Replacement vice president confirmed

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
News Director

Alina Gonzalez was confirmed unanimously by the Student Government at Modesto Maidique Campus senate to fill the vacant position of SGC-MMC’s vice president during a senate meeting held Jan. 10.

Gonzalez will take over the position, which was left vacant at the end of the fall semester after former SGC-MMC VP Nick Autello tendered his resignation due to being implicated of underage drinking with interns during a Student Government intern retreat.

“It has been a great privilege to serve the students of FIIU, but due to recent events I cannot in good conscience continue to hold my office,” Autello wrote in a letter to Student Media last fall.

During the confirmation process at the senate hearing, Gonzalez explained that she vouched for Gonzalez’s experience. During her term, Gonzalez had served as chief of staff to current SGC-MMC Speaker Pro Tempore Hector Mujica, vouching for Gonzalez’s experience within SGA, citing the need to have someone with experience fill the position in order to avoid having to train someone new before SGA’s upcoming budget process.

“If I were in his shoes, I would do the same,” Gonzalez said. “Sure, someone new before SGA’s budget process is hard and time consuming.”

The role of vice president requires Gonzalez to sit in at senate meetings, where she can serve as tiebreaker vote if a scenario in which a tie occurs.

“I’d like to see more collaboration between both the executive and legislative branches in order to ensure that their goals are completed,” said Gonzalez. “I will take it upon myself to meet with each delegation at least once a month to ensure that there is collaboration between both branches.”

Gonzalez also hopes to


to the legislature and executive branches.

The new School of International and Public Affairs building was officially opened for classes on Jan. 10. The first and second floor of the building hold several classrooms while offices can be found on the floors above. SAPI is a LEED-Certified building and features a unique rooftop garden visible from lobbies on the third through fifth floors.

Rowan offers students a secular view into religion

STEPHANIE FERNANDEZ
Contributing Writer

Instructor Kelly Rowan grew up in a secular home, across the street from a conservative Catholic family. At an early age, she became intrigued by world religion.

That recipe added up to Rowan becoming an atheist and teaching Women in Religion in FIU’s Religious Studies Department.

“I love the community it builds,” Rowan says about the idea of religion. “I love the rituals, but I can’t come to believe in anything imaginary. I guess I’m too old.”

Raised in a family where she was taught to focus on rational thoughts, Rowan believes there is no way she could turn to religion, except to teach it.

In the beginning, but are led to understand that Rowan is trying to push them into creating their own symbols and language.

Rowan tries to introduce the notion of equality with ways to modernize the concept of marriage.

“You don’t love him then? You’re not offering him a ring,” she says. “He loves you, but you don’t love him?”

Students are often confused in the beginning, and are led to understand that Rowan is trying to push them into creating their own symbols and language.

Rowan teaches her students the importance of language and symbols, but suggests that they should change with the times. Each semester she asks her students to explain the engagement ring’s purpose and the usual response is its symbolism of “love” — a response that Rowan vigorously challenges.

“Maybe atheists are the best teachers about religion, since they don’t have a particular faith stance that could skew their objectivity about the value of various different religious ideas,” said Norethup, who also is an associate professor of religious studies.

Rowan said most of her students appreciate the fact that she is an atheist, probably because students do not want a professor preaching their own religious beliefs.

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Rowan tries to introduce the notion of equality with ways to modernize the concept of marriage.

“The word ceremony means it’s about power,” she says. “It’s a ritual between two men. It’s where the father passes his property and gives it to another man. I don’t view myself as property.”

To Rowan, this ritual has an underlying patriarchal reasoning that likens the marriage ritual to ownership of things like cows, bulls and linens. Rowan suggests a woman shouldn’t be bought off with jewelry.

Some men may disagree, but Rowan’s husband, Osvaldo Antonio Musalam, is not one of them.

“I completely respect her beliefs and honor them,” Musalam said. “The ring was never what our relationship was about and if we had chosen to make any changes, we would have decided so ourselves.”

Religious Studies Professor Kelly Rowan lectures on aspects of international religious cultures.
Search ongoing for new chief of staff

SGC-MMC, page 1

increase transparency within SGA to gain back the trust of the Student Body, after a fall semester in which women eventually notice something wrong with that idea.

