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 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 Autiello tendered his resignation due to being implicated of underaged drinking with interns during a Student Government intern retreat.

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

During the confirmation process at the senate hearing, Gonzalez explained that she promised to do “the best she can to her ability,” building off the experience she has gained during her three years in SGA.

Gonzalez, a junior majoring in political science and international relations, has served as chief of staff to current SGC-MMC President Helena Ramirez since the beginning of her term. Prior to that, Gonzalez had served as director of internal affairs in 2009 and was awarded “SGA Intern of the Year” during her time as an intern her freshman year in 2008.

“I’ve experienced three different administrations and it’s definitely helped me acquire different skills that I think are needed for the vice presidency,” said Gonzalez in an interview with Student Media.

“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 religions,” said Northup, who also vouched 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.

Students are often confused by 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.

“The word ceremony has a lot of meaning,” Rowan said. “In the beginning, but are led to understand that Rowan is trying to push them into creating their own symbols and language.

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New confirms, some vacancies left

VINCENT FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

Monday’s Student Government Council at Modesto Madique Campus meeting shed new light on the positions and members that will take the place of SGC-MMC this semester.

Former SGC-MMC Vice President Nicholas Antillo resigned towards the end of last semester, and President Helena Ramirez brought SGC-MMC Chief of Staff Alana Gonzalez to the senate to be confirmed as the new SGC-MMC Vice President. Ramirez is also resigning from her role as chief of staff, after a vacuum of sorts had been left in the position.

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 full semester of operations, with hopes to be confirmed as the new SGC-MMC Chief of Staff.

Former SGC-MMC Chief of Staff Alana Gonzalez stepped down during the winter break. Ramirez’s resignation came after an offered internship in Tallahassee, which propelled her to step down and accept the offer. While the SGC-MMC senate voted unanimously to confirm Mella as the new SGC-MMC Chief of Staff.

“I am very excited about being confirmed,” said Mella. “I intend to implement some changes to the judicial branch of SGC-MMC because it is an important aspect of SGA, and I would like to see it grow to its potential and make sure that justice is served.”

After Mella’s confirmation, Sanjivj Uddin came before the senate to be confirmed as the new SGC-MMC Attorney General, filling the spot left vacant by former SGC-MMC Attorney General Alana Ramirez, who graduated in the fall 2010 semester.

“I am happy that I was confirmed, and I have plans to make sure that Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus gets a judicial court system,” said Uddinman. Although three new people were confirmed to fill newly vacated seats, other resignations of which are having an impact.

As new other members of SGC-MMC who stepped down was Comptroller Maria-Rosa Blanco, who was offered an extension to a judicial appointment, which would end with a job offer.

“We are already inter- viewing students to fill the spot left vacant by [Blanco],” SGC-MMC President Helena Ramirez said.

Two SGC-MMC senators also resigned from their positions over the break, adding two more vacant seats to the roster.

Stating that personal and other work related responsibili- ties needed to take prece- dence, Honors College Senator Joanne Myler stepped down.

Following Myler’s resigna- tion, College of Business Senator Matthew Mella also stepped down from his position.

The College of Nursing chair remains as the only other senate chair position that has not been filled.

No applications are currently being looked at for the open seats.

“What we are looking for is someone who is experienced in doing things, has good imagination, and that will make sure that justice is served,” said Ramirez. “I am very excited about being confirmed, I intend to implement some changes to the judicial branch of SGC-MMC because it is an important aspect of SGA, and I would like to see it grow to its potential and make sure that justice is served.”

Search ongoing for new chief of staff

Rowan a staunch promoter of equality

ROSWAN, page 1

Rowan feels that this ques- tion refers to the giving away of something that no one ever owned, and hopes that women will eventually notice something wrong with that idea.

Rowan actively donates to prevent domestic violence in India through the United Universalist Association, a reli- gious organization that focuses on bringing 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 the Women’s India Program.

Rowan’s interest in donating to battered women stemmed from personal experience. “I’ve seen that it’s not just stupid people who get stuck in those relationships,” she said. “It can happen to anybody.”

Rowan is actively involved in an organization called Inter- national Institute for Human Understanding, for which she is preparing a new series of lectures titled, “Illuminating U.” The organization’s lectures focus on equality issues, violence, poverty and ethics.

Torben Riise, Rowan’s colleague from IHU, said Rowan’s work in women’s studies gives a better under- standing of our current society and political issues.

