The Beacon, December 02, 2009

Florida International University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper/357

This work is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections and University Archives at FIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon) by an authorized administrator of FIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact dcc@fiu.edu.
The Senate puts off bill until Spring

Francisco Maradiaga
Staff Writer

The senate of the Student Government Council at Modesto Mastinique Campus brought forth a council bill during its Nov. 30 senatorial session that calls for the creation of an Elections Committee.

Sponsoring senators Vignesh Doraiswamy of the Honors College and William-Jose Veloz of Engineering and Computing stated to their colleagues that they were only presenting the bill to the senate for consideration, and did not have intentions of getting the bill passed during that session.

Some senators said that the proposed Elections Committee, however, could harm the already-in-place Elections Board and its role.

Sponsoring senators made it clear that the new committee would not duplicate the role of the board because it would deal with only the legislations pertaining to elections.

SACs Accreditation

Jorge Valens
Asst. News Director

The university received high marks in an off-site review report for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, according to an e-mail sent to the university community.

FIU’s Compliance Certification Report stated that the university abided by 84 of the 89 principles of accreditation, according to a statement from University Provost Douglas Wartzok.

“The off-site review team indicated that all proper policies, procedures and structures were in place,” Wartzok stated in the e-mail.

The five principles not satisfied by the University include failure to submit an audited report on the University’s finances for the 2008-09 year and two issues regarding the wording of conflict of interest policies in the University’s Board of Trustees.

Wartzok said that the issues were not going to be a problem for the University.

“We are very proud of this accomplishment, we will not rest on our laurels but will continue vigorous preparations for the off-site site visits that will occur in January and the on-campus site visit that will occur in March,” Wartzok said in a written statement.

He added that the Quality Enhancement Plan—Global Learning for Global Citizenship Project will be a focus of the University in the months approaching the on-site accreditation in March of 2010.

“Our success on these principles is a tribute to the faculty in all degree programs who have placed a high priority on assessment of student learning,” Wartzok said.

Every 10 years, SACs conducts a thorough assessment of bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral students’ scholarly activities in the southeast United States.

The full report is available on accreditation.fiu.edu.

Social media engage, inform students

Gabriel Arrarás
Staff Writer

Facebook and Twitter aren’t just about keeping up with friends and family, as many colleges and universities throughout the nation have taken advantage of these social media networks to ease communication with their faculty and students. FIU is no exception.

FIU’s Social Media Directory, an informal Web site used by the marketing department to keep track of the University’s presence online, lists 22 official FIU Facebook accounts, 13 FIU student organization Facebook pages and 41 FIU-related Facebook groups. It also lists 23 official FIU Twitter accounts as well as 10 FIU student organization Twitter accounts.

“It is important to note that we do not control or manage all the pages and accounts in the directory,” said Eduardo Merille, the director of Marketing and New Media at the University. “We are keeping this as a means to keep track of what is out there.”

Some of the features that these social media projects offer are keeping up to date with campus events on FIU Campus Life’s Facebook page, reading school news on FIU News’ Twitter page and keeping up with what’s good to eat on Panther Dining Services’ Twitter page.

Even FIU’s librarians have turned to these social media Web sites to make it easier for students to access all of the library’s resources while maintaining a closer relationship with the students.

George Pearson, a University librarian, said social media has a huge impact in academia, in libraries and in particular.

“I think the library currently sees Twitter, as well as a lot of other social media, as a marketing tool, a way to get the word out and stay in touch with our users,” Pearson said.

Pearson, as well as professors Fred Blevens and Ben Lauren, will be co-teaching a Global Learning Initiative class called How We Know What We Know in the Spring, in which they say they will attempt to include Twitter as a component of the class.

“The idea is to use Twitter during lectures, allowing students to interact with one another and the speaker, and make lectures more interactive and lively,” Pearson said.

He believes the class will use Twitter effectively because it will offer more cohesion and connectivity for the students attending the class, which is
Committee’s role generates confusion

SGC-MMC, page 1

“The committee will not serve the same purpose of the elections board,” sponsoring senator Velez clarified. “This will be only to revise the elections code and classes in the constitution.”

The bill, entitled “Elections Committee Act of 2009,” states that any bill pertaining to elections must come through the committee before being presented to the senate.

It also states that the Elections Committee would be responsible for reviewing elections held to fill vacant seats outside of a general election.

Some in student government contended at that time that special elections were not cost-effective with the amount of student turnout. SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda motioned to abolish special elections in that same July UWC meeting before withdrawing his motion in favor of the Elections Committee.

The committee, however, did not gain much traction in the senate. In the September UWC meeting, the council motioned to “force” the senate to create the committees.

At the time, SGC-MMC Senate Speaker Pro-tempore Daniela Gonzalez told Student Media that she also did not see the motion as a lambasting of the senate’s effort. The first official move to create the committee happened in the last senate meeting on Nov. 30.

The bill’s postponement, however, does not guarantee it will be passed.

Class to use Twitter to liven debates

SOCIAL MEDIA, page 1

“Many students find out about what is going on campus through Facebook or similar sites. For us, a mix of traditional communications avenues and online social networking is ideal since each channel supports the other. We launched the GoGloFIU profile about two months ago and currently we have about 700 Facebook friends who are mostly FIU students.”

“In the issue dated Nov. 25, 2009, in the article titled “Masque awarded bonus,” trustee Jorge L. Arrizurieta was wrongly identified as chairman of the faculty senate. Thomas Breslin is the current chairman.”

“Many students find out about what is going on campus through Facebook or similar sites. For us, a mix of traditional communications avenues and online social networking is ideal since each channel supports the other. We launched the GoGloFIU profile about two months ago and currently we have about 700 Facebook friends who are mostly FIU students.”

“We’re hoping to change the bound-aries somewhat and bring more people into the conversation.”

George Patrasinos, librarian

In the issue dated Nov. 25, 2009, in the article titled “Masque awarded bonus,” trustee Jorge L. Arrizurieta was wrongly identified as chairman of the faculty senate. Thomas Breslin is the current chairman.”

Dorothy Miller, assistant director of the Office of Emergency Management, sees social media networks as useful tools for warning the University community about on-campus emergencies, which could eventually lead to students receiving security alerts through some of these networks.

