Students lend Haitian refugees a helping hand

MEENA RUPANI  
Staff Writer

The College of Law Human Rights and Immigation Clinic began holding training sessions on how to help Haitians receive Temporary Protected Status in the U.S. following the devastation from the earthquake.

The student attorneys in charge of the training sessions are Stuart Hartstone and Thomas Juliano. Both students, along with the guidance from Professor Troy Elder, have been coordinating and speaking at all the training sessions so far.

At the sessions, Hartstone and Juliano walk students through a brief history of TPS, go over the fees required to submit the forms. The mandatory status for the next 18 months with the possibility of renewal. The end of the 18-month period will be July 11, at that time, the possibility of an extension will be assessed.

“It is estimated that 100-200,000 Haitians are eligible for TPS and most are residing in South Florida or New York. The deadline for them to apply is July 21, 2010. It may take up to 90 days to approve or deny them for TPS,” Hartstone said.

After reviewing the basics of TPS, Hartstone then went through the basic requirements of receiving TPS.

“The first few necessary requirements are the most significant. These include physical presence, being a Haitian national and having no criminal history,” Hartstone said.

He explained that physical presence means that they must have been present in the U.S. prior to January 12 which was the date of the earthquake. Being a Haitian national is defined as at least having one parent who is from Haiti, being born in Haiti is not a requirement for TPS.

Lastly, criminal history is probably the most important requirement, this means that the person must have no felony charges or two or more misdemeanors in the U.S.,” Hartstone said.

The next step in the training session was a walk-through of the two most significant forms needed for submission. Juliano then took over and helped students understand both forms.

“The two forms that need to be submitted together to apply for TPS are the I-821 which gives the person TPS and the I-765 which gives the work permit,” Juliano explained.

NURSING’S NEW HOME

The University celebrated the inauguration of the new College of Nursing and Health Sciences Building with a day-long event held Feb. 4.

The $34 million, 115,000 square foot CNSH building is the first ever LEED-certified building in the University’s history. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a third-party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of sustainable green building and development practices.

Among the myriad of “eco-features” that the CNHS building includes is the city of Miami’s first “green roof,” which is visible from the lobby of the third, fourth and fifth floors. The green roof has low maintenance grass and vegetation which is sustained by natural rainwater and helps insulate the corridor below while absorbing the heat of the sun’s rays.

“This new building will not only be one of the most advanced and dynamic nursing and health care education and research facilities in the region, but also serves as a successful example of the University’s growing commitment to environmental awareness and sustainability,” said President Rosenberg.

Students lend Haitian refugees a helping hand

MEENA RUPANI  
Staff Writer

College of Nursing debuts

Health Sciences building

SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY page 6

Students’ Government Council presents new Participation Point System to members in hopes to influence complain.

AT THE BAY page 6

Author Stanley Hordes shares with readers his idea of a successful model to help Haiti.

EDITORIAL page 6

For this year’s elections to be a success, SGC-MMC must act fast to learn from last year’s mistakes.

OPINION page 6

American pundits continue to dominate the airwaves and slowly alter American politics for the worse.

UPCOMING EVENTS

YogaQuest, Feb. 8, 10 p.m. Center for Spiritual Development.

Low: 55  High: 74

WEATHER

Tuesdays’ grow stronger

Nursing students practice reving a manniquin undergoing cardiac arrest in the new Simulation Center at the new College of Nursing and Health Sciences building.

College of Nursing debuts Health Sciences building

GABRIEL ARRARÁS  
Asst. News Director

The University celebrated the inauguration of the new College of Nursing and Health Sciences Building with a day-long event held Feb. 4.

The $34 million, 115,000 square foot CNSH building is the first ever LEED-certified building in the University’s history. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a third-party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of sustainable green building and development practices.

Among the myriad of “eco-features” that the CNHS building includes is the city of Miami’s first “green roof,” which is visible from the lobby of the third, fourth and fifth floors. The green roof has low maintenance grass and vegetation which is sustained by natural rainwater and helps insulate the corridor below while absorbing the heat of the sun’s rays.

“This new building will not only be one of the most advanced and dynamic nursing and health care education and research facilities in the region, but also serves as a successful example of the University’s growing commitment to environmental awareness and sustainability,” said President Rosenberg.

Students lend Haitian refugees a helping hand

MEENA RUPANI  
Staff Writer

The College of Law Human Rights and Immigation Clinic began holding training sessions on how to help Haitians receive Temporary Protected Status in the U.S. following the devestation from the earthquake.

The student attorneys in charge of the training sessions are Stuart Hartstone and Thomas Juliano. Both students, along with the guidance from Professor Troy Elder, have been coordinating and speaking at all the training sessions so far.

At the sessions, Hartstone and Juliano walk students through a brief history of TPS, go through the necessary forms and, lastly, discuss the fees required to submit the forms.

“It is a good feeling to know that we law students are able to assist Haitians in their time of need,” Hartstone said.

According to Hartstone, TPS is defined as allowing eligible nationals to work and live in the U.S. for the next 18 months with the possibility of renewal. The end of the 18-month period will be July 11, at that time, the possibility of an extension will be assessed.

“It is estimated that 100-200,000 Haitians are eligible for TPS and most are residing in South Florida or New York. The deadline for them to apply is July 21, 2010. It may take up to 90 days to approve or deny them for TPS,” Hartstone said.

After reviewing the basics of TPS, Hartstone then went through the basic requirements of receiving TPS.

“The first few necessary requirements are the most significant. These include physical presence, being a Haitian national and having no criminal history,” Hartstone said.

He explained that physical presence means that they must have been present in the U.S. prior to Jan. 12 which was the date of the earthquake. Being a Haitian national is defined as at least having one parent who is from Haiti, being born in Haiti is not a requirement for TPS.

Lastly, criminal history is probably the most important requirement, this means that the person must have no felony charges or two or more misdemeanors in the U.S.,” Hartstone said.

The next step in the training session was a walk-through of the two most significant forms needed for submission. Juliano then took over and helped students understand both forms.

“The two forms that need to be submitted together to apply for TPS are the I-821 which gives the person TPS and the I-765 which gives the work permit,” Juliano explained.

HASTI, page 3

SGC-MMC ELECTIONS

Meetings no longer required

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA  
Staff Writer

Two informational meetings for candidates wishing to run in this year’s student government elections are no longer mandatory.

However, attendance to the meetings by prospective candidates, held on Feb. 10 and 11 at 5 p.m., in the Graham Center, Room 150, is “strongly encouraged” by Elections Commissioner Christy Flores.

The change came because of a mistake in the scheduling. “There was an error in the email,” according to the e-mail.

“Lastly, criminal history is probably the most important requirement, this means that the person must have no felony charges or two or more misdemeanors in the U.S.,” Hartstone said.

The next step in the training session was a walk-through of the two most significant forms needed for submission. Juliano then took over and helped students understand both forms.

“The two forms that need to be submitted together to apply for TPS are the I-821 which gives the person TPS and the I-765 which gives the work permit for employment in the United States,” Juliano explained.
The Beacon – Monday, February 8, 2010 www.fi usm.com

NEW BUILDING AROMA

TOP: President Mark Rosenberg talks to faculty and students before the dedication ceremonies were held, on Feb. 4 at the new College of Nursing and Health Sciences building.

BOTTOM: Samanda Vasquez, physical therapy major, guides visitors through the new LEED certified building for the University.

FAFSA simplifies form

ELSIE PUIG
Staff Writer

College students do not have to work up a sweat anymore when it comes time to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The new user-friendly application has eliminated 22 questions and 17 web screens. The changes, which took effect Jan. 1, were unveiled Jan. 5 by U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan and Dr. Jill Biden in a local Washington, D.C. high school.

The Department of Education streamlined the application form by programming the software to skip questions that do not apply to the student. It will tailor questions based on the applicant’s previous responses, eliminating any irrelevant questions. “It is a lot more intelligent,” said Francisco Valines, financial aid director at FIU. “If you are a male over 26 it won’t ask you about selective service, if you are a veteran, it won’t ask you if you are a dependent.”

