College of Business dean to step down from position

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

After 14 years with the College of Business, Joyce Elam announced her decision to have the 2011-2012 academic year be her last as executive dean.

Elam, who is also the professor of management information systems and vice provost of FIU Online, will remain in her position as Dean of University College and continue to serve as a faculty member in the College of Business. She will have been the longest-serving Dean in the history of the college.

“The President and I want to thank Dr. Elam for being an energetic, entrepreneurial, inspired and visionary Executive Dean of the College of Business Administration,” said Douglas Wartzok in a University wide email.

Wartzok also added that he has appointed John Rock, dean of the college of medicine, to head the search committee and work with a national search firm to hire a new dean by July 2012.

Previously an associate professor at the University of Texas and an assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School, Elam earned both her Ph.D. in operations research and her bachelor’s in mathematics from the University of Texas.

She is known to be a recognized expert in the strategic use of information technology, the management of the information services function, and the use of information technology to support both individual and group decision-making and learning.

Her prominent role in the study of women in leadership is seen through her efforts in an annual study, which surveys women-led businesses in Florida. She is also the faculty leader for a women leadership development program, Women on the Move, which is offered twice a year through the FIU Center for Strategic Leadership.

Elam is offered twice a year through the FIU Center for Strategic Leadership.

DEAN, page 2

Athletic fee to increase three percent, agreement reached

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Asst. News Editor

As the 2010 to 2011 academic year comes to an end, the Student Government Association worked to make significant agreements with Athletics.

Asking “for a true collaboration with Athletics in terms of facilities operated” by the department, Student Government Council President for the Modesto Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus, Helena Ramirez and Christin Battle worked in accordance with the agreement as a response to the Athletic Fee increase.

According to SGC-MMC President Helena Ramirez, the University Fee Committee voted to propose a 3 percent increase to the fee. The increased proposal now goes to the office of University President Mark Rosenberg and then to the Board of Trustees for final approval.

Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Rosa Jones, Executive Director of Sports and Entertainment Pete Garcia and Head Football Coach Mario Cristobal signed off on the agreement on April 12. In the agreement, SGA requested access to facilities and amenities under Athletics’ jurisdiction. As part of its appeal, SGA asked to maintain usage inventory.

Along with these payment inquiries, the agreement also requested access to facilities such as the Skybox as a renewal of the April 2008 agreement between Garcia, Cristobal and Jones.

SGA also requested that Athletics provide at least seven shuttles bases for BBC students to attend sporting events per year.

The April 12 agreement renewed a previously established appeal between the Office of Student Affairs and Athletics. In accordance with it, Student Affairs continues to have access to the Stadium Club and suites for student club and SGA meetings for a minimum usage of three days per week.

The Athletics Department will provide Field House Space and locker room availability for student club and organizations through the Division of Student Affairs and SGA.

The last thing the agreement touched upon was the accessibility of the stadium field through the approval of Cristobal and in direct relation to the football program.

Ramirez and Battle worked in coordination with the respective departments to get this agreement done before the academic year ended.
Elam longest serving dean for college

DEAN, page 1

Leadership and the College of Business Administration.

During her tenure, the college has gained national ranking recognition and grown in the number of undergraduate and graduate students it serves.

According to Wartzok “between 1997 and 2010, the number of undergraduate degrees doubled to 1,063 and the number of graduate degrees tripled to 941.”

The Chapman Graduate School’s program portfolio has grown in size and complexity to include a full-time MBA program and several MBA programs specifically designed for working professionals and executives.

With an MBA program focused on Healthcare Management that is delivered entirely online, the college has developed seven specialized Master’s programs offered at numerous FIU campus locations.

Graduate programs have extended overseas with classes offered in Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Panama, and Mexico.

Dual degree seeking students from partner business schools around the world are now a regular part of the college’s graduate enrollment,” said Wartzok.

Every year since 2005, “US News & World Report” has listed the college’s undergraduate international business programs among the 15 best in the nation; three times in the top 10. “BusinessWeek” has also ranked the college among the top 100 AACSB-accredited business schools.

“We want to congratulate her [Elam] and the College faculty on the outstanding accomplishments they have achieved during the fourteen years under her leadership,” said Wartzok.

