College of Law begins search for new dean

FRANCISCO MARADIGA
Contributing Writer

Founding law school Dean Leonard Strickman retired last summer. The law school, which achieved full accreditation by the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools, had been under construction for nearly a decade. The dean for the College of Law Search and Screen Committee has been trusted to find his replacement.

“It’s time, every decade, to bring in a new leadership,” said Strickman. “It was the most exciting job of my life.”

Strickman foresees that the coming years will be less fun with a budget crisis looming. The next dean will have to maintain the quality of the school with the precarious formula of more students plus less money.

“I hope that the financial situation is not too scary for good people to be intimidated,” Strickman said.

The Search Committee is made up of nine members, four of which were appointed by Provost Ronald L. Helms. The appointees include the Chair, Dean John Rock of the medical school and College of Law faculty members Scott F. Norberg, Manuel A. Gomez and Associate Dean and Faculty Administrator for the dean’s office, Michelle D. Mason.

Elected faculty members include Joelle Anne Moreno and Stanley Fish.
Search committee off to a late start

The search committee off to a late start

The search committee debated what kind of philosophy the new dean would have toward the College of Law, whether it should have a local or national focus. The위원장 added that he was looking for in a new dean, "A couple of things always come up -- where are students looking for in a new dean," Otusanya said. "A couple of things always come up -- who can bring more money to the school and who can get us jobs?" The group of nine sifted through applicants' resumes and discussed the merits in various public meetings, leading to some complications with reports from local associations.

The Miami Herald and the Sun Sentinel both published stories that indicated S. Attorney R. Alex Acosta was the leading candidate for the deanship. The Miami Herald suggested that the candidate with dates had been whisked down to 10. They had not, however, those 10 were a primary list. The author of the story, Luisa Vazquez, told The Beacon that the confusion stemmed from an editing error that took out words like "initial list" from the final story. This prompted a response from the committee. "We have and continue to receive applications from throughout the country to lead this young and promising law school," Rock said through a press release. "We will not settle on anyone until we are absolutely certain that we have chosen the right candidate." Rock said he did not feel rushed to find a replacement by the summer, when the current dean is set to step down on July 1. "The search got started too late," said Strickman, as he would have liked it to have started around September of last year instead of November. "I'm a little bit concerned." Strickman added that he was nevertheless optimistic and that despite the late start the committee seems to be chugging along. The search committee is set to present the provost with the primary findings of their initial interviews Feb. 28.

The Beacon is published on Thursdays and Fridays during the fall and spring semesters, and once a week during summer. The Beacon is 48 pages long with 50 columns. The Beacon is one of the largest student-run newspapers in the U.S. Century Bank Arena and the event sold for $25 for floor seating in the U.S. Century Bank Arena and $20 for bleacher seating. The total cost of bringing Legend to the University was $50,000.

ROSENBERG SPEAKS
Former Chancelor of the Florida Board of Governors, Mark Rosenberg, was among guests at the meeting. Rosenberg, who was also provost at FIU from 1998 to 2005, has been cited as a possible candidate for the FIU presidency.

"There's a process that's very important for the University. The University needs to get a strong pool of candidates and I hope that I am in that pool," Rosenberg said.

Rosenberg is on sabbatical at the moment but will be returning to FIU as a political science professor this Fall.

LEGEND REFUNDS
Also discussed at the meeting was the cancellation of musician John Legend's performance that was set for Feb. 11. Questions about refunds for students who purchased tickets are floating through the Student Government Association.

“We’ve been in contact with Legend’s agency and they’ve already cut us a check for the refund. We’re still working on how to hold the refund but I hope that by this time next week, refunds will be going through,” said Jose Toscano, SGA advisor.

Full refunds will be given to the student body. Legend canceled his lecture/ performance, “An Evening with John Legend,” following the death of his grandfather last Monday. Tickets for the event sold for $25 for floor seating in the U.S. Century Bank Arena and $20 for bleacher seating.

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LEADERS TALK: Sweetwater Mayor Manuel M. Maroño (left) and Arthur A.J. Meyer, president of SGC-UP (right) at the Feb. 18 joint meeting held in the Sweetwater City Hall.

