Cuban immigrant among Med School’s first 40 students

ELSIE PUIG
Staff writer

A framed El Nuevo Herald article hangs on the wall of Hanady’s apartment.

It shows a picture of her grinning for the camera and opening her arms wide in front of the billboard announcing the Fall opening of the FIU School of Medicine.

Ale, who knew from the beginning the new College of Medicine was her dream school, became one of its first students.

A story like hers only happen in a place like Miami, and she would not have it any other way.

“I feel indebted and committed to the hospitality that Miami has shown me,” Ale said.

After being accepted to the College of Medicine, Ale came to Miami from Cuba five years ago focused and determined to become a doctor.

She knew it wouldn’t be easy, so she set on her goal with fierce ambition and perseverance.

“I remember going to FIU when I came from Cuba, wanting to know how I could become a doctor, and the advisor detailed a long and cumbersome process,” Ale said.

With all of it behind her, she can go over the steps without wincing.

3,332 applications and 300 interviews later, she became one of the 40 chosen to become the College of Medicine’s first class.

She waited anxiously for the opening of the College of Medicine and was one of the students who religiously attended press conferences, remembered Dr. Jackie Gleason Theater.

Rionda completes SGC-UP team

DAVID BARRIOS
Senior Staff Writer

Anthony Rionda has a cold.

The 21-year old political science major has just gotten off the phone with Student Government Council President Paige LaPointe, as he sits in her office. He needs the password to her computer to access it while she is out of the office.

“She’s not coming in today,” Rionda said. Arthur J. Meyer, president of SGC-UP, is also not in the office this afternoon.

“Our office, Paige, AJ and myself communicate with each other about as often as anyone would ever want to have to communicate with each other,” Rionda said. Rionda is the chief of staff for SGC-UP.

His job, as specified in the student government constitution, is to aid in the everyday operations of the organization while overseeing the cabinet, currently consisting of 16 positions.

He also helps in office operations along with Student Government Association advisor Jose Toscano.

With the amount of work that AJ has this year, my job has even more work. Alfonso, the advisor detailed a long and cumbersome process,” Rionda said.
Chief of staff a ‘great resource for SGA’

RIONDA, page 1

included to travel with him to some of the Board of Gover-

nor’s meetings in Tallahassee and to help research policy,”
Rionda said. He knew that his job entailed a lot of work.
“It’s certainly not a job in which you can be out of the

office for two or three days at a time. You can lose track
of what’s going on fairly quickly. It takes a lot of work to

know what 16 people are doing, knowing where AJ is

and helping Paige with whatever she’s up to,” Rionda
said. “I first met AJ in this office early last year, actu-

ally. I was interviewing for the position of SGA lectures

coordinator. We sat in this office when he was still vice

president and then, when the elections approached, we had
a good idea that he would be running and so I helped him
throughout the process.”

Rionda would help throughout the elections as AJ’s campaign manager.

“The elections code is a

strict set of rules. It limits

where you can campaign,

where you can campaign as

a group, where you can wear

shirts, where you can place

signs. We had a campaign

team set up. It’s all about

getting students to want to

vote and understand that

we’re not just there to annoy

them and hand out flyers,”
Rionda said.

Meyer was elected in the first contested election in several years with over 3,500

voters going to the polls in the 2008 elections. Rionda was asked by Meyer after his

victory to assume the position of chief of staff.

“Paige and I chose [Rionda] for the job because of the exceptional work

he provided for Marbely Hernandez [formier presi-

dent of SGC-UP] and me in last year’s administra-

tion. He has been an advo-

cate for students’ rights and

needs as well as for bringing

an outsider ‘non-greek’ perspective into every equa-

tion,” Meyer said.

During his time as

lectures coordinator, Rionda
arranged for several

keynote speakers to speak
at the University including

Ivanka Trump, Martin Luther King Jr.,

and Rudy Giuliani.

“He’s just been a

great asset to the

organization, a really good friend and lad,”
Nivv Oudit, current SGA lectures coordinator.

