Law school places nationally for second time

MEENA RUPANI
Staff Writer

The College of Law recently placed fourth in the American Bar Association’s Negotiation Competition National Finals. The national finals took place in Orlando, Fla., this year and FIU competed along with 214 other law schools.

This is the second consecutive year that the University has made it to the national finals and has ranked in the top five.

The team representing the law school this year included law students Marielys Llerena and Bryan Jones. Previous competitor Nicole Grimal coached the team.

According to Jones, in order for his team to reach the national finals, between 40 and 50 people first competed in the intramural finals at FIU. Jones initially did not place in these competitions but his partner Llerena placed second.

“The judges did not pick the teams for the regional competition based on who won at the intramural competition, but based on who were the best competitors for the negotiation team,” Jones said.

Following this, two teams competed in the regional finals in Tallahassee.

“During the regional finals, the teams were given cases dealing with employment law. We were given information about a fictitious client and were told to defend them against the prosecuting company. Myself, along with Marielys, represented an employee that had HIV who had his benefits cut due to his medical condition. Our goal was to try to get those back for the employee,” Jones said.

Jones and Llerena’s team placed first in the region during the championship round which qualified them to move on to the national finals, according to Llerena. Jones and Llerena’s coach for the national finals was Nicole Grimal, who placed third at nationals last year.

According to Grimal, she took on the responsibility of coaching this year because the previous coach Ashley VanderLecar had recently graduated. Grimal commented on her experiences as both a competitor and a coach.

“This year was quite different for me. Prepping for these competitions requires the students and coaches put in 200 more hours of work over the course of six months,” Grimal said.

She added, “To coach, I not only had to use my negotiation
Panther Dining experimenting with new hours

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Contributing Writer

As FIU’s Panther Dining Services anticipates new changes and developments, the extension of opening hours for several dining locations is hinted to be just a taste of what students can expect in the future. Breezeway Café and Subway are the two first locations on the Modesto Maidique Campus to undergo trial basis hour changes for the Spring semester.

Instead of normally closing at midnight on Mon-Thurs, Breezeway Café will close at 1 a.m. and close at 11 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday instead of 9 p.m. Subway will now close at 4 p.m. on Saturdays as opposed to 3 p.m.

It is through the culmination of efforts from business services and the student body that these changes have been taken into effect.

Jeff Krablin, assistant vice president of business services, assures that the department is currently conducting traffic studies of all the dining locations throughout the campus to determine more changes.

“These studies will be ongoing and changes to operating hours will be made based on these findings together with customer feedback, impact and cost analyses data,” Krablin stated.

It is the hope of Krablin and the entire department that these hours will continue to attract the entire FIU student body – both residents and commuters.

Susana Guerra, assistant director of marketing and communications, reported that 600 transactions took place within the first week alone during the extended hours.

FIU resident Paula Hurtado is one of the students who claims to be benefitting from the longer opening hours at Breezeway Café.

“I have such a busy schedule sports and schoolwork, that it’s really hard to be able to come to the Café. These hours have been a long time coming and I’m finally able to come home with the Café still open,” Hurtado said.

Other students who live off-campus, such as freshman Ana Rivas, often use FIU’s dining locations throughout the weekend.

“It would be awesome to know that I don’t have to worry as much as to whether Subway will be open or not on Saturday and instead focus on my chemistry test that’s on Monday,” Rivas said.

Although the monetary cost to keep these venues open is not approximately known, business services hopes that these changes will continue to develop and benefit the student body.

Panther Dining and Business Services are constantly trying to hear the opinion of the student body through several mediums.

Restructure plan met with conflict

SGA, page 1

“we are bringing money that supports the University, so it’s very important that we know what is going on with our organization,” Tyutina said.

Furthermore, she argued against the restructuring saying that it is not a solution and the plan being put forth won’t make GSA more functional.

She also said during the year she spent as GSA vice president she did not see any graduate senators at GSA meetings.

