Convocation recognizes notable faculty

W. Kinzy Jones receives highest faculty award, gets $12,500

DAVID BARBOS
Staff Writer

Dressed in black gowns and caps, signifying their experience and various disciplines, dozens of University faculty members stood in a single-file line, with the sun beating down on them, awaiting the beginning of the 2009 Faculty Convocation held Sept. 17.

More than 400 members of the faculty, along with guests, sat in the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center to honor 17 faculty members that were recognized for outstanding work in their fields of education and research. W. Kinzy Jones won the President’s Council Outstanding Faculty Award and $12,500.

Jones, a professor for the College of Engineering and Computing, has taught at the University for 24 years and is recognized for many breakthroughs in microelectronics, such as the first demonstrated micro heat pipe and methanol fuel cell embedded in ceramic packaging. Jones is also established director of the Advanced Materials Engineering Research Institute, and Motorola Nanofabrication Facility. Arvind Agarwal, an associate professor for the College of Engineering and Computing, and David Lee, professor of biology, were also recognized at the ceremony and awarded $2,000 each. Lee is the author of Nature’s Palette and a specialist in color in plants.

Agarwal is credited for raising more than $3 million in research grants as the sole principal investigator from federal agencies such as the National Science Foundation, the Air Force Office of Scientific Research and NASA.

“We’re not supposed to have set routes. We’re not supposed to have a set loop, Panther Tram sets priorities by helping the handicapped first, following the list second and, on occasion, picking up a student hailing them,” said Regina Johnson, a nursing professor who was awarded a nursing award. “We get a lot of calls and we’ll take you there, but we get backed up. Some students complain, but they’re on a waiting list. We get to you as fast as we can,” Johnson said.

On average, the Panther Tram team consists of eight students, four working at a time. There are three carts and one dispatcher on duty each shift.

According to Foster, student drivers for the Panther Tram make $8 the hour. Employee wages, combined with fuel, maintenance and care add up to about $50,000 annually.

“SGA and Parking and Transportation provide the funding,” Foster said.
convocation, page 1

the Convocation Committee consisted of members of the Provost Office and was scheduled between 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., a time whereby no regularly scheduled classes are held at the University.

Faculty awards are given by the Faculty Senate to members of the faculty who have been nominated by fellow professors for outstanding displays in areas such as teaching, research, mentorship, service and advising.

The President’s Council awards are issued by the council, which consists of community leaders who advise the president.

Agarwald, Lee also recognized

CONVOCATION, page 1

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Faculty member fired, charged with credit card misuse

Jorge Valens
Asst. News Director

A faculty member was fired due to improper use of a University procurement card.

In an e-mail to the University community, President Mark B. Rosenberg stated that a “senior member of the faculty” did not follow proper guidelines and procedures with regard to the use of a University procurement card, credit cards given to certain faculty members for business related purchases.

Rosenberg did not reveal the name of the faculty member, nor the amount of money that was spent.

“Policies and procedures are in place to ensure the public’s continuing trust in our University and the safeguarding of financial resources,” Rosenberg said in the e-mail. “We must ensure that all units are operating consistent with University policies, procedures and state law.”

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Professor to talk on students’ news habits

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Staff Writer

Jane Daugherty, associate professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, wonders if this generation is receiving too much information but not enough news.

In an upcoming lecture, sponsored by the Honors College, Daugherty will speak on a study she is conducting about what kinds of news people absorb and where they get that news.

“This is an area that’s very interesting,” she said. “It’s an area that’s very interesting to me, and I think it’s really important to our country,” Daugherty said.

Daugherty is a four-time winner of the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for her 30-year career as an investigative reporter and editor at the Palm Beach Post, including the Year by the National Association of Black Journalists.

She was also named Journalist of the Year by the National Association of Lesbian and Gay Journalists in 2004 for her 30-year career as an investigative reporter and editor at The Miami Herald, Detroit Free Press, St. Petersburg Times and Palm Beach Post.

“For me, journalism is about getting information. I don’t need to go somewhere to find out what other people have to say at the end,” Alvirvisi said.

However, sophomore biology major Jamil Charles said he won’t be asking questions and giving feedback.

“I like journalism, and I would like to hear what other people have to say at the end,” Alvirvisi said.

But Daugherty is a faculty member of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

She invited her classes to come to the lecture, but would be happy for anyone in other classes to attend as well.

She will dedicate some time toward the end of the lecture for students to ask questions and give feedback.

“I don’t like sermons,” she said. “I don’t like sermons.” Daugherty is a four-time winner of the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for her 30-year career as an investigative reporter and editor at the Palm Beach Post.