Mullen visits Pakistan amid tensions over drones

The top U.S. military officer is visiting Pakistan at a time of tensions over America’s role in the region.

The U.S. Embassy says Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will spend Wednesday and Thursday meeting with Pakistani leaders.

Mullen is a frequent visitor to Pakistan, and reportedly has a good relationship with Pakistan’s army chief.

The United States needs Pakistan’s cooperation to help end the war in Afghanistan.

But tensions between the two allies have spiked this year after an American CIA employee shot and killed two Pakistanis he said were trying to rob him.

Compiled by Nicole Castro
Golf

The FIU women’s golf team placed 5th in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament. The team was helped by the fact that they were lead by senior Claire Clark, who has won Sun Belt Conference matches in a row. The FIU women’s golf team is 9-8 on the season and 1-0 in the conference. They are 5th in the Sun Belt conference. If ULM and FIU make it to the Conference Tournament, it would be the first time the team has made it to the Conference Tournament.

FIU preparing for road doubleheader at UNF

The Golden Panthers feel-they must make a strong push in the last five Sun Belt Conference games to improve their seeding for the conference tournament. “We got to keep playing hard and finish strong,” Alex Casals said after the series against Western Kentucky. “I feel like we are going to be good at winning the first game and we kind of lose it in the second [game of the series].”

ON THE BUBBLE?

As of April 13, the Golden Panthers are listed as the No. 22 Georgia Tech twice in the top 25 as the defeated Florida Atlantic and South Alabama. The Golden Panthers feel they must make a strong push in the last five Sun Belt Conference games to improve their seeding for the conference tournament. “We got to keep playing hard and finish strong.” Alex Casals said after the Western Kentucky series. “Every lost [in the conference] counts.”

FIU SOFTBALL DOUBLEHEADER

FIU vs. UNF (DH)

- Time: 01:00 p.m.
- When: April 23
- Where: Jacksonville, FL

Contact Us
José Delgado
Sports Director
José.Delgado@fi usm.com
Golden Panthers looking to make late season push

Softball, page 3

Patty Zavala provided the two key hits that drove in all three of the Golden Panthers runs on Feb. 13. Welch went 1-for-2 in the game, which included her single in the sixth inning that broke up a scoreless game.

Zavala went 2-for-3 in the ballgame with included a two run single that gave the Golden Panthers a 3-0 lead.

In the circle, Gniadek gave up two hits and struck out ten Ospreys as she pitched a complete game against North Florida.

North Florida struggled for much of the game at the plate. Only Alyson Bailey and Jackie Reese recorded hits off of Gniadek in the game.

Leadoff hitter Kaley Brosky had an effective day against the Golden Panthers at the plate as she was able to draw four of the team’s six total walks in the game.

Cormey Radke had one of her better outings of the season against the Golden Panthers. She pitched six innings giving up five hits, struck out four and gave up three runs in the game.

The Ospreys enter the series with a 22-27 record and a 6-10 mark in Atlantic Sun Conference play. Brittany Hendrix leads the team with a .283 average. Mariah Reynolds is second on the Ospreys with 4 homers and leads the team with 28 RBIs.

The two were a combined 21-7 on the season and each won ten consecutive matches at different points during the season. These two players could pose problems to the Golden Panthers during the Tournament.

The Ospreys with 4 homers and leads the team with 28 RBIs.

SCOUTING NORTH FLORIDA

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Pamela Bermudez [right] is greeted at home plate after hitting his first home run of the season on April 15 against Florida Memorial.

BACK IN ACTION

The Beacon will return to production for Summer Semester B.
Radiate FM will continue broadcasting, and you can keep up to date with updated FIU news and sports on fiusm.com.

FIU awaits winner of first round matchup

Tennis, page 3

matches in each of the past three seasons. She and Milou Israel were the only two Ragin’ Cajuns to pick up victories in the Feb. 26 matchup. Another team to watch might be the Arkansas State Red Wolves.

These two teams met during the regular season and the Golden Panthers swept the Red Wolves (7-0).

The Red Wolves finished the season with a record of 9-6 and were lead by Seniors Jenny Herring and Menna Kamal.