Other changes include allowing low-income students to skip questions concerning their family’s material assets, eliminating questions about drug convictions for incoming freshmen and questions about legal residency for applicants who have lived in the same household for five years or more.

In the new application, families can also retrieve their tax return information directly from the Internal Revenue Service onto their FAFSA application, allowing the applicant to skip over redundant questions and in effect reduce errors increase, according to Valines.

Valines predicts the effects of that will be seen in the 2011-2012 school year since families are now beginning to file their taxes and the FAFSA deadline for FAFSA is March 1.

“FAFSA was a barrier that deterred many students from applying for federal aid; the simplifications will make it easier for students to apply,” said Gregory Cendana, president of United States Student Association, a national student advocacy organization that lobbies for higher education reform.

According to USSA, approximately 4 million aid-eligible students did not apply to FAFSA, linking that to the complexity of the application. Before the changes to the FAFSA, Ashwarya Ram, sophomore in chemistry and theatre, needed help from her older brother and sister to fill out the tedious application.

“My brother and my sister pretty much filled it out for me, but now it is a lot better: like filling out a survey with straightforward questions, no big vocabulary,” said Ram. “A 15-year-old can fill it out.”

Valines said that although the new form will not increase the applicant pool, it will increase the number of students who do it correctly, and in effect lessen the time it takes to process the information and disburse the financial aid to students.

Revisions to the FAFSA is one of the provisions included in the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, which passed Congress in September, and awaits approval in the Senate.

FIU has several upcoming events to help students fill out their FAFSA application. On Feb. 19 at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. in the GC Pit there will be counselors and assistants available to help with the application, and on Feb. 24, there will be another information session in the Student Plaza outside of GC.

Tuesday Times Roundtable

“This Video is No Longer Available”

Hannibal Travis (College of Law)
New building includes state-of-the-art learning tools

**CNHS, page 1**

preservation,” said Dr. Divina Grossman, dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

The CNHS building also features light detecting sensors on both the interior and exterior. These sensors will tie into the building’s lighting system and help regulate power usage.

At the educational core of the new CNHS building are the third floor Simulation Center and the fourth floor Rehabilitation Center.

The “Sim Center” includes eight simulation rooms, three control rooms, two debriefing rooms and a basic nursing lab.

The simulation mannequins housed in the center are fully capable of simulating what a patient experiences in events such as cardiac arrests, allergic reactions as well as other medical scenarios.

“It’s all about getting as close to a real world treatment scenario as possible to make the students more confident in their abilities so that when they go out to the actual workforce, this won’t be a shock to them,” said Mary Sadasassi, a spokesperson for FIU.

The “Rehab Center” includes eight different labs, ranging from neuromusculoskeletal lab to a speech and language skills lab.

Whatever you would find at a rehab center or therapeutic facility, you will find here. Once again, students have the opportunity to learn on the equipment that the professionals are actually using out there in the workforce,” Sadasassi said.

“There are a lot of high-tech modern features that are really going to make a huge impact on the new students coming in here,” said Nicho Diana, a nursing student in his second year.

“It’s a shame I only get to be here for one semester, but this one semester, that I’m one month into, is awesome,” he added.

The CNHS building also features a “student-centric” design with dedicated group and individual study areas, as well as social gathering spots.

“I think it’s a big improvement compared to the old nursing building,” Diana said.

Grossman began the opening remarks of the ceremony by acknowledging all of the gifts and donations that made the construction of the CNHS building possible; as well as the several FIU alumni in attendance, including five members from the first graduating class of the College of Nursing.

Grossman, who was recently promoted to vice president of Engagement, savored every moment of the inaugural celebration.

“It is the last day I can call myself dean and I will enjoy it immensely,” Grossman told the crowd.

Grossman will be replaced by Dr. Sharon Puntius, former associate dean of academic affairs, who starts the position of interim dean effective Feb. 5.

After her remarks, Grossman introduced FIU President Mark Rosenberg, who greeted the crowd jokingly.

“At some point we will all need a nurse,” Rosenberg said. “So, we know why you are all here.”

Rosenberg called the story of the CNHS a great example of the FIU story.

“Many of you can remember when this plot of land, indeed this campus, was nothing but an outfield, and look what has been accomplished in such a relatively short amount of time, 40 years,” Rosenberg said. “Just think about what we can do together in the next 40 years.”

After the presentation, those in attendance were treated to a tour of the building. Visitors were able to see students in action in a number of different scenarios, including one of the mannequins undergoing cardiac arrest.

These scenarios are actually classes where students work accordingly while a teacher runs the simulation via laptop, allowing the teacher to control the fates of these lifelike mannequins.

“Hopefully this gives FIU a name for physical therapy, occupational therapy and nursing,” said Samanda Vasquez, a first year physical therapy student who was acting as a tour guide.

Fee waivers, do’s and do not’s explained in sessions

**HAIH, page 1**

According to Juliano, the other forms needed are the G-28 that will give the notice of appearance and also fee waiver applications.

“We want these applications to have as many ‘no’s’ as possible. A ‘yes’ to any question may be a red flag and the application could be rejected,” Hartstone said.

“However, it is important to be honest, fraud is the worst thing you can do in the immigration world.”

The fees were then discussed at the session.

Juliano explained that for a person between the ages of 14-65 years, the total application fee would be $470 unless they are able to get their fees waived.

According to Hartstone and Juliano, they must show proof that their income is below the federal poverty guideline or that they have a disability or medical condition in order to get their fees waived.

“Hopefully this gives FIU a name for physical therapy, occupational therapy and nursing,” said Samanda Vasquez, a first year physical therapy student who was acting as a tour guide.

**YOU HAVE TO BE HERE®**

**BUFFALO WILD WINGS®**

**NOW OPEN**

Drink specials for FIU students with a valid student ID starting at 9PM Sunday - Thursday

$5.00 Wing Tuesday

$6.00 Boneless Wing Thursday

Located at the Dolphin Mall

305-513-2660

Located in Cutler Bay

305-238-8850

Hours of operation:

Sunday - Thursday 11AM - Midnight
Friday & Saturday 11AM - 2AM

Featuring Big Screens & HDTV’s - Award-Winning Wings

14 Signature Sauces - The Hottest Sports Action - Full Menu

FREE Buzztime Trivia - Wing Tuesdays - Boneless Thursdays

UFC events and Boxing with no cover ever!

Free Wi-Fi - Dine-in or Takeout!

Facebook: Buffalo Wild Wings - Miami

www.fiusm.com
Increased participation part of new point system

KATHERINE PORRAS
Contributing Writer

After many complaints from student organizations at Biscayne Bay Campus, the Student Organizations Council has decided to make changes to the Participation Point System.

“We were receiving a lot of complaints from clubs that felt the point system was not inclusive,” said Didier Georges, president of the SAC. “The clubs felt that they were doing all these things and not receiving any credit for it.”

Georges also said that another problem with the previous point system was that it lacked uniformity with the Modesto Maidique Campus’ point system.

“Without our new system point we hope to have more uniformity with [MMC],” Georges said. “Right now by raising the maximum amount of points earned from 17 to 50 we are getting closer. [MMC] has a 75 points maximum and we’re trying to get closer.”

Christopher Seevara, vice president of the Biscayne Bay Student Council, says the new points are easier and more useful, making the system more efficient and easier to understand.

“Before we were not getting points for a lot of things we did. Now we are,” Seevara said.

The meeting, held on Jan. 28, began with Georges encouraging the various club representatives present.

“Go for it guys,” he said. “This is to help you guys out and to get your organization out there.”

He also pointed out that this semester will have more requirements and involvement with the Center for Leadership and Service is required. There are also extra points being awarded for participation in programs such as the Academy of Leaders or the Sisterhood Retreat.

