Alum brings comic book characters to life

HOLLY MCCOACH
Contributing Writer

Though the majority of comic book heroes are derived from the spacious land of America, most of them have lived in cities like New York City, or cities that were a close replica of that territory – think Gotham City and Metropolis.

However, how many have been based in Miami? Socrates S. Alvarez III had the same question when he first began brainstorming his ideas for Blackman, the Miami Marvel. Two years ago, Alvarez brewed a rough sketch of the soon-to-be superhero in a University classroom, and from there, Miami’s first superhero was born.

Alvarez graduated last year from the University with a master’s in public administration. Born in Miami and raised in Little Havana with a Cuban upbringing, Alvarez dreamed of a superhero that could represent Miami, but preferably a minority that he, along with other minority readers, could identify with.

Beginning with Blackman, Alvarez worked hard to incorporate the ideal hero that had built a solid foundation of history in Miami, the city’s Overtown neighborhood, and its black history. Not only did Alvarez want to shape an idealistic superhero for the citizens of Miami, he also wished to educate readers on black history, as well as the history of Miami’s Overtown neighborhood.

“It consists of really black South Florida history. We created an original hero. We came up with rings. You see the origin of the rings in South Africa,” says Alvarez, referring to Blackman’s source of power, as well as the origin of that power.

Creating a superhero to print onto paper may sound easy, but to incorporate history and background can be tricky. Alvarez made sure to do his research by burying himself in books, such as “Black Miami in the Twentieth Century,” and corresponding with Timothy Barber of the Black Archives History and Research Foundation of South Florida. From there, other forms of inspiration tackled him as well.

“I wanted African-American mythology. I wanted something that was American, but black in the same way, but it can be revered,” states Alvarez. “Blackman takes on inspiration of John Henry Iron. He sacrifices himself in the same way John Henry did.”

With two years of researching history and developing the character for Blackman, Alvarez founded the
CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 23, Issue 27 of The Beacon, the article titled “University not using social media to fullest potential” in the Opinion section, Betsy Soler’s name is spelled incorrectly.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

Compiled by Melissa Caceres

HECTOR INFANTE
Contributing Writer

A decade after the opening of one of the only greek houses on campus, the Fiji fraternity held a celebration to commemorate the R. Kirk Landon house located near University’s east entrance on 107th Avenue.

Among those in attendance of the Sept. 30 event were many of the founding members which included R. Kirk Landon, Ashley O’Kurley and Ron Shuffield. Phi Delta Gamma, also known as Fiji, is one of only two fraternities, aside from Pi Kappa Alpha to have a house on campus.

A big factor in the inception of the house was Landon, who provided the initial funds and the brain of the organization.

A former Board of Trustees member and a major donor to the University for many years, the Fiji house was his namesake. In a time when fraternities around the University were starting to gain momentum, Landon and other brothers thought it was the perfect opportunity for a house.

“Officials in southeast Georgia are considering a traditional firefighters, who would undergo training - emergencies — including residential fires — along with inmates. They would put two inmates in each of three existing fire stations in the county. Inmates would have no guard, but would be monitored by a surveillance system and by the traditional firefighters, who would undergo training to guard the inmates. Authorities say one traditional firefighter with correctional training can supervise up to three inmates.

Authorities say the inmate firefighter program could save the county more than $500,000 a year by some estimates. Inmates charged with crimes such as drug offenses and thefts would be eligible.

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Motocyclist charged with three degree felonies

Motorcyclist charged with three degree felonies

ABREETS, page 1

cycle without any eye protection and decided to follow him. Then, the suspect “crossed three lanes of traffic in front of2... right to left,” according to Bautista’s narrative. After the officer activated his overhead lights, the suspect "attempted to flee by entering the opposing side of traffic." A few moments later, Pacheco was fully built. Fraternity members were allowed to move on Sept. 12, 2001. Ashley O’Kurley, an active member of the Legionary, the first house director, remembers what things were like at the very beginning. “At first it was lonely. There were nine brother brothers living in the house at first. It’s great to see how much it’s grown since then,” said O’Kurley. He had the responsibility of looking out for the house and those living inside it. “It was a rewarding experience. You can’t ask for more than that,” said O’Kurley. “Living on your own, making mistakes and overcoming them with your brothers - you won’t find that anywhere else.”