“If there is a major incident on campus, you can be sure the first thing students will go check is Facebook and Twitter to find out,” she said.

“The traditional lecture is a one-way conversation, usually a very passive experience for listeners. That’s not necessarily a bad thing, but we’re hoping to change the boundaries somewhat and bring more people into the conversation,” Pearson said.

Bringing more people into the conversation is one of the main objectives of the Global Learning Initiative’s Quality Enhancement Plan. Maria Cedeño, a graduate assistant for the Office of Global Learning Initiatives, believes that college students and younger generations favor interactive means of communications.

“Online social networking is a trend that is here to stay,” she said.

Class to use Twitter to liven debates

SOCIAL MEDIA, page 1

“Many students find out about what is going on campus through Facebook or similar sites. For us, a mix of traditional communications avenues and online social networking is ideal since each channel supports the other. We launched the GoGloFIU profile about two months ago and currently we have about 700 Facebook friends who are mostly FIU students.”

“We’re hoping to change the bound-aries somewhat and bring more people into the conversation.”

George Patrasinos, librarian

“Many students find out about what is going on campus through Facebook or similar sites. For us, a mix of traditional communications avenues and online social networking is ideal since each channel supports the other. We launched the GoGloFIU profile about two months ago and currently we have about 700 Facebook friends who are mostly FIU students.”

“We’re hoping to change the bound-aries somewhat and bring more people into the conversation.”

George Patrasinos, librarian

“In the issue dated Nov. 25, 2009, in the article titled “Masque awarded bonus,” trustee Jorge L. Arrizurieta was wrongly identified as chairman of the faculty senate. Thomas Breslin is the current chairman.”

Dorothy Miller, assistant director of the Office of Emergency Management, sees social media networks as useful tools for warning the University community about on-campus emergencies, which could eventually lead to students receiving security alerts through some of these networks.

“If there is a major incident on campus, you can be sure the first thing students will go check is Facebook and Twitter to find out,” she said.

“The traditional lecture is a one-way conversation, usually a very passive experience for listeners. That’s not necessarily a bad thing, but we’re hoping to change the boundaries somewhat and bring more people into the conversation,” Pearson said.

Bringing more people into the conversation is one of the main objectives of the Global Learning Initiative’s Quality Enhancement Plan. Maria Cedeño, a graduate assistant for the Office of Global Learning Initiatives, believes that college students and younger generations favor interactive means of communications.

“Online social networking is a trend that is here to stay,” she said.
Students go to Haiti, push petition

**PETITION, page 1**

Balart Building, the three student attorneys and other faculty members, including clinical assistant professor Troy Elder, stressed that recent natural disasters involving multiple hurricanes have left the poverty-stricken island with destroyed infrastructure and hundreds of thousands of homeless.

“ar 2008, this small island country saw four devastating storms and they have yet to recover from them,” said LaShawn Thomas, a third-year law student and one of the three collaborators of the petition. “We thought that with the implementation of a new [presidential] administration, a change would finally come but that change has yet to occur.”

The students feel that under the circumstances of a natural disaster, Haiti should be granted a protected status by the U.S. government, just as countries like Nicaragua, El Salvador and most recently Honduras have obtained because of political turmoil.

A temporary protection status, known as a special brief protected status, is granted to non-criminal foreign nationals living in the U.S. whose countries of origin are unable to take in their displaced nationals, and only in cases of political or civil unrest or natural disaster. Those who receive TPS are given work authorization.

The petition states that Haitians have been denied this status due to discrimination. By denying Haitians their basic human rights, they claim that the U.S. is violating the treaty obligations under the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man.

The students hope that the petition will be able to bring international attention to the issue.

Thomas added that granting TPS to Haitians already living illegally in the U.S. will allow them to send money back to their families in Haiti.

“We feel that if we can get money sent back to that country, and help build the economy and infrastructure, then they wouldn’t have to leave,” Thomas said.

As part of their research for the petition, students traveled to different areas within Haiti, such as the city of Gonaives and Cap-Haitian, in order to study the conditions of the communities affected by hurricanes.

During the trip, they gave a presentation to more than 80 people at the Universite D’etat, a university in Port-au-Prince, and announced their petition on a Haitian radio show where they answered questions from numerous callers. They were able to observe some of the conditions down there to make our petition more impacting… before that, we had just researched statistical numbers,” said Justin Cramer, a third-year law student and fellow petitioner. “Now we were able to incorporate a little bit of the actual things we had witnessed.”

The main counter-argument that the government could have against granting TPS to Haitians is the assumption that it would encourage an increase in immigration from the island to the U.S.

The petitioners argue the contrary.

“We feel that history shows that that is not the case,” said third-year law student Julian Geraci, one of the student attorneys involved in the petition. He said that in 1998, former President Clinton passed the Haitian Refugee Immigration Act, which gave legal permanent resident status to 20,000 Haitians. The act cut down illegal Haitian immigration to the U.S. by two-thirds. Once the petition gains enough signatures, it will be sent to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which will then send it back to the students along with any recommendations and concerns before finally notifying the U.S. government of its presence. The federal government will then give its position on the issue, giving students the opportunity to call for a hearing to address it.

The Immigration and Human Rights Clinic at the law school is a non-profit organization that allows law students to provide immigration services such as representation and learn about human rights issues through the cases that are brought to them.
**Lecture compares religious beliefs**

**SABRENA JOHNSON**

Staff Writer

Muslims and Jews have come to blows over the years as tensions between the two communities have collided. But what some may not know is that they were once able to live peacefully in the same land for centuries.

A scholar on Muslim-Jewish history came to the Biscayne Bay Campus on Nov. 25 to tell the audience about this time of peace.

The lecture titled “Funny, You Don’t Look Jewish,” was hosted by The Navon Program, a program part of the College of Arts and Sciences that provides academic training in Jewish and Oriental Jewish Studies.

The guest speaker was Henry Abramson, dean of academic affairs and student services at Touro College, a Jewish-sponsored institution of higher education located in New York. With a doctorate in history, he has done extensive research in the field of Jewish and Islamic history.

The purpose of the lecture was to discuss and compare the Jewish and Islamic cultures in earlier periods.

What many people may not know is that Judaism has more in common with Islam than Christianity, Abramson said.