Rowan actively donates to prevent domestic violence in India through the Unitarian Universalist Association, a religious organization that focuses on women's equality for women. Due to her suppressed immune system and busy schedule, she regrets not being able to travel to India, but hopes that when the timing is right she can become more involved with UUA's Holdens India Program. Her interest in donating to battered women stepped up when she and Ramirez were doing their best to ensure the Student Body knows they are here to help them.

While the position of SGC-MMC vice president is no longer empty, a new candidate must be found to replace Gonzalez as SGC-MMC chief of staff.

Rowan’s teaching style has focused on equality issues, violence, poverty and ethics.

Torben Riise, Rowan’s colleague from IIHU, said Rowan’s work in religion gives a better understanding of our current society and political issues. "Kelley understands the importance of bringing this information to a male audience," Riise said. "Men have, hopefully and eventually, no grasp of women’s role in society; many of today’s maladies are results of that. She (Rowan) has the ability to stay fresh and atop of new developments in these issues."

Rowan’s teaching style has set her apart from other professors who place emphasis on ancient beliefs.

Some have told Rowan they have helped friends who were dealing with domestic violence. From “thank you” emails to changed views on the idea of giving or receiving an engagement ring, students have been captivated by her class.

"Professor Rowan made her lessons so interesting because she always had something personal through her own life to add to class that always made each topic more relatable and exciting," said senior Cheryl Malone.

"There was something about her teaching techniques that left me wanting to learn more and to inform my friends and family about things we would discuss."

WEIRD NEWS

Man Arrested for Making Explosive Sex Toy

Blowup sex dolls. Sure. But what about sex toys that blow up?

Police in Minnesota arrested a 37-year-old man accused of planting explosives in a sex toy, which he allegedly intended to give to one of his ex-lovers.

Authorities in Wasacea County believe Terry Allen Lester stuffed gunpowder, BB pellets and buckshot into a battery-operated device and planned to deliver it to one of three women with whom he had experienced bad breakups.

Investigators say they found out about the dangerous device only after a building manager forced Lester to leave an apartment where he had been staying with two women on Dec. 31.

2-Headed Cow Born in Tbilisi, Georgia

A cow in Georgia has given birth to a two-headed calf. Farmer Irakli Dzhgarkava, shown with the calf on Imedi television, says the cow is refusing to allow her strange offspring to suckle, so they are giving it milk from a bottle.

He says the calf eats with both heads. His ex-lovers.

Man accused of planting explosives in a sex toy.

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MEN’S BASKETBALL

Roberts leads FIU to third straight win in conference

JOEL DELGADO
Sports Director

Whenever the Golden Panthers face off with the South Alabama Jaguars, they usually find themselves coming up short at the end.

Things finally changed as the Panthers soundly defeated the Jaguars 73-62 on Jan. 8, improving their winning streak to three games as they prepare for a difficult two-game road swing out west against North Texas and Denver.

“We are getting better,” Coach Isaiah Thomas said. “I’m very satisfied with the win. It was a successful weekend and we’ll get prepared for the next road trip. I like the way my team is playing.”

With a staunch defensive effort early on, the Golden Panthers were able to win their first game against the Jaguars since a meeting in early 2007 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

Marvin Roberts, who has struggled most of the season matching the kind of production he was able to churn out last season, burst through with a team-high 18 points for the game.

Alex Legion also provided a spark for the Golden Panther offense with 15 points of his own to go along with six rebounds.

“I’m definitely feeling more comfortable out there,” Roberts said. “Hopefully we’ll more of these kinds of wins to come.”

The Golden Panthers (8-7, 3-0 SBC) were also able outrebound the Jaguars (7-8, 1-3 SBC) by 12 rebounds in the game. Eric Frederick helped lead the effort down low with 12 rebounds as he made things difficult for the Golden Panthers.

Brock registered a game high 22 points, but it wound up not being enough to slice significantly into the second half lead built up by the FIU offense.

All this came in spite of Dominique Ferguson’s foul trouble, which limited his playing time and fouled out of the game with over 12 minutes left in the second half.

Ferguson was not the only player on the Panther roster who was in trouble in the second half. Roberts scored a team-high 18 points in the FIU victory.

REBECCA VILLAFANE/THE BEACON

Marvin Roberts [left] tries to make his way past South Alabama’s Augustine Rubit [right] in the second half. Roberts scored a team-high 18 points in the FIU victory.