“So apparently [SGA is] trying to solve [its] problems, by dissolving GSA because you can’t force senators to attend the meetings,” Tyutina said.

However Ronda responded to Tyutina’s concerns, he saved most of the discussion on GSA’s future for an upcoming town hall meeting with GSA that will take place next Friday, March 12.

David Trujillo, senior hospitality major, was appointed and unanimously confirmed as the fifth and final elections board member during the senate meeting four weeks away from the vote.

When questioned about SGA’s past elections Trujillo said it isn’t an issue with how SGA operates them, but rather the candidates themselves.

Trujillo said candidates not following rules set by the elections code is a recurring issue during elections, and a priority for the elections board is to ensure that candidates follow the code.

Although there are graduate senators at GSA meetings. any graduate senators at GSA meetings, confirmed as the fifth and final elections board member during the SGA meetings.

Additionally, Trujillo added his qualifications for the position are the work he’s done as president of the Student Alumni Association and sitting on the executive committees of Dance Marathon and Relay for Life.

Grimal ‘content with the results’

ABA, page 1

knowledge, I had to listen to the practice rounds and then offer advice to all six students. A very different role than competing.” Lastly, Grimal explained why she preferred to be a coach this year over competing again.

“I also really like competing as well, but it’s tough to do both at the same time, so I decided that this was my year to coach and give back to next year’s team,” Grimal said.

All three key competitors in the national finals along with the guidance of Professor Walter expressed how proud they were about the results of this year’s competition.

“It was nice because FIU does not have the national reputation that a lot of the schools have. I think that the main joy in it was getting to show people that FIU can compete with other schools,” Jones said.

Llerena shared a similar sentiment.

“We were proud to represent FIU in the finals and hoped to represent our school well by ranking high. When we were placed in the preliminary rounds into the semi-final round we were very excited since we were guaranteed a ranking in the top 16 teams,” Llerena said.

Coach Grimal was also happy with the end result because all of the hard work had paid off.

“The night between Friday’s preliminary rounds and Saturday’s semi-final and final rounds, Bryan, Marielys, Professor Walter and I were all up to about 2 a.m. preparing the next day’s negotiations – we gave it our best effort, particularly with a very difficult semi-final round and final round problem, so I was very content with the results from that point of view,” Grimal said.

Professor David Walter who guided the team throughout its journey to the national competition expressed how it felt to reach the national finals for a second time in a row.

“FIU has truly represented Florida and Florida law schools well in this competition for long. FIU has repeatedly defeated teams from all the Florida law schools over the past three years to win the South- east Region and advance to the ABA National Finals,” Walter said, the co-director and associate professor of Legal Skills & Values.
BubbleQ puts a swanky spin on backyard barbecue staples

JASMYN ELLIOTT
BBC Managing Editor

Like the best burgers, the kickoff to the South Beach Wine and Food Festival was both rare and well done. Hundreds of foodies gathered at Beach at Amatil Light Burger Bash, held on Feb. 25 and hosted by Food Network star Rachael Ray.

During the festival, 27 chefs showed off their versions of the ultimate burger, hoping to win the coveted honor of “People’s Choice Burger of the Year.” Among these chefs: Food Network superstars such as Masaharu Morimoto and Bobby Flay and friends, University President Mark Rosen. It was both rare and well done. According to Valerie Pett, junior and hospitality management major, students had the opportunity to learn hands-on from the chefs.

“There is a lot of interaction with the chefs. They take the time to teach you to do things their way,” she said. About students working, they would plan or “prep shift” and taught how to efficiently prepare the mass amount of food including 2400 lbs of assorted rib, 1160 lbs of pork belly, 60 lbs of bacon, 632 lobster tails and 560 steaks.

Several students found the opportunity to be a helpful experience. “In school there is a lot of theory and this gives us practical experience,” Laura Manon, junior and hospitality major, said.

