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Experts to discuss elderly care

MICHELLE MULLER
Contributing Writer

In collaboration with United Homecare Services, the University will be hosting an expert panel discussion entitled “Preparing to Care for Your Aging Parents,” moderated by Dr. Sean Kennaiff on Jan. 21.

The panel, which will include Dr. Rafael Montes, chief medical director of Leon Medical Centers, Dr. Jeffrey Horstmyer, chair of the Department of Neurology at the College of Medicine and Marina Bravo, a certified geriatric care manager for United HomeCare Services, as well as Iversis Martinez, also from the College of Medicine, will be focusing its attention on the issues surrounding elderly care as well as discussing most efficient ways the “sandwich” generation can take care of their aging parents.

“The panel was chosen by looking at all the subject areas and creating a ‘whole list,’ a comprehensive approach to the issues surrounding elder care. Then, from there, we went to the partners and experts of our University,” said Elina Perez-Stable from the College of Medicine. “It’s a reflection of a partnership.”

Topics presented will include preventing caregiver burnout, promoting healthy aging, the role of geriatric research, education in preparing for the aging population, recognizing early signs of dementia and physical decline, as well as cultural issues surrounding long term care in South Florida, according to a press release.

Another topic that the panel will delve into is the importance of creating an understanding and compassion for the elderly as well as the people that care for them.

“Whatever career path, for PANEL, page 2

MEDICAL SCHOOL

New faculty expected to attract grant money

ELISI PUIG
Staff Writer

Boxes of unopened laboratory equipment still stack Rita Mukhopadhyay’s office in the Health and Life Sciences building and, in her first month at the University, she has focused on acquiring the necessary approvals and federal regulation standards to conduct research with human pathogens.

Mukhopadhyay is part of a group of qualified researchers in the field of reproductive endocrinology and environmental toxicology who act as mentors and educators in the new College of Medicine.

“When we were reviewing the applicant pool, we aimed on recruiting independent scientists who not only held national and international recognition, but who had a track record of attracting grant money so they would be bringing in dollars to the campus,” said Joe Leigh Simpson, executive associate dean of Academic Affairs, who was largely involved in the recruitment process.

Others selected include Dr. Georg Petropianu, Dr. Barry Rosen, Dr. C.V. Rao, according to Simpson.

Established medical schools with experienced researchers on staff often hire internationally renowned scientists, but to Simpson, the College of Medicine sought out seasoned individuals that could act as the founding faculty.

Mukhopadhyay, who has been at the University since the beginning of December, explained that one of her reasons for pursuing research in FIU was the economy.

“These days, because the economic situation is really bad, in a lot of medical schools emphasis on funding research is going down, but FIU [made] research [a] priority,” Mukhopadhyay said.

She agrees that extramural funding for research is crucial for medical schools.

Amid a swelling budget crisis, a steady track record of attracting grant money means that funding for research and supplies will not come from the University’s pocket but from the scientists themselves. These grants provide some sort of relief in tough economic times.

“Research is really expensive. Not only do we already come with the necessary equipment, but part of our salary is supported by this grant money, which...
The Beacon – Friday, January 16, 2009

The grants just keep on comin’

PAULO O’SWATH
Asst. News Director

A week after being given one of the most prestigious grants in the nation, the Wolfsonian-FIU Museum has been awarded yet another grant. According to a recent press release, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has awarded the Wolfsonian with a $505,000 grant that will go toward the support of the funds used to research in the digital field.

The MacArthur Foundation was founded to support creative people and effective institutions committed to building a more just and peaceful world, according to the press release. The foundation works to defend human rights, advance global conservation and security, make cities better places and understand how technology is affecting children and society.

The grant will also go toward the museum’s role in the 2009 Webwise Conference that will, “Share research and ideas related to the impact of the Internet among museums and libraries – content holders -- and researchers from the field,” as stated in the press release.

“I think it is great that the Wolfsonian is getting all these grants and awards from these different foundations,” said Ana Nunez, a graduate student. “It goes to show what a great job we are doing in association with the University.”

The 2009 WebWise Conference is being called Digital Debates and it will address issues such as institutional control, circulation and copyright during its sessions.