Abramson began the lecture with the history of the Muslim prophet Muhammad and how he established the Islamic faith. According to Abramson, Muhammad was born in 570 C.E. and was an orphan of a merchant family in the city of Mecca. One day during a time of prayer and meditation, he had a divine encounter with the Archangel Gabriel, who is considered to be the highest of God’s angels, and was told that the letters of the Bible the Jews and Christians were using had flaws, and God wanted to give him the correct information.

This corrected version is what’s known today as the Quran, he said.

“Part of the miracle of the faith is that Muhammad was illiterate,” Abramson said. “This is why the Muslims believe that the message was given to him by the Archangel Gabriel.”

He explained that after Muhammad’s death, his followers tried to get people to convert to Islam.

“‘Good Night.’ It’s the Spanish translation to English, literally means ‘As God desire.’ It’s the Spanish word ‘bueno’ that is translated in English to ‘well’ or ‘good’,” Abramson said.

For spice, I add 2 teaspoons of cayenne pepper, 2 tablespoons of cumin, and 2 large cloves of garlic – the libation I am going to make is going to contain a lot of garlic. Gradually add a splash of white cooking wine, and herbs and spices, like cilantro.

Add six heads of garlic, minced - there is no substitute for garlic in this recipe. Cover with the skin, 3 large cloves of garlic, 1 tablespoon of onion, 1 tablespoon of jalapeno, 1 tablespoon of cumin, and 1 tablespoon of black pepper. Mix all together until it is a paste.

I add 2 teaspoons of cayenne pepper, 2 tablespoons of cumin, and 2 large cloves of garlic – the flavor of this recipe comes from the garlic.

The only issue with this holiday celebration is that unless you have $200 to $400 for a caja china, and even more money for a whole pig to roast, and the mii’s and pepe’s Cuban grandmother’s and grandfather’s - to guide you through the traditional cooking methods, you will never be able to experience a true “Noche Buena.”

For spice, I add 2 teaspoons of cayenne pepper, 2 tablespoons of cumin, and 2 large cloves of garlic – the flavor of this recipe comes from the garlic.

The only issue with this holiday celebration is that unless you have $200 to $400 for a caja china, and even more money for a whole pig to roast, and the mii’s and pepe’s Cuban grandmother’s and grandfather’s - to guide you through the traditional cooking methods, you will never be able to experience a true “Noche Buena.”

My student budget can’t afford the initial investment needed for a caja china.

That is why I roast my pork the conventional way in the oven. Next, you can save money by changing the cut of meat.

Instead of cooking a whole pig, roast a 6-pound bone-in pork shoulder, also known as pork butt, for a 12-person dinner party.

Finally, you can still get the lechon flavor by making a traditional mojo. In Cuban American households, mojo is made without measuring cups. Make sure to use your senses when making your mojo, and like I always say, use the flavors that turn you on. I love cilantro, so I throw some of that in my mojo, but if you are a mint lover, feel free to substitute and let your identity show through your food.

For the mojo, start with an olive oil base of about 1 cup.

Add six heads of garlic, minced - there will be no vampires present at “Noche Buena.” Sorry, Bella. Follow this by whisking in two cups of sour orange juice. I use Badia, which runs for less than $3 for 20 ounces. Since the sour orange is store bought, add another tangy punch that is signature to mojo by including some fresh ingredients like 1 cup of fresh lime juice, a splash of white cooking wine, and herbs like cilantro.

For spice, I add 2 teaspoons of cayenne pepper, 2 tablespoons of cumin, and 2 large cloves of garlic – the flavor of this recipe comes from the garlic.

The only issue with this holiday celebration is that unless you have $200 to $400 for a caja china, and even more money for a whole pig to roast, and the mii’s and pepe’s Cuban grandmother’s and grandfather’s - to guide you through the traditional cooking methods, you will never be able to experience a true “Noche Buena.”

My student budget can’t afford the initial investment needed for a caja china.

That is why I roast my pork the conventional way in the oven. Next, you can save money by changing the cut of meat.

Instead of cooking a whole pig, roast a 6-pound bone-in pork shoulder, also known as pork butt, for a 12-person dinner party.

Finally, you can still get the lechon flavor by making a traditional mojo. In Cuban American households, mojo is made without measuring cups. Make sure to use your senses when making your mojo, and like I always say, use the flavors that turn you on. I love cilantro, so I throw some of that in my mojo, but if you are a mint lover, feel free to substitute and let your identity show through your food.

For the mojo, start with an olive oil base of about 1 cup.

Add six heads of garlic, minced - there will be no vampires present at “Noche Buena.” Sorry, Bella. Follow this by whisking in two cups of sour orange juice. I use Badia, which runs for less than $3 for 20 ounces. Since the sour orange is store bought, add another tangy punch that is signature to mojo by including some fresh ingredients like 1 cup of fresh lime juice, a splash of white cooking wine, and herbs like cilantro.

For spice, I add 2 teaspoons of cayenne pepper, 2 tablespoons of cumin, and 2 large

yellow

onions, diced. Finish your mojo by seasoning it with salt and pepper.

To marinate the pork butt, place it in a shallow roasting pan, and cut deep 1-inch slits in 3 inches intervals. Next, pour half of the mojo over it.

Get personal with your food and rub your mojo all over your pork, getting into the crevices you created. Let it sit in the refrigerator for anywhere from 12 to 24 hours. Reserve half the marinade for later use.

Now, it is time to cook your pork shoulder. Drain off any excess liquid, and place the roasting pan in a 450-degree oven for 30 minutes, then lower the heat to 300 degrees and continue cooking for another six hours. Finally, pull your pork out of the oven, and let it stand for 15 minutes. When you cut the pork and serve it, make sure to drizzle some of the reserved mojo onto it and serve the rest on the side - your guests will love to add their own during your “Noche Buena” festivities.

Serve this “Noche Buena” main course with other Latin side dishes and maybe a choice of a Cuba Libre – rum and coke with a twist of lime – or a classic Cuban Mojito.

Have a “Noche Buena” with a little mojo in the mix.
With hopes to increase the number of graduate classes, give graduate students a voice and help them with projects required for graduation, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication’s Graduate Student Association held its first meeting Nov. 28.

