School of Public Health given probationary accreditation

Earlier this month the Council on Education for Public Health informed Michele Ciccazzo, Interim Dean of Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work, of the schools probationary accreditation status.

According to CEPH, the schools probation was placed on two important areas: the student to faculty ratio and the ability to demonstrate the integration of Public Health in Social Work. In the Nov. 5 letter sent to students of the RSCPHSW, Ciccazzo mentions that their “progression to a degree will not be impacted.”

As a returning dean with two months of being instituted, Ciccazzo is confronting the challenge of handling the matters of social work, but is nonetheless proud that the social work program within Public Health is an exclusive characteristic of the University.

“Between last year and this year, we have had unprecedented growth in the number of students who wanted to come into Public Health as a major,” said Ciccazzo. “The number of students who wanted to come into Social Work. In the Nov. 5 letter sent to students of the RSCPHSW, Ciccazzo mentions that their “progression to a degree will not be impacted.”

According to Ciccazzo the RSCPHSW “not put anything in writing of where they want any programs to be, but the unwritten word is that they want [RSCPHSW] somewhere around a ten to 15 students per faculty ratio.”

“We think this in mind, the school has initiated the search for qualified staff, already hosting several interviews. They already have three faculty members that will be instituted in the first week of December and another two or three that they are hoping to make offers to sometime in the fall or spring semester.

According to Ciccazzo the RSCPHSW accredited.

Honors College students plant trees in Sweetwater park

Mary Widhelm, program coordinator of the Tree Campus USA program for the Arbor Day Foundation holds a sign commemorating the event. Mayor of Sweetwater Manuel L. Marone (white shirt and tie) also participated in the event.

OMAR GUZMAN
Contributing Writer

During a recent event at Beasley Linear Park, Honors College students were asked to become conquistadores for a day. “I hereby reclaim this land for nature,” is the slogan of the Reclamation Project of the Miami Science Museum.

The project was created by Xavier Cortada, noted artist and member of the Community Advisory Board for the Honors College, in order to raise environmental awareness.

Students planted a variety of trees along the park’s canal consisting of twelve native species that would easily survive the “lack of rain in the winter and abundance of rain in the summer,” according to Fernando Breros, Director of the Reclamation Project.

The event also served to commemorate the University’s second year in the Tree Campus USA program in association with the Arbor Day Foundation.

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TREES, page 2

FOOTBALL, page 3

Golden Panthers capture their first Sun Belt championship after defeating Arkansas State on Nov. 27.
Students plant two hundred trees

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors took a major step Tuesday toward banning medical marijuana dispensaries in the county’s unincorporated areas. A proposal for the ban in unincorporated areas was unanimously endorsed by the county supervisors and is scheduled to be formally adopted on December 7, officials said. The ordinance would then take effect 30 days later.

Meanwhile, the Orange County Board of Supervisors also approved a first reading of an identical ban. The ordinance would then take effect 30 days later.

Medical marijuana shops face banning in L.A. County

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School working to hire new faculty

Between last year and this year, we have had unprecedented growth in the number of students who wanted to come into Public Health as a major. said Ciccacozzo, chair of the department. The school has already demonstrated an effort to resolve matters in a consistent time span. On November 19, 2010 the Educational Policy Committee held a meeting in which they discussed how they would make the integration of both areas of knowledge work.

In the past, RSCPSHW was successful in preserving the integration for dietetics and nutrition to students and they are confident that they will achieve the same for social work students. According to Ciccacozzo, the fact that they are a new school has hindered them from providing evidence to CEPPH.

They will have to develop a matrix where they show that integration while being clearly reflected in their syllabi. The proposed foundational knowledge course still needs to go through the Universi-ty’s Curriculum Committee; however, the important thing, according to Ciccacozzo, is that “action has been taken.”

“We want students to be aware that the faculty has gotten the word, acted promptly and are taking the appropriate steps so these will not be an issue at the time of the self-study and of the site visit,” said Ciccacozzo.

TREES, page 1

Students plant two hundred trees

The project meant a great deal to everyone in a variety of ways. Cortada explained that it was part of a series of eco-themed art, the native flags being his medium and various locales his canvases. To Leslie Northrup, interim dean of the Honors College, the day exemplified the civic duty many Honors College members pride themselves on possessing.

Though only a fraction of the Honors College student body was present, Northrup said they were “beating down the doors to do more” in the partnership with the city of Sweetwater.

Approximately thirty Honors College students arrived to volunteer equipped with hats, gloves and polo shirts emblazoned with the College’s logo.