The two were a combined 21-7 on the season and each won ten consecutive matches at different points during the season. These two players could pose problems to the Golden Panthers during the Tournament.

POSSIBLE FIRST OPPONENTS

The Golden Panthers will face either Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders or the Denver Pioneers. The Blue Raiders head into the tournament with some struggles, having only won two of their last seven matches.

The Pioneers are experiencing similar struggles, as they have lost three of their last four.

In their head-to-head match up this season, Denver defeated Middle Tennessee 6-1.

If Denver defeats Middle Tennessee again, it would set up a match between teams that have won six of the past seven Sun Belt titles, dating back to 2004.

SENIORS LEADING

Seniors Liset Brito and Maria Spenceley lead the Golden Panthers into the Sun Belt Tournament. Brito enters the tournament playing very well, winning nine of her last ten matches.

She has played a key role in leading the Golden Panthers to the No. 1 seed. Each time that the Golden Panthers won a match this season, Brito won in singles.

While Brito has been receiving a lot of recognition, Spenceley has been nearly as successful.

Winning nine matches on the season, Spenceley has been the unsung hero of the team. She is hoping to end her career with a third Sun Belt Conference Championship.

SUN BELT TOURNAMENT

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FIU vs. Denver/MTSU

- Time: 10:00 a.m.
- Where: April 22
- Where: Mobile, AL
Summer vacation: sun and fun.

Three months of uninterrupted leisure after a hard year of study. For FIU students, however, the fun never seems to be enough before classes take over once again. Some students this summer will find themselves in the same places they have been all year: the classroom, even if it just for the first 6 weeks of the Summer A semester.

For John Garcia, 19, a freshman business major, summer will serve to fulfill some of the credits needed for his major. “I am going to be taking 6 credits in summer, one will be a math course and the other will be a global learning class.”

The global learning requirement, first implemented last year during Summer B, tries to get students more involved in global aspects of the world that are impacting many students’ lives today.

“I look more at the economic aspects when thinking about my vacations,” said Garcia. “I don’t want to waste too much money especially since I don’t have a job.”

Garcia, during classes, will mainly hang out with friends and play video games as courses wind down once again. After finishing up classes, he will take a trip up to Georgia and visit his sister for a few weeks. “I plan to do a lot of site seeing.”

Another student, Mercy Guillot, 19, a sophomore international relations major, will also begin her summer in class, taking "Criminal Justice and the Constitution" in Summer A. Afterwards is when the fun will commence.

“I am taking a Europe vacation,” laughed Guillot. “I am going with my boyfriend, his parents and his little brother.”

The trip will begin by plane where Guillot will fly to Barcelona and stay for two days at a hotel before embarking on a seven day cruise on the Liberty of the Sea through some of the most famous cities in Europe.

“We’re going to be going to places like Rome in Italy and Monte Carlo in France,” said Guillot.

Weighing in at around $3,000 per person and $7,000 in total, not counting airfare and hotel prices, this trip might not be the most economic for many but promises to be the trip of a lifetime.

“We have been saving up for a year,” said Guillot. “It’s should be a lot of fun. I’m excited.”

Katerina Vo, a freshman English major, will spend her summer vacation more economically while also giving back to the community by teaching ballet to the younger classes at the South Florida Ballet.

“I have taught at the ballet school in my previous summers,” says Vo. “I mostly look for a mixture of fun and economic. Once you start making money, you are more careful with it.”

For Victor Guerrero, 20, a sophomore music major, the highlight of the summer will begin with a Pinback concert on May 4 in Atlanta.

“I’m taking the trip with my girlfriend and my best friend. It’s a rare opportunity because the band doesn’t tour that much and when they do they rarely come so far south,” said Guerrero. “They also take a while to release any new material.”

The Pinback concert will just be one of the stops on the road trip. “Coming down we’re going to stay in a hotel and sleep a little before going to the Wizarding World of Harry Potter in Orlando the next day.”

The famous theme park, coming in at $74 a person even with the Florida resident discount, has proven to be one of the more economic choices this summer. “Together, us three will each pitch in around $200,” says Guerrero. “So around $600 in total, including gas and hotel prices.”

Using Expedia, Guerrero was able to find hotels at as low as $70 a night without them being too run down. “We’re doing this to have fun and jam out and be wizards!” Guerrero said.