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Immigration reform still necessary in U.S.

Congress treats issue as election fodder

JUSTIN JANS
Contributing Writer

As a melting pot, the United States has always drawn immigrants. I come from a Cuban and Polish immigrant ancestry myself.

So-called immigration reform, however, concerns mostly illegal immi-
grant s. Illegal immigration— an issue that has been debated by congressmen and pundits— has drawn a lot of necessary attention.

Unfortunately, the topic, despite its importance, has been casually tossed around by politicians who do not realize its severity.

According to a Sept. 13 article in the Washington Post, the number of illegal immigrants in the U.S. is around 11 or 12 million. While not as high as it used to be, it’s still a large number of people, and that’s why we still need immigration reform.

Several policies have been made to try and introduce some changes, such as expanding and enforcing the E-verify system, which helps check workers who are illegal immigrants.

While this is a step in the right direction, our policy-makers promised to get a bill formed after they finish with the healthcare and climate change bills, which could take a while.

We need to make sure that our po-
licians keep their promises. We need to make sure that immigration issue isn’t lost or pushed back indefinitely.

Politicians, however, see things differ-
ently. Instead of directly addressing illegal immigration, some use the issue as a distraction.

Rep. Joe Wilson’s outburst during Pres-
ident Obama’s Sept. 9 address to Congress made this evident; he called the president a liar on the president’s aser-
dite the process as well as entice prospec-
tive immigrants into pursuing the legal avenue of immigration. This should raise the wages of legal workers in the U.S.

Examine the evidence: The Washington Times and The Atlantic Journal-Constitu-
tion have reported that illegal immigration is starting to plateau and even decline.

Keeping a strong position on an issue seems to be losing its support in a losing battle, but politicians also can’t be seen backing down from it and appear weak. We need someone in Congress who has the actual statistics to clarify what the state of immigration is.

Several newspapers have reported an evening-out and even a decrease in the number of illegal immigrants coming into the United States.

GC improvements are necessary, not frivolous

ANTHONY RIONDO MYKAELLE FIGUEREDO
Special to The Beacon

Fellow Golden Panthers, we hope your Fall semester is going well so far.

In the previous issue of The Beacon, a Letter to the Editor came to our attention. In this letter, a group of students critiqued the use of funding within Student Government as being frivolous.

We would like to first say that the current oper-
ing budget was allocated by the Budget Committee of the previous Student Government administration.

The Activity and Services fees collected from students and allocated through SGA are for the benefit of the student body. The Graham Center relies on funding from SGA to provide many of its services to the student body.

In the past few years, portions of GC have needed renova-
tions or technological upgrades, such as the carpeting of the ballrooms.

The ballrooms have not been renovated since 1992, when they were first constructed. As one of the main areas used by students, it is an important venue to maintain.

To ensure that not only the aesthetic look is maintained, but also that the building is able to withstand years’ worth of use, industrial grade materials are being selected to guarantee the look and sustainability of the ballrooms.

Also, only part of the funding given to GC is being used on the ballrooms. The remaining portions are being used for key areas such as GC 140 and the newly constructed student lounge, which has quickly become one of the most used areas in GC.

Chairs for classrooms cannot be allocated through A&S fee dollars and are currently on order through the department of Academic Space and Sched-
uling. This is the last phase in the renovation of all of the GC classrooms.

This year, we experimented on a combined student govern-
ment retreat. The retreat was a success, and helped save $20,000 in costs from 2008. In its second year, we are already planning to increase savings by another $20,000 for 2010.

During the retreat, many ideas for improving student life were discussed. Among them was the idea to incorporate LCD screens into the Panther TV project.

This project, or any other television production effort, cannot begin without a means to display it. The LCD screens will be a valuable investment for the student body. An imme-
diate advantage is the reduction of paper waste and the ability for student groups to advertise their events.

In the long term, the screens will also be used to showcase student productions, many of which have been prerecorded and await their debut in GC.

In addition to helping the envi-
ronment and showcasing student march, the LCD screens will also help SGA connect with students by broadcasting our weekly SGA meetings.

We hope that students will attend the weekly SGA meet-
ings held in GC 150 at 4 p.m. on Monday and Wednesdays.

These meetings are the best place to learn more about daily SGA functions.

Don’t forget to support our Golden Panthers at our first home FIU football game this Saturday at 7 p.m., or any of the volleyball, swimming, diving and soccer games.

