a Mass Media in Society book on eBay. The seller promised it was in perfect condition, but when it came there were watermarks and pages missing. It was already two weeks into classes so I had to keep the book,” said junior Melissa Desarameaux, a public relations major.

To avoid problems such as these, many sites, such as half.com, amazon.com and collegebookstore.com, provide students an online forum to trade new and used books.

The conditions of the textbooks are rated online, then each book is priced according to its resale value and condition.

For example, a chemistry book that sells for more than $100 in the FIU Bookstore could range anywhere from $40 to $80 online, depending on the condition of the book. With students from all over the country uploading pictures of their textbooks, there are a wide variety of choices.

These online mediums don’t just help students purchase textbooks, but can be used to sell used books as well.

“I had a horrible experience with the campus bookstore,” said senior Ricardo Navarro, a sociology and anthropology major. “I went to sell back my books and they were only going to give me $8 for a $150 book. Now I only buy and sell my books online.”

For those students who do not want to deal with online money transfers and the eternal wait for books to arrive from online sellers, there are still opportunities available by visiting stores.

There are several college textbook consignment shops around the Miami area that offer exchanges and cheaper prices on popular titles. Leminx College Book & Supply, Inc., located across 107th Avenue from the University Park campus, offers a wide selection of used textbooks, but most titles are for common undergraduate classes.

Still, some students prefer to buy their books the old-fashioned way. Senior criminal justice major Rachel Johnson said she would rather buy books in the bookstore than deal with the online hassle.

“Most of the time, I wait for my financial aid to cover my books and it’s easier with the book advance the school gives you,” Johnson said.
It's 2009, and just because the ball has dropped doesn't mean FIU can drop the ball. The University's challenges abound; the fact that the torch is being passed to a new president is a step in the right direction but it also means that new problems will need to be addressed.

The new president should be one who will be open and social with the students and one who you wouldn’t be surprised to see walking through the atrium. A new president will not be the only change in leadership. Recently, the deans of five colleges within the University have announced that they are stepping down. They represent some of the largest colleges on campus, including Architecture and the Arts and Business Administration. Though Provost Ronald M. Bergerman has insisted that it is just the life cycle of deans at work, The Beacon believes that administration needs to take a step back and reassess if these departures are due to poor leadership. A change in the University is needed and Student Media is there to help.

The administration needs to make haste in replacing the deans since FIU is awaiting reaccreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and lack of solid, grounded leadership could prove embarrassing to the University under outside scrutiny. The administration needs to make haste in replacing the deans since FIU is awaiting reaccreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and lack of solid, grounded leadership could prove embarrassing to the University under outside scrutiny. With that in mind, here’s to a successful year of progress for the University and all that depend on it.

New, new year, new challenges for University

For most people, a new year brings with it the promise of new opportunities and new challenges. Student media, in all of its incarnations, can expect no different.

There are tumultuous times for traditional media. Newspapers nationwide are not only feeling the effects of the largest economic downturn in recent memory, but they are also going through an identity crisis, as more and more people turn to the internet for their news. Well-known publications are increasingly announcing massive layoffs, discontinuing their print version, or some unfortunate combination of both.

Though the going is tough, The Beacon and Student Media overall is dedicated to staying ahead of the curve by keeping a close eye on industry trends and realizing that we must evolve with it, instead of fighting change.

We will do this by experimenting with new ways of storytelling and by widening the ways in which we deliver our news to audiences. It’s a new year; and though there will be many challenges and hurdles, there will be an equal amount of opportunities.

Kassandra Pool is the president of the Student Programming Council at the University Park campus.

New, thin

Plus-sized models more profitable

JASMYN ELLIOTT
Contributing Writer

For a while it was “in” to be thin, but a new view of what is healthy and beautiful is emerging. According to a November report from The Daily Telegraph, scientists in London showed a panel of 400 young women two sets of ads featuring a traditional skinny model and a plus-sized model. The majority of the women in the panel expressed that they would feel better about buying the product promoted by the plus-sized model. Furthermore, a survey by The Daily Mail discovered that out of a pool of 3,000 women, those who are a U.S. size 10 reported the highest levels of satisfaction in their careers and love lives.