WebWise is a leading initia- tion at the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Every year it brings together representatives of museums, libraries, archives and other fields interested in the future of high-quality online content for inquiry and education. This grant follows a series of other grants that have recently given the Wolfso- nian-FIU Museum prestige and recognition throughout the academic world.

On Jan. 12, the museum was given the Andrew Mellon Foundation grant worth $500,000 for its work with the University.

“This is something that we’ve been working on for years,” said Cathy Leff, director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. “In a previous interview with The Beacon, the conference will be held on Feb. 26 and 27, and a pre-conference workshop will be held Feb. 25. For more information on the WebWise Conference visit webwise2009.fcla.edu.

SGC-UP optimistic on meeting goals

Chairman of the SGC-UP board, Susana Rodriguez, is hopeful that the college will meet its goal of providing education for more students.

The SGC-UP board announced that it has reached 60% of its goal of increasing enrollment by the end of 2009. Among their demands, pay raises for teachers and keeping elective courses for students are priorities on their list.

LOCAL

Miami, Washington keeping a close eye on Castro’s health

Cuban observers from Miami and Washington are on high alert since Tuesday after learning that Fidel Castro’s health has taken a serious turn for the worse.

Castro’s continued absence from the public eye and his inability to meet with foreign leaders who come to visit has prompted U.S. officials to investigate the fate of Cuba’s former leader. U.S. authorities on Cuban relations are not taking the current situation lightly, despite concerns that the former dictator’s continued absence from the public eye and his inability to meet with foreign leaders who come to visit has prompted U.S. officials to investigate the fate of Cuba’s former leader.

Congressional democrats flexed their new political muscle Wednesday as the House of Representatives passed legislation expanding the State Children’s Health Insurance Program by more than $32 billion over five years. The SCHIP bill, which will be taken up by the Senate next week, passed by a vote of 209-139.

House democrats provided almost unanimous support; a strong majority of House republicans were opposed.

The bill’s supporters say the legislation would extend assistance to 4 million uninsured children by the end of 2009. Among their demands, pay raises for teachers and keeping elective courses for students are priorities on their list.

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SGA president has high hopes, dreams

BARBARA QUJIANO
Staff Writer

She is a student trying to balance academics, work, family and personal life, but also the president of the Student Government Council. Ana Maria Silva, a junior majoring in international business and marketing, and minor in mass communication, was elected SGC-BBC president during the Spring term of 2008.

"SGA is responsible for attending the inauguration as a part of one of the biggest events of the year, the Inaugural Conference, a four-day event for our College Presidents," Silva said. "As Campus Life director, I was the liaison between the Student Programming Council, Student Organizations Council and SGA, where my goal was to have a connection between all three committees. I let each president know what was going on within each council and made sure there was help, participation and support from each other," Silva said.

Silva served as intern coordinator for SGA and transition coordinator for the Student Government at Biscayne Bay Campus.

"It's exciting," said Neistein. "I never saw myself going there — it's history." Although he said that the reality of going to the inauguration has yet to hit him, Neistein will be one of an estimated 1.5 million people who will be standing on the National Mall to watch Obama's swearing-in, according to White House and Washington D.C. officials.

Neistein is the only FIU student attending the inauguration as a part of the University Presidential Inaugural Conference, a four-day event for the 119 future leaders.

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Neistein is the only FIU student attending the inauguration as a part of the University Presidential Inaugural Conference, a four-day event for the 119 future leaders. Neistein says he feels honored to represent FIU.

The UPC, according to its Web site, offers alumni of select honor societies the opportunity to take part in such historic events. The site also states that the invitation to attend this event is extended to students with academic excellence and members of select honor societies, such as the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, of which Neistein is a member.

Various organizations and departments, such as the Office of the Vice Provost, provided Neistein with nearly $3,000 to attend the inauguration.

"This office is pleased to be a part of the trip," said Rebecca Dinar, Office of the Vice Provost outreach coordinator. According to the UPC Web site, the conference is comprised of private events and activities which will feature keynote speakers and political experts, as well as public ceremonies.

"I would wish him much luck and success," said Neistein. "To me, this would be the worst time to be president." Neistein is also politically involved at the University serving as a senator in Student Government Council-Biscayne Bay Campus representing the College of Arts and Sciences.