Among the revisions were

the separation of meetings

between the executive branch and the Senate and the estab-

lishment of a proportional representation system in the

Senate.

“Rather than have one

senator representing each

college, we set it up so

that one senator would

represent 1,000 people per
college,” Rionda said.

The House meetings, prior to the revisions, were held on

Wednesdays and were chaired by the president of

SGA.

“That just didn’t make any sense,” Rionda said. “So we
fixed it so that the Senate speaker would actually chair
the meetings independent of himself and all of SGA.”

The revisions set that Senate meetings would be held

from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m., while cabinet and executive meetings
would be held on Wednes-

days during the same times.

In the end, Rionda feels that his job is a collaborative effort
between himself and all of SGA.

“If it wasn’t for those people below me or everyone in SGA, we wouldn’t be able
to get what we needed done.

I just like to work behind the scenes,” Rionda said.
Maidique sets up progress strategy amid budget cuts

In addition, the University has embarked on a new strategy that Maidique calls FIU 3.0 or FIU 3G, to continue to make progress and build a research university, yet recognizing that available funds are diminishing.

“We have watched over the past two years $30 million in reduced funding,” said Modesto A. Maidique, who said there is no easy solution. “We have to look at technology. We have to look at reducing our costs. We have to look at partnerships.”

Furthermore, under the new FIU 3.0, funding will only be allocated to critical areas. According to Maidique, there are two critical areas of strategies: international, put together, health, life, science and the environment.

“We want to become the school of choice nationally for international studies, and we are going to weave international throughout the curriculum ...”

Students eligible for the Cundo Bermudez Scholarship must have a 2.5 GPA and be fully admitted into the School of Art and Art History. “FIU has welcomed Cundo’s work for many years,” said Teresa Callaiva, director of sales and marketing for the Kiwanis Club of Little Havana. “We hope that Cundo’s love of art, and his great relationship with FIU, will live on through this scholarship.”

Cundo Bermudez was born in Havana, Cuba on Sept. 3, 1914. In 1930, he was enrolled at the renowned Escuela Nacional de Bellas Artes, where he studied painting for two years.

In 1941, he graduated from the University of Havana with a degree in law and social sciences and, in 2005, he was awarded an honorary doctorate of the arts from FIU.

“I have fun at what I do; the pleasure I get from painting is vital for me. I enjoy art like Mozart enjoyed his music. Some people are concerned over philosophic postulates, over universal chaos, over the atomic bomb. For me, painting is a celebration of form and color, and nothing more,” said Cundo in a past interview. Applications for the scholarship are now being accepted.

Art scholarship honors memory of Cuban painter

NATALEE GIL-DEL RIO

A group of volunteers with hopes of changing the world through service to children and communities has established a fund in memory of Cundo Bermudez, a renowned Cuban painter, to benefit two FIU students majoring in art or art history.

This group, known as the Kiwanis Club of Little Havana, helps shelter the homeless, feed the hungry, mentor the disadvantaged and care for the sick. They develop the youth as leaders, build playgrounds, raise funds for pediatric research and much more, as stated in the Kiwanis’ Web site, Kiwanis.org.

Kiwanis has donated a total of $16,000 to the fund to provide assistance to two juniors accepted into the School of Art and Art History at the University.

“I think it’s great that the Kiwanis of Little Havana are thinking of our art students. Anyone who receives this scholarship should feel very privileged,” said Ivana Harris, a sophomore. “I personally admire Bermudez’s work and think naming a scholarship on his behalf is something very special that Kiwanis has created.”

Comedy Day

Barbara Roller, assistant dean of Student Affairs, holding up a picture of Hanady.

Hanady was Hanady professor for various classes and former pre- med advisor.

Alec’s first steps took her to Miami-Dade College before transfer-
ing to FIU through the Honors College where she majored in biology, graduating with a 4.0 GPA.

“Both Miami-Dade and FIU opened their doors to me and I am so grateful.”

She mentioned that FIU’s COM curriculum focuses on community health through the NeighborhoodHELP program, which is one of the reasons she had always been her first choice.