The children of Sweetwater can also enjoy a lush native space amid the heavily developed area and neighboring 8th Street. Cecile Haury, Coordinator of Student Enrichment for the Honors College, organized a presentation on trees to over one hundred and fifty fifth-graders earlier that day as part of the Honors College’s effort to educate children on environmental issues. Each child was given the option of planting a tree at home or donating a seed to the school.

“Today we planted about two hundred trees in the Sweetwater community.”

Manuel L. Marono, Mayor of Sweetwater, commended the university’s relationship with the city and stressed the need to counter recent damage to native plants caused by storms.

“We want to continue to do these kinds of projects and plant as many trees as we can to give back to nature and put trees back where they belong,” said Marono. Marono also stated that he would welcome any students interested in an environmental-ly focused internship with the city.

“There’s always room for that, so bring ‘em on,” he said.

NEWS FLASH

U.S. stimulus gave large jobs boost

The massive U.S. stimulus package, widely viewed by voters to be ineffective, put 1.4 million to 3.6 million people to work between July and September, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office reported.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act also boosted national output by between 1.4 percent and 4.1 percent during that period.

CBO’s estimates have consistently shown that the $814 billion package of tax cuts, state aid, construction spending and enhanced safety-net provisions has blunted the impact of the worst U.S. recession since the 1930s.

But it has failed to prevent the unemployment rate from rising above 8 percent, as the Obama administration promised when it was crafted in 2009.

Opt-outs largely no-shows at airports

The controversy over new security measures at airport checkpoints – which some feared would boil over Wednesday, one of the year’s busiest travel days – instead didn’t even reach a simmer.

Critics had declared the day before Thanksgiving “National Opt-Out Day” and urged travelers selected to undergo full body scans to refuse to subject themselves to the advanced imaging technology. Anyone who refuses a scan is checked instead by the more time-consuming “enhanced” pat-down procedure.

On Wednesday, no major problems or delays were reported at airports because of the protest. Many air travelers took to Twitter to say they experienced no security problems.

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FOOTBALL: FIU 31, ASU 24

Hilton delivers late score to lift FIU in key victory

T.Y. Hilton has become a real deal playmaker for us but now he did it in crunch time. Like he did the previous week and the week before and the week before that,” Cristobal said.

Hilton caught a screen pass on a play, which according to Cristobal, was a jailbreak screen and took it 42 yards for a touchdown with 1:42 remaining in the fourth quarter.

“We run that play pretty often, [but] not enough. The whole country is really keen on that play. A lot of times it’s a feast or famine [type of play],” Cristobal said.

Hilton’s 11 receptions for 140 yards receiving was a season-high, which helped the Golden Panthers fulfill their dreams of earning a bowl-bid and having a share of the conference title.

“It’s certainly great to throw him the ball. But what it also does is, it makes defenses pay a lot of attention to him and it opens up other guys,” said Carroll. “If they want to double him, we got to go elsewhere with the ball and it creates better match-ups. It’s tough for teams to game plan against us when we have an explosive guy like T.Y. [Hilton].”

Carroll finished out the game with 266 yards in air, completing 21 out of his 27 passes including a touchdown and an interception.

Any hopes of Arkansas State (4-8, 4-4 SBC) making a comeback went down the drain as quarterback Phillip Butterfi eld’s pass was batted down by senior linebacker Jarvis Wilson at the line of scrimmage on a fourth down.

“The [offensive] tackle tried to reach out and I was able to get around him and stunt back inside and get a hand on the ball. I had no idea where the ball was at the time. I was just hoping it didn’t come down in anyone’s hand,” said Wilson. “When [the ball] hit the ground, I just kept running. I was so happy.”

The running backs combined for 121 yards rushing, the least amount of rushing yards since they’re fourth loss of the season against Pittsburgh, where they only gained 93 yards on the ground. The ground game was led by Darriet Perry who scored two touchdowns and Darrian Mallary who ran for 86 yards on 19 carries.

If the Golden Panthers (6-5, 6-1 SBC) win the last game of the season at home against Middle Tennessee, they’ll win the conference championship outright.

“We have one more game left and I rather not share this title with Troy…so we have got take care of business next week,” said senior wide receiver Greg Ellingson.

ARKANSAS QUARTERBACK GOES DOWN

While FIU was up 21-17, Red Wolves quarterback Ryan Aplin suffered a leg injury late in the third quarter. The top quarterback statistically in the conference was not able to return and was substituted by Phillip Butterfi eld. Although Butterfield help give ASU a 24-21 lead in the fourth quarter, the true freshman quarterback struggled; completing 3 out of 12 passes for 24 yards while filling in for the injured Aplin.