This eye-opener has been long overdue. Since the early 1990s, the “w” word has been preferred in advertising over women with more curvaceous bodies. People within the fashion industry have argued that thin models are better since they don’t distort or interrupt the lines of their clothing. However, this is an unrealistic portrayal of how their clothes will look on the people who buy them, especially since the average dress size for a woman today is a size 12.

Such a preference for emaciated models as a poster child for beauty has wreaked havoc on the body images of women everywhere. According to the National Eating Disorders Association, 10 million women suffer from eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia. Furthermore, 40 percent of new cases are made up of girls ranging from the ages of 15 to 19 year olds.

Donovan Dawson, a freshman and political science major, doesn’t understand this narrow-minded standard of beauty. “I find it absurd that women use fashion models as the model for how they think they should look. The fact that pop culture has technically purchased the term ‘beautiful’ and plastered it onto magazines and billboards with models almost as thin as tree branches is ridiculous,” said Dawson.

What is really behind our obsession with being thin? According to The Lookbook: A Whole New Approach to Beauty, Body Image, and Stylish Solutions, the discovery that super-skinny models discourage sales and the revelation that plus-sized models have become more popular in the past decade have led to the popularization of plus-sized models. Women in general have attempted to emulate the look of the plus-sized model, but the trend started with disastrous results to their physical and mental health. Thankfully, not all magazines, celebrities and advertisers have lived up to the hype. For example, Seventeen magazine makes regular use of plus-sized models in their fashion stories in addition to highlighting trends that are exclusive to this body type. This publication also regularly features ads from plus-sized retailers such as Torrid. Dove’s new campaign, “Real Beauty movement,” has also featured women of varying sizes; the ads sell products in addition to offering empowerment workshops for young girls across the U.S.

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Gamers find new reason to stay up all night

The top ten box office hits of ’08

ON THE COVER

WANTED

STEVEN MESA
Staff Writer

The year 2008 was an interesting one for movies. Last year has given moviegoers men dressed in suits fighting crime, assassins with superhuman abilities and broken old men looking for redemption. Here is my top ten list of the best movies of 2008.

10. WANTED

Wanted is loosely based on a graphic novel by Mark Millar and J.G. Jones. This becomes Russian director Timur Bekmambetov’s (Day Watch) first American film with an all-star cast and amazing action combined with outstanding visual effects. A femme fatale assassin named Fox (Angelina Jolie) asserts herself into the life of a man with a miserable life, Wesley Gibson (James McAvoy).

She introduces him to The Fraternity, a secret society of assassins led by Sloan (Morgan Freeman), that trains Wesley to kill a rogue member of The Fraternity. The movie is funny and action-packed, with Oscar-winner Freeman delivering one of the best lines in the movie, if not the best quote of the decade.

9. IRON MAN

Iron Man became the first big summer blockbuster of the year and deservedly so. Stark is a greedy, multimillionaire weapon designer who happens to get through it – over each others heads. Good luck.

Zeldathon, a team consisting of mostly University students, were one of the recent pioneers for the first team-versus-team game marathon in which they competed against the Wily Whompers, a team known for completing a Mega Man marathon. Maybe you’d like to put your hardcore title on the line and challenge another team of players to play at the same time, competing to finish the list of games first.

So stock up on your favorite carbonated beverage, pre-order some boxes of pizza and prepare yourself for a new type of marathon.

For further inspiration for your marathon and instructions on how to get your marathon up, running and noticed, visit Gamemarathons.com.

Happy gaming!
How-to Web site helps you accomplish New Year’s goals

EDDITH SEVILLA
Asst. Life! Editor

On New Year’s Eve, a lot of people declare their resolutions for the upcoming year. Starting them is one thing, following through until the goal is reached is another.

For Angelica Bracho, a Miami-Dade College student studying art, the problem with meeting her goal to get in shape last year was that she didn’t focus on it.

“I was not into it. I was more concerned about getting more work contracts and I just didn’t focus on getting in shape,” said Bracho, who owns a graphic design business.

But the year has only just begun, so if you have not started working on those love handles that you’ve been dying to get rid of, fear not.

Help is here.

Ehow.com, a Web site dedicated to “how to do just about anything,” recently compiled a list of instructions to help you achieve your goals in 2009.