SAO, page 1

utes, so they had to look elsewhere." That’s where the city of Sweetwater stepped in.

“What we are looking to build are mixed-use facilities – buildings that would have retailers on the first floor, several floors of parking – depending on the amount of residential units per building," explained Lago.

The area between 109th and 107th Avenue from Flagler Street to Seventh Court would become a downtown leading to FIU Retailers would include coffee shops, restaurants and businesses built to cater to the University.

No franchises or businesses have been approached on setting up the plans still in their early phases and no specific building plans have been made.

“Why we’re in the process of altering our zoning areas at this time,” Lago said.

“Our take care of that, we’ll start moving forward with it,” Lago continued.

Other plans discussed during the meeting included construction of a pedestrian bridge across S.W. Eighth Street into Sweetwater to make the town more accessible to students and an elevated bike path extending from UP to the Engineering School campus on 107th Avenue and Flagler.

This movement toward integration with FIU follows the announcement of Sweetwater’s intentions to locate the area of Dolph Mall, a three-square-mile area north of the city that lands between Northwest 25th Street and Northwest 107th Avenue to the Florida Turnpike extension.

The Metropolitan Center at FIU has been lured by the city for $10,000 to investigate the city’s possible budget if the annexation occurs, as reported in The Miami Herald on Jan. 9.

This is a groundbreaking day. This is the birth of a relationship between our University and Sweetwater,” said Arthur J. Meyer, president of SGC-UP.

LEADERS TALK: Sweetwater Mayor Manuel M. Maroño (left) and Arthur A.J. Meyer, president of SGC-UP (right) at the Feb. 18 joint meeting held in the Sweetwater City Hall.

The search committee debated what kind of philosophy the new dean would have toward the College of Law, whether it should have a local or national focus. The chairwoman added as he would have liked it to have started around September of last year instead of November. "I'm a little bit concerned." Strickman added that he was nevertheless optimistic and that despite the late start the committee seems to be chugging along. The search committee is set to present the provost with the primary findings of their initial interviews Feb. 28.

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Chief of staff to work on attendance

BARBARA QUIJANO
Asst. News Director

As the person responsible for supervising the involvement of cabinet members and their attendance at Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus meetings, Alejandra Salgado herself has had a tough time meeting those requirements due to a tight schedule managing school, a job and an SGA position.

Salgado, a sophomore majoring in health services administration, has been SGC-BBC chief of staff since Summer 2008. She had been an intern for that same position from Summer 2007 until Spring 2008.

Born and raised in Ecuador, Salgado came to Miami in 1999 when she was nine.

After moving a lot, she finally graduated in 2007 from Michael Krop High School in the top 18 percent of her class.

Today, as the person responsible for cabinet members and keeping track of their time cards, Salgado’s duties include e-mailing SGC-BBC members to remind them of their duties and putting time cards in their mailboxes every two weeks.

“She is part of the Executive Board of SGC-BBC and she helps President Ana Maria Silva monitor and manage the cabinet,” said Kenatha Paul, SGC-BBC vice president. “She is very committed and reliable; she’s a wonderful asset to the team.”

While salaried workers for a specific school, cabinet members generally attend to student and faculty needs. Other cabinet positions include intern coordinator, executive assistant and special events director.

“Usually we have eight positions open, but they are currently all filled and I look over what they do;” Salgado said.

When a student is hired for an SGC-BBC position, Silva and Salgado are in charge of informing them of their biweekly timecard. SGC-BBBC members are then required to hand in their timecard to Salgado, along with a report detailing their goals and details of how they have accomplished for the term.

“It look over it and make an evaluation and give it to both the president and vice president,” Salgado said. “I only do a part of it. I can’t do the whole thing.”

Executive cabinet members set and maintain a minimum of five weekly office hours, three of which must be in the office itself, according to the SGA Constitution.

Despite her enjoyment in helping students, Salgado has not been able to meet this requirement and some SGC-BBC staff members believe it is because of private issues.

“For various personal reasons (Salgado) hasn’t been seen for the past three months,” said Sholom Neinstein, speaker of the Senate.

However, according to Salgado, it is a tight schedule what has caused her to not meet the three-hour-per-week requirement.