Chef Michael Moran, culinary coordinator, agrees and believes the festival will help students advance in their field. The students do not help, they are doing the work,” he said as students hustled from station to station creating meals during the festival.

Accompanied by his wife and friends, University President Mark Rosen, said the event benefited students not only through networking but also experience. “This is a great experience for the students in a real world environment to get practice,” Rosen. According to the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management Dean Joan Remington, the school expects to receive over $2 million from the festival proceeds which will be used for student scholarships and toward new construction for a building fund that will include an advanced kitchen and preparation area for students. “For every hour the students work at the festival they get paid a certain amount, which plays in their Panther account and is put toward their tuition or books and is considered a scholarship opportunity,” said Susan Glidewell, activation director at SBWFF and Instructor of event management.

Tejada, a senior working behind the counter specializing in shellfish, McKown said, “It’s my last festival,” said Sunny Anderson, host of the Food Network show “Cooking for Real,” had nothing but good things to say about the event. “It’s the perfect combination with the steak sandwich.”

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“I’ve never seen anything like this before.”

South Beach burger bash is the perfect start to food-filled festival

Grand Tasting Village a ‘spring break for cooks’

MAUREEN NINO
Asst. News Director

In this room, the Fountainbleu’s own restaurants hakkasan, Scarpetta, Gotham Steak and Blade Sushi demonstrated why the hotel deserved to host the event. The crispy duck salad with pine nuts and coconut tapioca topped with a mango passion fruit sauce to toasted coconut had a lot of people coming back for more, including myself to be exact, it was five.

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Three different stages were set up where some of the most well-known celebrity chefs presented their culinary skills for 45 minutes each.

Sandra Lee opened up her cocktail stage with three different mixed drink recipes. One of them: a lemon drop martini that included lemon vodka, lemon juice, triple sec and grapefruit juice.

Other familiar faces that took the stage were Michael Symon who made homemade pasta and Anthony Bourdain and Eric Ripert who had a seafood challenge against each other judged by Guy Fieri and Robert Irvine. Yet again South Beach was the perfect place to celebrate all kinds of drinks and everything edible. All the hard work put in by so many paid off at the end of the weekend.

Students and chefs alike are already planning for next year’s 10th anniversary.
Students, celebrity chefs join forces for weekend food bash
Wal-Mart’s take on working practices is justified

DEAN WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

The Web site for the Voice for Working America provides visitors with a brief synopsis of the Wal-Mart corporation. It summarizes that Wal-Mart operates more than 3,000 stores, employs over 1 million U.S. workers and is the largest grocery retailer in the United States.

The 2008 Fortune Global 500 named Wal-Mart, relative to global revenue, the world’s largest corporation. The corporation estimates revenues for the retailer at $404 billion, while Google Finance valued the corporation’s assets at $163.5 billion.

Wal-Mart has given much to society. An article published by the Washington Post in September 2005 noted that in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Wal-Mart not only donated $20 million in cash, but provided 1,500 truck-loads of free merchandise, food for 100,000 meals and the promise of a job for its displaced workers.

In October 2005, MSNBC.com news service reported that Wal-Mart pledged to implement the planning process and even traveling itself is extremely tiring.

Kaya.com has become my best friend. The Web site allows me to follow price trends for airfares, so that I can compare travel dates and see fluctuations. For example, this coming weekend, a trip to Boston from Miami International Airport would cost over $300 if flying out on Friday; the same date from Ft. Lauderdale-Hollywood Airport would be about $50 less. My plans come on the heels of mixed news from The Los Angeles Times; the newspaper reported that the nation’s airline industry would experience “modest increases in revenue” while demands increase this year as we come out of a recession. Because of this growing demand, airlines are likely to increase airfare prices.