“Despite leading by as much as 18 points, South Alabama was kept alive by the play of Martino Brock and Augustine Rubit. Rubit provided fits for FIU down low, finishing the game with 20 points and 12 rebounds as he made things difficult for the Golden Panthers.

Despite leading by as much as 18 points, South Alabama was kept alive by the play of Martino Brock and Augustine Rubit. Rubit provided fits for FIU down low, finishing the game with 20 points and 12 rebounds as he made things difficult for the Golden Panthers.

The Panthers got off to a bad start with a stingy defense and a balance on offense, the Panthers got a much-needed win. FIU (6-11, 1-2 SBC) managed to beat South Alabama (9-7, 1-3 SBC) to their lowest total of the season on Jan. 8, as the Panthers won a 48-43 defensive battle.

“We controlled the game with our defense,” Fanni Hutlassa said. “We held them to 43 points when they usually score above 65. I think that was the most important thing. With our offense, we just executed it and got our shots.”

The Jaguars started with suffocating defense, stopping the Jaguars from any penetration. While FIU slowed down USA, the Panthers struggled to get points on the board as the score was only 13-10 with 10 minutes left in the first half.

Jerica Coley hit a three pointer with 8:45 left in the first half that sparked the Panthers on a 16-6 run. Both teams traded three pointers to finish the first half 29-19. Michelle Gonzalez loved how the offense was moving the ball around in the first half.

“I think we were getting back to not letting them penetrate too much,” Gonzalez said. “On offense, we focused on using all 30 seconds of the shot clock, working on finding the open shot, getting our players open and it was working well.”

“We played some really nice defense and we communicated well,” Coach Cindy Russo said. “It’s a team that likes to penetrate a lot and we played a match-up zone and we’re getting better at it.”

The Jaguars put together a 10-2 run to be able to cut the lead down to one with 1:43 left in the second half. It would be the last points USA would score, as FIU held on to a 48-43 win.

Rico Albaracin
Asst. Sports Director

With a seven-game losing streak on the line, the Panthers broke out of the monotony and into a positive spell to get back into the conference race.

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“Rico felt they were able to do things that they didn’t do before. ’I thought they were going to make a run. I didn’t think we would beat them by 20 points,’ Russo said. “This is a very good team so we made some adjustments. The biggest thing we did tonight was rebound at the end and not give up second chance shots.”

With the win, the team looks to build confidence in the coming games and possibly start a winning streak, especially with Elisa Carey coming back from her knee injury.

“I hope we build on this going forward. Elisa [Carey] coming into the mix is huge and she’s a great leader and it’s going to help us out a lot,” Russo said.

“It helps us a lot, especially with the losing streak,” Hutlassa said. “Now everyone can get more comfortable, get more together, and we want to keep it up.”

Women’s Basketball

Golden Panthers snap seven-game skid in home win

Elisa Carey [left] registered 10 rebounds along with eight rebounds to help lift the Golden Panthers over South Alabama.

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Addition of Ferguson and Legion provides needed spark

When Isaiah Thomas took the coaching job with the Golden Panthers nearly two years ago, he stressed that this team would be a work in progress. And so far this season, it has become apparent that progress is being made on the court for a team that had struggled and stumbled in Thomas’s first season at the helm. It is clear to see that the product on the court assembled by Thomas this season has been a vast improvement from the squad that played for the NBA Hall of Famer at this point last year.

The Panthers stumbled earlier this season without Dominique Ferguson and Alex Legion in the blue and gold and, with a couple of exceptions, looked disappointingly reminiscent of that undersized and shallow team that was unable to compete even in an average basketball conference like the Sun Belt.

TURNING POINT

But the injection of the heralded freshman and the highly-regarded transfer has provided a much-needed spark to this Golden Panther squad.

Since Ferguson stepped onto the hardwood, FIU has won four of its past five games and the team has averaged 80 points per game during that span. Before that, a Ferguson-less Panther team was averaging just less than 70.

Thomas has compared Ferguson’s style of play to Lamar Odom and with good reason: not only can the lanky forward post up down low, he can pull up and drain a shot from beyond the arc from time to time. He is the kind of player that can do a bit of everything.

Legion himself has also been a significant addition to the team, providing a consistent long-range threat as well as displaying an ability to change the game with a big shot at an opportune time in any given game. Not only that, but a victory over Arkansas State on Jan. 6 gave the Panthers their seventh win of the season, matching their win total from last season with about half a season still to go. Having both of the floor helped initiate the transformation that is currently taking place and that will continue to progress as the season wears on.