“I’m only here on Wednesdays because of the general meetings, that’s why.” Salgado said. “It’s nothing personal. All of my classes are at night and I work during the day. This semester has just been difficult for me.”

The constitution states that the SGC-BBC president, if deemed necessary, after consultation with the executive board and chief of staff, may also remove an executive cabinet member.

“If you don’t show up to a certain amount of meetings, you’re fired,” Salgado said. “But that’s not enforced.”

Despite her current minimal involvement, one of her goals is to make sure cabinet members have their goals met and fulfilled before the term ends.

“SGA has made me more assertive and experienced. It’s more responsibility because I’m held accountable in doing what I have to do,” said Salgado. “Even though people don’t do what they are supposed to do, it’s a job and I take it seriously.”

A tight budget need not deter a fun-filled weekend

This weekend I was planning on going out to a bar or a restaurant or two. Unfortunately, things didn’t really go that way because my debit card was stolen while I was getting my eyebrows threaded.

After I went through the motions of canceling it, I realized the repercussions of losing a card during a weekend, when all banks are closed.

It turns out, Walmart will give you up to $20 cash back if you write a check for $30 more than your total bill.

While that money was a blessing, it was not strong enough to wake an addict like me up in the morning.

I ordered the Big Apple Special, which consists of two eggs, home fries and either toast or a bagel for only $3.95.

The food was out quickly and really good. I never had home fries with onions before, which was different, but very good nonetheless.

The only complaint I have is that the coffee is not strong enough to wake an addict like me up in the morning.

But I have yet to go to a restaurant that has coffee worth raving about, so I won’t hold it against them.

After eating brunch, I was down to only $13.

On Sunday, I went over to Town Center Park, at 7260 Collins Ave., Sunny Isles Beach.

This is a great place to spend a quiet weekend and to have a small picnic with a friend. To save money, my friend Beth and I came to this park with sandwiches we made at home and a couple of bottles of water.

The park is really cute, with tons of open space and a playground for those of us who want to re-enact our childhoods.

I am normally not the type of girl who wants to spend a second outside more than I have to, but if I could tolerate this place, anyone can.

One downside is that if you are like me and curse a lot, be careful at this park. There are little kids at the playground, so watch your mouth.

I managed to spend the whole weekend having fun and spent only the $7 I spent on breakfast. Shocking, right?

Hopefully I won’t lose my card again anytime soon, because there are still plenty of places around here that I need to spend money to enjoy.

Read Weekends with Paradise every other Friday for more tips on places to go in the North Miami area. If you have any suggestions, e-mail paradise.afshar@fiu.edu.
In November 2008, the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico made a call for statehood. ... Congress must respect this democratic mandate and act.

The U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico are making a call for statehood. Accordingly, they look to Congress to resolve Puerto Rico's status dilemma through a federally-mandated referendum. Congress must respect this democratic mandate and act for the betterment of democracy and equality at home.

While in the past and even to this day it seemed as though the issue is one in which we are evenly divided, this is not the case.

The trend in recent years has been clear and absolute, the number of Puerto Ricans who said "Go into all the world and fulfill the words of Jesus Christ" is on the rise. This idea keeps me on the ropes. But this won't happen unless the city realizes that an MLB team is the way to pay around $400 million to the county. What they appear to differ in is the wrongful apportionment of community capital.

The county did strike a deal: the city receives as a city from tourist funds for private profit, this local government agrees to use "bed taxes," or the money we receive as a city from tourist spending.
The award season comes to an end on Sunday night when the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences present the 81st Academy Awards. The famous faces of the film industry will come to find out who will become the new recipients of the little golden man known as Oscar.

While I still feel that the Academy is out of touch since the best film of the year, The Dark Knight, was not nominated for most of the major awards, here are my predictions on who will go on to win the Academy Award on Sunday night.

2008 became the year of the movie Slumdog Millionaire. The first major award that the movie will receive on Sunday will be for achievement in directing. Danny Boyle has been receiving endless awards for directing Slumdog Millionaire, including the Director’s Guild of America award. I believe there is no chance that any of the other nominees will receive the Oscar here.

Slumdog Millionaire is about a young man named Jamal Malik (Dev Patel) from the slums of Mumbai who is on the verge of winning 20 million rupees on India’s “Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?”