“I think doctors sometimes forget that they are dealing with human beings, who have to be treated with compassion,” said Alex.

Med School acquires perfect student candidate

MED SCHOOL PAGE 1

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“I think doctors sometimes forget that they are dealing with human beings, who have to be treated with compassion,” said Alex.
Last week I thought I had one of the worst weeks ever. A fight with a friend, along with problems at work and school and the realization that I am not going to have a Valentine’s Day date, left me feeling awful all weekend.

The first thing I did on Friday night was get into bed, turn off all the lights, cuddle up with my dog Karma and watch Sleepless in Seattle and Love Actually.

Those are my absolute favorite love movies, and I just needed a good cry of a week. I’ve had them, I can always turn my mood around.

But as much fun as wallowing is, I needed to cheer myself up. So I decided to make the best of my bad mood and go out alone on Tuesday – hey, I needed some me time.

I started by going to Jerusalem Market & Deli (16275 Biscayne Blvd, North Miami Beach) – which is one of my favorite places to go when I want to pig out on some Middle Eastern comfort food.

I went in just wanting a hummus sandwich, but then I saw the one drink that can make any bad day go away – cold creamy yogurt. For those who don’t know carbonated yogurt, or daugh, as the Persians call it, is one of the staples of Middle Eastern cuisine. I prefer mint-flavored daugh, which tastes like cold creamy milk, club soda and mint mixed together. Add a little salt on top and you’ll be in heaven, I promise.

As I sat there eating my sandwich and drinking daugh, all of which I bought for about $8, I started to feel the stress of the week lifting off my shoulders and felt super relaxed when I left. Not wanting to let go of my good feeling, I headed south down Collins Avenue, because “These are the Good Ole Days” by James Otto blasting from my radio.

By the way, if you are ever having a bad day, play this song and it will make you smile. As I was really getting into the second verse, I noticed a couple of kites flying over in Haulover Park (10800 Collins Ave, Miami Beach). So I pulled over and bought myself a kite from the Kite Store, located right in front of the park. Right next to the Kite Store, there is a big open field, where you can fly your kite.

The best part is that the beach is right across the park, which allows you to relax and enjoy the ocean. When I’m upset, there is nothing that makes me feel better than sitting alongside the ocean, especially if you bring a good book with you, like Eat, Pray, Love by Elizabeth Gilbert.

I got this really cool black kite with a pirate skull on it for only $5. As soon as I bought the kite, I wanted to try it out, but I have bad luck with those things, so I decided that I would use it when I met up with my friend Brandon later that day. That way, if I could not get the kite to fly, I could just blame it on him.

At this point, my day could not have gotten any better. I had a good meal, a new kite and I was about to meet up with my friend Brandon, whom I haven’t seen since high school, for coffee and to try out the kite.

I needed to spend some good quality time with Brandon because he is on leave from the Coast Guard for the next two weeks. And of course, as soon as I started thinking about my wonderful day and I’m screaming the lyrics to “Chicken Fried” by the Zac Brown Band, I got hit by a car crash. Even with the car crash I know this week is going to be a lot better than last week. Because it’s the way you make it that makes all the difference.

Weekends with Paradise is a bi-monthly column about things to do in North Miami Beach. If you know anywhere that I should visit in the North Miami area email me at paradise.afshar@fau.edu.
FIRST BLUSH

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Palestinians losing all hope in ending ‘endless war’

MOHAMED ABDIHAKIM
Contributing Writer

“It shouldn’t be like this ... children, little children shouldn’t be dying like this everyday,” said Foad Farah, an FIU alumnus.

Farah, like people throughout the world, turns on the television to hear the latest death toll in the Gaza conflict. There have been protests all over Florida and the county demanding a cease-fire and an eventual end to the unnecessary bloodshed.

There have been other battles that made up the conflict between Arabs and Jews of Palestine dating as far back as 1948. Children were orphaned, parents burried their children and families were broken. Two groups of people have been struggling for the same patch of land, experiencing dire losses of life.

As long as there was violence making its way through Palestine, there had been cries against this going on,” said Ammar Dandia, a sophomore from the United States.