GREAT TIMING

And the timing for their arrival could not have been better, showing up just a couple weeks before the conference schedule began and the weight of significance of every matchup became measurably heavier.

So far, the Golden Panthers have gotten off to a fast start against Sun Belt foes but the toughest matches still lie ahead. Despite their lack of formidable size, having Ferguson and Eric Fredrick in the same lineup is a vast improvement to what they had in 2009 and will be enough to compete in a conference that is not necessarily known for its big men.

And this team will continue to improve as they play more games together as a collective unit and the chemistry improves.

Legion’s numbers have been modest in the early days of his collegiate career, averaging less than 10 points and five rebounds a game. But he has tremendous upside and those numbers will undoubtedly improve as the season moves forward. They need to if the Golden Panthers expect to prove themselves against the Sun Belt powers.

This is a team that needs to learn to compete against the conference schedule and the weight of significance of every matchup became measurably heavier.

Tommy has been pleased with the way his team has been able to improve, especially with most of his players now beginning to gel and get accustomed to each other.

“They’re still learning each other, still trying to figure out where each one is going to be,” Thomas said. “The longer we keep practicing hopefully they’ll be more comfortable with each other.”

Even the players themselves acknowledge that this may have been their best overall performance of the season as a team, seemingly in control for nearly all of the 40 minutes of play. However, they still know there is much room for improvement as the season progresses and they enter the more difficult portion of their conference schedule.

“We have our confidence up,” Legion said. “Now that we’re all together we should be a lot more competitive and take care of business on the road.”

Panthers acknowledge room for improvement

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Day of events to commemorate earthquake

One year after the devastating earthquake, the FIU Community will reflect and pay its respects to Haiti through art and education.

The Office of External Relations, The Art Museum at FIU and The Graham Center Art Gallery are all doing something to commemorate the disaster and its devastating effects. These events are open to the public and free to students and will include two art exhibitions, events and activities.

Curated by artist Fred Thomas, “Kenbe Pa Lage (Keep the Faith)” will be an exhibit that will display traditional and contemporary Haitian art.

Alongside Thomas’ work, Dominique Alexandre Barbot, Levy Exil and Donald Obin will showcase works inspired by Haitian themes such as religion and society. It will also include social commentary and historical documentation. This exhibition will present the public with a tiny semblance of the Haitian people and their relentless and passionate spirit.

These works will be on display from Jan. 10-30 in the GC Art Gallery.

Another art exhibition that will continue commemorating the efforts in Haiti is the “Base-Paint Tents” on display in front of The Art Museum at FIU. The tents were created by artist Anuando and will serve as a library, classrooms and other workshops and events. The Base-Paint tents will be used for a library, classrooms and other workshops and stations for learning at the property of L’Athletique d’Haiti in Cite Soleil in Haiti.

Curated by artist Amuam, this project will feature FIU aiding and promoting the arts in Haiti. FIU will also receive the help of fellow philanthropies Fundacion Manos del Sur and the Step by Step Foundation by acting as a classroom once taken back to Haiti.

The tent designed by Leonel Mathieu displays the union between sky and earth. “We see how trees of skies descend or ascend over the universe that, at the same time, sustain The Earth in a context of self-survival,” said Matheu.

This art exhibition will benefit the children of the capital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. These works will be available for viewing from Jan. 10-30, 2011 in front of the Museum on the Avenue of Arts, near the performing arts center and the museum.

The Marc Pavilion will host a lecture held by some of our guest faculty like Professor Grenville Duper of the Department of Earth and Environment, Co-Director Juan Pablo Sarmiento of the Disaster Risk Reduction Program and Professor Alex Stepick of Global and Sociocultural Studies. Besides these professors, the Teach-In’s Haiti Faculty will provide a lecture series. These events are open to the public and free to students.

To conclude a day of remembrance and enlightenment, FIU students have planned a festive night to celebrate the achievement of the Haitian people. A Night of Commemoration. It will serve as a celebration in light of the growth and progress of Haiti. It will be a celebration of independence, triumph, but most importantly, a celebration of life. This fun and festive event is not only sponsored by FIU but by FIU’s Haitian Student Organization. It will take place in the GC Ballrooms at 6pm.