According to Georges, Special Projects and Blue & Gold Spirit Points will also be mandatory this semester.

“We want the organizations to not only be active in SOC but throughout the entire FIU campus,” stated Georges. “[Club members] can participate in events hosted by the Student Programming Council, pep rallies, Student Government Council events, sport games, or any shows.”

Club members this semester will also be able receive extra points for collaborating with another organization.

“We want to encourage you guys to work together,” Georges said. “You can host a special project and collaborate with another club and possibly double up your points.”

Georges ended the meeting with a thorough discussion of the new feature called the Overachiever Category.

“It is designed so that club members who fulfill all requirements and earn all extra credit points possible can still earn some more,” Georges said.

The SOC has not said how much money each organization will receive per point.

“We cannot say right now because we do not know what the budget will be,” Georges said.

Representatives present said they understood the issue with the budget.

Zahra Arhabi, president of the Muslim Student Association said, “It’s understandable, they do not know what the budget next semester will be like.”

Questions regarding the Point System can be directed to the Campus Life Office at 305-919-5804.

Symposium reveals the complex world of secret Jewish communities

LAURA DE LA FE
Staff Writer

Students at the Biscayne Bay Campus were given a historical tour of the Jewish migration to the Caribbean islands during a symposium entitled “Secret Jews of the Caribbean” on Feb. 4.

Stanley Hordes, a professor at the Latin American and Iberian Institute of the University of New Mexico, spoke at the symposium and shared an island-by-island look at the records of Crypto-Jews (secret Jews) in each of the Spanish-speaking islands.

“I want to show who we are as a community and how far we have gotten today,” he said.

According to Hordes several people still secretly practice their faith in these areas.

“I thought this all died out hundreds of years ago, and then people started coming to me to relate how their friends and neighbors were secretly practicing Jewish customs,” he said.

“They’re still alive being something other than what they appear to be,” Mr. Behar, who refused to give his full name, a member of a Crypto-Jewish family in the Americas.

“My family left for Cuba from Turkey, and when they got there they said they were from Salonamca [Spain] so they wouldn’t be persecuted,” Behar said.

According to Hordes, Crypto-Jews live in fear and would baptize their children in Christian churches then give them a ritual cleansing at home to wash off the baptism.

The symposium was sponsored by the President Navon Program for the Study of Sephardic and Oriental Jewry which provides training and offers lectures and seminars about Oriental and Sephardic Jewish Studies and the Al-Charaqua Delta, the sociology honor society.


“I decided to do this, because we are all trying to figure out who we are,” he said. “I wanted to try to strip the veneer of stereotypes and show the fabric of Jewish history is far from what people think,” he said.

In search of the identities of their descendents, Dr. Seth Kunin from the University of Durham in England is working along with Hordes, co-founder of the Society for Crypto Judaic Studies.

“I have the daunting task of working with the Castro government, but that has begun to change,” he said.

According to Hordes, researchers have estimated that about 20 percent of Hispanic men have a certain DNA code associated with people of Jewish descent.

“Both Hordes and Kunin are uncovering the history of the Crypto-Jews in the Caribbean, specifically in the islands of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Hispaniola and Jamaica.

Hordes encourages the various club representatives to participate in the project and collaborate with another club.

“We came to play music.”

Los Van Van are the latest in a string of Cuban bands to visit the United States under the Obama administration — and the most controversial. Many characterize the group as having a curious relationship with the Castro government, making them an emblem for conservative exiles of a five-decade long dictatorship.

“We cannot say right now because we do not know what the budget will be,” Georges said.

Representatives present said they understood the issue with the budget.

Zahra Arhabi, president of the Muslim Student Association said, “It’s understandable, they do not know what the budget next semester will be like.”

Questions regarding the Point System can be directed to the Campus Life Office at 305-919-5804.

Old tensions do little to stop Cuban band

CHRISTINE ARMARIO
Associated Press Writer

One by one, musicians from the renowned Cuban salsa band Los Van Van made their way past immigration officials at Miami International Airport and into the bright lights and cameras of the Spanish-language television network’s cameras.

“I didn’t come to do anything political,” bassist Juan Formell said. “We came to play music.”

Los Van Van are the latest in a string of Cuban bands to visit the United States under the Obama administration — and the most controversial. Many characterize the group as having a curious relationship with the Castro government, making them an emblem for conservative exiles of a five-decade long dictatorship.

Aside from Los Van Van, La Charanga Habanera and Buena Fe, a pop duo, each made recent appearances to sell-out crowds in Miami.

“We have the daunting task of trying to find documentation on people who tried not to leave any tracks behind,” Hordes said.

According to Hordes, researchers have estimated that about 20 percent of Hispanic men have a certain DNA code associated with people of Jewish descent.

“Both Hordes and Kunin are uncovering the history of the Crypto-Jews in the Caribbean, specifically in the islands of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Hispaniola and Jamaica.

Omara Portuondo is scheduled to perform here in March.

When Formell formed the group in 1969, the Castro regime was kicking off a campaign to produce 10 million tons of sugar. A popular slogan was “Los diez millones van,” or “The 10 million go.”

“People have been scared to offend Los Van Van,” said Chris Johnson, a producer for radio station KXLU, home of the long standing Latin music program “Alma del Barrio” in Los Angeles.

Cuban-American radio stations have avoided playing music from groups on island from the past, but that has begun to change. About six months ago, Al Fuentes, program director for Spanish Broadcasting Systems in Miami, began playing songs from Los Van Van and other Cuban artists on his morning show.

“I think we need to realize there is a new generation that grew up in Cuba with that music, and the people that are here now make the decision.”
Holy day offers free water, crucial message

JASMYN ELLIOTT
BBC Managing Editor

An Islamic holy day presented itself as an opportunity to spread a life lesson to students along with something to quench their thirst.

In honor of the day of Ashura, members of the Biscayne Bay Campus Muslim Students Association handed out free water bottles and pamphlets detailing the story of Imam al-Husayn’s stand against Yazid, the corrupt caliphate of Medina, on Feb. 5.

According to the story, Husayn was the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad. When Yazid demanded that those under his rule pledge allegiance to him, Husayn refused, citing that he could not pay allegiance to an open sinner. Upon recognizing the danger of his stance, Husayn and his family fled to Mecca. During their journey through the desert, an opposing army met Husayn and his family. During the struggle they were defeated, making Husayn into a martyr.

While Muslims honor the day of Ashura by designating it as a day of mourning, the MSA honored this day by spreading the underlying importance of Husayn’s stance. According to Zahra Arbab aski, Husayn’s legacy is crucial to Islam.

“If it wasn’t for Imam Husayn standing up to the tyrant of the time, then possibly no one would know about Islam today,” she said.

Several people were also moved by the message. According to Arbab aski, several people came back after reading the summary on the water bottle and expressed enthusiasm behind the underlying message of standing up for one’s beliefs, like Dawn Paris, a senior journalism major.

“I was very impressed when I read the label on the water bottle since it meant a lot to me,” said Paris. “I support those who fight against `downpressors,’ the oppression of the lower class by the hierarchy.”

Several students asked Arbab aski the “catch” behind receiving a free bottle of water

“Just take it, read it, learn a lesson – that’s the catch,” Arbab aski said.

Arbab aski also noted that each year, on the day of Ashura, it rains. Above her, the clouds rumbled.

PHOTOS BY SERGIO MOTEALEGRE/THE BEACON
As elections approach, SGC-MMC must start early to fix last year's problems

As the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus begins preparations for this year's elections, trends that were visible in last year's controversial elections could once again cause many problems.

More than a year's elections from similar troubles, SGC-MMC needs to remain mindful of the past and be open to change for the future.

SGC-MMC is off to a slow start in devising their strategy to improve the current elections system. In late January, SGC-MMC finally confirmed an elections commissioner, Christy Flores. The commission was only confirmed by the senate two weeks ago, well into the summer-to-summer term of the student elections board.