Be realistic: Nothing screams failure more than setting goals that you know you cannot accomplish. For example, if you say you are going to quit smoking or eating chocolate—as I myself have mulled over—consider doing it in small steps as opposed to quitting cold turkey.

Want it: Own your goals. In other words, don’t start a weight loss program or register for German 101 to impress someone else. Instead, choose your goals for you.

“If you are not doing this for yourself, you won’t succeed because your heart won’t be in it,” according to ehow.com.

Do your homework: Some goals require lifestyle changes and sometimes you will need professional help to achieve them. You may want to consider the advice of a financial planner if you are looking to get out of debt. Learning to play tennis may require the skills of an instructor or someone who knows the techniques.

Focus: You will come across many distractions: text messages, phone calls, parties and so on. But keeping your goals in mind will help you stay on track. You may want to write your goals on a piece of paper and tape that paper to your mirror. That way you will be constantly reminded of the goals you have set for yourself.

Support system: Working with a friend or a group of friends with similar goals will help you stay motivated.

“You will also be more likely to stick to your plan if there are others helping you hold yourself accountable,” according to ehow.com.

Don’t let setbacks become permanent. If you fail, cheat or get off track for a day, don’t beat yourself up over it; get back on the horse right away.

The longer you wait, the more difficult it will become to get started again.

Ana Brito, a graduate student working on her master’s in business administration, said that last year she made it a goal to get into FIU’s MBA program.

And that she did. Her secret?

“Usually, if I put my mind to it, I do it,” Brito said.

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Machines rising: Robots take over the world one song at a time

Listen and understand. That terminator is out there. It can’t be bargained with. It can’t be reasoned with. It doesn’t feel pity, or remorse, or fear.

This line, spoken by time travelling genocidicide survivor Kyle Reese from “The Terminator,” awoke our citizenry to a very real and terrifying threat: A mass, coordinated robotic uprising.

The Terminator, a 6-foot metallic Austrian, was terrifying and intimidating and was an easy target to get us to pay attention to our potential future and, for a time, it seemed we would be ready to fight when our toaster and remote controlled cars turned on us.

But we’ve begun sleeping on this threat once again, and now the robots are smarter. They know this threat once again, and now we don’t pay attention to the uprising before it’s too late.

Sure, Daft Punk has some good stuff, and Kanye’s usage of the technology probably wasn’t sinister at heart; but for the most part, it is trite, cheesy, and boring music anyway. It’s not like we’re sacrificing Beethoven or The Beatles for our survival, it’s T. Pain and Akon.

We once feared machines for their killing potential. Now, we dance to music made mostly without the hand of man. If we don’t stop now, our children won’t have that built-in fear of technology that has managed to stifle us and mistrust of machines.

If that happens, it will already be too late.

A look at last year’s best in film

MESA, page 7

attacked in Afghanistan by his own weapons and kidnapped.

Eventually, he makes his escape in a man vs. robot suit. After his escape, Stark realizes the error of his ways and decides to recreate the technology that helped him escape—along with some upgrades—and put it to good use. A great cast that features Oscar-nominee Terrence Howard (Hustle & Flow), Oscar winner Gwyneth Paltrow (Shakespeare in Love) and Jeff Bridges (The Big Lebowski), awesome action mixed with great visual effects and a lot of humor makes Iron Man one of the best movies of last year.

8. TROPIC THUNDER

When three of Hollywood’s biggest stars (Ben Stiller, Jack Black and Robert Downey, Jr.) head into another and follows her into space. This sweet, young, street life as some sort of purity despite his obviously tough young boy, presumably Dwayne Carter, with rings on his fingers, comes to the world premiere of the movie, they have no idea how real things can get.

9. THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON

This movie has humor, great visual effects and makeup, some action and dramatic elements and a love story that spans 80 years.

Brad Pitt plays Benjamin Button, a man who was born 80 years old in 1919 and is abandoned by his father (Jason Fleming), only to be adopted by a care worker (Taraji P. Henson) at a New Orleans retirement home.

As Benjamin ages, he grows younger each year. His only love is director David Fincher’s (Fight Club) masterpiece and reunites him with Pitt for the third time on the screen.