He said he will be sure to tell the next president that "education should be a number one priority." After the inauguration, Neistein plans on running for the SGC-BBC presidency.

As a member of student government, Neistein is not allowed to divulge his political opinions.

"So far it has been a great experience," said Neistein. "I believe that better change will come."
ENDLESS WAR
Deeply rooted traditions get in way of Gaza peace process

KATIA PINEDA
Contributing Writer

It’s been mind-boggling, to say the least, to define my stance on the current crisis in the Middle East. Last week, I spent the day at a pro-Israel rally in Miami Beach, then watched CNN’s coverage of the conflict and proceeded to mourn over the death of innocent men, women and children that reside in Gaza and have been murdered for over 50 years.

Despite my tendency to show divisiveness and divisiveness and divisiveness, I have to defend myself. Although both sides are, without a doubt, to blame, it seems abominable for anyone, especially the United Nations, to expect Israel to cease fire for more than the three-hour period it has accepted to allow the exchange of supplies and aid. I recently had an epiphany—although I mostly attended Catholic schools, I felt hypocritical every time I defended the new trend in Christian evangelism.

The crazy man despoiling our lunch area, however, is not alone.

There exists a much larger network of open-air preachers and it seems to be the new trend in Christian evangelism, one that the author H.L. Mencken labeled to apply: “Puritanism: the haunting fear that someone, somewhere, may be happy.”

Preachers, like JK, permeate many campuses along the East Coast and Midwest. For instance, Brother Micah regularly plants himself at the University of Central Florida, heckling undergrads. Another spends summers in Pennsylvania and wintery months in the Carolinas’ universities.

There even exists Web sites like openairpreaching.com andstreep-teaching.com that act as a how-to manual explaining who to contact and what to do if you are ever arrested while preaching.

They go even further and explain how to deal with common questions and how to draw crowds. The preachers, apart from targeting college students, regularly position themselves outside of bars, car shows and any particular effect, but just for its own sake.

The preachers’ actions beg the question on how protected the freedom of speech be should. In public places, can a lone man ramble on about everyone around him being sinners and Satan worshippers? Can he enjoy our freedoms while at the same time cry for our eternal torture?

I think so; I believe the freedom of speech is absolute. He can express his views as long as no one is hurt and his speeches do not lead to violence. They do have a seat in our collective consciousness, even if they have no value because maybe the man’s lies and views can act as a warning for others of what not to become. Or maybe we can just laugh.

So while these crazy men may be annoying, they do have their place. Some may say these open-air preachers are divisive and bigoted.

I don’t say that. I don’t think they are divisive at all. In the end, the crazy man calling condoms, evolution and gays sinful may be the most unifying force the campus has.

It shows the common thread that ties us all together. I’m not talking about the diabetes, the heart attacks, the shrinking of a country, but that quality that is ingrained in mostly everyone—respect.

As Hemingway said, we will be “strong in the broken places.”
Biggie Smalls biopic blends film, music in solid tribute

His name is Christopher Wallace. He has been known as Biggie Smalls, the corner free-style rap king. The Notorious BIG is what he called himself when he became a music superstar and now the biggest name known to the hip-hop rap world gets the silver screen treatment in "Notorious".

The film begins in 1983 where the young Wallace – played by Wallace’s real-life son Jamal Woolard – is a Catholic school honor student and his mother, Voletta (Oscar-nominee Angela Bassett) does everything she can to keep him away from the world of drugs.

Feeling he does not get enough respect, Wallace begins dealing drugs in order to buy himself some spots such as Izod and Le Tigre shirts and jewelry.

Years later, an adult Wallace (newcomer Ja Rule) becomes a freelance rapper with the gift to spit out rhymes that reflect on his life and his surroundings. One day, he makes a demo tape of his rhymes in a basement for a local DJ.

The tape finds its way to young, upcoming record producer Sean "Puffy" Combs (Derek Luke), who signs Biggie to his newly formed company Bad Boy Records. Just as Biggie starts to solidify his musical legacy as the creator of one of hip-hop’s greatest bodies of work with his vivid rhymes, fate has other plans.