“Important to realize how a country restructures itself after a disaster and I think Haiti’s done that well with a lot of support from other countries. I really like that FIU hasn’t forgotten what happened to our neighbor country and we’re celebrating the achieve-ments after the disaster while remembering what was lost,” said Karina Marquez, a junior psychology major.

Linda Lee/The Beacon

The Base-Paint Tents were created by artist Anuando and will serve as a library, classrooms and other workshops and stations for learning at L’Athletique d’Haiti in Cite Soleil in PortAuPrince, Haiti.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

New southern grill lives up to its hype

Now that it’s 2011, it’s about time that South Florida got some real Southern cuisine. I spent my pre-New Year’s Eve at Smoke’s Southern Kitchen and Tap, 1450 S. Dixie Hwy, trying out the new restaurant that took over the former location of J.J.’s American Diner. Although the closing down of a good restaurant always breaks my heart, I must say that Smoke’s is a worthy heir to the throne.

The restaurant takes the typical Southern bar and classes it up with a dark blue palette with a kitschy white cow sport pattern, a full bar and a separate lounge area that is well-separate from the often bustling dining room. Several table games complete the overall classic scene.

The bar options at Smoke’s are quite extensive. Along with a full beer and wine list, their Deep South-inspired cocktails are definitely worth a try. I had a Peach Tea Cooler, which added vodka and a smidgen of Bellini mix to sweet tea. It ended up being a fantastic adult take on a summer favorite. Smoke’s also has a Mason Jar Madness menu where 32 ounces of five original cocktails can be had for only $8. I had a sip of the Island Punch mason jar, which was an explosion of refreshing pineapple punctuated with a hint of rum (note: as always, drink responsibly and never drink and drive).

The dinner menu at Smoke’s has a wide variety of Southern classics such as fried chicken, chili and brisket, alongside newer inventions such as their “Redneck Rolls,” which puts a barbecue spin on sushi. For dinner, I settled on a classic burger topped with Cheddar and fried onions with fries and coleslaw. When my meal arrived, I was pleasantly surprised to see the ubiquitous burger bun was swapped with two slices of toasted white bread.

Furthermore, the burger itself was a byte half pound and my fries were served in a petite paper bag. Overall, the burger was incredible: juicy, savory and filling. The fried onions gave it a fabulous crunch.

I had ordered those instead. The ribs themselves didn’t need sauce; they were well-seasoned and the tender meat fell off the bone with very little effort.

The sweet potato fries were crispy on the outside and fluffy on the inside. At first, I found it strange that they were served with a side of maple syrup for dipping, but upon trying the two together, I highly doubt I will ever eat sweet potato fries any other way ever again. The sweetness of the syrup and the salty exterior of the fries were the perfect compliment.

As for the pricing, Smoke’s comes in at mid-range with entrées costing $10-$20, maybe a little extra depending on what you order. However, I can guarantee that you will get your money’s worth, as I barely finished my own meal.

With a daily and late-night happy hour and a range of weekly specials, Smoke’s Southern Kitchen and Tap has the potential to be the next low-key, down home hangout for the college crowd. It comes highly recommended by me.

Food for Thought is a bi-weekly column on food. Look for it every other Wednesday.

JASMYN ELLIOTT

COLUMNIST

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I had ordered those instead. The ribs themselves didn’t need sauce; they were well-seasoned and the tender meat fell off the bone with very little effort.

The sweet potato fries were crispy on the outside and fluffy on the inside. At first, I found it strange that they were served with a side of maple syrup for dipping, but upon trying the two together, I highly doubt I will ever eat sweet potato fries any other way ever again. The sweetness of the syrup and the salty exterior of the fries were the perfect compliment.

As for the pricing, Smoke’s comes in at mid-range with entrées costing $10-$20, maybe a little extra depending on what you order. However, I can guarantee that you will get your money’s worth, as I barely finished my own meal.

With a daily and late-night happy hour and a range of weekly specials, Smoke’s Southern Kitchen and Tap has the potential to be the next low-key, down home hangout for the college crowd. It comes highly recommended by me.

Food for Thought is a bi-weekly column on food. Look for it every other Wednesday.
Ever wonder why your friends call you Mandy?

Ever wonder why everyone can sing along with Copacabana?

Ever wonder where your parents had been the night you were conceived?