Whether you’re saving up, studying up, spending all or spending some, summer is a time to enjoy. After all, when school is over and life begins, summer vacation will become but a distant memory.

Summertime brings trips to Europe and Disney

SUMMERTIME brings trips to Europe and Disney
SunFest Florida’s answer to music festivals

KATHY PAZ
Staff Writer

Let’s face it: Miami is not really considered one of THE cities when it comes to music festivals. You won’t really find something like Indio, Ca.’s Coachella or Chicago’s Lollapalooza here in terms of size or lineup.

Thankfully, all hope isn’t lost for music junkies who can’t afford to throw down major dollars in order to get to one of these major music staples. If you’re willing to venture an hour and a half to two hours north, West Palm Beach’s SunFest offers that festival atmosphere in an affordable manner that balances quantity and quality.

SunFest has been around for almost 30 years. Established in 1982, it is the largest music, art and arts festival in Florida and attracts well over 200,000 guests every year.

The festival is held in the downtown area of West Palm Beach, situated along the Intracoastal Waterway. The grounds cover Flagler Drive, from Banyan Boulevard to Lakeview Drive with multiple stages, vendor spots, tent areas and food stations.

Putting together such a recognized and distinguished gathering requires intense planning. In fact, there’s not much down time between the end of the past year’s events and the brainstorming and research period for the upcoming one.

According to Melissa Sullivan, Marketing Manager for SunFest, the development for 2011 began shortly after the cleanup of 2010.

“We do assessments and review feedback, survey results and bottom line numbers, then start planning for the next year,” she says.

One of the major aspects of the development process is putting together the best possible programing.

In addition to the daily concerts, SunFest offers various other activities for festival-goers. The five-day event, which kicks off on Wednesday, Apr. 27, and lasts until Sunday, May 1, has something for everyone.

For the of age crowd, Captain Morgan will have their traditional “Floating Oasis” barges which will feature specially created drinks and a fun atmosphere. The Wine Garden at Trinity Park, located at the southern end of SunFest will hold special Constellation Wine tasting events.

The Juried Fine Art and Crafts Show will showcase the works of over 16 national artists from Friday to Sunday. Tours and demonstrations will be offered, and the mediums featured in the show include painting, ceramics, photography, sculptures and jewelry.

Youth Park at SunFest provides family-oriented fun and kid-friendly programming, and the Hair Cuttery booth offers hair painting, silly bands and giveaways.

This year’s festival will also feature the debut of a new event. “We have added a 5K,” says Sullivan.

The TGISK takes place on Friday, and the route begins at the intersection of Flagler Drive and Ednor Road. Pre-registration is $45, but that fee includes a variety of perks including admission to SunFest that night and a special concert and award ceremony.

SunFest will go out with a bang, traditionally concluding with the famous Verizon Wireless Fireworks Show on Sunday, one of the largest fireworks displays on the East Coast.

A complete music schedule can be found online on the SunFest website. Early bird tickets can be purchased at a discounted price until Apr. 23. One, two or three-day passes are available.

R E E L T O R E E L

The original plan for this week was to review Atlas Shrugged, a made-for-television adaptation of the famed drivel expounded by Ayn Rand. But my review included too many expletives to describe how terrible the film was.

Left without a new release to review and with fast approaching, a colleague suggested that I should review a movie trailer. It sounded like an interesting idea, but I didn’t really bite. Until I saw the trailer for Abduction.

Now here’s a trailer that makes Fast Five look like Citizen Kane.

First, it stars Taylor Lautner. From the first time I saw Taylor Lautner’s face, I wouldn’t have liked him as an actor. Maybe it’s his scrunch up eyes or his Neanderthal-like face. Perhaps it’s his delivery of lines like, “Sometimes I feel different, I walk around like every body else but inside I feel like I’m just a strangler in my own life.”

Or maybe it’s the fact that he’s built an entire career on taking his shirt off for female audience members to swoon and for their male counterparts to win in agony at his “performance.”

Anyhow, life seems pretty good for Nathan (T.L.) in this movie. It goes to high school, owns a motorcycle and a Mac (I wish I was somewhere, anywhere), has a love interest in his life (Maria Bello) and the best Bourne Supremacy vein before she and her husband are murdered.