Anthony Riondo is the presi-
dent of the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus and Mykaelle Figuereido is vice president of SGC-MMC.
Amazon's paperless reading tool doesn't
drive home the point about it is that Amazon released an
app for the iPhone and iPod Touch that can read all the books you’ve
purchased on the Web site.

The reason the Kindle is so
offensively expensive is because it
utilizes Sprint's EV-DO network, the
data network used by Sprint cell phones, to connect to
Amazon's extensive online
t图书馆. Amazon calls the internet service “Whis-

Kindle engineers, in
their infinite wisdom, opted to not
include Wi-Fi in the Kindle's hard-
ware specifications. There is no
excuse for this whatsoever. It’s a
21st century, they make toastmakers
as we just saw, a toaster that is
able to make toast from a device at a
whim. This was discovered in July of 2009
when Amazon ironically released two
popular George Orwell books,
Animal Farm and 1984, from the
hard drives of Kindle users who
were not interested in paying. This
was done after Amazon
noticed that the publisher didn’t
have the rights to publish the books in
question. However, users right-
fullly argued that this went against
Amazon's own terms of service.

Having used the device for a little
over two months, I can safely say that
paper is far from obsolete. The
device is a neat idea, but its poor
execution, limited hardware and odd
pricing structure is ultimately what
is holding it back.

Currently, Amazon e-books cost
$9.99. Subscriptions to popular
newspapers like The New York Times
and The Wall Street Journal come in
between $13.99 and $14.99 respectively
each month.

The paper does not automatically
update news, and only updates the
information once daily.

Coming from a guy who is writing
a textbook in hope of
becoming a professor, one would
think that I would be defending the
Kindle. However, what I value most
in a device is practicality.

Ultimately, the Kindle won’t make paper obsolete. Paper is
sturdy, simple, proven and, most
importantly, doesn’t need batteries. People like to read on the
morning over coffee, or walk in a
to a room and see their collection of
books and not have to worry about
being torn around a $300 device every-
where they go.

Interview with Rionda

Rionda talks favorite
books, campus spots

DAVID A. BARROS

Student Government Council at Moderno Maidique Campus Presi-
dent Antonio Rionda took time last Thursday to sit down and chat with
The Beacon about a few things.

Rionda represents the
students while also sitting on the Board of
Trustees.

The Beacon: Just wanted to thank you for
taking time to talk with us.
So, I’d like to start off with a serious question that my grand-
mother asked: thoughts on Juanes in Havana?

Just kidding. Look, everything in Cuba is political. He should not be
performing a concert there simply in respect for all of those people who
leave for the sake of freedom.

TB: Of course, you are presi-
dent of SGCM-MMC. As a student
and as a leader, who do you
ﬁ nd to be your favorite leaders
throughout history? Who do you
look to?

AR: Favorite leaders through-
out history? I think Theodore Roo-
sevelt. I think he saw the importance of
things that might not have been
commonplace in that time; the
preservation of history and the rights of
individuals to succeed without huge
government intervention.

I look back to those who thought
outside of the box to solve common-
place issues. President Eisenhower... building a simple interstate
highway system to allow people to
move around. Also, JFK, for making politics popular.

Walt Disney: He built some-
thing out of nothing. That
tells a lot to us about FIU — built out of nothing and
has gotten somewhere in a small amount of time.

TB: Well, you seem to note
a lot of people who proposed things
that would have been rejected
simply because they seem too far
fetch. You being a leader; do you
feel that you’d have to support
something that you felt was right
but perhaps those you represent
would go against?

AR: Tuition. I voted in June to
raise tuition. I know it’s not popular.
If you asked 40,000 students to vote on
it, you’d get 39,000 no’s and
maybe 1,000 yes’s.

I voted for that seeing that the
University wouldn’t survive without it. We would all suffer. That
our education would suffer. That our
degrees would be worthless. That we’d lose
professors. That we’d lose vital services. That we’d have even

Interview, page 6
Rionda reflects on his favorite movies, music, eats

**INTERVIEW, page 5**

less classes available. And we all come to college to get an education and that’s investment in it that’s important. Sometimes you’ve got to make that decision but in the best interest for all.

**TB:** Alright. Let’s move on to some lighter questions. Let’s say it’s lunchtime on campus and you want something to eat. Where are we going to find Anthony Rionda?

**[Laughs]** **AR:** I usually go to Pollo Tropical.

**TB:** What do you get?

**AR:** I have three things I usually pick from. I usually get the churrasco or a Tropi Chop. And I always get Fried Yuca. They know me there already. They ask if I want the normal one or the one with cheese. Either that or I’ll go to Breezeway and get a slice of pizza.