“I have been against this war since I found out it was going on,” said Ferra Liger, a senior majoring in biology.

Regardless of how the legislature decides to trim the costs of the [Bright Futures] scholarship, some students will have to find other ways to pay higher tuition, or not go to school at all.

The report listed six options for reducing the cost of the program to the state, including raising the eligibility requirements and establishing a financial criterion for eligibility.

Regardless of how the legislature decides to trim the costs of the scholarship, some students will have to find other ways to pay higher tuition, or not go to school at all. After making these recommendations, the OPPAGA went on to suggest ways the lottery revenue could be increased, by growing retailer and customer participation.

The implication: reduce spending of lottery revenue on Bright Futures while encouraging retailers to stimulate customers, so we can make more money for this program.

More gambling and less tertiary education is the solution to the budget problems faced by the state.

Nowhere in the report are recommendations in the event that the lotto generates the same or higher rates of income in the coming years.

It’s a long shot, but shouldn’t legislators be asked to consider leaving the program alone if loto revenue does not fall?

According to the Department of Education, FIU received close to $20 million in monies from the Bright Futures Scholarship Fund during the 2007-08 school year. An average of about $2,250 was received by a total of 8,836 students who qualified for aid under the program.

In the Fall 2007 semester, 18,742 full-time undergraduate students enrolled at the University, according to the Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness. At a glance, it appears that the proportion of students affected by this program is significant.

The Financial Aid and Enrollment Services Offices did not respond to requests for comment.

Ferra Liger, a senior majoring in biology and former Bright Futures recipient, feels that the debt he has incurred since the suspension of his scholarship is a ‘debilitating factor’ in his life and that students will face undue financial pressure when forced to make up for scholarship funds by other means.

In a statement in the Dec. 28, 2008 issue of the Orlando Sentinel, Arthur “AJ” Meyer, president of Student Government Council of University Park, said he hopes legislators look at the program’s efficiency and effectiveness, not necessarily making cost-cutting a main goal.

Meanwhile, a statement on the Office of the President’s Web site informs students that budget cuts have caused enrollment caps to be put in place so that students with solid B+ averages would have to be turned away, classes could become more crowded, advisers more overworked and fewer opportunities to take classes needed for graduation might be available.

The Florida Lottery transferred $1.28 million to the Education Enhancement Trust Fund in fiscal year 2007-2008, making it the sixth time since its formation that the billion dollar mark had been surpassed.

The Bright Futures Scholarship Program, which was created in 1997, has received more than $2.3 billion and reached more than 400,000 students.

If state legislators are going to consider reducing appropriations to the Bright Futures Scholarship Program based on projections that state lottery revenues will fall, then they should also consider the inverse scenario.

If loto players are going to be encouraged to play more lottery, then the intention should be to increase education appropriations.

More gambling and less studying does not make for a brighter future in the Sunshine State.

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More gambling and less studying does not make for a brighter future in the Sunshine State.
Bob Marley fest brings students, faculty together

BY DAVON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Mellow vibes flowed freely as students connected through Jamaican music and food while invoking the memory and music of Bob Marley.

The West Indian Student Association, in conjunction with Club Africa, the Student Programming Council, the Student Organization Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus and www.yardmassive.com, hosted a Bob Marley celebration on Feb. 3 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center’s Panther Square.

“We are hosting this event to honor the life of Bob Marley and his accomplishments,” said Michelle Garel, higher education master’s student and WISA president.

There were more than 100 students, faculty and staff in attendance. “This is a colorful, diverse experience and it’s nice to know about the Jamaican culture,” said junior physical therapy major Zane Brady.

Black, gold, green and red balloons and cloths decorated the tables at the event to pay homage to the Jamaican culture.

“Marley was born and raised in Jamaica but was very close to Africa,” said Garel. According to Garel, they incorporated red into the colors of the celebration to pay tribute to Marley’s Rastafarian religion and beliefs.