Also, with only six weeks left till the elections, the board itself has yet to be confirmed. According to SGC-MMC Press Secretary Ben Badger, it could be up to two weeks before the board is confirmed by the senate.

The board should have been confirmed well in advance, at least by the end of the Fall semester. If SGC-MMC continues to drag their feet, the board runs the risk of not having a board established by the application deadline of Feb. 18.

Elections Commissioners Flores, while showing signs of faith in reforming the system, has been unclear in several instances regarding meetings and their importance to prospective candidates who are mandated to attend. At least four of messages were sent starting Feb. 2 from the official elections Facebook group in regards to the scheduling of these meetings. Both the dates and the importance of the meetings were changed in subsequent messages.

In the messages, Flores not only changed the dates of the meetings from Feb. 3 and 4 to the current Feb. 10 and 11, but also was clear that the meetings held were mandatory for all those who wanted to be a candidate in this year's election.

“If you are not in attendance, you will not be eligible to run for a position,” Flores said.

On Feb. 5, SGC-MMC Press Secretary Ben Badger sent a fourth message clarifying that the meetings are no longer mandatory but were rather “strongly encouraged.”

Communications regarding elections should be clear, unambiguous and succinct. Changing the dates, times and circumstances of these meetings is confusing and can lead to a miscommunication that may result in qualified candidates being disqualified.

When candidates’ entire eligibility rests on whether or not they attend a meeting, and with $113 million in campaign spending clarifying that the meetings were no longer mandatory but were rather “strongly encouraged.”

Communications regarding elections should be clear, unambiguous and succinct. Changing the dates, times and circumstances of these meetings is confusing and can lead to a miscommunication that may result in qualified candidates being disqualified.

According to the code, both the board is required to hold a mandatory candidate meeting prior to the commencement of campaigning, it is also clear that “this meeting shall be held following the deadline for registration,” which in this case is Feb. 18.

After last year’s abysmal turnout (roughly five percent of students) and a voting system malfunction which required a reversion to paper ballots, this year’s elections board must learn the lessons of the past and correct them for what is shaping out to be a very much contested race.

This editorial is the first in a two-part series, the second of which will be published Feb. 10.

Ian buys time by dragging out talks

The nuclear troubles are further complicated by the social and political unrest that has continued since Iran's rigged elections last summer.

Protests remain sporadic but wide-scale; even government officials have expressed opposition to Ahmadinejad and Ayatollah Khamenei, who are widely seen as influential figures behind the nuclear program.

Such unprecedented resistance has produced a wildcard: will the strike move the regime even more, and likely to continue with the project? Or will it divide the regime enough to stall it?

We to the officials who must figure this out while the clock ticks.

America needs patriots not biased pundits

Pundits are on the rise and have become the screening heads that define the political landscape for Americans; for those who don’t have the time or inclination to follow politics with enough detail.

For the past two decades, although Clinton and Bush are now historical names and partisan, experts have continued to claim that the majority of people in this country are somewhere close to the center of the ideological spectrum. Pundits, wielding their energized and over-the-top biases, have helped galvanize people at either end of the spectrum and prevent the very thing we do in this country: the ability to work together.

Glenn Beck, a popular right-wing pundit has made quite a few sensationalist claims. They include that our country is “headed toward socialism ... totalitarianism,” claiming that President Obama’s so called “czars” are “wicked, crazy, evil people.” This is despite the fact that the car system was historically developed in Washington politics even during the previous administration. During a time when Obama has been described as some less than a joke or as a Nazi, Beck seems to want to fan the flames.

And, that’s what pundits do: they exaggerate fuel and oil anxiety and even hatred.

Pundits of course aren’t only found among the GOP. Keith Olberman, a television host, has resorted to direct insults. He has called Senator Lieberman “a senile prostitute” and Chris Wallace a “monkey posing as a news-caster.” To what good does this serve? Sure, it may make Olberman feel better but for those watching it in all likelihood concretizes their opinion that people who are not on the left cannot be reasoned. It promotes stereotypes.

Both Beck and Olberman have made some good points. Beck has warned against the influence of lobbying in Washington and he chided officials for their corruption. Olberman spent an incredible amount of time deconstructing the Patriot Act, warning us of the influence of lobbying in Washington and he chided officials for their corruption. Olberman spent an incredible amount of time deconstructing the Patriot Act, warning us of the influence of lobbying in Washington and he chided officials for their corruption. Olberman spent an incredible amount of time deconstructing the Patriot Act, warning us of the influence of lobbying in Washington and he chided officials for their corruption. Olberman spent an incredible amount of time deconstructing the Patriot Act, warning us of the influence of lobbying in Washington and he chided officials for their corruption. Olberman spent an incredible amount of time deconstructing the Patriot Act, warning us of the influence of lobbying in Washington and he chided officials for their corruption.

Deconstructing the Patriot Act was something that he has done many times, and he has helped us to understand the importance of what he is doing.

Pundits can sometimes be very interesting, and can be very insightful. However, they are not the ones who give thor-ough and fact-based opinions, such as Fareed Zakaria. Yet men like Zakaria are much less than pundits. If we allow them to take it, there is no problem” was one of the most important statements that was made during this period.”

Woe to the officials who must figure this out while the clock ticks.

We need people to work together. While we may not all agree on every point, I think we can agree on wanting to make this country better.

We won’t get there by calling people heretics.

Ian buys time by dragging out talks

The nuclear troubles are further complicated by the social and political unrest that has continued since Iran’s rigged elections last summer.

Protests remain sporadic but wide-scale; even government officials have expressed opposition to Ahmadinejad and Ayatollah Khamenei, who are widely seen as influential figures behind the nuclear program.

Such unprecedented resistance has produced a wildcard: will the strike move the regime even more, and likely to continue with the project? Or will it divide the regime enough to stall it?

We to the officials who must figure this out while the clock ticks.

America needs patriots not biased pundits

Pundits are on the rise and have become the screening heads that define the political landscape for Americans; for those who don’t have the time or inclination to follow politics with enough detail.

For the past two decades, although Clinton and Bush are now historical names and partisan, experts have continued to claim that the majority of people in this country are somewhere close to the center of the ideological spectrum. Pundits, wielding their energized and over-the-top biases, have helped galvanize people at either end of the spectrum and prevent the very thing we do in this country: the ability to work together.

Glenn Beck, a popular right-wing pundit has made quite a few sensationalist claims. They include that our country is “headed toward socialism ... totalitarianism,” claiming that President Obama’s so called “czars” are “wicked, crazy, evil people.” This is despite the fact that the car system was historically developed in Washington politics even during the previous administration. During a time when Obama has been described as some less than a joke or as a Nazi, Beck seems to want to fan the flames.

And, that’s what pundits do: they exaggerate fuel and oil anxiety and even hatred.

Pundits of course aren’t only found among the GOP. Keith Olberman, a television host, has resorted to direct insults. He has called Senator Lieberman “a senile prostitute” and Chris Wallace a “monkey posing as a news-caster.” To what good does this serve? Sure, it may make Olberman feel better but for those watching it in all likelihood concretizes their opinion that people who are not on the left cannot be reasoned. It promotes stereotypes.

Both Beck and Olberman have made some good points. Beck has warned against the influence of lobbying in Washington and he chided officials for their corruption. Olberman spent an incredible amount of time deconstructing the Patriot Act, warning us of the influence of lobbying in Washington and he chided officials for their corruption. Olberman spent an incredible amount of time deconstructing the Patriot Act, warning us of the influence of lobbying in Washington and he chided officials for their corruption. Olberman spent an incredible amount of time deconstructing the Patriot Act, warning us of the influence of lobbying in Washington and he chided officials for their corruption. Olberman spent an incredible amount of time deconstructing the Patriot Act, warning us of the influence of lobbying in Washington and he chided officials for their corruption.

Deconstructing the Patriot Act was something that he has done many times, and he has helped us to understand the importance of what he is doing.