“Kelley understands the importance of bringing this information to a male audi- ence,” Riise said. “Men have, historically and even today, no grasp of women’s role in society; many of today’s mala- dies are results of that. She (Rowan) has the ability to stay fresh and atop of new develop- ment in these issues.”

Rowan’s teaching style has set her apart from other profes- sors 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 captured by her class.

“Professor Rowan made her lessons so interesting because she always had some- thing 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 Wasaca 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 Dzhabukia, 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. Friday’s television report says people have been coming to the village of Martvili to see the grayish-brown calf since it was born Jan. 2.

The village is located in western Georgia, about 170 miles from the capital, Tbilisi.

Suicidal New York man leaps, but saved by garbage pile

A would-be suicide jumper in New York was alive on Monday after leaping from a ninth-floor window but landing in a giant heap of garbage uncollected since the city’s massive snowstorm a week ago.

Vangelis Kapatos, 26, was hospitalized in critical but stable condition after jumping from his apartment on West 45th Street on Sunday afternoon, authorities said.

Sanitation workers have not collected trash since the December 23 storm dumped more than a foot and a half of snow on the city. Mounds of garbage several feet high line many sidewalks.

Police said the trash bags below broke Kapatos’ fall and that he left no suicide note before jumping.
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 point 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.

“Marvin Roberts was the most important thing. 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.

With a stingy defense and a balance on offense, the Panthers got a much-needed win.

The Panthers found 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 Panthers 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.

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

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’s important for us [to rebound] because we do a good job getting stops,” Thomas said. “When we get a team to miss it’s important that we complete it with a rebound. It’s not just one person’s responsibility.”

Despite leading by as much as 18 points, South Alabama was kept alive by the play of Martina 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.

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.

RICO ALBARRACIN
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.

With a stingy defense and a balance on offense, the Panthers got a much-needed win.

FIU (6-11, 1-2 SBC) managed to hold 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.

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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 are getting back to not focusing 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.”

The Jaguars got off to a bad start in the second half. USA guard Sarda Peterson hit two three-point shots, with another one coming from Christian Shelter to cut the lead to one. It seemed as though the FIU defense was not ready to defend the three-point shot.

“They were moving the ball well at the beginning of the half,” Gonzalez said. “They were not running that offense at the beginning of the game, but it took two shots for us to get use to that offense.”

It did not take long for the defense to tighten up, as FIU forced USA to take bad shot after bad shot.

The Jaguars were held to 32 percent shooting in the second half, with 28 percent for the entire game.

The Golden Panthers snap seven-game skid in home win

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 back 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 confident, get more together, and we want to keep it up.”

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 [left] tries to make his way past South Alabama’s Augustine Rubit [right] in the second half.

Ferguson was not the only player on the Panther roster who was in trouble in the foul department and that led to a number of opportunities for the Jaguars at the charity stripe.

But South Alabama was unable to capitalize, missing 12 of their 24 team attempts from the free throw line.

Brock was responsible for much of their woes, converting just four of 13 attempts.

Jeremy Allen also continued providing consistent production on offense for the
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 team struggled 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 undermanned and shallow team that was unable to compete in even 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 Panthers squad was averaging just less than 70 points per contest.

Thomas has compared Ferguson’s style of play to Lamar Odom and with good reason: not only can the lanky forward post up low, but he can put 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 Jan. 6 gave the Panthers their seventh win of the season, matching their win total from last season with about half a season still left to play.

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.

Ferguson’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 be a run for a conference crown.

This is a team that needs to solidify itself against traditional Sun Belt powers Western Kentucky and North Texas as well as a rapidly improving young Florida Atlantic team up I-95.

They will get their chance soon enough.

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**Addition of Ferguson and Legion provides needed spark**

**SPORTS**

**MIAMI HEAT**

LeBron James disagrees with NBA Commissioner David Stern that interest in his free agency last summer brought more fans to the league.

James said there are so many great players in the league that he didn’t think he individually had anything to do with what Stern said were better TV ratings.

“I think it’s great,” James said. “Another NBA season, another great year for everyone. Everyone’s that’s a part of it. You’ve seen fans love the game of basketball once again.

“So if I had anything to do with it, which I don’t; there’s too many players, there’s so many great players I don’t think individually I had anything to do with it. Just trying to do my part.”

In an interview with foxsports.com on Friday, Stern said he still wishes James would have chosen a different way to announce he was leaving Cleveland for Miami in the offseason instead of a one-hour TV special.