BOWL PICTURE

With a bowl-berth, the Panthers will now face the possibility of playing the R&L Carriers New Orleans Bowl, the GoDaddy.com Bowl, or the Little Caesars Bowl. Members of the New Orleans Bowl will have the first opportunity to select a Sun Belt school to participate in their bowl, followed by GoDaddy.com Bowl officials, leaving the Little Caesars Bowl as the last possible spot for a Sun Belt school.

“This (bowl scenarios) is so new to us that our guys don’t know any better right now,” Cristobal said.

One of the players who have never experienced a championship is Ellingson, who claims that he has never won any kind of titles in his life.

“I’ve never had any kind of championship in high school, or in my life. Never in high school, little league or anything. This is a first for me,” Ellingson said.
Golden Panthers go to 4-1 on the eve of road trip

JOHNATHAN RAMOS
Sports Director

With Phil Gary back in the lineup, FIU soundly defeated Chattanooga 80-59 on Nov. 27, dropping the Mocs on the same night the FIU football team won a Sun Belt Conference title. Gary, who sustained a concussion on Nov. 18 vs. Florida State and missed a game, returned to practice this week and was able to play, scoring 15 points.

“We knew earlier in the week and he was able to practice,” Thomas said. “No I thought our doctors and out training staff did a thorough job in terms of evaluating him and holding him out and making sure that they tested him. He passed all the tests and I was very comfortable with the medical evaluation.”

As was Gary. The senior point guard managed the game all night, playing 35 minutes and dropping five assists and snatching five rebounds in addition to leading the team in scoring. The win gave FIU its first 4-1 start since the 2002-03 season. He was happy to be back on the floor and put that experience behind them.

“Basketball is a tough sport, so I have one concussion. Hopefully, it’s my last one,” Gary said. “It was a terrible experience. I wasn’t feeling good at all at first. First, I was so upset because we lost the game and I wasn’t able to finish the game out with my teammates. I hate missing games.”

“He’s the floor general,” guard DeJuan Wright said of Gary. “He makes out team go. [Martravis Kee] did a real good job filling in for him but he keeps the show running. If he’s not healthy that we can’t be at full effect.”

The Panthers used a stout defensive disposition, holding the Mocs to 33 percent shooting and forcing 19 turnovers. Despite getting out-rebounded 39-34 and having Eric Frederick and Brandon Moore battling foul trouble all night, FIU had enough defensively.

“I was pleased with our defensive effort, although I think that we can play a lot better on the defensive side of the ball.” Thomas said.

In transition, when we create turnovers we got to get better at finishing the plays. Right now, I’m not totally satisfied with the way were defending. We can get a lot better. Overall, I’m glad we won the basketball game.”

The Panthers will now head on a four game road trip from Nov. 29 through Dec. 12, including a date with Louisville on Dec. 1.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

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WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

FIU guard Michelle Gonzalez led the Panthers with 17 points in blowout victory.

Panthers earn first round Thanksgiving Classic victory

 portrayed the lead up 21-11 with 10:19 left in the first half. During the Panthers run, the Eagles struggled with their communication, as passes went to no one and shots failed to hit the rim altogether.

FIU continued to push the pace of the game with fast break points coming from senior Michelle Gonzalez and junior Martravis Rodgers. Morehead State would begin to attack the basket and draw fouls from Hutlassa and Finda Mansare to climb back into the game and make the score 28-21.

The Panthers would give the Eagles a bit of their own medicine by attacking the basket and drawing fouls to get easy points from the free throw line. The Panthers would finish the first half on a 10-0 run to lead 38-21. The player who quietly was the catalyst for the Panthers in the first half was Gonzalez, who had nine points, three rebounds, six assists and a steal.

Morehead State came out of halftime with more focus on defense, forcing the Panthers into turnovers and bad shots. It would quickly end, as FIU found their rhythm defensively to hold on to a double digit lead early in the second half, 48-34.

The offensive sets for the Panthers became more efficient with the passing inside by Hutlassa and freshman Jerica Coley to find wide open teammates for easy baskets. With the easy baskets, the Panthers pushed their lead to 54-37.

It seemed as though the Panthers could not push the lead past 18, with senior Chynna Bozeman hitting contested jumpers for the Eagles. Morehead State would try to make one last push with seven minutes to go in the game, but it would not be enough, as the Panthers continued to pressure the Eagles on the perimeter.

Morehead State, down 70-53, resorted to the three-point philosophy and hoped to land a few to give themselves a chance. It did not work, as both teams traded a few baskets. The Eagles tried one last effort to at least bring the loss to a more respectable level. Up 75-63 with 30 seconds the go, Gonzalez would ice the game with a free throw and layup to finish off the Eagles 78-65.