Wonder No More

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Simple habits prove beneficial for semester

MARGARET CHEBAI  Contributing Writer

As the holiday season comes to a close, we are faced with the task of preparing and organizing ourselves for a new semester. As we step into the new year, we leave behind all of the memories that were created last semester and look forward to the opportunity to create many more this semester.

With a new semester, comes new beginnings, as well as opportunities to start fresh and put your best foot forward. It shows us the chance to try new things, explore the unknown and make deep connections. However, with all of the events and activities whirling around campus, it is easy to become distracted and neglect our countless assignments. Nevertheless, there is an accepted way of becoming overwhelmed with the workload. Here are a few tips that can help prevent a disastrous start to the semester.

PLAN AHEAD

The sooner you get started on assignments, the better. By planning ahead and setting goals for all of your assignments, the semester will prove to be less stressful and will allow for other activities, such as getting involved on campus, performing community service or enjoying some downtime for yourself.

STAY ACTIVE

The best way to keep your energy levels up is to keep moving. Whether it is at the time for yourself. community service or enjoying some downtime, getting involved on campus, performing community service or enjoying some downtime for yourself.

BUILD YOUR NETWORK

Getting to know the individuals in your classes may prove to be beneficial throughout the semester. By doing so, you will be able to form study groups that can help when dealing with major assignments or exams. Not only can these friendships help you during the semester, they can help you build connections for life.

STAY ORGANIZED

The more organized you are, the better control you will have over your workload. There are many ways that you can stay organized: desk calendars, agendas, computer memos, and online notes, to name a few. The trick is finding the method that works best for you. Once you find a system, everything else falls into place.

The best way to tackle a semester is to find a method that works best for you. Many students often feel overwhelmed and blame the workload or their professors; this is due to a lack of preparation. If one is sufficiently prepared, the course should not be as burdensome. Regardless of what fits your style, let’s make it a great semester.

Daylight savings use yearly round

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ  Staff Writer

Since its inception in 1784, daylight savings time has evolved to create a system in which clocks are changed by one hour at the start and reversed by one hour at the end on a bi-yearly basis. Although the purpose of daylight savings time can still be applied to modern society, the benefits are much different than when they were the idea first conceived.

The tradition should be further streamlined to stay in the daylight savings phase all year around. With the extra daylight savings time, a considerable amount of energy is saved in the evening hours of the day. Although this is somewhat offset by extra energy use in the early morning, there is a less energy use overall during daylight savings time.

The daylight savings’ phase is also many safer for many citizens. Statistics show that the extra daylight reduces crime by up to 10 percent and reduces traffic accidents. It also lowers risk for children on days like Halloween, when many people are walking around outside.

The increased visibility lowers risk of muggings, robberies and crimes based on the low visibility advantage of night time. It also improves visibility for drivers for another hour in the evening, providing a marginally safer environment.

The bi-yearly switch from daylight savings time to standard time is also a cause for confusion in many parts of the country. Many train systems have difficulties adjusting to the changes and often run late, early or not at all when it is time to switch. Many plane and bus services experience similar problems and must change departure and arrival times in the hours following a daylight saving switch.

Every state has the right to choose whether they participate in daylight saving time and this causes disparities in neighboring states and even in neighboring cities. For example, the time in Indiana is divided not only by the Eastern/Central time zone line, but also by disagreements in whether to use daylight savings’ time, as some counties participate and some do not.

Although the daylight savings’ process is regulated by the federal government, some states strongly participate, such as Hawaii and Arizona.

The use of daylight savings’ time can also cause problems with international travel. Countries like Canada, Europe, Russia and Spain observe daylight savings’ time, but may start and stop on different dates. Other countries like China, India and Australia do not participate.

The extra daylight in the evening has many benefits other than just conserving some energy and should be kept year round. The increased energy conservation, simplicity and safety makes sticking to daylight saving time worth it and many states have already done away with the switching.

Many of the benefits of daylight savings’ time can still be retained while doing away with much of the confusion regarding time disparities between cities and states.

Gender inequity rooted in tradition

YUE WANG  Contributing Writer

My friend, a Chinese girl, recently dated an American boy. As soon as she introduced her boyfriend to the news spread overnight and shocked every Chinese student. Instead of receiving her friends’ blessing, they jeered and laughed. Many Chinese girls think that she is very open and rebellious. Furthermore, many Chinese boys think that she is immoral and look down upon her.