What once was our music, robotic, synthesized music against us? Or have they simply sold their souls to our future overlords in hopes of a place at their side once the revolution comes?

It is time we stand up to this musical underground movement, designed to pacify us, so we don’t pay attention to the uprising before it’s too late.

Sure, Daft Punk has some good stuff, and Kanye’s usage of the technology probably wasn’t sinister at heart; but for the most part, it is trite, cheesy, and boring music anyway. It’s not like we’re sacrificing Beethoven or The Beatles for our survival, it’s T. Pain and Akon.

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If that happens, it will already be too late.
Abercrombie & Fitch
Galindo takes pressure off teammates

**GALINDO, page 12**

increase, but he is pleased to see the team develop strength as the season reaches its mid-point.

“They have been a great asset to this team,” Galindo said of the non-scholarship additions. “They make us better in practice and they keep us throughout this whole season and I think coach is happy about it.”

**PRESSURE RELIEF**

Galindo’s presence, on an ankle he calls about “85 percent” healed, immediately paid dividends in opening up the floor for Michael Dominguez, who has carried the perimeter load this season and attempted over 100 3-pointers already.

In addition, the talented swingman provided more space on the court for freshman sensation Freddy Asprilla.

“He takes pressure off of me,” Asprilla said. “Teams have to defend both of us and it lets me play freely.”

Galindo hopes he is the first healthy piece that can help the team make a run to win the conference championship and give Rouco his first winning season with FIU.

“I think going down the stretch if we get everybody healthy we should be a problem in the conference tournament,” Galindo said. “It’s my last year so being out there is a great feeling.”

Freshman concentrates on rebounding

**MEN’S, page 12**

Golden Panthers

“He’s always been a big strong kid that rebounds the basketball. Now he’s learning how to use his weight [and] strength to his advantage, knowing where to go and where to position himself,” Rouco said. “He’s a quick learner.”

Rouco also mentioned that the freshman has become better conditioned and is more physically prepared to play more minutes.

Asprilla is now comfortable with his role in the team, one of the more prominent roles that a first-year player has in the conference.

“I have to rebound. In the Sun Belt, there aren’t too many big men, so defending them won’t be a problem,” Asprilla said.

**PESKY INJURY**

Forward Cedric Essola has dealt with a groin issue most of the season; he has played through it to become one of the most consistent players on the roster, averaging six points per game.

But the junior suffered a jammed finger on his shooting hand in the Golden Panthers win vs. Fordham on Dec. 29 that did not allow him to practice Dec. 31 after an off day.

Essola said he should be fine to play in the home contest vs. defending Sun Belt Conference Champion Western Kentucky on Jan. 8 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

Golden Panthers plagued by turnovers, missed field goals

**WOMEN’S, page 12**

The Golden Panthers (3-10) started the holiday season with a conference road win at Arkansas St.

Junior guard Monika Bosilj, the team’s leading scorer, scored 19 points, but it was Gonzalez who surprised the Razorbacks with 16 points, six assists and three steals.

“I think Michelle is stepping up big time. Bless her heart, she’s playing 40 minutes for us...” Inge Nissen, assistant head coach, Women’s basketball team.

Eagles 47-42 with 10:16 minutes left of the fourth game during winter break. However, a 20-2 run by the Eagles ended the team’s hopes of winning three of its last four games.

That loss carried over to the final game of December with a 19-point loss to the East Carolina Pirates.

Turnovers and low field goal percentages plagued the Golden Panthers during the winter break. Most notably, the team turned over the ball 26 and 31 times against Georgia Southern and East Carolina respectively.

Despite the team’s 3-10 record, the Golden Panthers hold an even 1-1 record against Sun Belt Conference teams, which puts them in the thick of the East Division race.

In January and February contain 16 conference games with an even number of games on the road and at home.

The first and last game the Golden Panthers won the Sun Belt tournament was in 2002.

When asked about playing Sun Belt teams, Bosilj stressed the importance of conference games compared to out-of-conference games.

“This is when it counts,” she said.