**TB:** Another question. Why Pollo?

**AR:** I don’t like talking about my fraternity in my position of power. I joined an organization just like many people joined an organization, clubs and honors societies because they liked what it offered.

They liked the people in it and they thought it could make them a better person and that they could contribute to it.

**TB:** Here’s something that is very simple but can be very difficult: favorite book, movie and song.

**AR:** My favorite book is Devil in the White City by Eric Larson. My favorite movie is Inglorious Basterds and song is “We Didn’t Start the Fire” by Billy Joel.

**TB:** What are your thoughts on the new Beatles remasters? Are you excited?

**AR:** Oh, of course. It’s really great. **TB:** What do you think about Twilight?

**AR:** Never read it. I’m much more of a Harry Potter person.

**TB:** What is it about Harry Potter that you like?

**AR:** I just started reading it 10 years ago and I just stayed hooked. **TB:** What about Inglorious Basterds for that matter?

**AR:** Now that was a great movie. It’s entertaining and funny and also shows a twist on history that a lot of people wished had happened. Grouesome as hell but quite entertaining.

**TB:** Finally, what’s your favorite place on campus?

**AR:** Let me think. [Pauses to reflect] My favorite place on campus, and you are going to laugh at me, has to be the second floor of the bookstore.

**TB:** Ready?

**AR:** There’s something about it. You can just sit out there and just see people walking. The Pit in the second place. There’s never a dull time there. Something’s always going on. My favorite spot used to be out in front of the airport tower where some of Charles Perry’s ashes were buried. That is now where SIBA is being built. Those are places to reflect. My favorite place to just look at the campus is from the top of the stadium, just under the scoreboard. You can see housing, PC, and the Graham Center, you can see the tower, the airport and Miami in general.

**THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS**

**MONDAY, SEPT. 21**

**CAMPUS BIBLE FELLOWSHIP MEETING**

Join the message at this meeting.

WHERE: 11 a.m.
WHERE: GC Pit
WHERE: GC 314

**NATIONAL PANHELLENIC COUNCIL**

A lecture for FIU’s Greeks today!

WHERE: 12 p.m.
WHERE: GC Pit
WHERE: GC 314

**COLLEGE DEMOCRATS**

Speak up about your political views at this meeting!

WHERE: 7 p.m.
WHERE: GC Pit
WHERE: GC 314

**PREKSHA MEDITATION**

Realize your own self with this meditation.

WHERE: 4 p.m.
WHERE: GC Pit
WHERE: GC 314

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 22**

**TRUE FOR LIFE MEETING**

Learn and analyze the bible with this club.

WHERE: 7 p.m.
WHERE: GC Pit
WHERE: GC 241

**FIU SHALOM MEETING**

Support Israeli causes at this meeting!

WHERE: 5 p.m.
WHERE: GC Pit
WHERE: GC 243

**JAZZ OPEN MIC**

Raise your voice—or, just make ten laugh.

WHERE: 10 p.m.
WHERE: GC Pit
WHERE: GC 314

**CHOSEN GENERATION MEETING**

Join a life changing service at this event.

WHERE: 7 p.m.
WHERE: GC Pit
WHERE: GC 314

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 23**

**FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION MEETING**

Meet the leaders of the arts community with this meeting!

WHERE: 3:45 p.m.
WHERE: GC Pit
WHERE: GC 305

**CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY MASS**

Reach out to touch faith at this service.

WHERE: 12:30 p.m.
WHERE: GC Pit
WHERE: GC 305

**GIANT FOODS LIVES MEETING**

Gain some insight on this game of life.

WHERE: 3:30 p.m.
WHERE: GC Pit
WHERE: GC 305

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 24**

**THE CIRCUS AT CHURCHILLS**

Join this weekly local music party with many TU musicians.

WHERE: 10 p.m.
WHERE: GC Pit
WHERE: GC 305

**CHURCHILLS**

Meet friends with other Bars at this event!

WHERE: 3 p.m.
WHERE: GC Pit
WHERE: GC 305

**PHARMACY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING**

Enjoy the classic power of Popeye with this club.

WHERE: 4 p.m.
WHERE: GC Pit
WHERE: GC 305

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Knights contain Panthers’ late comeback

FIU offense silent for first three quarters

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

A strong defensive effort was not able to make up for a lackluster offense for most of the night as FIU fell 23-15 at Rutgers on Sept. 19.