The acting in "Notorious" is better than expected with the exception of Angela Bassett’s portrayal of Voletta Wallace. While the real Voletta Wallace has a Jamaican accent, the accent Bassett uses slips in and out through the movie. At one point, Bassett sounds like she is channeling a leprechaun. Despite this problem, she does her best to become the only woman Biggie will never stop loving.

Luke might not look exactly like Combs, but his portrayal recreates the ambition and determination that showed Combs how to cement his first client’s legacy as a hip-hop artist.

Anthony Mackie has an eerie resemblance to the late West Coast rapper Tupac Shakur and embodies his arrogant and sometimes paranoid personality. Ironically, Mackie has played Tupac before in an off-Broadway play called "Tupac Against The Wind," which was also produced by Mackie at Juilliard earlier in his career.

The actor that really shines in the movie is newcomer and Brooklyn rapper Woolard. He not only personalities the legendary rapper, he submerges himself in the role whether he is battling a local "wannabe" rapper or letting his emotions out – physically or musically.

The soundtrack is definitely the highlight of "Notorious." While some songs that are featured are sung by the real Notorious B.I.G., Woolard brings his game to the table to recreate Biggies’s trademark baritone and commanding tone.

Aside from Woolard providing the film voice of Wallace, Antoine Smith plays the rapper’s widower, Faith Evans. Smith has a tremendous voice when she sings one of Evans’ songs, “You Used To Love Me.”

Another actress that sounds identical to her on-screen persona is Naturi Naughton as former Junior MAFIA member and artist Kimberly "Lil' Kim" Jones. When Jones sings "Get Money" with the rest of the Junior MAFIA crew, she recreates the sultry, sexy and raw sound and performance that made Lil' Kim recognizable.

Jones is not a newcomer to the music scene, as she was in a girl group called 3LW and made her Broadway debut by landing a role in "Hairspray."
Health leave until June for Apple CEO

JESSICA MINTZ
AP Wire

Apple Inc. co-founder and Chief Executive Steve Jobs said Wednesday he is taking a medical leave until June, even though just a week ago the cancer survivor tried to assure investors and employees he was not going to resign. Jobs, 53, said in a letter last week that he would remain at Apple’s helm despite the hormone problem, and that he had already begun a “relatively simple and straightforward” treatment. But in an e-mail to employees Wednesday, Jobs backtracked.

“During the past week I have learned that my health-related issues are more complex than I originally thought,” he wrote. Apple’s shares have surged and crashed over the last year in step with rumors or news about the CEO's health and his gaunt appearance.

The company waited until after Jobs underwent surgery in 2004 to treat a treatable hormone deficiency—a string of sleek gadgets, from the iMac and the iPod to a new line of aluminum-covered Macbooks and the coveted iPhone. Many investors fear that without Jobs, Apple would not be able to sustain its growth or its high-end minimalist style.

Last week, Jobs said his disclosure of his hormone problem was “more than I wanted to say, and all that I am going to say” about his health. It came on the eve of Macworld, the biggest Apple trade show of the year, and Jobs said he wanted everyone to relax and enjoy the event.

Even so, the limited amount of information in that announcement did little to soothe Wall Street’s nerves. Medical experts not involved in Jobs’ treatment said it was unclear what was behind his weight loss, but some specialists said Jobs’ past pancreatic cancer could be the problem, since the organ makes digestive enzymes that are key for nutrition.

Apple’s history of keeping information about Jobs’ health under wraps is only fueling the speculation. The company waited until after Jobs underwent surgery in 2004 to treat a rare form of pancreatic cancer—an islet cell neuroendocrine tumor—before alerting investors.

And last summer, Cupertino’s Calif.-based Apple insisted Jobs’ weight loss was due to a common bug, even as The New York Times cited anonymous sources who said Jobs had undergone a “surgical procedure” to address the problem. Apple spokesman Steve Dowling would not elaborate on Jobs’ condition or what was discovered in the past week.

“They’ll tell you the least they can tell you,” longtime industry analyst Roger Kay of Endpoint Technology Associates said after Jobs’ disclosure Wednesday. “They’re trying to have it both ways, to protect their guy’s privacy and feelings and at the same time somehow signal the market.”