To complement the Jamaican-themed event, Caribbean Music Farm, a local band that plays island style Caribbean music, performed and played some of Bob Marley’s songs, such as “Stir It Up,” “No Woman No Cry,” “Is This Love” and “I Shot the Sheriff.”

The band’s members were professional singers and musicians with “multicultural and multina- tion Caribbean heritage and background,” according to their official Web site. The band members hail from Antigua, St. Lucia, St. Thomas (U.S. Virgin Islands), Dominican Republic, Turks and Caicos, Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad.

“SPC-BBC helped cohost this event not only because it fell within our Pan-African Week, but also because we thought it would be a great way to honor the service, music and life of a great man,” said senior tourism major Georgia Bedeau, marketing director of SPC.

“It’s a warm and positive event where everyone can get together and feel all right,” said Noel Browne, Caribbean Music Farm’s leader and lead singer.

The event was scheduled to run until 4 p.m. but was cut an hour short so that it wouldn’t conflict with SGA’s General Town Hall Meeting, which took place in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and featured guest speaker President Modesto A. Maideque.

Digital television pushed back to June

On Wednesday, March 10, 2009

JOELLE TESSLER
AP WIRE

After weeks of debate, Congress is giving consumers four more months to prepare for the upcoming transition from analog to digital television broadcasting.

The House voted 264-158 on Wednesday to postpone the shut-down of analog TV signals to June 12, to address growing concerns that too many Americans won’t be ready by the Feb. 17 deadline that Congress set three years ago.

The Senate passed the measure unanimously last week and the bill now heads to President Barack Obama for his signature.

The change is being mandated because digital signals are more efficient than analog ones. Ending analog broadcasts will free up valuable space in the nation’s airwaves for commercial wireless services and emergency-response networks.

The delay is a victory for the Obama administration and Demo- crats in Congress, who maintain that the previous administration mismanaged efforts to ensure that all consumers — particularly poor, rural and minority Ameri- cans — will be prepared for the switchover.

The Nielsen Co. estimates that more than 6.5 million U.S. house- holds that rely on analog TV sets to pick up over-the-air broadcast signals still are not ready. People who subscribe to cable or satellite TV or have a newer TV with a digital tuner will not be affected.

“The passage of this bipartisan legislation means that millions of Americans will have the time they need to prepare for the con- version,” White House spokewoman Amy Brundage said in a statement.

Wednesday’s vote came one week after House Republicans blocked the bill under a special fast-track procedure that required two-thirds support to pass. This time, the bill passed the House under a regular floor vote, which requires a simple majority.

Among Democrats, 241 voted for the bill, while 10 voted against it. Among Republicans, 23 voted for the bill, while 148 voted against it.

“The country is not prepared to undertake a nationwide transi- tion in 12 days without unaccept- ably high consumer dislocation,” acting FCC chairman Michael Copps said in a statement. “We’ve got a lot of work to do, but we now have an opportunity to do it better.”

The National Association of Broadcasters also welcomed the delay. The group said it will provide new television spots to promote the June 12 deadline, and work with stations to coordinate additional analog shut-off tests to raise awareness and help consum- ers prepare.

Joelle Tessler
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February brings screams, not sweets, to screens

January has come and gone, but February is here for a brief period of time. While February is usually about Valentine’s Day rather than love, the movies that come out this month celebrate psychic espionage, a hockey-masked killer and football players turned male cheerleaders.

You cannot go wrong with this mixture of genres. Here is a look at this month’s movies:

FEB. 6
PUSH

A government agency known as the Division, led by a determined agent (Djimon Hounsou), is genetically transforming citizens into an army of psychic warriors and killing unwilling participants. A young man with these abilities (Chris Evans) is hiding in Hong Kong from the Division after it murdered his mother’s death by killing anyone who gets near Camp Crystal Lake. Two decades later, a group of college kids settle in a cabin near the lake to have a great weekend of sex, booze and drugs. When it seems like nothing can stop them, Shawn falls on a legendary killing spree.

THE INTERNATIONAL

Frat Ploys
by Noel Malouf

Wisconsin football team is expected to win its final game of the season.