GSA-SJMC founder and President Tania Williams said there was a need to create an organization to help fulfill graduate students’ needs at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

“We have different needs from the students from the other campus. We want to help create a balance between administration and the students,” said Williams, a graduate student and global strategic communications major. “We put this organization together because we realized the graduate students need a voice.”

At the meeting, Williams introduced Fernando Figueredo, the organization’s advisor and chair of the Department of Advertising & Public Relations.

She also introduced GSA Vice President Judi-Ann Reid, Comptroller Jeannine Froget and Secretary Jennifer Salama, all student graduates in the Global Strategic Communication program.

“We’re trying to create more networking opportunities within the students,” Salama said at the meeting.

Williams announced the association’s first attempt to help students. She sent a request to SJMC Dean Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver to add four more sections to the four existing courses: PUR 6406, Multicultural/International Communication, ADV 6805, Creative Strategy, and PUR 6935, Advanced Professional Project Workshop. That is something that is not being enough graduate classes and the whole time while you are in the program, you wonder ‘who are they?’ You know their names, but you don’t really know them or who they are,” she said. “In graduate school, you are supposed to make connections because those are long-lasting ties.”

Students interested in joining the association must be part of one of the SIMC graduate programs.

Members must pay a $20 fee per year, which covers both the Spring and Summer semesters.

“As a new club here [at the University], we are funded by the SOC but not a lot, so we decided members will have to pay dues,” Williams said.

GSA membership includes a free year of membership into the Alumni Association upon graduation, which according to Williams, is a new perk.

“By being a part of the association as a paid member, you will get a lot of freebies and perks at restaurants and with educational software,” she said.

The club’s first event will be Social Communication Week, which will be open to all students, not just members. Although the time and date have not been announced, the week of events will take place in February, according Williams. The event will feature national bloggers, public relations agencies and entrepreneurs as guest speakers.

“There are people in our school that are very adept to all this school, and we should utilize them,” said Williams. “We have brilliant people in our school. We need to use them.”

For more information, e-mail sjmcsua@gmail.com.
Cameron's 3-D concept has been done before

Too much hype for Avatar

David A. Barrios
Staff Writer

What does someone do after producing and directing the highest grossing film of all time? Many would think that Cameron should just take a well-deserved break. If you are James Cameron, you direct another block buster. Cameron’s bonus, which totaled $100,000 this year, will take in order to fulfill University core curriculum requirements.

An article that first appeared in a competent university's student newspaper.

Swaying sides hinders Crist's Senate seat

Charles Villard
Contributing Writer

Republican and Florida Governor Charlie Crist is still under fire from fellow party members for comments made and actions taken in February earlier this year.

The actions in question: supporting President Barack Obama’s $700 billion dollar stimulus package and giving Obama a friendly hug at a major 2010 rally.

This hug has now started a debate between Republican pragmatists and conservatives about how to retake the Senate and if Crist is the man to do it.

I think Crist would make a competent governor, representing a new guard of bipartisan politicians that is highly needed today.

He holds many conservative views, but is still aware that a pragmatic approach can sometimes yield more sound results.

Many Republicans wouldn’t agree. As the GOP primary approaches for the 2010 Senate seat, Republicans feel that putting pragmatists, like Crist, in the Senate would enable a more conservative approach to American politics.

Each week, conservatives make noise; and pundits continue to analyze Crist’s likely defect to conservative Republican and former state House Speaker Marco Rubio.

In a recent post about Governor Crist, Erick Erickson, editor-in-chief of conservative blog RedState, reveals how Crist’s conservative views have changed since his days as a state senator in the 1990s.

“Charlie Crist’s actions prove him to be anti-family, anti-life, anti-gun and very much in favor of taxes,” Erickson said.

Some instances have involved heavily-Republican topics such as euthanasia and gun control. During the Terri Schiavo debate, Crist stood against a bill that would allow Schiavo’s parents to take their case to federal court.

On the issue of gun control, Crist assigned circuit judge James Perry to the Florida Supreme Court, a choice aggressively opposed by social conservatives and members of the National Rifle Association.

Moderate Republicans, on the other hand, believe that putting more unorthodox candidates in the Republican seat would win over liberals and help win back the Senate majority.

Some people have even gone as far as to submit other ideas for Crist’s career.


When all is said and done, I don’t think Crist would make the greatest U.S. senator. However, I feel that what he represents is what this country needs most.

The deficit is setting an all-time high every day, with little end in sight. The only statistic that seems to be rising is the number of unemployment rates.

Crist has had a very shaky political career, with a number of opinions swaying harder than palm trees in a strong wind.

I still think, however, his kind of thinking — an understanding of pragmatic and conservative views alike — can help this country in its time of need.

And if he doesn’t work out, there is also the seat on the blue squad for you, Charlie.
Fraternity for future lawyers revived, has hopes of expanding

ISABEL MAZA
Staff Writer

There are many professional fraternities all around campus that cater to all types of students and majors. However, only one is designed specifically for pre-law students: Phi Alpha Delta.

Phi Alpha Delta was started in 1999 at FIU. It was founded by a group of pre-law students who wanted a group that would guide them through the rigorous law school process.

They decided to charter a chapter of Phi Alpha Delta, a national pre-law fraternity.

However, there was no such organization at FIU before, so membership flourished. According to their Web site, their membership doubled and the chapter lost its strength, temporarily disbanded.

The fraternity was recently re-founded at FIU. Senior Danny Benchimol was able to reestablish the chapter and now serves on the executive board by reaching out to law schools all across the state of Florida. The Spring 2009 pledge class consisted of only 10 pledges.

The new members of Phi Alpha Delta worked to increase membership by attending freshman orientations, advertising through Facebook and networking with other fraternities on campus. Phi Alpha Delta was able to achieve their goal of increasing membership; their Fall 2009 pledge class currently consists of 45 pledges.

Additionally, members gain access to private law school tours and classes. The fraternity also hosts programs to foster a sense of brotherhood and sisterhood among its members. It works to make lifetime bonds between students who share the same interest.

“Members come from a variety of majors and each has a unique origin, but we all find in each other the commonality of that ultimate goal: reaching law school,” said President Aleida Ortega.

Membership in Phi Alpha Delta continues through law school, there are no requirements for joining.