Pundits can sometimes be very interesting, and can be very insightful. However, they are not the ones who give thorough and fact-based opinions, such as Fareed Zakaria. Yet men like Zakaria are much less than pundits. If we allow them to take it, there is no problem” was one of the most important statements that was made during this period.”

Woe to the officials who must figure this out while the clock ticks.

We need people to work together. While we may not all agree on every point, I think we can agree on wanting to make this country better.

We won’t get there by calling people heretics.
**Miss FIU**

**Women compete for scholarships on the road to Miss America**

On Feb. 5, 14 contestants competed to be the next Miss FIU in the Graham Center Ballrooms.

**THE BEACON INTERVIEWS: KRAVE**

**Local hip-hop trio prepares to release first album in September**

**JANET CAREAGA**

*Staff Writer*

There is new music on the East Coast that people are craving, and it’s right here in Miami’s hottest clubs. Although in the dictionary crave is defined as desire, they thought the word to mean respect, confidence and unity with everybody. Then they “funked it up” by changing the “c” to a “k.”

Kraze has worked with popular artists like Pit Bull, Akon and Nelly. It is a great privilege to work with them,” Robinson said. “It is a pleasure to have these people on our record that we idolize and make our songs even better. We’re in a good situation.”

Kraze is currently finishing their first album that is set to come out by September. They will soon begin shooting their music video for their first single, “Girls Go Crazy,” featuring Flo Rida, and there is some high school and college touring in the works as well.

“We worked hard to get where we are and we are going to work harder to get to the top,” Kearse said. “We really work hard because we want people to like us.”

**AMANDA BATCHelor**

**ANASTASIA MOHAMMED**

*Beacon Staff*

It was an eventful night at the 2010 Miss FIU Scholarship Pageant, hosted by the 2009 Miss FIU Stephanie Lozano and comedian Robby Valls. Fourteen contestants competed for the title that would reward them with a scholarship and a spot in the Miss America Pageant.

The Miss FIU Pageant is part of the Miss America Organization, which is the largest provider of scholarships for young women in the United States.

“The Miss America Pageant, along with the state pageants and local preliminaries, provide contestants with the opportunity to enhance their professional and educational goals,” said Lauren Perez, executive director of the Miss FIU Pageant. “The Miss America Organization is a non-profit corporation that is solely run by dedicated volunteers.”

The 2010 Miss FIU Committee was full of enthusiasm and commitment to the cause and Christine Ale, the stage design and production chair, was happy to have an opportunity to support this cause.

“It is a great opportunity to see women on campus empowered and making an impact. I want to be their support system,” Second runner-up was Caressa Gonzalez and first runner-up was Cristina Bosmenier.

Stephanie Jimenez was the big winner of the night. In addition to winning the title of Miss FIU, she also won prizes for most photogenic and best interview.

“I still can’t believe it. I’m on cloud nine,” Jimenez said. For her Overall Interview Award and Most Photogenic Award, she won an official Miss America Trophy, a $50 gift certificate courtesy of Koko & Palenki and a floral bouquet. For winning the title of Miss FIU 2010, Jimenez got a $1,250 scholarship; an official Miss America crown, official Miss America sash; a floral bouquet; $350 gift certificate and earrings courtesy of Regalia Magnificent Apparel; $50 gift certificate courtesy of Koko & Palenki; a three-month gym membership courtesy of Planet Fitness; $150 toward her talent costume for the pageant courtesy of the Miss FIU Committee and $400 toward her gown for Miss Florida courtesy of the Student Government Association.

This isn’t the only pageant that this 19-year-old has entered.

**PAGEANT, page 9**

**THE BEACON INTERVIEWS**

**KRAVE**

**ANASTASIA MOHAMMED**

*Beacon Staff*

Akon, Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey and P. Diddy.

Stephens has worked with artists like Akon, Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey and P. Diddy.

Stephens came up with the name Krave because the women wanted something fresh and funky that would describe their music as “ghetto pop.” Robinson called it universal party music.

They just want to involve everyone in the Krave movement. Krave was discovered by music mogul and CEO of Upfront Megatainment, Devyne Stephens. Stephens has worked with artists like Akon, Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey and P. Diddy.

Stephens came up with the name Krave because the women wanted something fresh and funky that would describe their music as “ghetto pop.” Robinson called it universal party music.

They just want to involve everyone in the Krave movement. Krave was discovered by music mogul and CEO of Upfront Megatainment, Devyne Stephens. Stephens has worked with artists like Akon, Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey and P. Diddy.

Stephens came up with the name Krave because the women wanted something fresh and funky that would describe their music as “ghetto pop.” Robinson called it universal party music.

They just want to involve everyone in the Krave movement. Krave was discovered by music mogul and CEO of Upfront Megatainment, Devyne Stephens. Stephens has worked with artists like Akon, Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey and P. Diddy.

Stephens came up with the name Krave because the women wanted something fresh and funky that would describe their music as “ghetto pop.” Robinson called it universal party music.

They just want to involve everyone in the Krave movement. Krave was discovered by music mogul and CEO of Upfront Megatainment, Devyne Stephens. Stephens has worked with artists like Akon, Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey and P. Diddy.

Stephens came up with the name Krave because the women wanted something fresh and funky that would describe their music as “ghetto pop.” Robinson called it universal party music.

They just want to involve everyone in the Krave movement. Krave was discovered by music mogul and CEO of Upfront Megatainment, Devyne Stephens. Stephens has worked with artists like Akon, Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey and P. Diddy.

Stephens came up with the name Krave because the women wanted something fresh and funky that would describe their music as “ghetto pop.” Robinson called it universal party music.

They just want to involve everyone in the Krave movement. Krave was discovered by music mogul and CEO of Upfront Megatainment, Devyne Stephens. Stephens has worked with artists like Akon, Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey and P. Diddy.

Stephens came up with the name Krave because the women wanted something fresh and funky that would describe their music as “ghetto pop.” Robinson called it universal party music.

They just want to involve everyone in the Krave movement. Krave was discovered by music mogul and CEO of Upfront Megatainment, Devyne Stephens. Stephens has worked with artists like Akon, Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey and P. Diddy.

Stephens came up with the name Krave because the women wanted something fresh and funky that would describe their music as “ghetto pop.” Robinson called it universal party music.

They just want to involve everyone in the Krave movement. Krave was discovered by music mogul and CEO of Upfront Megatainment, Devyne Stephens. Stephens has worked with artists like Akon, Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey and P. Diddy.

Stephens came up with the name Krave because the women wanted something fresh and funky that would describe their music as “ghetto pop.” Robinson called it universal party music.

They just want to involve everyone in the Krave movement. Krave was discovered by music mogul and CEO of Upfront Megatainment, Devyne Stephens. Stephens has worked with artists like Akon, Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey and P. Diddy.

Stephens came up with the name Krave because the women wanted something fresh and funky that would describe their music as “ghetto pop.” Robinson called it universal party music.

They just want to involve everyone in the Krave movement. Krave was discovered by music mogul and CEO of Upfront Megatainment, Devyne Stephens. Stephens has worked with artists like Akon, Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey and P. Diddy.

Stephens came up with the name Krave because the women wanted something fresh and funky that would describe their music as “ghetto pop.” Robinson called it universal party music.

They just want to involve everyone in the Krave movement. Krave was discovered by music mogul and CEO of Upfront Megatainment, Devyne Stephens. Stephens has worked with artists like Akon, Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey and P. Diddy.

Stephens came up with the name Krave because the women wanted something fresh and funky that would describe their music as “ghetto pop.” Robinson called it universal party music.

They just want to involve everyone in the Krave movement. Krave was discovered by music mogul and CEO of Upfront Megatainment, Devyne Stephens. Stephens has worked with artists like Akon, Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey and P. Diddy.

Stephens came up with the name Krave because the women wanted something fresh and funky that would describe their music as “ghetto pop.” Robinson called it universal party music.