Apple’s chief operating officer, Tim Cook, will take over Jobs’ responsibilities while he is on leave, though Jobs said he plans to remain involved in major strategic decisions.

Cook is seen as one of Jobs’ most likely successors, along with Apple’s top marketing executive, Philip Schiller. American Technology Research analyst Brian Marshall—who last week predicted Jobs would step down this year—said Wednesday’s announcement tips the bets in Cook’s favor.

“The company has been soft-signaling to the Street for a while now that Steve Jobs is not going to be CEO forever,” he said. “This will be sort of a trial period for Cook to be chief executive.”
Freshman dominates, wins player of the week

JONATHAN DAVILA
Staff Writer

Golden Panthers forward center Freddy Asprilla was named the Sun Belt Conference co-Player of the Week on Jan. 12.

The freshman big man received the honor after dominating the paint against Sun Belt Conference opponents during the week of Jan. 4.

During that stretch, the Villavicencio, Colombia native had 21 points and seven rebounds in a win against Western Kentucky on Jan. 8 and 28 points with 10 boards in a loss at Middle Tennessee.

“I’m very happy and appreciative… I work hard everyday,” he said.

Asprilla has been the starting center for the Golden Panthers basketball team since incumbent starting center for the Golden Panthers became a redshirt due to an injury.

Asprilla’s close friend for- ward J.C. Otero.

“Freddy is a beast, man. He can rebound and he can handle. He’s an animal. He’s been more mean and hard – more aggressive,” said teammate and Asprilla’s close friend forward J.C. Otero.

In 15 games this season, he averaged 25.8 minutes, 13 points on 52 percent shooting and 8.5 rebounds.

Head coach Sergio Rouco was surprised at Asprilla becoming such an efficient scorer so quickly, but said he always knew he had a great rebounder on the team.

“I saw a kid that was raw – just reaching his potential. He’s a great rebounder. Wherever he plays, he’s going to make his money as a rebounder,” Rouco said.

Recruiting class reaches 20 verbal commitments

FOOTBALL, page 8

“Things are getting better at FIU and I’m excited to be a part of it,” Carroll told The Miami Herald.

Carroll will sit out a season per NCAA transfer rules and will be a junior when he takes the field in a few years.

RECRUITING BLITZ

The Golden Panthers currently have 20 oral commitments in the 2009 class who intend to play for the team next season.

Headlining the class are a pair of Miami North- western standouts in line- backer Kenneth Dillard and wide receiver Wayne Times.

In addition to offensive lineman Rupert Bryan from Belle Glade Central, and Hutchinson (Kansas) Community College product Thatcher Starling, who is already on campus.

Starling, Bryan and Dillard are three-star recruits, according to Rivals.com.

Significant local commits include lineman Giancarlo Revilla from Miami Killian, who spurned offers from other Sun Belt Conference teams such as Western Kentucky and Troy.

Defensive back Derrick Jones Jr. from Miami Springs, the same school as T.Y. Hilton, chose the Golden Panthers over the likes of conference rival Florida Atlantic.

With national signing day less than a month away, FIU is expected to sign roughly 25 players in the 2009 class.

IN THE RUNNING

The Golden Panthers are also competing for several uncommitted top prospects. Quarterback Rico Flores of Miami Beach, who holds offers from an SEC and Big East conference team in MSU and South Florida, is considering FIU.

The Golden Panthers are also pursuing 6-foot-7, 356 pounds Claudyson Rouco, who is ranked in the top 100 offensive tackles in the 2009 class by Rivals.com.

Both players are considered three-star prospects by Rivals.com.

Leading scorer contained, forward nearing return

WOMEN’S NOTEBOOK, page 8

The team has had continuous trouble battling the press-defense which has produced many turnovers for FIU, allowing the opposing team too many opportunities for fast break points.

The conference’s worst scoring team will continue to be hurt by turnovers, especially when the leading scorer is double-teamed most of the time.

If the bench players can’t take on more of a role, a five-game losing streak could end up much longer for head coach Cindy Russo, who hasn’t spoken out about her team’s performance for quite some time.