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Yale School of Management
NO O'S: Underestimated (red) and DSU (green) struggled to a tie game in the opening week of intramural play.

&nb

JOIN OUR STAFF!

The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don’t be shy. Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.

Looking forward to a tasty autumn

on pieces of revenue that some feel are “rightfully theirs.”

Mars to go into orbit this Fall

Without those guys up front you can’t run an offense. T.Y. can run beautiful routes but if Paul McCall is on his game, he can change the game with one play. He’s a great receiver, he’s excellent at the point of attack, and life, and more importantly, it does sustain us and help us grow. They might not omit the vegetables that offer vitamins and minerals, which sustain us and help us grow. They might come from a tree or a root or something that can grow from the ground in any weather.

On the subject of vegetation, consider the tree as the pillar of a category that gives oxygen, a sustaining life process that is necessary for development, and life, and more importantly, it has the ability to create new trees, to be a sustainer of the FIU program that is to come. Mario Cristobal has become the head coach, a tree; one of those pillar types.

"Right now, there are labels and they can change the game with one play. He’s a great receiver, he’s excellent at catching screen passes and does a great job at making people miss," Cristobal said.

The Golden Panthers also landed kicker/punter Jack Griffin from Naples, Fla. "Right now, there are labels and traditions that have been out there a lot longer than we have. But we’re fresh, we’re new and we’re starting to get that sexy name because of the players that are coming over."
CHRIS TALBOTT
AP Wire

Rashad Johnson is the no-star All-American, the player overlooked by every scouting service in America, and most college coaches, too.

Johnson walked on at Alabama in 2004. Now after 30 starts and 11 career interceptions, the safety is likely bound for the NFL. He wouldn’t trade his path for anything or be something in their lives,” Johnson said. “If they want to do something in their lives,” Johnson said. “If they want to do something in their lives, it’s better a little more than half the time, based on whether a player started 20 games or more in college, his recognition for awards or whether he made it to the NFL.

When it got to picks 11-50, the services were even more hit and miss. Longtime talent evaluators for both sites quote similar statistics. They figure they’re on target as much as 60 percent of the time, which they see as a decent record given everything that has to go right for a recruit to become a standout.

Bad grades and big parties, immaturity and injuries — any number of pitfalls can bring down a five-star athlete. On the flip side, avoiding problems can help can push a player thought to be lacking something — speed, size, toughness — to the top of the class.

Bobby Burton, a co-founder of Rivals, said the Web site is getting tens of thousands of dollars.

The AP found that when picking the 10 players with the brightest football futures, the services were right a little more than half the time, based on whether a player started 20 games or more in college, his recognition for awards or whether he made it to the NFL.

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Recruiting haul features five offensive linemen among 22

**CHARLIE GRAU**
Senior Staff Writer

FIU just landed on Mars.
On National Signing Day, the Golden Panthers locked up 23 commitments including Apopka line- backer Larvez “Pooh Bear” Mars.
Mars, who played in the U.S. Army All-American game, is the first All-American and four-star recruit FIU has ever picked up. In his senior year, he recorded 158 tackles, 15 for loss, four forced fumbles and an interception. The 5-foot-11, 210-pound lineman chose FIU over Iowa State.

“He really changes you on defense,” said head coach Mario Cristobal.
Accompanying Mars will be line- backers Kenny Dillard from Miami Northwestern and Makeith Russell from North Miami Beach. Both players were All-Dade selections.
Together, the three linebackers
won four state championships and Cristobal believes they can bring that championship swagger with them.
“We feel that we have one of the best linebacker classes in the country,” Cristobal said. “We expect all those guys to have an impact together. Those are three down hill, explosive, extremely fast and athletic men that can rock n’ roll.”

When he first arrived at FIU, Cristobal had planned to bring in a major conference starting experience to FIU at the quarterback position in 2010. The store front of college football recruiting has become a place where players and coaches wait to prey on unsuspecting youngsters, who, while perhaps just wanting to play football, may be lured from the conformity of NCAA regulations in an effort to capitalize

REINFORCEMENTS ON THE WAY: Wesley Carroll will bring major conference starting experience to FIU at the quarterback position in 2010.