They just want to involve everyone in the Krave movement. Krave was discovered by music mogul and CEO of Upfront Megatainment, Devyne Stephens. Stephens has worked with artists like Akon, Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey and P. Diddy.

Stephens came up with the name Krave because the women wanted something fresh and funky that would describe their music as “ghetto pop.” Robinson called it universal party music.

They just want to involve everyone in the Krave movement. Krave was discovered by music mogul and CEO of Upfront Megatainment, Devyne Stephens. Stephens has worked with artists like Akon, Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey and P. Diddy.

Stephens came up with the name Krave because the women wanted something fresh and funky that would describe their music as “ghetto pop.” Robinson called it universal party music.

They just want to involve everyone in the Krave movement. Krave was discovered by music mogul and CEO of Upfront Megatainment, Devyne Stephens. Stephens has worked with artists like Akon, Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey and P. Diddy.

Stephens came up with the name Krave because the women wanted something fresh and funky that would describe their music as “ghetto pop.” Robinson called it universal party music.

They just want to involve everyone in the Krave movement. Krave was discovered by music mogul and CEO of Upfront Megatainment, Devyne Stephens. Stephens has worked with artists like Akon, Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey and P. Diddy.

Stephens came up with the name Krave because the women wanted something fresh and funky that would describe their music as “ghetto pop.” Robinson called it universal party music.

They just want to involve everyone in the Krave movement. Krave was discovered by music mogul and CEO of Upfront Megatainment, Devyne Stephens. Stephens has worked with artists like Akon, Michael Jackson, Mariah Carey and P. Diddy.
Online music video project aims to make science accessible to all

JAMES RADZIEWICZ
Asst. Life! Editor

A Web site is gaining popularity by turning some of the most well-known and respected minds of science into the Internet’s newest singing sensations.

The topic of scientific phenomena may not evoke the idea of popular music for most. However, John Boswell, creator of symphonyscience.com, made this connection.

In 2009, Boswell decided to combine his passions for science and electronic music with a music video project. This first video, “A Glorious Dawn,” featured the late geniuses Carl Sagan and Dr. Stephen Hawking. This duo seems an unlikely pairing for a catchy song, but Boswell’s use of Auto-Tune seems an unlikely pairing for a catchy song, but Boswell’s use of Auto-Tune

sympathizes with discussions of wormholes, questions about the universe, and the human brain, Boswell immortalizes Carl Sagan’s words, which convey the astrophysicist’s whimsical passion for the pursuit of science: “A still more glorious dawn awaits; not a sunrise, but a galaxy-rise; a morning filled with 400 billion suns.”

Concepts of science are, at times, written off by those who dislike mathematical formulas, expansive concepts and an abundance of raw data and facts. This song attempts to evoke the beauty and wonder that lies at the heart of the scientific quest for knowledge and understanding, rather than teach it.

“Mathematics sounds ‘scary’ and formulas sound ‘dry,’” said University physics Professor James Webb. “I think any attempt to popularize science is wonderful and should be pursued.”

Boswell seemed successful in beginning to bridge this divide between the “mind” and “heart” of science.

“A Glorious Dawn” received a strong reception, especially on YouTube, where multiple versions, including subtitles in other languages and remixes for the song have reached combined totals of more than 25,000 views.

TUNES
SCI
SYMPHONY, page 9

TUNES

预算-愉快的食客享受意大利面星期四

LEONCIO ALVAREZ
Staff Writer

吃剩下的炸鸡腿会给人一种便宜的感觉，而且会有满满的满足感。但是，如果在星期四，你可能会发现一个非常实惠的意大利面套餐。这道菜的价格从14到19美元不等，对于在意大利餐厅找到的意大利面来说，绝对是物超所值。

我曾经在一个意大利餐厅吃过的意大利面中，我认为这道菜是绝对值得一试的。这道菜非常美味，而且让人难以忘怀。如果你是一个喜欢尝试新鲜事物的人，那么这道菜一定会给你留下深刻的印象。

ALL INCLUDED

Discovery Cruise Line All-Inclusive to Grand Bahama

- All-Inclusive ship with all alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks included
- New 10 AM departure (gates close at 8:45 AM)
- New all-you-can-eat brunch buffet served until Noon
- New all-you-can-eat dinner buffet served from 6 PM – 9 PM
- Music and V-Jay
- Movies
- New Wii® Room with all sorts of games to play
- Action exciting in the casino
- A Grand Destination with plenty to do for overnight visitors: beautiful beaches, lots of attractions, Port Lucaya Marketplace, diving, golf, fishing, spa, shops, art & exciting nightlife, casino and more...beautiful resorts.

$49.99*
per person
for an all-inclusive fun day cruise

$69.99*
per person
for a 2 day / 1 night stay

Choose a variety of Resorts, from budget to luxury to all-inclusive. Book now and when you call to receive a FREE Discovery Deals Booklet containing coupons for discounts at Grand Bahama merchants having a total value of more than $200.

*Prices include the cruise, U.S. port taxes, 2 all-you-can-eat buffet meals on board, and all-you-can-drink alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. Does not include port parking fees or a $35 per person surcharge including the Bahamian departure & entry fees, taxes, and gratuities fees. Also included are new all-you-can-drink alcoholic beverages on all beverage stations, new all-you-can-eat buffet meals, and an uptick in the Quality of Service on the ship to make this the best cruise experience on board. All inclusive rates based on double occupancy and are subject to change. Additional charges may apply for shore excursions, spa, and drink packages. Offer subject to change without notice. Discovery, its employees or agents cannot be held responsible for the accuracy and for errors or omissions in the content of this promotion. Certain restrictions apply. Offer expires June 30, 2010. Enjoy your stay in Bahamas.
Pageant a success despite technical difficulties throughout

The popularity of this first video prompted Boswell to expand on the idea and the Symphony of Science project was created. Since its foundation, three more music videos have been released, with the most recent being launched last month. The songs combine audio samplings, documentary video and pictures that capture the natural beauty that science seeks to discover and share.

“Symphony’s second video, “We Are All Connected,” expanded to other great minds of science to explore the link humans share with the universe. This offering drew on the ideas enjoyed in interviews of Richard Feynman, Neil deGrasse Tyson and a nostalgic hook by none other than Bill Nye the ‘Science Guy.”

“Our Place in the Cosmos,” Boswell’s third video, combined Sagan’s image with contemporaries Richard Dawkins and Michio Kaku. This song uses a slower, electronic funk style combined with synthesized piano with beautiful imagery from Jewels of the Universe and various documentaries.

Last month’s song “The Unbroken Thread” saw Symphony moving in a new direction. The ever-quotable Sagan is now joined by David Attenborough and famed biologist Jane Goodall. Juxtaposing the previous topics involving space and the universe, “Thread” discusses the idea of evolution and the similarities of development in the animal kingdom.

These videos have drawn praise from music critics, news sources and even Sagan’s own son, Nick Sagan.

“John Boswell is … a mad genius,” said the younger Sagan about the first video. “[I] love it. Dud would have loved it, too.”

“I think people who like science will like them a lot, and others may find them sort of fascinating,” Webb agreed.

Though Symphony of Science is the most recent effort to combine science and music and is currently enjoying popularity on the Internet, it is by no means the first attempt to create music with ideas of science. Dr. Fiorella Terenzi, an Italian biologist, has used her own unique approach to sharing the beauty found in science. Collecting audio samplings, documentary footage and even Sagan’s own son, Nick Sagan.

Teresa is not the only local professor interested in blending a passion for science with music. Webb, in addition to being a music enthusiast, enjoys making his own. His endeavors have included a song about the James Webb Space Telescope, a playable number about the assumptions people have been making about the telescope’s name.

Webb made another video, featuring students from FIU, extol- to be a mix between pico de gallo and an Italian bruschetta. I ordered the foccacia gorgonzola and the waiter smiled and said, “Great choice, that’s my favorite.” This dish might be my favorite too. The perfect combination of salty and sweet are given by pear and four cheeses stuffed inside big purse-shaped pasta (focchi), floating in what can be called a gorgonzola and walnut soup. At least that’s what I consid- ered it; after finishing my pasta I took a spoon and drank the sauce like a soup – and no, I did not ashamed. You’d do the same. I promise.