Gonzalez had a strong game with 17 points, four rebounds and seven assists. Finda Mansare chipped in with 16 points, six rebounds and two steals. Jerica Coley added 14 points and a team-high seven rebounds and five steals, including some intercepted passes.

For coverage of team results from Nov. 26, go to fiusm.com

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Norton Museum host to international art

The Soundsuits have been described as an out-of-this world, wearable fabric sculptures. Alvin Ailey dancer, creates these Mardi Gras-esque costumes out of a variety of materials and instruments that make them come alive. They're something you have to see for yourself in order to take in their majesty. Nick Cave said, “The materials are what provoke the essence of human interaction to the pieces. He believes that without movement, there can be no sound. The Soundsuits, therefore, each create a distinctive sound when brought to life.

On display until Jan. 9, 2011, Nick Cave’s solo exhibition entitled “Meet Me at the Center of the Earth,” captivates visitors from the moment they encounter their first Soundsuit, out of this world, wearable fabric sculptures. Cave, a Chicago-based artist and former Alvin Ailey dancer, creates these Mardi Gras-esque costumes out of a variety of materials including fabric, buttons and sequins. More non-conventional objects utilized in his pieces include an abacus, porcelain birds and dyed human hair.

If you’re having trouble picturing what that looks like in your head, you’re completely in the right; trying to describe them hardly begins to give these life-sized sculptures justice. His use of video footage as part of the experience enhances the Soundsuits by putting into perspective how they become interactive. Taking in “Meet Me at the Center of the Earth,” there are many views and ways to interpret the exhibition. Some may comment on the pieces themselves while others look at the bigger picture.

There is, however, one overall message that seems to stick out and protrude from the works: Be free to be yourself.

If you're willing to make the two hour drive, the city of West Palm Beach holds one of South Florida’s greatest and most developed art collections. The Norton Museum of Art contains over 5000 works, primarily focused on European, Chinese and American art. They also feature photography and host contemporary exhibitions.

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They’re something you have to see for yourself in order to take in their majesty. Nick Cave’s exhibition combines visual and performance art in a way that gives an essence of human interaction to the pieces. He believes that without movement, there can be no sound.

The Soundsuits, therefore, each create a distinctive sound when brought to life. In an interview with Art Districts Magazine, Cave said, “The materials are what provoke the ideas, so I am very open to what the possibilities might be. I don’t really sketch, it is more intuitive as I am shopping at flea markets, thrift stores, second-hand stores; and it’s really the material that might provoke a sensation of all sorts. Or how color might be a part of a surface that is all beaded. I am interested in the role of recontextualizing things that already exist, repositioning these objects, reevaluating the role they play. I am also very interested in the depths of low art, high art, crafts; traveling the topic of art in what it is all about.”

The Soundsuits have been described as an exploration of ceremony, ritual, myth and identity. They are evocative of traditional African ceremonial attire, combined with loud colors and instruments that make them come alive.

FASHION FINDS

Eat your turkey and look good during the holidays

Holiday dresses are always the hardest things to find. There are an abundance of them at stores, but all of them are overly adorned with sequins and shiny fabrics. I usually don’t have a problem with glitter on my dresses, but I always feel like I look like a Christmas tree when it’s on my holiday dress, but don’t be a chicken like me and have fun.

When finding a holiday dress you have to keep one very important thing in mind: food baby.

Holiday parties, whether it is than Thanksgiving, Christmas or any holiday office party, there’s sure to be a ton of food and drinks to keep your bloating factor high. The worst thing is wearing a tight dress or pencil skirt that squeezes your midsection and leaves you feeling uncomfortable all night.

When I’m feeling lazy and I know I’m going to gorge on endless amounts of pie and wine, I’ll lean toward a loose-fitting dress. It’s not necessarily an appealing dress because they usually make me look as if I’m wearing a fancy garbage bag, but they’re comfortable and I don’t have to worry about people speculating if I’m pregnant.

Cute options include kimono dresses and dresses with empire waists. An empire waist sits right underneath the bust and allows for plenty of mystery. By mystery I mean camouflage. Wearing empire waist tops doesn’t let anyone see if you’re thin or not. I’d rather someone wonder if I’m fat than look like a cheeseball wearing one of these with a cup of hot cocoa in hand.

The reason I like brocade on jackets is that seems to stick out and protrude from the clothes. I’m surprised to say that I’m absolutely in love with chunky sweaters with Christmas designs on them. They are very nostalgic and I’m not afraid of looking like a cheeseball wearing one of these with a cup of hot cocoa in hand.