Everyone is human, but one’s gender or the color of his or her skin still determines one’s status in society. Gender or racial discrimination is deeply rooted in society. Education can be one of the means to reduce female discrimination but it is not the best means.

In Chinese-American culture, such discrimination is attributed to many factors. Firstly, it is due to the male chauvinism in our society. Some people today still believe that men are superior to women. Men always have the upper hand in all house- hold and external affairs and women have to abide by what they say.

This concept has been allowed, adopted and passed from generation to generation. Parents teach their children by example. Consequently, then, it is deeply rooted in their upbringing. If anything disturbs the rule, they will be punished.

According to the Yin-yang theory in China, Yin (women) and Yang (men) together form the world and Yin-Yang constantly interacts, never existing in absolute status. If one challenges or overthrows the other, the world will be destroyed. To change people’s original discipline is of great importance.

Secondly, it is because of the system in the society. Women in the United States today are more likely to attend college than men. But even with their outstanding academic records and high diplomas, women are still not warmly welcomed in the job market because employers are worried about marriage and maternal issues which will influence their working efficiency.

To be a wife and to be a mother are the happiest things for women to accomplish, but today they have become heavy burden for them. In the U.S. many women lose their jobs after maternity leave.

Thirdly, it is attributed to the culture and tradition. America is proud of being a “melting pot”. It is a pot of mixed ethnicity as well as culture and tradition. Still, the relics of the conservatism and feudalism prevent the Chinese women from challenging men’s position in the society.

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In the U.S. we often encounter the notice “Seats for women” on the bus or other similar notices in public. The notices indicate that people today still need to be reminded of women’s position in the society.

Hopefully in the future the notices can be carved in everyone’s mind rather than on a wall.

EDUCATION POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor-in-chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials, send them to opinion@fiusm.com
I felt pretty lonely, the girls were
of Kansas in Lawrence on a full-
think that’s the coolest part,”
to know something they didn’t
going to read it and they’re going
when you think that someone is
rewarding when you see it and
SJMC students in attendance.
held in January 2007 with four
through Jan. 16.
The inaugural Institute was
in January 2007 with four
“The finished product is really
while playing for the
Rangel also managed to make
University volleyball team,
Michel “Sweet Micky” Martelly, a
candidate Jude Celestin into third
Dec. 7, 2010,” the report said.
the preliminary results of the
presidential elections released on
the top candidates would lose
the entire vote should be thrown out.
The OAS obtained a copy of the
report that showed
the conclusion
was reviewed by Preval.
not supposed to be discussed until it
had not been made public and was
of anonymity because the report
had been completed and translated
foreign official said that the report
called Allan Richards, associate
dean and associate professor in
JMC, one day up in 2006 after it
was submitted a proposal to host
the Institute.
“We’re going in to see Uncle
Arthur,” he said.
Uncle Arthur was the publisher of
The Times, Arthur Sulzberger Jr.
Twenty minutes later Richards
received a call back and SJMC
had landed The Times.

ARGENTINA
4 Argentines detained with ton of cocaine
Four Argentines, three of whom have been
publicly named in officials in their
country’s Air Force, were arrested in Spain for allegedly transporting
almost a ton of cocaine in a private plane.

MEXICO
27 deaths rock Acapulco
The image of this beach mecca has taken a new hit from Mexico’s drug
violence, with 27 people killed in less than a day, including 14 men
whose bodies were found with their heads chopped off.

VENEZUELA
Chavez: Burning of gov’t building terrorism
Authorities have evidence of arson in a fire that badly damaged a
government building used by officials carrying out farm seizures.
President Hugo Chavez said Sunday, calling it an act of terrorism.

SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS

Journalism students and pros work together

LIAMAMAR DÁVILA SANABRIA
Asst. News Director

“In Brazil we don’t have
high school newspapers or radio
stations, so I never had experience
working in journalism before. I
don’t know why, but I just chose
journalism and got into it not
knowing much about it,” said
recent School of Journalism
and Mass Communications graduate
Isadora Rangel.
Rangel is one of 23 journalism
students or recent graduates
participating in The New York
Times Student Journalism Institute being held in the Scripps
Howard Foundation Lab in Academic II since Jan. 3 running
through Jan. 16.
The inaugural Institute was
equipped in January 2007 with four
SIMC students in attendance.
“The finished product is really
rewarding when you see it and
when you think that someone is
going to read it and they’re going
to know something they didn’t
know before because of you, I
think that’s the coolest part,”
said Rangel.
“After attending the University of
Kansas in Lawrence on a full-
scholarship for two years, Rangel decided it was
time to move to warmer weather
and closer to her native Sao
Paulo, Brazil.
“The first three months there
were pretty tough on me because
I felt pretty lonely, the girls were
different and I didn’t have that
many friends,” said Rangel.
While playing for the
University volleyball team,
Rangel also managed to make
time for a nine-month Miami
Herald internship in the
“Neighbors” section covering
the city of Cutler Bay.
“The Herald internship opened my eyes; it showed me this is
what I wanted to do. I thought, ‘Man, this is cool; I like doing
this,’ “ said Rangel.
“FIU has an extraordinary
journalism and mass communication program, and
its activities in working with
Spanish-language journalists,
both in the U.S. and abroad,
has attracted lots of attention,”
said Don Hecker, director of
the Institute and manager of copy
editing training at

Isadora Rangel, a University alumna (right), working with Patrick Farrell, a video journalist for The New York

Org. of American States: boot Haiti gov’t candidate

JONATHAN M. KATZ
Associated Press

An international team of
election experts will recommend
that Haiti’s government-backed
candidate be eliminated from a
presidential runoff ballot due to
strong evidence of fraud in voting
that led to riots, according to a draft
of the report obtained Monday by
The Associated Press.
The report by the Organization of
American States team has not
been released publicly but officials
confirmed its conclusions. It was
to be presented to President Rene
Preval later Monday, foreign and
Haitian sources confirmed.
The report’s most important
conclusions are that the disputed
Nov. 28 vote should neither be
thrown out entirely not recounted,
and that enough fraudulent
or improper ballots should be
invalidated to drop governing-party
candidate Jude Celestin into third
place and out of the second-round
runoff.
That would favor campaign singer
Michel “Sweet Micky” Martelly, a
pulpitist candidate who was in third
place and out of runoff contention
when results were announced last month. Former first lady and
law professor Mirlande Manigat
would remain in first place. All
the top candidates would lose
thousands of votes under the team’s
recommendations.
Haitian electoral officials must
make the final decision on what to
do, but the OAS recommendations
could weigh heavily. The three top
candidates all believe they
should advance to a second-round vote if
not declared the winner outright.
Rioting broke out in several
cities when the preliminary results
were announced, with Martelly’s
supporters blocking streets and
demanding their candidate be
immediately named president.
The U.S. Embassy expressed
doubt over the results at the time,
saying they did not match observers’
polling estimates that showed
Celestin in line to be eliminated.
The OAS report matches that
expectation.
“After a thorough statistical
analysis... the Expert Mission has
determined that it cannot support
the preliminary results of the presidential elections released
on Dec. 7, 2010,” the report said.
“Should this recommendation be
implemented, the position of the
candidate in third place (Martelly)
would change to second and the
candidate now in second place
(Celestin) would move to third,” it
stated.
The AP obtained a copy of the
report, and a foreign official with
direct knowledge of the report
confirmed its conclusions. A second
foreign official said that the report
had been completed and translated
into French and that the conclusion
in the draft would stand.
The sources spoke on condition
of anonymity because the report
had not been made public and was
not supposed to be discussed until it
was reviewed by Preval.
Some critics of the election say
the entire vote should be thrown out
because of rampant disorganization,
fraud and instances of violence and
voter intimidation.
Twelve of the 19 candidates,
including Manigat and Martelly,
joined together while polls were
still open to demand the vote be
 tossed out. The front-runners
changed tune a day later after U.N.
and other officials informed them
they expected to advance to a
runoff.

The Washington-based Center
for Economic and Policy Research,
a left-leaning think tank, said the
evote should be invalidated because
errors and fraud were too widespread
and the party of ousted former President
Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who is still
popular in Haiti, was not allowed to
participate.
“The OAS has abandoned
any professional standards by
certifying an election where nearly
three-quarters of registered voters
did not vote because the country’s
most popular political party was
banned,” said economist Mark
Weisbrot. “Given the massive
irregularities in that first round, it
is not even possible to determine who
the top two finishers were.”