Chicken can be replaced by salmon on my plate any day. I tried some of the whole wheat penne with salmon, pine nuts and broccoli and I must say I did not miss chicken at all. I could have done with a little more bacon, but the pink sauce really gave the dish great flavor.

For dessert we shared some nocciola – the hazelnut gelato – and bought some Amaretti cookies in the market for the car ride home. At $15 per person, I think it would have been hard to find such great food at such a low price.

Next time I think I will try the homemade gnocchi or the spinach and ricotta cheese ravioli. It doesn’t really matter, there are plenty of Thursdays to come at Preston’s. The Beacon does not accept free goods or services in exchange for positive reviews.

Music, science collide in Web videos

S Y M P H O N Y, page 8

than 4 million hits since its release six months ago.

The Symphony of Science project was created. Since its foundation, three more music videos have been released, with the most recent being launched last month. The songs combine audio samplings, documentary video and pictures that capture the natural beauty that science seeks to discover and share.

“Symphony’s second video, “We Are All Connected,” expanded to other great minds of science to explore the link humans share with the universe. This offering drew on the ideas enjoyed in interviews of Richard Feynman, Neil deGrasse Tyson and a nostalgic hook by none other than Bill Nye the ‘Science Guy.”

“Our Place in the Cosmos,” Boswell’s third video, combined Sagan’s image with contemporaries Richard Dawkins and Michio Kaku. This song uses a slower, electronic funk style combined with synthesized piano with beautiful imagery from Jewels of the Universe and various documentaries.

Last month’s song “The Unbroken Thread” saw Symphony moving in a new direction. The ever-quotable Sagan is now joined by David Attenborough and famed biologist Jane Goodall. Juxtaposing the previous topics involving space and the universe, “Thread” discusses the idea of evolution and the similarities of development in the animal kingdom.

These videos have drawn praise from music critics, news sources and even Sagan’s own son, Nick Sagan.

“John Boswell is … a mad genius,” said the younger Sagan about the first video. “[I] love it. Dud would have loved it, too.”

“I think people who like science will like them a lot, and others may find them sort of fascinating,” Webb agreed.

Though Symphony of Science is the most recent effort to combine science and music and is currently enjoying popularity on the Internet, it is by no means the first attempt to create music with ideas of science. Dr. Fiorella Terenzi, an Italian biologist, has used her own unique approach to sharing the beauty found in science. Collecting audio samplings, documentary footage and even Sagan’s own son, Nick Sagan.

Teresa is not the only local professor interested in blending a passion for science with music. Webb, in addition to being a music enthusiast, enjoys making his own. His endeavors have included a song about the James Webb Space Telescope, a playable number about the assumptions people have been making about the telescope’s name.

Webb made another video, featuring students from FIU, extol- to be a mix between pico de gallo and an Italian bruschetta. I ordered the foccacia gorgonzola and the waiter smiled and said, “Great choice, that’s my favorite.” This dish might be my favorite too. The perfect combination of salty and sweet are given by pear and four cheeses stuffed inside big purse-shaped pasta (focchi), floating in what can be called a gorgonzola and walnut soup. At least that’s what I consid- ered it; after finishing my pasta I took a spoon and drank the sauce like a soup – and no, I did not ashamed. You’d do the same. I promise.

Chicken can be replaced by salmon on my plate any day. I tried some of the whole wheat penne with salmon, pine nuts and broccoli and I must say I did not miss chicken at all. I could have done with a little more bacon, but the pink sauce really gave the dish great flavor.

For dessert we shared some nocciola – the hazelnut gelato – and bought some Amaretti cookies in the market for the car ride home. At $15 per person, I think it would have been hard to find such great food at such a low price.

Next time I think I will try the homemade gnocchi or the spinach and ricotta cheese ravioli. It doesn’t really matter, there are plenty of Thursdays to come at Preston’s. The Beacon does not accept free goods or services in exchange for positive reviews.
NFL commissioner discusses potential changes

BARRY WIEER
Associated Press

With the Super Bowl now in the rear view mirror, the NFL likely will enter its first season since 1993 without a salary cap. What effect an uncapped year will have on the 32 teams is uncertain.

"I don’t think anybody wants to see a work stoppage," commissioner Roger Goodell said Friday at his annual Super Bowl-week news conference. "There are no benefits to that. If it comes to anything like that, we would all have failed."

Failure is not a familiar word in the NFL, which has enjoyed soaring television ratings in a season filled with intriguing story lines. But a lack of progress on a new collective bargaining agreement casts a shadow over the nation’s most popular and prosperous sport.

"We have to sit at the table and we have to get an agreement that works for everybody," Goodell said. "And that’s what people expect. They expect solutions, and I think it’s our responsibility to sit down at that table and work out the issues. I think there’s been a lot of dialogue, but we need productivity."

Goodell bristled about a statement union chief DeMaurice Smith made Thursday. Smith estimated the chance of a lockout next year was "14" on a scale of 1 to 10.

"I couldn’t make that prediction, and I sure hope he’s wrong, and I sure hope it doesn’t become a self-fulfilling prophecy," Goodell said.

"Right now we don’t need a lot of focus on that. We need to take advantage of the opportunity we have right now to structure an agreement and sit down and negotiate. That’s how this is going to get done, and we will have an agreement. It’s just a matter of when, but talking about options like work stoppages is not going to get us there."

The owners of the current agreement in 2008, claiming the players’ 60 percent share of revenues was too high. Goodell said Friday that since the 2006 agreement was struck, the NFL generated $3.6 billion in additional revenue, and $2.6 billion of that went to the players.

"The owners are actually $200 million worse off than they were in 2006," Goodell said. "So the system is not working for at least one side of the equation. And that’s the point. You have to have a system that works for everybody here."

On other issues, the commissioner said:

- There’s more work to do on the issue of concussions, but the league has made progress in player awareness and changing the culture.
- We want to make sure people understand that they are serious injuries, and make sure that we deal with them in a conservative and medical fashion," Goodell said.
- Extending the season will be part of the discussion when talks with the union resume. Goodell favors adding one or two games to replace exhibition games.
- I consistently hear from players and fans that the quality of our preseason is not up to NFL standards and that we need to fix that," he said. "This is one way of doing that, and what I believe is an effective way.”
- The NFL is still eyeing a return to Mexico; the Cardinals and 49ers held the league’s first regular-season game outside the United States in Mexico in 2005.
- We would like to expand the number of games we’re playing internationally," Goodell said. "The restructured season, actually, is one of the ways to do that. By adding two more regular-season games, it gives us a little more flexibility to be able to reach our international audience.”

With late season surge, Russo deserves another chance

DELGADO, page 12

The Golden Panthers had built a 15-point lead with a few minutes remaining. It appeared that FIU would leave Boca Raton having breezed their way to a road win. But then the Owls caught fire, and relentlessly fought back. The Panthers crumbled, and the Owls tied it in the closing seconds to send the game to overtime.

After winning the Sun Belt Conference tournament in 2002 and earning a bid for the NCAA Tournament, the team has not returned since.

After the 2003-04 season, FIU finished below .500 for the first time since 1980. And it all culminated last season, as the team finished dead last in Sun Belt play with a 6-24 record.

What had happened? What had changed?

There were rumblings around fan circles as to whether FIU should look elsewhere to turn the program around. It appeared as if FIU had run out of gas, run out of ideas, run out of answers.

Before the start of this season, it didn’t look like any change was in sight. Russo’s legacy at FIU was in jeopardy and it was unclear whether she would be able to recover in time to save it.

REBOUNDING EFFORT

As the overtime period started, the fans gathered at FAU Arena could taste it; they knew their squad had the momentum and that FIU was on the edge, all that was needed was a little push.