Nathan is the run now laying in an elaborate game.

And then, to add insult to injury, they put some talented actors into the film. Alfred Molina shows up in the trailer as either a potential villain or an ally. Sigourney Weaver is also laying around in the trailer performing mixed martial arts to subdue the agents in the best Bourne Supremacy vein before she and her husband are murdered.

Jorge Valens will graduate in May.

FISTFULS OF TECH

Technological advances to progress in leaps and bounds

Eventually, Google will be out-Google’d, Facebook will be replaced by something else and Twitter will not be tweeting.

The point I am trying to make here is that good things must come to an end, and this column is one of them.

Every week, you have flipped to the same section, looked for the same semi-bearded, handsomely disheveled mug shot of mine and read my ramblings on popular topics that I felt was important enough to share with you.

From the deepest part of my technology obsessed heart, I thank you. Not only for reading, but also for any emails and comments you’ve sent along. Sometimes we columnists wonder who reads our stuff.

A primary goal I had in mind for this column was to create awareness of important topics and technologies among the University community.

I wanted this series to not only discuss relevant topics in the market, such as mobile or social media, but also to be a watchdog for a University that is currently adapting to the needs of the modern student.

When I criticized FIU Online in my last column, someone commented “the last two years has been such a treat”. I have seen an all-out war around mobile between Apple and Google that is only getting started, the rise of several great social services like About.me and Four- square, and so many more new and amazing things.

Looking forward, we are seeing another dramatic shift to cloud storage.

Services like Dropbox and Amazon’s Cloud Drive are compelling reasons why you may not need to a terabyte hard drive in your computer anymore. We are seeing the day that people use the Internet.

In closing… Thanks again, readers. Seacrest out.

For the full update on all you have really enjoyed my column. I hope that you found this series relevant. Technology is so important, not only here at the University but outside as well.

The industry’s move to mobile is quickly de-emphasizing the idea of “the computer.”

Phones and tablet computers are starting to debut with speciﬁcations that make our childhood computers look like calculators.

The move to the cloud is leading to cheaper hardware and a lot of legal controversy that ties into the type of the most important issues of our time, net neutrality and the restrictions everyone is trying to impose on our free Internet.

Thanks again, readers. Seacrest out.
Intrauterine devices still a safe, effective contraceptive method

BROOKLYN MIDDLETON
Staff Writer

The intrauterine device has long been the ugly stepchild in the American family of contraceptives. In part, the IUD’s tainted reputation comes from The Dalkon Shield, a plastic IUD manufactured during the early 1970s that caused many septic miscarriages and a myriad of pelvic inflammatory disease diagnoses. Though the IUD’s reputation has since recovered, its newer models are far better constructed and ensure effectiveness.

Despite the fact that the IUD remains the most widely used form of reversible contraception in the world, it is a drastically underused form of contraception in the United States. It is estimated that approximately only 2 percent of American women use the IUD. Because of the fact that IUDs are over 99 percent effective, and because on the long run they are the most cost-effective contraception available, education and awareness about IUDs should be expanded.

There are two types of IUDs currently in the United States. The Paragard is a copper-shaped device that is inserted into the uterus. The Paragard lacks hormones completely, making it a preferable choice for women who experience side effects from hormonal birth control or who desire a birth control regimen that is highly effective but does not require a fluctuation in hormones.

Despite the often unfounded criticisms surrounding IUDs, they can be the perfect solution for women exploring contraception options.

Washington D.C. internship opportunity

The summer is fast approaching, and its coveted internships will be beginning in just a few short weeks. Nevertheless, if you have yet to make the decision to expand your horizons and get some real-world experience this summer there’s still time to apply for some late-summer positions.

Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities (HACU) National internship program director Maria Vivas-House, one of FIU’s strongest partners in placing student interns, explained that timelines for internship positions in DC can be quite dynamic and aren’t always set in stone. While internship programs generally begin making arrangements with their students months or weeks in advance, often times a replacement will need to be found last-minute with only days to prepare.