British comedian, Jim Tavare, best known for his role in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban as Iom the Innkeeper, performed in the GC Ballrooms on Nov. 22.

This is not a coincidence, seeing as how Cave has studied a variety of these cultures in the past. The exhibition has been shown around the country in various museums. However, Cave states that he is more interested in how the work performs, meaning how it interacts with different audiences, than where it is.

As you walk through the rooms of the exhibit, you encounter various mediums including film projections.

If you’re like me and you love sequins, try a bedazzled jacket. I advise you to stay away from the common sequin colors silver and gold and try something more muted. Forever 21 has plenty of options in soft pastels and black. Keep in mind, glitter is always fun.

Soft pastels are something that is definitely in this season. I found them. The perfect cognac colored riding boots that I can wear with dresses, leggings and jeans. The best part about them is the price: they came in at just under $100. My previous boots column mentioned how I didn’t go into Steve Madden to check out their boots selection. I should have because my perfect and beautiful dream boots came from Mr. Madden.

Fashion Finds is a weekly column on fashion. Look for it every Monday. Reviewers are not compensated for favorable reviews.
Ullman more in tune with Native American beliefs

Now, Ullman feels he would be happier hunting and gathering in a Native American tribe than living in an eco-village.

He also feels more in tune with Native American beliefs and lifestyles. The ideal tribe for Ullman would either be in Canada because of the season he doesn’t get in Miami or in the Amazonas in Brazil because of its gigantic flora.

He believes in Wakan Tanka, a term from the Lakota tribe that means “Great Mystery,” a god that is made of different vibrations.

Mike Sochia, a native from the Siski tribe from Midwest Dakota, knows Ullman and has his two years for two years.

“He’s beginning his journey,” said Sochia, who is also teaching Ullman natural techniques on how to work the land without harming it.

Ullman is not Native American. He was born and reared in Miami by his parents. His father Bill Ullman is a lawyer from Kentucky, and his mother Irist Ludin-Ullman is an anesthesiologist and biologist from Israel, where he visited two years ago.

“Thad trip was crazy,” Ullman said. “I was supposed to stay three weeks and I ended up staying six months.”

While Ullman was in Jerusalem, his parents read his diaries in which he had written about drugs and about his detrimental relationship with a girl named Ruby, who he was in love with for four years without successfully establishing a romantic relationship.

His parents decided that he should stay a little longer in Jerusalem and he did. For three months he stayed in a Jewish school with his half-brother Yirmiyahu, who is a rabbis. There he learned a lot about different religions.

As an aesthete he debated about the existence of God with Jews, Christians, and Muslims, and finally after three months he began, but never finished, the conversion to Judaism.

“I ran away because I was afraid I was becoming religious,” Ullman said.

He went to a shelter for homeless people called Ichuta Me Shulash (string triangle) where he stayed for three months. During this time he survived by peeling potatoes for a soup kitchen, getting paid 10 shekels an hour, about $3.

Back at home, Ullman decided to study anthropology. He really does not believe in the educational system, but he really enjoys writing, and has started an autobiography, which he has shown to different people.

“I’ve read his journals and he’s a really gifted writer,” said Mercy De Lucho, who’s studying to be a writer at Miami-Dade College.

His parents have also read some of his stories and believe he has a future with words. Bill, his father, used to take him to work when he was a teenager and even though he was going to follow his steps as a lawyer.

“He is good playing with words,” said Bill, “but he doesn’t mind that his son did not take interest in law. ‘He hears a different drummer, and I want him to do whatever he wants to do.'”

This story is a class project from Fred Bleven’s JOUR 3300.

Ullman, an anthropology major, chooses to not wear shoes to stay in touch with nature.

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**PRESS START**

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End of the year merits looking toward future, bizarre events

D ecember’s rolling in bringing with it many ends: the end of the semester, the end of the year and, for some, the end of college.

2010 was a strange year overall, a point especially highlighted by the shenanigans in the game industry.

Let’s take a look at a handful of them.

**DUKE NUKEM FOREVER CANCELED… OR NOT?**

What’s become one of the most popular urban legends in gaming faced its definitive end earlier this year when 3D Realms, who had been developing Duke Nukem Forever since 1997, closed its doors for good.

It seemed the game 15 years in the making was finally done and dead despite headway finally being made on the project.

Enter Gearbox Software. Catching everyone by surprise, the makers of Borderlands revealed they were working with Tripych games and that DNF was set for release in 2011.

There was one key difference about this announcement from the past 13 years: there was actually a playable demo… and it was fantastic.

Keep an eye out for this one next year.