**Wesley Carroll**
QB 6-1 195
Mississippi State
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
Threw for 1,392 yards and nine touchdowns as a freshman at Mississippi State in 2007.

Jonathan Cyprien
S 6-1 210
Miami Northwestern
Miami, Fla.
First Team All-Miami-Dade and District 12-6A First Team selection.

Kenny Dillard
LB 6-1 210
Miami Northwestern
Miami, Fla.
Florida All-State Class 6A First Team selection. Led Miami-Dade County with 138 tackles. Had 10 sacks.

Cain Ellott
CB 6-2 215
Winter Springs
Winter Springs, Fla.
All-County Florida selection. district 2A First Team selection.

Joshua Forney
DB 6-4 255
Mainz Catholic
South Holland, Ill.
First Team All-Chicago Parochial and First Team All-ESCC Conference.

Jack Griffin
K/P 6-1 185
St. John Neumann
Naples, Fla.
14th ranked kicker by rivals.com and First Team All-Collier County.

David Istanich
OL 6-6 305
Johnstown
Johnstown, Penn.
Selected FIU over Big East schools Pitt and UConn. First Team All-State Class 3A.

Derrick Jones
DB 5-9 185
Miami Springs
Miami Springs, Fla.
District 14-6A First Team and All-Dade County selection.

Jarrett McGee
OL 5-9 185
North Dakota State
Cocoa, Fla.
Timed 4.4 speed, excellent hitting ability. Exacts in run support and has a nose for creating turnovers.

Dorian Mulhary
OL 5-9 185
Gulliver Prep
Miami, Fla.
Explosive returning home run speed. First Team Class 2A All-State. Ran 4.3-40 yd dash at scout.com camp.

Larvez Mars
LB 6-0 210
Apopka
Apopka, Fla.
Perhaps the top incoming recruit in FIU football history. 8th rated LB by rivals.com.

Giancarlo Revilla
OL 6-3 275
Killian
Miami, Fla.
First Team All-State Class 6A. Selected as #32 center by scout.com.

Markel Russel
LB 6-1 210
Miami Beach
Miami Beach, Fla.
All-Dade selection, First Team All-District 12-6A.

Thaitcher Sterling
DE 6-1 265
Hutchinson C.C.
Hutchinson, Kan.
First Team All-Jayhawk Conference, listed in rivals.com Top-100 JUCO recruits.

Terrance Taylor
OL 6-0 187
Archbishop Carroll
Miami, Fla.
73 tackles, two force fumbles, four fumble recoveries and three interceptions as a senior.

Wayne Turner
WR 6-0 180
Miami Northwestern
Miami, Fla.
Elusive multitalented offensive weapon. 476 passing yards, 173 rushing yards, and 584 receiving yards in ‘08.

Edgar Thielor
WR 6-3 193
Butler County CC
Bradenton, Fla.
Physical possession receiver with excellent ball skills. Three Star prospect rated by scout.com.

Austin Tortle
OL 6-4 300
Ocoee
Ocoee, Fla.
All-Pinellas County selection, First Team 7-3A All District.

Rockey Vann
WR 6-0 170
Okeechobee
Okeechobee, Fla.
Committed verbally to FIU last August. First Team All-District 4A.

Jarius Williams
WR 6-5 187
Miami Central
Miami, Fla.
Will give FIU immediate size upgrade at wide receiver. Played in Dade vs. Broward All-Star Game.

Derek Wilkerson
OL 6-5 275
Holladay
Miami, Fla.
Holladays Offensive Line MVP. Preseason All-Broward. Committed to FIU verbally in September.

*Transferred from Mississippi St. Must sit out for one year

Back to the Future

When he first arrived at FIU, Cristobal had planned to bring in a major conference starting experience to FIU at the quarterback position in 2010. The store front of college football recruiting has become a place where players and coaches wait to prey on unsuspecting youngsters, who, while perhaps just wanting to play football, may be lured from the conformity of NCAA regulations in an effort to capitalize