Despite the fact that the opportunity may present itself on very short notice, HACU is one of the few organizations that provides housing and covers the cost of transportation for their interns during their stay. They also pay a bi-weekly salary. If that sounds like something you would be interested in it’s worth contacting them: HACU is expecting to organize some 300 internships in DC this summer, but offers opportunities year-round.

Not all DC internship programs are as accommodating as HACU’s. However, the real rewards of a summer internship in DC can hardly be found in its “commanding” salary. DC internships are about the intangibles: the ability to network with the people who have direct impacts on our nation’s future, the opportunities to further your career, and the invaluable life experiences that can ultimately help you to find your professional calling.

An internship in a congressional office is an example of an unpaid position, but it would be hard to argue for a better opportunity to network with a wider variety of potential business contacts or gain a more in-depth perspective of how the policy decisions that affect your everyday life become realities.

FIU’s Office of Federal Relations in DC works daily with the eight main congressional offices on Capitol Hill that represent our student body’s districts. Each one of these offices offers summer internship programs, and as their constituents you have priority consideration.

FIU’s Office of Federal Relations in DC this summer, but offers opportunities year-round.

The end of the semester is at hand, and the amount of homework and tests can be overwhelming for college students. Most of us are under a great deal of stress and need to learn how to cope with it. There are many ways to relieve stress, but the best three ways are meditation, laughter and exercise. These tools will give stressed students peace of mind, while putting smiles on their faces.

With stressful jobs, hectic lifestyles and a full course load, students endure plenty of stress. As stressful sights and sounds can induce stress, using soothing sights and sounds to relieve stress will counteract stress. “There isn’t a more obvious stress relief strategy than to bring your entire physical being to a calm by meditation for stress relief,” says Liz Rose, a yoga instructor. Meditation techniques often involve visualization of something calming, like a blank screen or clouds. It can also mean clearing your mind entirely for a short duration. By meditating, students will relieve tension and be able to focus more on their studies.

Another important stress cure is laughter, which is a daily remedy for the onslaughs of lectures and late-night cram sessions. When we smile or laugh, we release tension from our faces and feel relaxed. We also allow more blood to flow to the pleasure centers of the brain. When an individual is laughing, they are naturally far less stressed than those who do not. Laughter changes the pace of a study-filled day and gives a student the mental break that is needed to excel in their classes.

Exercise is a big stress reliever for anyone. This is because exercisereleases physical tension in the muscles and releases endorphins which triggers pleasure in the brain. Exercise in water with swimming or water aerobics to reduce even more stress. People who are more buoyant or water; swimming takes a much gentler toll on your body, so the tension created in muscles gets released.

Simply stated, make time for yourself. Use meditation as a guide to calm your mind, laughter as a method to break the stress cycle and exercise to support your mind, body and spirit. When students take effective stress control, results in the enhancement of both mental and physical well-being. Factors like these will help with better sleep, increased energy and will lead to the development of a more well-being and achieving a grade of the highest honor a college can receive: an A.

Relieve stress via foolproof methods

NATASHA CAPLAN
Staff Writer

Relay for Life recruitment

Every year the FIU community comes together for a cause - Relay for Life, the American Cancer Society’s premier fund-raising event. On March 4 and 5th held in 7th annual Relay For Life and raised a grand total of $96,000! This is a record shattering number for our university. These funds will go to the patients who need it the most as well as fund invaluable research that will one day give us the cure for cancer.

In order to continue this great work, Relay for Life needs YOU. Starting April 20th, applications for the 2012 Relay for Life Committee will be available at Facebook.com/relay and Relayforlife.org/fiusouthfl and will be due on May 9th, 2011.

Relay invites a variety of passionate individuals in order to make Relay a success. We are looking for talented students who want to make a difference. Please join me in the fight against cancer. Relay For Life is a life changing experience that you will never forget. Remember, a world without cancer is a world with more birthdays!
**Well-traveled University student now studying PR**

**LILIANA COLANTUONI**
Contributing Writer

From the start, Ana Noboa had a unique life. She was born in Ecuador but after eight months she moved to Colombia with her mom, Dian, and older sister Veronica because her dad died in a military accident.

A couple years passed and Noboa’s mom married Jonathan Doblin, a U.S. diplomat who moved his new family from Colombia to the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean.