**INFINITY WARD-GATE**

You may know them better as the people behind Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2. Chief members of the group, Vince Zampella and Jason West, were removed from the company.

While it seemed innocuous at first, the ugly truth surfaced soon after when Zampella and West sued IW’s parent company, Activision.

The two alleged that Activision owed them unpaid royalties, that working conditions were miserable and that their “unfair dismissals” were aided by “Orwellian investigations.”

What followed was the gradual departure of staff from the development studio, about 20 of which joined Zampella and West’s new EA-backed development company, Respawn Entertainment.

To quote our editor in chief, Jorge Valens: “Oh. Snap.”

**CAPCOM’S FALLOUT**

This one raised a few eyebrows. Keiji Inafune, who was head of Research & Development and Online Business and Global Head of Production, was very vocal about the state of the Japanese gaming industry and how stagnant it is compared to Western developers.

Ultimately, he left the company after announcing Mega Man Legends 3 for the upcoming Nintendo 3DS, calling out the Japanese industry and stating that it has no innovation or originality and is just getting by on the tried and true.

“In short, it’s like a communist state. Working as hard as you can is your own loss,” said Inafune in an interview with 4Gamers. “Not working hard becomes more advantageous. But doesn’t that get in the way of making games? You can’t make great games by just taking it easy.”

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**END CREDITS**

If you followed and enjoyed my columns throughout the semester, I thank you for taking the time to read it.

Yes, that means all three of you.

This is my last semester here at the University meaning it’s time to enter that mysterious thing people keep talking about called “The Real World.”

I’ve been doing this whole video game schtick since I was barely forming words and am still captivated by how far gaming’s advanced from the blips and bloops of the Atari 2600 to the powerhouses of today’s consoles and computers.

I hope to become a part of that process as I move toward grad school.

If you ever want a match online, look me up on Facebook and Twitter.

As for the person that takes over Press Start from me, I only hope that they can do what I could not: find a less cliche name for the column.

Stay classy, FIU.

Press Start is a weekly video game column.

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**Puzzle by websudoku.com**

Puzzle Difficulty: Easy

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**COLUMNIST**

The Beacon – Monday, November 29, 2010 www.fiuc.com

**COLUMNS**

**SERGIO MONTEALEGRE**

**PRISM**

Presented by FIU’s Music Wind and Percussion Arts Music Series.
WHERE: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $15 general admission; $10 faculty/staff/seniors; $5 general admission.
WHERE: Wolfson Performing Arts Center

**KILL-A-WATT SEMINAR**

Hosted by IDE A-E. Fuji.
WHERE: 2 - 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free.
WHERE: GC 140

**FASA MEETING**

Join FASA Arts Student Association and learn the gong on the campus!
WHERE: 4 - 5 p.m.
WHERE: Wold (drawing room)

**TUESDAY TIMES ROUNDOUTABLE**

Join fellow students in the discussion of current New York Times articles. Lunch provided for the article, visit, guided by KJ.
WHERE: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 150

**AMERICAN MUSIC RECITAL**

Presented by Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonietta.
WHERE: 8 - 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: DM Amphitheater

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**REFLECTIONS ON ART**

Hosted by the Aesthetics and Values Club. Art pieces from students, world music and a special lecture by Professor Ivan on contemporary art.
WHERE: 10 - 11 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 243

**SAMPONAOA YOGA**

Join the Yoga Club for an hour of free yoga in the sampoonaoa studio. Don’t forget to wear socks.
WHERE: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Ballrooms

**HARRY POTTER ALLIANCE**

Weekly meeting.
WHERE: 6 - 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: WV 113

**RHYTHM FLOW YOGA**

Hosted by the Yoga Club. Yoga in the kripalu tradition.
WHERE: 3 - 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Under the banyan tree by the FIUOasis Garden

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**STUDENT RECITAL SERIES**

Presented by FIU Music – the New Music Ensemble.
WHERE: 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
WHERE: Frost Art Museum

**HONORS COLLEGE INFORMATION SESSION**

Snacks and refreshments provided.
WHERE: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: DM 100

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U.S. education focused on grades, failing

CHRISTOPHER DIAZ
Opinion Editor

As the semester draws to an end, I see fellow students scurrying to catch up on material for upcoming exams. Their focus and purpose is to get that A or B, or whatever it is they feel they need for advancement.

This seems counter-intuitive and contributes to our decline in education, especially when compared to the rest of the world. Yet, it isn’t simply a matter of standards; we have been going about education in a way that does not leave students educated.

For many in the U.S., school is about meeting certain markers. Whether you are an A student or a C student, school is about obtaining a certain number of marks or GPA.