When he is suspected of cheating, he is taken to a police station and interrogated by a police inspector. Jamal reveals the inspector that each question he answered on the show was a key element to his life story.

Slumdog Millionaire has managed to win every major award for best film from the Golden Globe, Critics Choice Award and the National Board of Review. There is no doubt that this movie will receive the Academy Award for Best Motion Picture of 2008.

Moving on from Slumdog, we have the Best Supporting Actress category, which is definitely a toss-up between all five nominees.

In the first place, all of the candidates are worthy of the honor of being nominated. While Amy Adams and Viola Davis were truly amazing in the film Doubt, their nominations will all but cancel each other out. This will make it a three-way race to the Oscars. Oscar-winner Marisa Tomei turns in an amazing performance in The Wrestler as a stripper who falls for a broken-down professional wrestler.

Taraji P. Henson has an amazing turn in The Curious Case of Benjamin Button as Benjamin’s (Brad Pitt) adopted mother and manages to keep her performance top notch when she ages from 18 to 80. I believe, however, the Oscar will go to Penelope Cruz as the suicidal and hot-headed wife of a Spanish painter in Woody Allen’s latest film, Vicky Cristina Barcelona.

Her performance is truly outstanding and she manages to steal every scene from her co-stars.

No disrespect to any of the other nominees for Best Actor in a Supporting Role, but Heath Ledger absolutely deserves and will get the Oscar. Some say that no matter who wins he will get the award out of pure sympathy because this was his last completed film role and the Academy wants to give it to him posthumously.

However, Ledger still would have deserved the Oscar because he managed to become the best part in the biggest movie of the year. He was dark and unpredictable with a wicked sense of humor. Oscar night will be the night that Ledger will rightfully earn his first Oscar.

Another category that is a battle of the old and new is the Best Actress cate.

There is a battle of the old school vs. new school. You have an established Oscar-winner Meryl Streep facing multiple time nominee but never winner Kate Winslet.

Streep is a veteran who has been honored with Oscars for both Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress, as well as being nominated for several other roles. She manages to command the screen with her performance in Doubt as a strict nun at a Catholic school who accuses a priest of molesting a young boy.

Despite her great performance in that film. I believe the Oscar will finally go to Kate Winslet. Since being nominated for the first time in 1995 for her role in Sense & Sensibility, Winslet has only received six nominations, but has yet to win. I thought she would have been nominated for her role in Revolutionary Road, but instead she was nominated for her role in The Reader, where she plays a woman who has a relationship with a man half her age and is put on trial for committing war crimes as a Nazi.

Two men who started their careers in the 1980s face off in the Best Actor category, historically the main event of the Oscar ceremony.

In 2003, Sean Penn finally got his first Oscar as a grieving father looking for justice in Clint Eastwood’s film, Mystic River.

This year, Penn is nominated again as Harvey Milk in Milk, in which he plays the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in the United States, who was tragically gunned down by a disgruntled supervisor after a falling out occurred between the two men.

His main competition is Mickey Rourke, whose career had gone off the tracks along with his personal life in recent years.

However, he has made an amazing comeback with his role as a retired professional wrestler looking for redemption in The Wrestler.

With this showdown on the horizon, I think Rourke will come out on top as the Best Actor.

The Cinematic is a weekly column about all things movies. Look for it every Friday.
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**Point guard shows desire to win; rest of team fails to follow suit**

A friend of mine once told me that basketball is a game about desire. I want to win this more than you and my desire will overcome yours.

On Wednesday night, point guard Michelle Gonzalez had that desire as she knocked down four of the Golden Panthers did. She attempted zero free throws in the game, while the Trojans got to the free-throw line. They took the lead down by four points in the second half as she was shut down by Troy’s center, Alyce Shearing. Once Shearing was assigned to lock her down, Jenkins took one shot the rest of the game. And she missed it.

Forward Monika Bosilj, the Golden Panthers’ leading scorer, was bullied by Brittnie Davis and Kirsten Smith on her way to 2-for-12 shooting night. At one point, Bosilj checked up three straight airballs from three-point land in the second half. She attempted zero free throws in the game, while the Trojans got to the line 28 times — more than double her free-throws.