Those interested do not have to have a certain major, GPA, or year in school.

However, members are expected to be an active part of the fraternity and attend events that will help them reach their future goals, Ortega said.

The fraternity has produced many prominent alumni, including former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

“It’s an honor to represent such a prestigious organization that past (U.S.) presidents have also been a part of,” said sophomore Daniela Gonzalez.

Phi Alpha Delta has continued to increase its involvement on campus.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

‘Chic’ eatery offers variety of tasty flavors

GIAN ALESSIO/THB PHOTO

If there is any reason to be happy about Miami’s constant sweltering heat and high humidity, it would be the motivation it produces to seek out delicious ways to cool down.

One such way can be found at The Frozen Yogurt at 1687 SW 107 Ave., a self-service yogurt parlor that gives Dairy Queen a run for its money.

The inside of Chicberry conveys a bright, futuristic aesthetic with its lemon and lime-colored walls, clear Lucite seats and white counters topped with holographic panes. The self-service station is set up with an eye for efficiency, as the cash register is the last step before heading out of the door.

The five yogurt dispensers churn out 10 different flavors names daily, ranging from the traditional favorites – vanilla, chocolate (the two also available at Chicberry) – to the more creative, such as cucumber and blueberry.
Great actors in villainous roles dominate decade on film

PERFORM, page 7

Before he rose to A-list star status for his role as Bruce Wayne/Batman, Christian Bale took the role of Patrick Bateman, a yuppie Wall Street broker who goes on a murdering spree. Bale embodies the character as a man bewildered by his environment and desperate wanting to fit into his surroundings. Bateman may appear normal on the outside with his fancy business card and a nice apartment, but, on the inside, he has an uncontrollable urge to commit homicide and an obsession with fellow human beings. Bale is an actor who was willing to accept the risk of looking ridiculous for a role that requires him to perform the most inane acts ever committed by an actor who was willing to accept the risk of looking ridiculous for a role that requires him to perform the most inane acts ever committed by a fellow human being. Bale is an actor who was willing to accept the risk of looking ridiculous for a role that requires him to perform the most inane acts ever committed by a fellow human being.

1) Heath Ledger as the Joker - The Dark Knight (2008).

The late Heath Ledger’s performance of the Joker surpasses all the prior incarnations of the character including Cesar Romero in the original TV series or Jack Nicholson in the 1989 Tim Burton Batman film. Those roles were child’s play compared to Ledger’s incarnations of the Joker, in which he successfully portrays the villain as an unpredictable anarchist with a macabre sense of humor. The Joker’s philosophical take on chaos, order, and morality of the average human being is what makes the character fascinating.

2) Javier Bardem as Anton Chigurh - No Country for Old Men (2007)

The true standout in the amazing ensemble of No Country for Old Men is Javier Bardem’s role as Anton Chigurh, a hitman with a Prince Valiant-like haircut and an unstoppable determination to retrieve a suitcase filled with $2 million to keep for himself. He is not a talkative character, as he does most of his talking with his lethal actions. Chigurgh also has a perverse way of determining the fate of his victims with the flip of a coin.


Daniel Day-Lewis’s performance of Plainview is a once-in-a-lifetime role for the actor as the portrayal of his character requires him to sink into the depths of darkness as Plainview’s soul is consumed and twisted by greed and money. These obsessions eventually lead room for Plainview to commit selfish and unprovoked homicides and become a crazed and selfish old man in later years. He is a charismatic villain who is as slick as a businessman and has a hatred for people in general, which leads him to distrust anybody he knows.

4) Kate Winslet as Clementine Kruczynski - Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (2004)

Before Kate Winslet won an Oscar for her role in The Reader, she was a nobody with such memorable roles as Rose in Titanic or as a woman stuck in a loveless marriage in Little Children. In between these movies, she starred in Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind opposite Jim Carrey as a free-spirited woman who is a recipient of a technological procedure where she was able to erase any memory she had of her ex-boyfriend, Joel (Carrey). Winslet’s Clementine is a perfect foil to Carrey’s Joel, and her performance earned her an Oscar nomination.

5) Marion Cotillard as Edith Piaf - La Vie en Rose (2007)

Cotillard gives a performance of the character including Cesar Romero in the original TV series or Jack Nicholson in the 1989 Tim Burton Batman film. Those roles were child’s play compared to Ledger’s incarnations of the Joker, in which he successfully portrays the villain as an unpredictable anarchist with a macabre sense of humor. The Joker’s philosophical take on chaos, order, and morality of the average human being is what makes the character fascinating.


One combination I recommend is topping the New York Cheesecake flavor with raspberries and white chocolate chips for a take on a common restaurant dessert menu item. Also, topping the Cookies and Cream with crushed Oreos will put the ice cream flavor that bears the same moniker to shame — with fewer calories to boot.

Pricing at Chicherry is set at 49 cents per ounce, including toppings. So, if their smallest serving size of 12 ounces is fully taken advantage of, the price will come out to just over $6.

Furthermore, if students present a valid student ID at checkout, they will receive a 10 percent discount off of their order; military, fire fighter and law personnel also receive the same perk. Additionally, on any day through Friday between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., customers can buy one serving of yogurt and get a second one of equal or lesser value for free.

Whether you top your yogurt with fresh fruit, rich chocolate chips and marshmallows, or a quirky concoction of gummy bears and fruity pebbles, Chicherry Frozen Yogurt has plenty to suit your tastes for dessert. Even with the recent drop in temperature, I still recommend this yogurt bar for a post-dinner (or, even a pre-dinner) treat.

“Food for Thought” is a weekly column reviewing restaurants in the FIU area. Beacon reviewers receive no free food or services in exchange for positive reviews.
The best of the decade: The top ten movies of the 2000s

DAVID A. BARRIOS
STAFF WRITER

I guess a film critic starts tossing their ideas for “best films of the decade” about a year or two before the decade comes to a close.

Truth be told, coming up with these lists isn’t easy.

How the hell do you write it? What judges the greatness of a film? Influence? Cultural impact? Surely a movie can lack cultural impact but still be great. And how can you begin to measure these things? And what about my readers? Soon it becomes about politics.

The following is my top ten list of the best films of the decade. I took a chance and picked these movies by sheer instinct. The rankings are subjective and, more often than not, arbitrary. Any of these films could be the best of the decade depending on your perspective or mood.

10. THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
Jason Bourne (Matt Damon), amnesiac rogue CIA killer, has escaped to India with his lover, Marie (Franka Potente) following the events of the first film. Great performances by an ensemble cast including Brian Cox and Joan Allen. The only thing that could be the best of the decade depending on your perspective or mood.

9. UP
Pixar is about and is the most recent film to come from Pixar. It is a colorful and fun film with never a dull moment. It’s not just about the misadventures of the pair of travelers, it’s about aging, loneliness and regaining hope in living by letting go of the past.

8. BORAT
It’s not enough that Borat became a cultural phenomenon – it’s also a truly great film. Sasha Baron Cohen inhabits his alter-ego, Borat, and takes on American values for 90 minutes. Singing the Kazakhstan national anthem at a rodeo in Virginia, masturbating in public in Manhattan all while in search of his beloved Pamela Anderson, Borat comes to America with the intention of making a documentary with his producer Azamat (Ken Davitian) and winds up holding a frightening and hilarious mirror to the face of America about racial and social prejudices.

7. THE DEPARTED
Martin Scorsese’s finest film since Goodfellas, it is a pure and popular entertainment at its finest. It is a tense picture told with great panache. The film follows William Costigan (Leonardo DiCaprio) and Colin Sullivan (Matt Damon). Costigan is hired by the Massachusetts State Police to become a mole in the operations of mob boss Frank Costello (Jack Nicholson) while Sullivan is planted by Costello into the state police. Loyalties are tested and characters driven to the edge. The beauty in this film is not just William Monahan’s layered and powerful script, but also Scorsese’s direction.

6. CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND
George Clooney’s first outing as a film director is still his finest in this subversive black comedy about TV host Chuck Barris (Sam Rockwell), who hosts The Gong Show while also working for the CIA as a covert assassin. Clooney shows how much his tutelage from the Coen Brothers has helped out. The brilliance of Charlie Kaufman’s script is simple: for all the paranoia and intrigue, it’s about a man that likes to have sex and kill people.

5. THERE WILL BE BLOOD
This is Daniel Day Lewis’s movie, to be sure. In his role as Daniel Plainview, an oil prospector in the early 1900’s, Lewis has created a towering achievement in his career. Larger than life, raw and elemental in his fear and rage, Lewis gives what may be the finest role of the decade. Robert Elswit’s Oscar-winning cinematography is memorable; images of the quiet desert, of an oil well burning coupled with Jonny Greenwood’s off-kilter score. Director Paul Thomas Anderson doesn’t create a movie so much as a battle of the titans between business and religion, represented by Paul Dano, playing a young reverend who challenges Plainview.

4. CHILDREN OF MEN
One of the things that struck me about this film when I saw it was not just the virtuoso direction by Alfonso Cuaron. It wasn’t the extended takes and gorgeously flowing and seemingly endless shots.

What struck me was that the film didn’t bother to tell the audience exactly why no children were being born into the world in this dystopic vision of the year 2029. The film follows former activist Theo Faron (Clive Owen) after being recruited by his ex wife (Julianne Moore) to escort a young pregnant woman out of the country and to a floating colony called the “Human Project.”

3. NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN
The Coen Brothers are the perfect conveyors of Cormac McCarthy’s dark humor and somber tone. It’s not just a great suspense tale, it’s a statement about the passage of time; fate versus destiny and the seeming futility of a godless universe. There are no clear protagonists; Moss is an opportunist who puts his wife in great danger while the murderous sociopath becomes more sympathetic with his rules and ideals.

2. MUNICH
Spielberg’s film grows on me with every viewing. Every now and again, he’ll come out with a stoical, big-budget blockbuster like War of the Worlds and make me come out with a stodgy, big-budget blockbuster like War of the Worlds and make me question his validity as a filmmaker some three decades after he was at his peak. Then he’ll provide a masterpiece like this one. Spielberg at his finest, such as with Schindler’s List or Saving Private Ryan, saves no punches. In the film we follow the aftermath of the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre and a covert Israeli Mossad team lead by Avner (Eric Bana), leading an operation to assassinate and eliminate the key planners of the massacre. The film becomes a meditation on the nature of terrorism, the importance of the state and the issue of upholding the memory of the past.

1. THE DARK KNIGHT
Christopher Nolan’s first film in the franchise, Batman Begins, was about the beginning of a legend and his origin. The Dark Knight is about the serious tests that come to that legend, Batman, and his alter ego Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) as posed by a new villain simply known as The Joker (Heath Ledger). One of the highest grossing films of all time, it is masterfully constructed entertainment fueled by great performances by an ensemble cast. It’s also a film with deeper themes about justice, the corruption of people (as seen by the story arch of District Attorney Harvey Dent, played by Aaron Eckhart), sanity and the nature of the hero and the myth.

Best Performances of the Decade
(From Other View Points)

Chris Cabral
Life! Editor

10. In the Bedroom (2001)
1. Pan’s Labyrinth (2006)
PG Gonzalez named to All-Tournament team

was forced to leave the game when she fell down on the court, causing pain to that injury. She was limited to just two points and one steal.

“As soon as we get some chemistry going, we get hurt,” said Coach Cindy Russo. “I’m focused on getting these kids healthy; they’re not season ending injuries which is good.”

Point guard Michelle Gonzalez lead all FIU scorers with 11 points on 3-of-7 shooting from beyond the arc. Gonzalez rolled her ankle during the game, however she was able to return to play.

“We have a lot of hurt players,” Russo said after the game. “You had four (players) out there who we’re trying to get back into the line-up.”

Meanwhile, Marquita Adley contributed eight points and 10 rebounds to record her fifth consecutive game in double figures.

The Hawks were not phased by FIU’s interior defense as they outscored the Golden Panthers 36-22 in the paint. With 12 minutes remaining in the first half and FIU up by four points, Cherisse Buddie connected on a three-pointer to extend the lead to 16-9.

The Hawks came back near the end of the half after converting six fast break points off of FIU turnovers to take the lead, 28-22.

Senior Ashley Traugott drilled a shot from beyond the arc with 1:24 left to put FIU within four points of the lead at the end of the first half.