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**SUN BELT BASKETBALL STANDING (M) EAST DIVISION**

**TEAM**

Western Kentucky 8-4 2-0 .667
Middle Tennessee 8-5 2-0 .615
South Alabama 9-3 2-1 .643
Troy 5-9 1-2 .357
Florida International 5-10 0-2 .333
Florida Atlantic 4-10 0-3 .286

*All records up to date as of Jan. 29*

**SUN BELT BASKETBALL SCORING (M)**

**TEAM**

G PTS AVG/G

Troy 14 1090 77.9
North Texas 13 1005 77.3
South Alabama 14 1044 74.6
Middle Tennessee 13 953 73.3
Western Kentucky 12 843 70.2

*All records up to date as of Dec. 29*

**SUN BELT BASKETBALL STANDING (W) EAST DIVISION**

**TEAM**

Middle Tennessee 10-4 2-0 .714
South Alabama 11-3 2-1 .786
Western Kentucky 7-5 1-1 .583
Florida Atlantic 4-8 1-1 .333
Florida International 3-10 1-1 .231
Troy 5-17 0-2 .147

*All records up to date as of Jan. 29*

**SUN BELT BASKETBALL SCORING (W)**

**TEAM**

G PTS AVG/G

Western Kentucky 11 783 71.2
Middle Tennessee 13 921 70.8
South Alabama 12 839 69.9
North Texas 12 808 67.3

*All records up to date as of Dec. 29*
NOTEBOOK: MEN'S BASKETBALL

Big man preps for big role

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

When freshman center/forward Freddy Asprilla signed with the Golden Panthers out of Patterson (NC) prep school last Spring, head coach Sergio Rouco went as far as to call him arguably the most heralded incoming recruit in the history of the program.

Asked to play a role off the bench early in the season, Asprilla played significantly, but was behind senior and incumbent center Russell Hicks in points, who was averging eight points per contest and was a member of the All-Sun Belt Conference preseason team.

When Hicks endured a stress fracture at UCLA on Nov. 29, Asprilla was thrust into the starting role. After missing a few games with an Achilles tendon, the freshman has provided a strong post presence the Golden Panthers have not had since Ivan Almonte.

“I've gained some good experience against teams like Georgetown and I've gotten more minutes,” said Asprilla. “Coach (Rouco) told me to be more aggressive and stronger.”

The 6-foot-10 Colombia native has blocks per game over his last five contests, averaged 14 points, 10.2 rebounds and 1.2 turnovers that helped the Golden Panthers snap a losing skid.

In that stretch, Asprilla also scored a season-high 19 points in 33 minutes during a loss at UT-Martin.

Though Hicks displayed a sharp finesse on offense, Asprilla is a more physical and prototypical big man down low for the Golden Panthers missed the most.

NOTEBOOK: WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Recovered senior forward looks to lead

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

When senior forward Alex Galindo was cleared by team trainers to return to the court Dec. 29 for a home matchup against New York’s Fordham University, head coach Sergio Rouco did not have much to say to the veteran forward.

Rouco just told the senior to play his game and be a leader. Galindo responded by doing exactly what was asked.

Galindo scored 19 points on 7-of-12 shooting from the field, including four 3-pointers that helped the Golden Panthers snap a losing skid.

He hit 51 3-pointers last season for the Golden Panthers and has averaged 13.6 points and 6.3 rebounds his previous two seasons.

His perimeter and veteran presence in a season that has seen every starter miss a game at some point was probably what the Golden Panthers missed the most.

“We needed a senior on the floor,” Rouco said. “Galindo is looking to meet his coach’s simple demands. “I've been here the longest, so I feel like for this team to go forward I should be a better leader,” Galindo said. “Talk to the young guys and give them advice and support them. Give them confidence. That's the main thing we need right now going into conference play.”

FAST RECOVERY

For Galindo, a dislocated ankle before the start of the season was a setback, but the team training staff got him on the court roughly a month earlier than expected.

With an injury that some believed had much longer he had before he could play again while he clapped his hands and cheered on his teammates.

Rouco senior asked his trainer how much longer he had before he could play again while he clapped his hands and cheered on his teammates.

It was one of those moments Rouco is hoping will be a common occurrence, on and off the court.

“Alex is a man,” Rouco said. “Alex is mature. His experience is tremendous.”

Galindo has watched the team’s injuries mount and the number of walk-ons