The girls looked over at the referees, wondering why a foul wasn’t called as they let the clock wind down instead of immediately fouling the Trojans and putting them on the free-throw line.

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All standings for intramural basketball leagues are up to date as of Feb. 18.

**SUN BELT BASKETBALL SCORING (W)**

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*All records up to date as of Feb. 12*

**SUN BELT BASKETBALL STANDING (W)**

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*All records up to date as of Feb. 12*

**SPRING INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL STANDINGS**

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**SORORITY/ WOMEN’S #2**

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**FRATERNITY**

**JEWISH, page 8**

to express its dissatisfaction and urge it to allow Ram, one of the world’s top doubles players, into the country.

If Ram is kept out, the group has asked the Association of Tennis Professionals, which runs the men’s tour, to cancel next week’s tournament. The ATP already has said the UAE must “make the right decision.”

Ram was competing in a tournament in France on Wednesday and could not be reached for comment. But his agent, Amit Naor, told The Associated Press that his client is hoping to play and has already booked a ticket to Dubai for Sunday.

The controversy has trapped the UAE in its desire to host big-time global sporting events and its stance on Mideast politics. The country sees itself as a guardian of the Palestinians.

The Peer incident already has hurt the rest of the team fails to follow suit.

The operation was heavily criticized around the world and sparked a public spat with the leader of Turkey, war crimes allegations and broken ties with Venezuela, Bolivia and Qatar.

In new fallout, Swedish authorities said Sweden and Israel will play their first-round Davis Cup tennis match in an empty arena next month because of security concerns.

Several anti-Israel demonstrations are planned during the March 6-8 event.

Michael Klein, chairman of the Israel Tennis Federation, said it was a shame that political demonstrators could force Sweden to keep fans out.

**JOIN OUR STAFF!**

Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.
Golden Panthers let first-half lead slip; last-second mistake costs them game

ANDREW JULIAN
Sports Director

A furious second-half rally by the Troy Trojans sent the Golden Panthers into the loss column for the 20th time this season.

Despite a career-high 27 points from point guard Michelle Gonzalez and holding an 11-point halftime lead, FIU (6-20, 4-11 Sun Belt) lost 62-61 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena on Feb. 18.

The Golden Panthers are now out of the running for a game in the first round of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

FIU jumped out to an early 9-4 lead on the two field goals apiece from Jasmine Jenkins and Gonzalez.

From there, Troy (13-13, 8-8) was able to fight back and tie the contest at 11.

For the game Shearing finished with 21 points, with 2:08 remaining, Gonzalez warmed up in a hurry.

In the waning moments of the game, the point guard nailed 5-of-5 three-point attempts to pull the team within one with four seconds to play. But the Golden Panthers could not manage to foul and the clock expired.

"Clutch, that’s what was in my mind. I had to score and nobody was scoring,” said Gonzalez, who set a new career-high for three-pointers in a game and tied the single game school record, set by Gergana Slavtcheva in March 2001.

The game was tied at 20 and that’s when FIU made its move.

FIU would trail by as many as 11, but Gonzalez was the only Golden Panther who finished with eight for the fame, over the last 6:27 of the half to close on a 15-4 run.

Over that span, the Golden Panthers forced four turnovers and allowed Troy to make just two of six field goal and FIU forced four turnovers and allowed Troy to make just two of six field goal and FIU hit three shots from beyond the arc for just five second-half points and the bench added just two, while shooting 36 percent as a team in the second stanza.

This game marks the first time in head coach Cindy Russo’s coaching career that a team of hers has lost 20 games in a single season. It’s also the first 20-loss season in FIU’s history.

The Jewish umbrella group, which is holding meetings in Jerusalem this week, called the decision “offensive, discriminatory and unacceptable.”

In an interview, the conference’s executive vice chairman said his group had urged WTA tour chief Larry Scott to cancel the women’s tournament next year if Dubai did not change its policy.

“There has to be some price,” Malcolm Hoenlein said. “History teaches us if you let a thing like this go, it grows, and if people perceive it as a license to discriminate, there will be no limit.”

He said Scott was “very responsive” but offered no immediate promises.

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