A something pass rush led by Jonathan Freeny led to five combined sacks for Rutgers (2-1) and a 38-yard interception return by Ryan D’Imperio in the fourth quarter put the game out of reach for FIU (0-2).

Otherwise, the Golden Panthers defense, led by linebacker Scott Bryant’s 12 tackles and Thutcher Starling’s 1.5 sacks, kept Rutgers in check.

Trailing 23-0, FIU ran out of time after Paul McCall threw two touchdown passes to T.Y. Hilton, the second coming with 0:31 left in the contest. After a two-point conversion was converted on another pass to Hilton, FIU followed with an onside kick attempt that Rutgers recovered at the Golden Panthers 37-yard line to end the game.

“A hard fought game, but we got going too late against Rutgers for that they did a good job stuffing us early defensively,” FIU coach Mario Cristobal said.

“You don’t go on the road and play that well defensively early on and not produce as much as you can offensively.”

OUT OF RHYTHM

McCall was knocked out of the game in the first quarter with a sprained right knee, opening the door for backup Wayne Younger to play. Younger was able to make some plays with his legs as he ran for 21 yards on four carries overall, but a sack by Freeny on 3rd and 16 to end the quarter after three consecutive false start penalties stalled his first drive. McCall was able to return in the second quarter, but could not muster a first down the rest of the half.

“They did a good job with their linebackers and their whole front seven, those two different facets,” Cristobal said. “They were playing good man and zone coverage. We ran the game plan as we thought it would, the running and passing game, trying to go balanced, and [Rutgers] did as we thought it would, the running and passing game.”

Rutgers had a 94-yard drive first quarter that accounted for a two-yard touchdown by quarterback Domenic Natale with 2:42 left, but FIU was able to limit the Scarlet Knights to two field goals the rest of the half. It was D’Imperio’s interception with 8:06 left in the game that made the difference in the contest.

“It was great to come back at the end but it’s meaningless when you throw an interception for a touchdown,” McCall said. “We knew exactly what they were going to do, they dropped the Mike linebacker and I thought he was going to stay up, and we should have just dumped it down.”

DEVELOPMENT

Cristobal got a chance to see a Rutgers team that was built similarly to what he hopes to accomplish at FIU. The Golden Panthers were able to compete with a Rutgers team that has won three straight bowl games.

“They are a more physically mature football team,” he said. “They’re in year nine and we’re in year three of a very similar project. That puts it in very clear perspective.”

Rutgers loss hurts; o-line must protect QB at home

Last week, they were applauded for being competitive. Despite losing by 26, there was a ferociousness that caught your eye and made you see something more than the box score.

This week, the exact opposite happened.

The 23-15 final score at Rutgers showed a lot more than what the Golden Panthers brought with them onto the field.

From the opening snap, the Scarlet Knights showed the Golden Panthers why they still aren’t on their level yet.

The question has to be “How can an eight-point loss show less than a 26-point defeat the week before?”

IGNORING THE COMEBACK

FIU’s offensive line was, once again, throttled around by a bigger, stronger and meaner defensive line.

They were unable to protect Paul McCall and give the receivers time to let their routes develop.

The only time FIU was ever really able to move the ball with any type of consistency was on two late drives when they scored to get within eight, but that was just too late to complete the comeback.

Even on those final two drives, the offensive line wasn’t getting the type of push you want, and the only reason McCall was able to hit his targets was because the Golden Panthers began relying on short routes.

Without the threat of a big play over top, and with no semblance of a running game once again, Rutgers was able to stay home on those short routes and stop the Golden Panthers’ athletic receivers from making plays in space.

If the offensive line isn’t able to get any push now that they are getting into more equal competition, the high hopes for this team won’t come true.

BACK AT HOME

There might be some disappointed fans out there (and hopefully more than a few disappointed players and coaches), but coming home next week should give the team a good chance to get back to the winning ways they got used to last year.

Coming into the home opener, the Toledo Rockets will bring their high powered offense down to Miami to try and average a home loss last year at the hand of the Golden Panthers.

A loss at home to Toledo could spell big trouble for this team. Coming back from another 0-3 start might be too much to ask, just as it was last season when the Golden Panthers fell just short of bowl contention late in the season.

If FIU can’t slow down the Rockets’ passing game, the season could get away from them in a hurry. Last season, the Golden Panthers ran for four touchdowns on the way to a 35-16 win at Toledo, and it will be imperative that they establish Darriett Perry early to give McCall time to throw.

It would be a big disappointment if the Golden Panthers were to lose their home opener again, so the team is going to need to show they are better than they’ve looked, both on the field and in the box score.