The Hawks held the Golden Panthers to just 23 points in the second half. FIU also came up short from the free-throw line, going 2-of-6 on the game.

The score remained close at 42-41 after Buddy connected on a jumper with less than 11 minutes to play, however the Hawks responded with an 11-2 run to close out the game.

The Golden Panthers continued to rally in the second half, scoring FIU’s first five points and blocking a shot that forced a Florida turnover.

Hutchtass drained a three on the next possession to make the score 41-39 in favor of the Gators.

“We wasn’t the prettiest and we felt like we could have done some things different in the second half, but they just wouldn’t go away and you have to give FIU the credit for the effort and the fight that they played with tonight,” said Butler, also according to gatorzone.com.

The Golden Panthers continued to rally but Florida’s steady offense continued to sink the Panthers scoring 46 percent from beyond the arc for the night.

Football will host Big East Pittsburgh Panthers in 2014

The Golden Panthers should need Hilton’s abilities at 100 percent against an FAU team that has put up 112 points in their last two meetings.

Kitty Cats

With the bounty of injuries that have plagued the Golden Panthers this season, an injection of youth into the lineup has been necessary.

Cristobal alluded to the experience of his young players as a “baptism of fire” earlier this season, and 17 players have had just that.

With 17 true freshmen getting time this season, FIU is tied with Tulane for the most first-year contributions in the Football Bowl Subdivision.
THE MIAMI MUSIC FESTIVAL

DECEMBER 10-12, 2009


The following downtown Miami venues will present schedules of performances on each night of the Festival:

- The Festival Tents at SW 7th & S. Miami (4 Stages)
- Transit Lounge (3 Stages)
- Tobacco Road (3 Stages)
- The Hard Rock Cafe (2 Stages)
- Waxy O’Connors (2 Stages)
- Gordon Biersch
- Red Bar
- Havana Dreams
- Japengo at the Hyatt
- Ecco Lounge
- Finnegan’s River
- Mekka (3 Stages)
- La Guaracha
- Artoconecto…plug in at Macy’s
- Wallflower Gallery
- Blue Martini

Additional venues and performance schedules can be found at miamimusicfestival.org.

ADMISSION

* Three-day wristbands: $50 ($35 with valid Student ID)
* One-day wristbands: $25 ($20 with valid Student ID)
* Single venue admission: $10 (as space is available)

Wristbands on Sale at All Venues During the Festival

Must be 18 to enter some venues, 21 to enter others. Venue policies listed on miamimusicfestival.org.
**LEAVING WINNERS**

Golden Panthers send seniors out with win at home

**JOEL DELGADO Staff Writer**

Seniors Yarimar Rosa, Olga Vergun, Isadora Rangel and Gaby Jaimes said goodbye to U.S. Century Bank Arena as the Golden Panthers defeated the Florida A&M Rattlers to end the season.

Family members, friends and fans gathered to celebrate their careers and say goodbye one last time in what proved to be a match ending in several players’ tears.

And in what might have been their final match at U.S. Century Bank Arena, they left the crowd with one final victory to remember by. “We finished on a great note,” Vergun said of her last game at home. “In our minds, there was no other way to do it.”

The Golden Panthers, coming off a disappointing loss to Middle Tennessee in the Sun Belt Conference championship match, handily defeated the visiting Florida A&M Rattlers in three sets as they prepare for the NCAA Tournament.

**SENIOR GOODBYE**

**Yarimar Rosa**

A two time winner of the Sun Belt Player of the Year award, Rosa has rewritten the FIU record books, becoming the first Golden Panther to eclipse 2,000 points in a career. Owns 13 Sun Belt Player of the Week selections in four seasons and is a good bet to notch a fourth All-American nod.

**Gaby Jaimes**

Prior to being forced to sit out her senior season, Jaimes was a valuable member of the Golden Panthers team through her first three seasons. Ranked fourth on the team in kills per match as a junior.

**Isadora Rangel**

Rangel transferred from the University of Kansas, where she made an immediate impact as a freshman. After sitting out a season because of transfer rules, Rangel made her impact felt with FIU, winning the Sun Belt Newcomer of the Year award as a junior.

Despite injuries, team earns third place finish at Thanksgiving Classic

**STEPHANIE GABRIEL Staff Writer**

During the FIU Thanksgiving Classic, the Golden Panthers’ basketball team was thankful to have enough players to complete a starting lineup.

With a lengthy list of injuries and ineligible players, the Golden Panthers proved they’re struggling without the help of some key assets as they were downed by St. Joseph’s and Florida just last weekend.

**Halftime lead slips away from Golden Panthers**

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Pappa Oppong scored 21 points to lead five players in double figures in an 81-67 win over Florida International on Nov. 28.

Justin Stommes scored 15 points, and Josh Taylor and Spencer Perrin each had 14.

Dayvon Ellis added 10 points off the bench. The Colonels are 5-1 for the first time since the 2006-07 season, the last time they earned a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

The Panthers (2-6), led 32-31 at halftime but the Colonels shot 63.6 percent (21-for-33) from the field in the second half to pull away.

The Colonels led by as many as 16 points. The Colonels fired 28 3-point shots and made 7 of 13 (58.1 percent) in the second half, and 42.9 percent (12-for-28) for the game.

Marvin Roberts led the Owls with 19 points. Marlon Gary added 13 points, J.C. Otser had 12 points and 12 rebounds, and Phil Gary scored 10 points.

“I thought we got very careless with the basketball and made a couple of turnovers that led to easy transition baskets,” said head coach Isaiah Thomas to fixports.com. “That gave them confidence in their defense and then confidence in the offense because of the easy transition baskets they were able to score.”

**MEN’S BASKETBALL: EASTERN KENTUCKY 81, FIU 67**

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

**Despite injuries, team earns third place finish at Thanksgiving Classic**

**ST. JOSEPH’S 64, FIU 48**

The Golden Panthers produced their lowest scoring output this season, as they were defeated 64-48 by the Hawks on Nov. 27.

FIU’s offense was anemic as they shot just 30 percent for the game compared to a 53 percent shooting effort by St. Joseph’s.

Senior guard Monika Bosilj, who sat out the previous two games with a knee injury, played off the bench for FIU but was unable to score.