Fantastic! But perhaps I’m overwhelmed because I am simply not used to flying. For two weeks straight, my weekends were taken up with events. This was a success, as the trip was a country trip for leisure, to visit my boyfriend I hadn’t seen in four months, and the second was an academic trip to Washington D.C. with my fourth-year honors seminar. But after a break of a few months, I’ll be back on a cramped plane in economy class to visit another graduate school.

I realize that visiting these schools is ridiculous important — these places are where I could be for months, and possibly, at one point, the rest of my life. I also realize that the

Wal-Mart has had a positive impact on the economy. A study by “The Economic Impact of Wal-Mart” by consulting firm Global Insight, found that from 1984 to 2004, Wal-Mart’s growth resulted in a 9.1 percent reduction in “food-at-home” prices (as measured by the consumer price index).

Overall prices were 3.1 percent lower than they could have actually been. The study continued, my noting that Wal-Mart created more than 200,000 jobs in the U.S. during this time period.

In June 2006, Professors Russell Sobel and Andrea Dean from the West Virginia University published a study entitled “Has Wal-Mart buried Mom and Pop?”

After examining the view that Wal-Mart harms small businesses, Sobel and Dean suggest that while Wal-Mart’s low prices force some “mom and pop” businesses to close, it also sets in motion the process of a creative distribution through which opportunities for other types of small businesses emerges, concluding that the corporation has a positive impact on small businesses sector of the U.S. economy.

The corporation has made increased efforts to address the compensation of its employees. A March 2009 article in the Wall Street Journal indicated that the company paid $993.6 million in homes to its full and part-time employees, an additional $788.8 million in profit sharing and 401(k) contributions.

On Feb. 8, the New York Times published an article entitled “Immigrants Claim Wal-Mart fired them to Provide Jobs for Local Residents.”

The contention rests not only in the title of the argument, as it would be unfair for Wal-Mart to hire immigrants when Americans in need of employment. The article further notes that West Africans claim to have been fired due to race prejudices, when in fact, there are West Africans at the same store who have been promoted to supervisory positions at that very store. Additionally, and more pointedly, the same article contends that the immigrants were fired because of their inability to meet the work requirements as mandated by the store’s new management.

Wal-Mart is definitely a profitable successful business that other companies should aspire to become.

The Statue of Liberty’s tablet reads, “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, the tempest-tossed to me…”

They may come, but under no illusion of what the American dream is: a meritocratic, capitalistic society.

College visits are a must-have on seniors’ to-do list

I guess you can call me a jetsetter now.

In a column last semester, I advised readers who are potential graduate students to take the initiative to visit colleges to get a better idea of their programs. At that time, I had visited one university before sending my first choice college application.

Now, as spring break draws near, I am in the midst of planning more trips to other schools before I hit my commencement on April 27. So far, I have been accepted to two institutions, but I am still waiting to hear from three others, as well as financial aid packages for all five.

April 15th is the big day, by then I should have a good idea where I’ll be attending graduate school in the Fall. As of now, I have no clue of where I’ll be.

To help make this decision, however, I have opted to head to Boston this weekend and visit one of my top three schools, Emerson College, and speak to reps about their program.

This semester, frankly, has been an anomaly for me; I never travel. But by April, I will have traveled to five cities, and the majority of these trips will deal with graduate school in some fact.

I realize that visiting these schools is ridiculous important — these places are where I could be for months, and possibly, at one point, the rest of my life. I also realize that the

Colonial Williamsburg

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In October 2005, MSNBC.com news service reported that Wal-Mart pledged to implement several environmental measures, including spending $500 million to increase the efficiency of its truck fleet by 25 percent over three years, and reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent in three years in order to increase energy efficiency.

As noted by a Wall Street Journal article published in April 2006, each week, about a third of the U.S. population, or 100 million individuals, visit the corporation’s U.S. stores. Wal-Mart has certainly lived up to its motto, “Save Money. Live Better.”

A joint study by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the U.S. Department of Agriculture found that the lower class population in the U.S. benefits the most from the existence of retailers such as Wal-Mart.