As we grow up, we realize that school rewards students not for what they know, but how well they perform on exams or homework. At the end of the year, what matters is not knowledge, but a number that is usually a reflection of how much you moved forward.

If primary education’s mandate was to prepare students for college, it failed. If primary education’s mandate was to test-taking machines. That appears to be the case. Even in gifted, honors and AP courses, the logic seems to be that the higher the grade is, the more one knows. Yet, this is not the case. Even in gifted, honors and AP courses in high school, I saw that most students with excellent grades knew little. Students learn how to study for exams and retain the information only long enough to use it for the exam.

In high school, we were not learning, we were memorizing. The knowledge gained vaporized soon after each exam.

If we were learning anything, it was how to be test-taking machines. That appears to be the problem they have put forth. Some argue for more efforts to control behavior and correct students. To be sure, if students are gravely misbehaving then the environment is not conducive to learning.

But when an education strategy is more focused on dress code and attendance policy, then there is a clear message that primary schools find education secondary. This is what has led some people to the conclusion that primary education is not all about learning, but rather is a factory for workers.

Others argue for more teacher accountability. Yet, if their curriculum is highly controlled by administrators, then this argument is nullified entirely.

We must take a realistic look at our current education system. We must also be willing to experiment, to try new and different things. Some of them won’t work, but that is necessary to find what does. “There is no such thing as failure, but only feedback,” as I’ve been told.

We should be pragmatic in our efforts for improvement and never be satisfied. Otherwise we’ll grow complacent and find ourselves with generations that can barely read and write, making them obsolete in the information age.

As we grow up we realize that school rewards students not for what they know...at the end of the year, what matters is grades, not knowledge.

STUDENT safety a concern due to poor campus lighting

With sporadic dark spots around both campuses, the need for adequate lighting has become a growing concern. Community members are raising safety concerns that need to be addressed as the University begins to grow in size.

At the recent faculty senate meeting, the results of a report conducted by civil engineering company PBS&J were brought under scrutiny for safely focusing that both the Modesto Maid- jill and the Biotechnology Center do not have adequate lighting conditions and additional lights needed to be added.

The problem brought up at the meeting was that the report did not really touch upon environmental impacts that adding more lights to the campus can have, such as increased light pollution and affecting wildlife, or even bringing up ways the school can handle the lighting situation in an efficient manner.

While The Beacon understands and sympathizes with environmental concerns, including light pollution, they pale in comparison to the safety of students.

In MMC, there is the canoped area behind the Ryder Building which is pitch black. Often, students can be seen resenting to using their cellphones as makeshift flashlights just so they can get around and that does not make a particularly safe environment.

At BOTH, only 30% of the campus meets adequate lighting requirements. This is a pathetic amount of lighting coverage on campus, and should immediately be improved so that at night students can navigate the campus without compromising their safety.

The Beacon thinks that lighting up dark- ened areas around MMC and increasing overall lighting around BB would offer additional safety to students and visitors to the campus as they move about on campus after sundown.

However James Webb, Arts and Sciences faculty senator and physics professor, believes that there are safety concerns and envi- ronmental ones. He recently stated that “the lighting study was done towards safety, which is great. But not toward saving light or reducing light pollution.”

One of the concerns with the added light pollution the new lighting is claimed to be in regards to the University’s new observatory opening in MMC will hinder the ability to look through the telescope and study the stars.

This seems a little misguided consid- ering Miami is a metropolitan area. While not as condensed as New York City, it nevertheless emits an incredible amount of light pollu- tion. Where in other areas of the United States constellations may be a common sight, they are largely missing in the Miami skyline.

While green is an important issue for the school, it should not be at the expense of the safety of visitors to the campus. Yet, safety concerns and concerns over the environment need not be mutually exclusive. In changing campus lighting to do with safety and environmental concerns, the University could do so in ways that address envi- ronmental concerns, such as light pollution.

For example, The Beacon thinks the University begins to grow in size.

Politician to break rules for Committee Chair

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

After the midterm elections, Republicans are revamping many programs with their newly found majority share of Congress. One such program is the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Barton’s rival, Fred Upton, the former chair, Henry A. Waxman, the two Republicans running for chair will likely be Joe Barton of Texas and Fred Upton of Michigan. Despite his profit- able past as the committee chair, Barton is trying to break rules to get reelected.

There can be no more toler- ance for rule bending in politics if we are ever going to move out of this recession and get back on track, especially when it is for no good reason.

Barton’s past record is far from comforting. He is considered by many to be in the pocket of big oil companies, receiving over 1.5 million dollars in campaign contributions from them. He also apologized to BP Oil and Gulf of Mexico companies who were brought in to beseech the lawmakers to buy their oil spill $36 billion dollars to those affected by the oil spill in the Gulf.