Ana Noboa, 27, has lived in six countries, joined the armed forces and is pursuing a career in public relations at the University’s School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Noboa’s conscious life really started in Morocco. She was 15 years old when she moved there. After high school, she wanted to pursue her dream, which was to be a Broadway singer.

A few years later, the family moved again, this time to Washington D.C. Noboa was confused on what she should do with her life but her mother urged her to join the military. Her stepfather told her to join the Air Force because they were the ones that did not go to war.

She took the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test and got an 85 percent, well over the Air Force’s expectations. In January 2002, she reported for six weeks of boot camp in San Antonio, Texas, then went on to technical school for certification in air traffic control.

Her first assignment was in Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma.

“I had a great time on that base,” she said. “Besides everything I learned, I also found my husband.”

Noboa had been married once before in Jamaica when she was 19, but that marriage only lasted three years.

Four months into her service in Oklahoma, she was ordered by the Air Force to go to South Korea, where she worked for two years.

“It was one of the greatest experiences that I had,” she said.

Her enlistment with the Air Force ended in South Korea, and she decided not to renew it because she wanted to try something new. A private company contacted her and hired her to work for them in Afghanistan as a radar controller. Noboa worked for them only six months and decided to move back home; this time to Florida.

Noboa moved with her mom and two sisters in 2008. She graduated from Broward College in May 2010.

“I would love to follow my stepfather steps into politics by being a diplomat,” she said.

Noboa expects to graduate in May 2012 with a degree in communication and a minor in international relations.

“I am the person that I am today because of my experiences and I would not trade them for anything in the world,” she said.

Liliana Colantuoni, a senior journalism major, produced this story in the JOU 3303 Advanced News Writing course taught by Dr. Fred Blevens.

**CAMPUS FOLIAGE**

Employees from M&M Sad & Landscape work on the renovation of plants in front of the Academic II building.

**FOODGASM**

Take one word from this final semester outing: experiment

As I think about what to bless the readers with one last time, perusing the endless food-blogs as well as the depths of my mind, I can’t inhibit myself from writing about what really inspires me, what my culinary passion thrives on after-midnight experimentations.

By that I mean combining the arbitrary ingredients contained in my refrigerator into hopefully semi-cohesive masterpieces. Of course, I am not discriminate to the time of day, but it usually does taste best around 3 a.m.

I know people have different exposures, experiences or opinions about the way of cooking I hold so dearly. Someone may shun the neglect of rules or recipes, or arrogantly admire the creativity or resourcefulness involved. I would like to promote the latter because making something out of nothing can be rewarding, especially in this case.

Some of my favorite things I have ever made have been thought up on the spot.

The process is simple; I take a look at what is in the refrigerator, pantry and make it into something else.

Sometimes, it is obvious what I can make using what I have, other times it requires more imagination. Don’t be afraid to experiment because when you finally create something delicious, it will be worth all the time and effort.

I try to salvage any food I can for my late night dishes. Whether it is leftovers or uncooked food that needs to be used, I incorporate everything I can.

One item I commonly make from leftover meat is fajitas. I slice the leftover meat, either steak or chicken, into strips and then reheat them on a skillet.

I also take any other ingredients I have that can go in the fajitas and sauté them. In very little time I have made a delicious meal using ingredients that were already on hand.

Fajitas are just one example, but I like to make all types of sandwiches, stir-fries, flatbreads, pastas or anything else that pops into my head at the time. I see many benefits to this, such as many benefits to this, such as reducing food waste, controlling what you eat, as well as practicing cooking and creativity.

The first thing you need to do is look through your kitchen for anything you can or want to use. Check the refrigerator, freezer and pantry for items.

Once you have an idea of what is available, you then think of what you can make using those ingredients.

Sometimes a great idea comes to you right away, other times it takes a little thinking. Then lastly, you just go for it and start washing, cutting, peeling, baking, frying, grilling, boiling, steaming or microbrewing to get to the finished product.

If you don’t feel comfortable cooking a whole meal, I recommend taking little steps, such as adding a few extra toppings to your frozen pizza before you put it in the oven.

Before you know it, you will be pushing your own boundaries in the kitchen, having fun and making delicious food.