Complimenting this fact, an article in Reuters via the Journal highlights the corporation’s price level reduction resulted in savings of $287 billion for consumers, roughly equaling $2,500 per household, a 7.3 percent increase from 2004, when savings were roughly $2,329 per household.

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They may come, but under no illusion of what the American dream is: a meritocratic, capitalistic society.
For roughly the next two hours, FIU students currently in Ecuador in the Peace Corps, and social awareness. Bernace thought of the idea of AAW. In Spring 2008, these ladies hosted their first AAW focusing on Darfur, Sudan. Then, in the Spring of 2009, they chose immigration as their focus. This week, they have selected “At Risk Youth” to be their topic of discussion. “As minorities, it is especially important we are informed citizens and put our numbers to good use. We’ve raised over $600 for two charities and hope to raise even more this year,” Bernace said.

The first event, held on March 2, was a Gala Night at the Frost Art Museum Café. Photographs, taken of youth in the community who live in shelters and want to express their feelings about being labeled and being looked – political activism and social awareness. Becoming a new sister in 2007, she saw that she can change this. As she introduced Eve Ensler’s “The Vagina Monologues”, the lovely rabble-rouser got the whole room buzzing full house. She introduced Eve Ensler’s ”The Vagina Monologues” opening night in the Green Library’s auditorium to an expectant audience made up of all ages and genders. In the atrium and the lobby, members and helpers of the WSSA served refreshments and food. In 2008, Bernace thought of the idea of AAW. In Spring 2008, these ladies hosted their first AAW focusing on Darfur, Sudan. Then, in the Spring of 2009, they chose immigration as their focus. This week, they have selected “At Risk Youth” to be their topic of discussion. “As minorities, it is especially important we are informed citizens and put our numbers to good use. We’ve raised over $600 for two charities and hope to raise even more this year,” Bernace said.

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The second event, to be held March 3, will be a viewing of the movie “Dangal,” which portrays a woman whose father was against women participating in wrestling but who became a world champion. “I am most excited about the ‘Surprise at Your Own Risk’ event,” said Maria Lopez del Castillo, chapter president of LTA. “We have more than 10 teams comprised from different universities and I’m sure it will be even better than the previous years.”

All donations received throughout the week will be given to StandUp For Kids. Many other organizations are excited for this event as well. Of course, the men of Lambda Theta Phi, Latin Fraternity Inc. will also be an attendance during the week. We are definitely bringing out their uptown flair,” said Jorge Rivera, a junior brother of LTF. “We are participating in their step/stroll/salute competition they have this Thursday.”

“We hope, if anything, that our AAW this year makes everyone stop and think about what youth in our community and everywhere else around the world go through and how we must be not only positive role models but give these youth a second chance,” Rojas said.

THE BEACON REVIEWS: THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

Powerful monologues celebrate strength, femininity

MARIA MURRIEL Staff Writer

At around 8 p.m. on Feb. 26, the Women’s Studies Student Association President Guadalupe Juarez stepped onstage to welcome a buzzing full house. She introduced Eve Ensler’s “The Vagina Monologues” opening night in the Green Library’s auditorium to an expectant audience made up of all ages and genders. In the atrium and the lobby, members and helpers of the WSSA served refreshments and food. In 2008, Bernace thought of the idea of AAW. In Spring 2008, these ladies hosted their first AAW focusing on Darfur, Sudan. Then, in the Spring of 2009, they chose immigration as their focus. This week, they have selected “At Risk Youth” to be their topic of discussion. “As minorities, it is especially important we are informed citizens and put our numbers to good use. We’ve raised over $600 for two charities and hope to raise even more this year,” Bernace said.

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Norah Lopez performs at the Vagina Monologues on Feb. 26 in GL 100.
The Beacon – 8

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

SPORTS

TOURNAMENT TIME

FIU set to face North Texas to open SBC tournament

JOSEPH CRUZ
Sports Director

The FIU women’s basketball team defeated North Texas in both of their meetings this season by an average of 13 points.