But Michelle Gonzalez took over, scoring all of the Golden Panthers’ 10 points in the overtime period and delivering them from the brink, surviving the thriller in Boca with a 77-75 victory.

This season has had high points and low points for Russo’s squad, but without a doubt it has signaled a noticeable turnaround.

The team has already matched their win total for last season, and the victory at FAU has sparked victories against both Louisiana and North Texas.

The Panthers now have a three-game winning streak, building momentum as they enter the later stages of the season. But Russo isn’t “back.” Not yet, anyway.

She still has a long way to go before she can regain the status she had earned at FIU during the ’80s and ’90s.

But it is by no means an unattainable level.

With young players like Michelle Gonzalez taking a leadership role at guard and Carmen Milagro traveling across the globe to bring her hard-working style of play to Miami, Russo still has a lot to talent to work with and develop.

This year has earned Russo another chance to turn the ship around. And proves to her doubters and naysayers that her work at FIU is far from over.
North Texas downs FIU as late run closes game

By JONATHAN RAMOS
Sports Director

Something about FIU gives North Texas trouble. That something was present when FIU defeated the Mean Green in Denton on Dec. 20.

It also showed itself when the Golden Panthers made a 15-1 run in the second half of Saturday’s game to take a 63-56 lead.

Unfortunately for FIU (7-19, 4-9 Sun Belt), the Mean Green figured it out and finished the game on a 12-3 run to leave the U.S. Century Bank Arena with a 68-66 win on Feb. 6.

“Our kids fought hard and we just got to keep getting better at the little things,” said FIU coach Isiah Thomas. “It’s not the small things that hurt you in the end of the game; it’s the small things that hurt you at the beginning of the game. We have a tendency to focus on the last three or four minutes of the game, but the things where you probably lost the game in were the first three minutes of the game.”

With North Texas (15-8, 8-5 SBC) leading 67-63 down the stretch, FIU guard Stephon Weaver knocked down a three-pointer to bring FIU to within one point. With 18 seconds left in the game, the Golden Panthers looked for a go-ahead basket which resulted in a Phil Gary Jr. three-point miss.

UNT forward George Odufuwa snatched the rebound and got fouled, making one-of-two attempts at the stripe.

The Golden Panthers then tried to inbound a full court pass with 2.2 seconds left, which was not completed.

“When J.C. (Oster) came up to set the screen, he set the screen on the wrong side,” Thomas said of the Gary shot. “But that’s neither here nor there. (UNT) did a good job at the end of the game.”

In many ways, the game came down to free throws, where the Mean Green knocked down 15-of-27 attempts while FIU hit on 8-of-16 tries from the charity stripe.

“I thought we did a good job in taking care of the basketball, but I thought the 27 free throws they shot to our 16 was probably the difference in the game,” Thomas said.

“They did a good job, a much better job, of getting to the foul line.”

The Golden Panthers, eighth in the SBC in free throw percentage, struggled to get to the line and to convert on the few opportunities they had in the close game.

“We missed a couple of free throws we should have made,” said FIU forward Marvin Roberts. “If we would have knocked down a few free throws and a couple of key baskets, we would have won the game easily.”

Roberts led the team in scoring with 20 points to lead the Mean Green.

“Every team makes runs,” Roberts said. “They hit us unexpectedly, instead of us capitalizing on it.”

SBC in free throw percentage, struggled to

Thomas is looking for persons with high knowledge of grammar, more specifically within AP style, and who have a knack for writing witty headlines.

The Beacon is looking for persons who have an eye for design; although experience with Photoshop and InDesign isn’t required, it is preferred.

If you’re interested, please submit your application in GC 210 or WUC 124.
SPORTS

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL: FIU 72, UNF 55

CAREY’S BREAKOUT
Junior dominates with career-best performance

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

After picking up two straight road wins, Elisa Carey traveled back to Miami with the FIU women’s basketball team, but decided to leave herself on cruise control.

The junior dominated North Texas on Saturday with career-high 26 points and a game-high 14 rebounds, allowing the Golden Panthers to cruise past the Mean Green, 72-55, at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

The forward, who has now scored in double figures in four straight games, seemed close to unstoppable as she calmly sank 10-of-10 shots from the free throw line and 8-of-10 from the floor.

“I think she now understands how important she is to the team,” said point guard Michelle Gonzalez. “The other teams always have players that can match up with [Monika Bosilj] and I but our post players are the best in the conference.”

Carey was effective early on as she scored the first four points of the game. The rest of the Golden Panthers (11-13, 6-7 Sun Belt) followed as the team ran out to a 12-2 lead in the first five minutes of the game.

The Mean Green, however, gave FIU a fight later in the first half when they decreased the lead to just one point, 24-23, after Raquel Cuffie knocked down two free throws with 3:22 remaining.

After the teams exchanged layups, North Texas was able to come within one point again after Brittany James, who scored a team-high 13 points, hit a three with 55 seconds remaining in the half.

FIU guard Cherisse Buddy was there to respond again as she hit a jumper and was fouled by Cuffie. The senior converted the three-point play to make the score 32-28 at the half.

“We have eight players who can all be the first five,” said Gonzalez. “If they come off the bench and do what they need to do when the starters can’t, that’s great. Fanni [Hutlassa] did her job and so did Cherisse, that’s what we need.”

North Texas started the second half with a three-point shot by Denetra Kellum to once again come within one point of tying the game, however, Carey converted a jumper followed by two three-point shots by Fanni Hutlassa and Bosilj to increase the Golden Panther lead to seven.

The Mean Green came no closer than two points the rest of the way and went down by as much as 17 in the final minutes.

FIU shot 45.3 percent for the game compared to 40 percent for the Mean Green (6-18, 3-10 SBC).

The Golden Panthers won the battle in the paint with 26 points compared to 18 for North Texas while also out-rebounding the opponent 36 to 23.

The win marks the third consecutive for FIU and also notes their first conference sweep of the season.

“We finally found out how to come back in a game when we slow down,” said FIU guard Carmen Miloglav who dished out six assists in the game. “We have good chemistry now and we’re playing better. I’m comfortable now because the team allows me to be like that.”

The Golden Panthers hope to keep on cruising as they head to Alabama next week to take on Troy and South Alabama.

“I think that this team is playing together and that’s why the wins are coming,” continued Miloglav. “Everyone is scared of us now because we are getting better.”

Above: Freshman guard Carmen Miloglav [left] attempts to drive by a North Texas defender. Brittney James [right] en route to the basket. Miloglav had a team-highs in assists (6) and steals (3) to go along with two points in a gritty performance. Miloglav has made herself known for her physical play throughout the regular season and is making a case to be a force by the time the Sun Belt tournament rolls around in March.

Left: Fanni Hutlassa [right] passes North Texas guard Niq’ky Hughes [left] as she contributed five points, including a crucial three-pointer early in the second half, to the Golden Panthers’ winning effort. Hutlassa was shot 20 percent from the field.

Coach Russo’s legacy not yet set

It’s impossible to describe Cindy Russo’s coaching career in one sentence.

But last weekend, in that poetic manner that we often see in sports, her entire tenure at FIU was summed up in a basketball game at Boca Raton when her Golden Panthers battled arch rival Florida Atlantic.

As that game unfolded, it was hard not to see the parallels, the story within a story and a metaphor for a career that has had bright spots, rough patches and everything else in between.

FAST START
The team got out to a quick start, creating an early lead and making their presence known, silencing the Boca crowd as FAU had trouble finding an answer to the offensive outburst.

Russo’s career had a similar start. It would have been smart for fans to buy their postseason tickets and plane tickets early. Russo was taking her team to various NCAA Division II tournaments in her first decade and then when FIU made the transition to Division I, regular trips to the NCAA Tournament were the norm.

Russo, who was honing in on 500 career coaching victories, appeared to be riding high and was building herself one of the most impressive coaching careers in college basketball.

But at the turn of the century, something changed.

TURNING POINT