Barton is simply a politician looking to break the rules to be in charge and once again collab- orate with big oil companies by providing them with the safety they desire.

The last time a waiver was granted to several Republican candidates was in 2006, when the Republican Party retook the majority of Congress for the first time in 40 years. Barton is hoping to use these past instances of rule bending to acquire a seat as chair- person once more.

Further, obtaining this waiver is not the only rule Barton is trying to break. He also wants to let first-year members of Congress serve on the Energy and Commerce Committee if he gets the seat when the rules state committee members must have at least one year of experience before serving on such.

This would allow inexperi- enced and susceptible politicians to have seats in a committee that regulates how and what kind of energy is used and how it affects the environment. Barton’s rival, Fred Upton, is also vying for chairperson of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Although Upton’s Energy Committee agenda has more to do with repealing Obama’s health care reform and denying federal funding to abortion programs, at least he is playing by the rules and pursuing the issue honestly, through proper channels.

Because of this, he can be considered a lesser of two evils. Although his agenda inconven- iently leaves out tough energy issues such as alternative energy sources and oil regulations.

The Energy and Commerce Committee’s chairperson seat cannot be taken lightly, as it can determine future policies on oil drilling and alternative energy sources.

We cannot have someone who is working hard to break rules obtain rules that kind of power in legislation, when the rules he is trying to break are clearly there for a reason.

Allowing this kind of rule bending is a step in a direction that may eventually put democra- cy at risk.

Beacon welcomes any letters to the editor. To find what does. “There is no such thing as failure, but only feedback,” as I’ve been told.

We should be pragmatic in our efforts for improvement and never be satisfied. Otherwise we’ll grow complacent and find ourselves with generations that can barely read and write, making them obsolete in the information age.

As we grow up we realize that school rewards students not for what they know...at the end of the year, what matters is grades, not knowledge.
BAREFOOT, page 6

Research team investigates sharks’ effect on dolphins

Sharks have been the scourge of the underwater world for millennia, and a research team from the School of Environment, Arts and Society is trying to find out what kind of influence they have on other marine life.

Michael Heithaus, director of the School of Environment, Arts, and Society, went to Shark Bay in 1994 as an undergraduate research assistant on a dolphin behavior project. Then in 1997, he started the research that soon became known as the Shark Bay Ecosystem Research Project.

“When I first saw him he caught my attention,” said Jorge Santamaria, a journalism major who’s in a creative writing class with Ullman.

“I mean, he wasn’t wearing shoes in class. I asked him if he wanted a pair of shoes, but he said ‘no.’”

As Ullman sits on a bench outside the Biscayne Bay Campus library, passersby say ‘hello,’ and Ullman says “no.”

His choice of not wearing shoes has made him a popular guy. In class he does not pass unnoticed.

“People depend on the oceans, so it is important to understand how they work, and to inspire others to protect and conserve the ecosystems,” Heithaus said.

Along with other colleagues, Heithaus has been using the Shark Bay, the Western Australian sea grass ecosystem as a model system for shaping the ecological role of tiger sharks.

SBERP is an international research collaboration with the goal of understanding the progress of one of the world’s most immaculate sea-grass ecosystems.

According to the SBERP, website the project would not be going on right now if it weren’t for the graduate students and the scientists in his lab. He said with all his duties at the University he can’t be in the field nearly as long as he needs to in order to learn what is going on in the bay. “Now, I get to do that, plus help him,” Ullman said.

“As Ullman sits on a bench outside the Biscayne Bay Campus library, passersby say ‘hello,’ and Ullman says ‘no.’”

His hobby of not wearing shoes has made him a popular guy. In class he does not pass unnoticed.

“At the University, students with umbrellas of all sizes and colors jumped the puddles; some even wore rubber boots. But David Ullman didn’t care; he wasn’t even wearing shoes. Not because he lost them or got them wet, but because he quit wearing them 18 months ago. "Nakedness heals the body," said Ullman, a 22-year-old anthropology major who believes in the power of nature. "I suffered from athlete’s foot, and used a cream for a long time and it didn’t go away," Ullman said. "But one day I went outside barefooted in the rain, and three days later it healed." He hasn’t worn shoes again— not to class, not even to court.

To get into bars he has to borrow a pair of shoes for a minute, then he takes them off as soon as he’s in. His feet become a dangerous target for high heels, but that’s not the only threat.

"Once I stepped on a sewing pin, and it got infected," he said. "I was very afraid and prayed that it would heal fast, and it did."