“Every game someone new steps up, and I hope there’s a game soon where everyone on the team is on the same level,” Bosilj said.

“We need to stay together so that we can bring the ‘w’ home; the coaches are putting a lot of pressure on us during practice so that we can be prepared for upcoming games.”

Bouncing back from this slump might be alleviated by the possible return of injured forward Marquita Adley.

Consistency and preparation will be key factors for this team that has lacked momentum since the start of the season.

“We start doing it [winning] and then we stop,” said Gonzalez. “I just want to win, that’s all that is on my mind.”
Turnovers hurting idle offense

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

After their lowest scoring performance of the season just last week against Middle Tennessee State University, the Golden Panthers’ women’s basketball team traveled back to Miami to continue some important work on handling defensive pressure and controlling the ball. The Golden Panthers (3-14, 1-5 Sun Belt) put up just 35 points against MTSU. Meanwhile, junior guard and leading scorer, Monika Bosilj, was held scoreless. “I don’t think we had the mental preparation for that game,” said starting point-guard Michelle Gonzalez. “Some of the players didn’t step up when they knew there was going to be a lot of pressure.”

Bosilj said their defense was pretty good and they had a lot of turnovers in the first half which killed us,” Bosilj said.

Meanwhile, junior guard and leading scorer, Monika Bosilj, was held scoreless. “I don’t think we had the mental preparation for that game,” said starting point-guard Michelle Gonzalez. “Some of the players didn’t step up when they knew there was going to be a lot of pressure.”

Too many turnovers is a recurrent theme this season for the team. “Their defense was pretty good and we had a lot of turnovers in the first half which killed us,” Bosilj said.

Poor communication makes good players into a bad team

You’d think a 5-foot-10 guard with the ability to shoot from the outside would never go scoreless in a game. You’d think a point guard with the ball-handling skills of a juggler would not have 107 turnovers in 16 games.

Yet both these instances are true for the Golden Panthers women’s basketball team (3-14, Sun Belt 1-5) that plays at opposite ends of the spectrum. Unfortunately for the Golden Panthers, a dismal season thus far is not owed to just inconsistent performances; it is a result of players struggling to convert their individual abilities into team victories.

The team’s roster on paper does not compare to last season’s, but it is worth at least a .500 record. It is not worth a 35-point performance against Middle Tennessee State University with no player reaching double-digit scoring, that’s for sure. And it isn’t worth the worst record in the Sun Belt Conference.

So what is the root of the chemistry starved team? Not enough communication.

On offense, when a player is double-teamed or pressured, she might as well be a deer caught in headlights. The pressure brings futility to a situation remedied by an unguarded teammate.

More importantly, it is fixed through communication and knowing where the open teammate might be.

Lack of communication is a habit the Golden Panthers seem to just can’t quit. Therefore, they lead the conference in turnovers and rank last in scoring.

Those same turnovers make it difficult for the team’s defense to set itself and prevent fast-break points.

Turnovers cause a powerful domino effect that hurts the offense, weakens the defense and eventually inflates the number of losses.

If the Golden Panthers handled the full-court press and double-teams with just a little more efficiency, they would be at least the 300 team their talent should allow them to be.

So with 10 conference games left in the season, what can the team do to redirect their current path into a turnaround season? Besides revisiting the fundamentals of the team’s play, Monika Bosilj, needs to not only improve her shot. This constant reminder of her torn anterior cruciate ligament last season has not stopped her from banging against equally tall and physical centers in the conference.

Asst. Sports Director

JONATHAN RAMOS
Transfer QB eligible to play in 2010

Incumbent starter Paul McCall is likely to remain in the starter role this upcoming season, providing stability and consistency, but Golden Panther fans should be glad to know that McCall will have a qualified replacement when he completes his senior season.

Former hometown prospect Wesley Carroll has completed his transfer to FIU from Mississippi State University, and is on campus this spring, giving the team an experienced quarterback when the 2010 season arrives.

Carroll led Ft. Lauderdale St. Thomas Aquinas to three high school state championship games and went on to earn immediate playing time as a starter at MSU as a freshman.

The 6-foot-2 sophomore was a member of the All-Southeastern Conference freshman team in 2007, but lost his starting position in 2008 and played in just seven