“LBA attendance is down slightly this season across the league, with Miami being a notable exception, averaging nearly 2,000 more fans a night.

But TV ratings have been higher than 30 percent so far compared to last year.

“Think it’s great. I think with our team, with the Knicks being a global icon, them being good once again, the Celtics and Lakers always being good and a lot of other teams.

So far, the Golden Panthers have gotten off to a fast start against Sun Belt
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 Frost Art Museum 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, Domnickina Alexandre Barbot, Leovy 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 Frost Art Museum. The Marc Pavilion will host a lecture held by some of our guest faculty like Professor Grenville Draper of the Department of Earth and Environment, Co-Director Juan Pablo Sarmiento of the Disaster Risk Reduction Program and Professor Alex de Steipel of Global and Sociocultural Studies. Besides these professors, the Teach-In’s “Haiti: One Year Later” discussion series will have other guest available to speak on related topics.

The moment will be commemorated in the GC Pit. To conclude a day of reflection on related topics, the teach-in starts at 2000 h. At exactly 4:30 pm, students, faculty, and members within our community are asked to stand for a moment of silence to remember those caught amid the catastrophe. The moment will be commemorated in the GC Pit.

To conclude a day of reflection 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 inde- pendence, 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 what happened in 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 their achievements after the disaster while remembering what was lost,” said Karina Marquez, a junior psychology major.
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

MANILOW

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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 the past behind us. 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 countess assignments. Nevertheless, there is a acceptance to become 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. By planning ahead and setting goals for all of your assignments, the semester will prove to be less stressful. By planning ahead and setting goals for all of your assignments, the semester will prove to be less stressful.

The best way to keep your energy levels up is to keep moving. Whether it is at the community service or enjoying some down-time during the semester will prove to be less stressful.

The best way to tackle a semester is to get to know the individuals in your classes may prove to be beneficial.

**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 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.

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 friend’s 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 household and external affairs and women have to abide by what they say.

This concept has been adopted, accepted and passed from generation to generation. Parents teach their children to conformist mentality, they therefore, 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 interact, 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. However, in China, society and tradition prevent Chinese women from accomplishing their goals. Many women lose their jobs after marriage. They are even more likely to be heavy women. For them, the world is divided into the male and female worlds, and women are still not welcomed in the job market because opportunities are limited by the cultural and traditional norms of the society. Chinese girls should become more confident and independent. They should be able to stand on their own feet.

The relics of conservatism and feudalist prevent Chinese women from challenging men’s position in society.

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**Daylight savings savings useful year round**

The increased energy conservation, simplicity and safety makes sticking to daylight savings’ time worth it

**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 was first conceived. 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, such as California, 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 day 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**

Employers are worried about marriage and marital issues which will influence their working efficiency.

To be a wife and to be a mother are the happiest things.

The relics of conservatism and feudalist prevent Chinese women from challenging men’s position in society.

Gender inequity rooted in tradition

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ARGENTINA

4 Argentines detained with ton of cocaine

Four Argentines, three of whom were former high-ranking 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

LIAINAMAR 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 held in January 2007 with four SJMC 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 of you. I think that’s the coolest part,” said Rangel.

After attending the University of Kansas in Lawrence on a full-ride volleyball scholarship for two years, Rangel decided it was time to move to warmer weather and closer to her native Sao Paolo, 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 The Times.

“The growing reputation of FIU and SJMC make it a particularly good fit for the Institute. We’ve gotten some great students from FIU.”

Rangel graduated from SJMC in December 2010 with her bachelor’s degree in journalism. After the Institute, Rangel will begin her fellowship from the Stuart Foundation as an online producer at The Stuart News.

“Honestly I don’t know what I’m going to be doing 10 years from now, being a New York Times editor won’t be that bad or having my own show on CNN like Anderson Cooper,” said Rangel.

The Institute is a 10-day intensive program bringing news professionals with student members of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

All expenses are paid by The Times and the University alternates with the University of Arizona every other year.

Students are competitively chosen to be directed by foreign journalists from The Times, The Boston Globe and The Times Company’s Regional newspapers in a real-life newsroom environment covering the cities where the Institutes are held.

One of The Times’ editors called Allan Richards, associate dean and associate professor in SJMC, up one day in 2006 after the OAS recommendation 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.

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, 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 carnival singer Michel “Sweet Micky” Martelly, a populist 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 were expected to advance to a runoff.

The Washington-based Center for Economic and Policy Research, a left-leaning think tank, said the vote 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.”