** Stephens Gabriel Sports Director**

**Contact Us**

Sergio Bonilla

Sports Director

sergio.joseph@fiu.edu

www.fiusm.com

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

**STEPHANIE GABRIEL**

**STAFF WRITER**

**Sports Director**

Sergio Bonilla

Contact Us

www.fiusm.com

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

**LEAVING WINNERS**

Golden Panthers send seniors out with win at home

**JOEL DELGADO Staff Writer**

Seniors Yarimar Rosa, Olga Vergun, Isadora Rangel and Gaby Jaimes said goodbye to U.S. Century Bank Arena as the Golden Panthers defeated the Florida A&M Rattlers to end the season.

Family members, friends and fans gathered to celebrate their careers and say goodbye one last time in what proved to be a match ending in several players’ tears.

And in what might have been their final match at U.S. Century Bank Arena, they left the crowd with one final victory to remember by. “We finished on a great note,” Vergun said of her last game at home. “In our minds, there was no other way to do it.”

The Golden Panthers, coming off a disappointing loss to Middle Tennessee in the Sun Belt Conference championship match, handily defeated the visiting Florida A&M Rattlers in three sets as they prepare for the NCAA Tournament.

**SENIOR GOODBYE**

**Yarimar Rosa**

A two time winner of the Sun Belt Player of the Year award, Rosa has rewritten the FIU record books, becoming the first Golden Panther to eclipse 2,000 points in a career. Owns 13 Sun Belt Player of the Week selections in four seasons and is a good bet to notch a fourth All-American nod.

**Gaby Jaimes**

Prior to being forced to sit out her senior season, Jaimes was a valuable member of the Golden Panthers team through her first three seasons. Ranked fourth on the team in kills per match as a junior.

**Isadora Rangel**

Rangel transferred from the University of Kansas, where she made an immediate impact as a freshman. After sitting out a season because of transfer rules, Rangel made her impact felt with FIU, winning the Sun Belt Newcomer of the Year award as a junior.

Despite injuries, team earns third place finish at Thanksgiving Classic

**STEPHANIE GABRIEL Staff Writer**

During the FIU Thanksgiving Classic, the Golden Panthers’ basketball team was thankful to have enough players to complete a starting lineup.

With a lengthy list of injuries and ineligible players, the Golden Panthers proved they’re struggling without the help of some key assets as they were downed by St. Joseph’s and Florida just last weekend.

**Halftime lead slips away from Golden Panthers**

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Pappa Oppong scored 21 points to lead five players in double figures in an 81-67 win over Florida International on Nov. 28.

Justin Stommes scored 15 points, and Josh Taylor and Spencer Perrin each had 14.

Dayvon Ellis added 10 points off the bench. The Colonels are 5-1 for the first time since the 2006-07 season, the last time they earned a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

The Panthers (2-6), led 32-31 at halftime but the Colonels shot 63.6 percent (21-for-33) from the field in the second half to pull away.

The Colonels led by as many as 16 points. The Colonels fired 28 3-point shots and made 7 of 13 (58.1 percent) in the second half, and 42.9 percent (12-for-28) for the game.

Marvin Roberts led the Owls with 19 points. Marlon Gary added 13 points, J.C. Otser had 12 points and 12 rebounds, and Phil Gary scored 10 points.

“I thought we got very careless with the basketball and made a couple of turnovers that led to easy transition baskets,” said head coach Isaiah Thomas to fixports.com. “That gave them confidence in their defense and then confidence in the offense because of the easy transition baskets they were able to score.”

**MEN’S BASKETBALL: EASTERN KENTUCKY 81, FIU 67**

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

**Despite injuries, team earns third place finish at Thanksgiving Classic**

**ST. JOSEPH’S 64, FIU 48**

The Golden Panthers produced their lowest scoring output this season, as they were defeated 64-48 by the Hawks on Nov. 27.

FIU’s offense was anemic as they shot just 30 percent for the game compared to a 53 percent shooting effort by St. Joseph’s.

Senior guard Monika Bosilj, who sat out the previous two games with a knee injury, played off the bench for FIU but was unable to score.

** Stephens Gabriel Sports Director**

**Contact Us**

Sergio Bonilla

Sports Director

sergio.joseph@fiu.edu

www.fiusm.com

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

**LEAVING WINNERS**

Golden Panthers send seniors out with win at home

**JOEL DELGADO Staff Writer**

Seniors Yarimar Rosa, Olga Vergun, Isadora Rangel and Gaby Jaimes said goodbye to U.S. Century Bank Arena as the Golden Panthers defeated the Florida A&M Rattlers to end the season.

Family members, friends and fans gathered to celebrate their careers and say goodbye one last time in what proved to be a match ending in several players’ tears.

And in what might have been their final match at U.S. Century Bank Arena, they left the crowd with one final victory to remember by. “We finished on a great note,” Vergun said of her last game at home. “In our minds, there was no other way to do it.”

The Golden Panthers, coming off a disappointing loss to Middle Tennessee in the Sun Belt Conference championship match, handily defeated the visiting Florida A&M Rattlers in three sets as they prepare for the NCAA Tournament.

**SENIOR GOODBYE**

**Yarimar Rosa**

A two time winner of the Sun Belt Player of the Year award, Rosa has rewritten the FIU record books, becoming the first Golden Panther to eclipse 2,000 points in a career. Owns 13 Sun Belt Player of the Week selections in four seasons and is a good bet to notch a fourth All-American nod.

**Gaby Jaimes**

Prior to being forced to sit out her senior season, Jaimes was a valuable member of the Golden Panthers team through her first three seasons. Ranked fourth on the team in kills per match as a junior.

**Isadora Rangel**

Rangel transferred from the University of Kansas, where she made an immediate impact as a freshman. After sitting out a season because of transfer rules, Rangel made her impact felt with FIU, winning the Sun Belt Newcomer of the Year award as a junior.

Despite injuries, team earns third place finish at Thanksgiving Classic

**STEPHANIE GABRIEL Staff Writer**

During the FIU Thanksgiving Classic, the Golden Panthers’ basketball team was thankful to have enough players to complete a starting lineup.

With a lengthy list of injuries and ineligible players, the Golden Panthers proved they’re struggling without the help of some key assets as they were downed by St. Joseph’s and Florida just last weekend.