So when the Sun Belt Conference announced its championship seeds and schedules on Feb. 28, the draw gave fans plenty of reason to believe the Golden Panthers could advance past the first round of the SBC tournament.

FIU (14-15, 9-9 SBC) will face North Texas (8-21, 5-13 SBC) on March 6 at 2:30 p.m. when the tournament kicks off in Hot Springs, Ark. If FIU can beat North Texas, they would advance to play No. 2 seed Middle Tennessee on March 7 in the second round of the tournament.

The Golden Panthers nabbed the No. 7 seed after South Alabama won a tie breaker for the No. 6 seed based on regular season results. South Alabama and FIU had identical 9-9 conference records. After winning six consecutive games, the Golden Panthers lost their last two contests to MTSU and Western Kentucky.

FIU will play Denver in the first round, the site of the season’s biggest victory for the Golden Panthers at 77-61 on Feb. 27.

“With Otero (6-foot-7) out there, Denver is a small school but they have a lot of size. We’re going to have to adapt to their lack of size,” said Gary, the Golden Panthers’ 6-foot-10 senior center.

FIU head coach Cindy Russo said of Rodgers, whom she played against while Rodgers was a freshman at Hofstra in 2007. “She’s always been athletic, and she’s a good defensive player.”

Jenkins spoke about the breakout season of Elisa Carey, who played behind Rodgers her freshman year.

“Every year she’s been better,” Jenkins said. “She’s starting to play within herself and figuring out what works for her and everything,” Jenkins said. “It’s really good to see.”

Jenkins is third in FIU history in 3-pointers made, will play basketball in the spring for the Miami Rain, a semi-professional team in the Women’s Blue Chip Basketball League. Jenkins is working on her certification to be a personal trainer.

Jenkins last season.

STRONG DEFENSE

FIU, ranked third in the SBC in scoring defense, allowing just 62.4 points per game to opponents this season, continued their stingy defense against WKU. Despite the close 64-61 loss, FIU held WKU five points under their average. The effort came one game after a humbling 101-58 loss to MTSU on Feb. 25.

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The Golden Panthers nabbed the No. 7 seed after South Alabama won a tie breaker for the No. 6 seed based on regular season results. South Alabama and FIU had identical 9-9 conference records. After winning six consecutive games, the Golden Panthers lost their last two contests to MTSU and Western Kentucky.

FIU will play Denver in the first round, the site of the season’s biggest victory for the Golden Panthers at 77-61 on Feb. 27.

“With Otero (6-foot-7) out there, Denver is a small school but they have a lot of size. We’re going to have to adapt to their lack of size,” said Gary, the Golden Panthers’ 6-foot-10 senior center.

FIU head coach Cindy Russo said of Rodgers, whom she played against while Rodgers was a freshman at Hofstra in 2007. “She’s always been athletic, and she’s a good defensive player.”

Jenkins spoke about the breakout season of Elisa Carey, who played behind Rodgers her freshman year.

“Every year she’s been better,” Jenkins said. “She’s starting to play within herself and figuring out what works for her and everything,” Jenkins said. “It’s really good to see.”

Jenkins is third in FIU history in 3-pointers made, will play basketball in the spring for the Miami Rain, a semi-professional team in the Women’s Blue Chip Basketball League. Jenkins is working on her certification to be a personal trainer.

Jenkins last season.

STRONG DEFENSE

FIU, ranked third in the SBC in scoring defense, allowing just 62.4 points per game to opponents this season, continued their stingy defense against WKU. Despite the close 64-61 loss, FIU held WKU five points under their average. The effort came one game after a humbling 101-58 loss to MTSU on Feb. 25.

JONATHAN RAMOS
Sports Director

The FIU women’s basketball team defeated North Texas in both of their meetings this season by an average of 13 points.

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