Currently, Fiji averages 80 to 90 student members and the house is almost at full capacity.

Motorcyclist charged with three degree felonies

lost control of the motorcycle, hit the median curb and was ejected,” as stated in the narrative. “While conducting an area check, Officer [Aaron] Mitchell found a crack pipe wrapped in paper, along with cigarettes belonging to Pacheco,” Bautista said. When Pacheco lost control of his motorcycle, he caused damage to the front right bumper of a vehicle driving south-bound. Both passengers in the vehicle did not report any injuries.

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue airlifted Pacheco to Jackson Memorial Hospital’s Ryder Trauma Center. Once he was medically cleared, Bautista transported him to Miami-Dade County Jail for processing.

Pacheco can face up to five years in prison and a $5,000 fine for each charge.
Standing-room crowd watches thrilling exhibition game

**FOOTBALL**

**With Sun Belt play looming, Golden Panthers must improve**

Following two losses, the FIU Golden Panthers faced a must-win situation on Oct. 8. Although they got away with a victory, they did so in the least impressive way. As sad as it is, there is now an expectation on this team to not only win, but also win decisively.

This past weekend against Akron, all of the stats were there. Wesley Carroll threw for over 300 yards. Kedrick Rhodes ran for 126 yards, and T.Y. Hilton caught a record 12 passes for 141 yards. However, the Golden Panthers want to get out of scoring range on multiple occasions. These are the kinds of mistakes that cannot happen if there is any hope of repeating as Sun Belt champions.

The problem this weekend was the penalties, where the team committed 10 infractions for 80 yards. The lack of discipline forced the team out of scoring range on multiple occasions. These are the kinds of mistakes that cannot happen if there is any hope of repeating as Sun Belt champions.

This was the Golden Panthers’ final chance to prepare for the upcoming conference schedule, where they play four of their last six on the road. If the way that they played this weekend is any indication of how Sun Belt play will go, it could be a very long time to this season.

Now this team has to prepare for one of the best teams in the Sun Belt this season: Arkansas State. The Red Wolves were the dark horse pick to win the conference entering the season and have proved just why.

Keep in mind that if this team wins two more games, they are bowl eligible. However, the Golden Panthers want to get out of the Sun Belt and if they are not competing year in and year out, there is no chance that a bigger conference comes in and grabs them.

The expectations that have been placed on the Golden Panthers this year of being the dark horse pick to win the conference is a chance to prepare for the upcoming conference play.

The lack of discipline forced the team out of scoring range on multiple occasions. These are the kinds of mistakes that cannot happen if there is any hope of repeating as Sun Belt champions.

The Sun Belt schedule for the next three weeks is going to be the most difficult stretch of the year, as the team goes to Arkansas State, comes home for Troy and then hits the road again to face Western Kentucky.

Already down a loss in conference play to Louisiana, the Golden Panthers cannot afford another letdown defeat the rest of the way.

**CLASSIC, page 1**

Given the amount of Miami Heat fans in the crowd and the rivalry that exists between the Heat and the Boston Celtics, the boos for the point guard were just as loud as the cheers for the other players.

Both teams came out, testing each other and establishing a rhythm.

New Orleans Hornets point guard Chris Paul put on a show, with fancy dribbling moves and creative passes. Oklahoma City Thunder’s Durant and Russell Westbrook were in sync, running plays for one another and shooting long range jumpers.

In the second quarter, New York Knicks forward Amar’e Stoudemire, who has been working out at the University for the past month and a half, gave the crowd something to cheer about with an emphatic dunk over Durant.

In the late stages of the game, the spotlight focused on James and Wade, as both players went back and forth scoring points and playing tough defense.

With 2.9 seconds left in regulation and Team Wade down three with the ball, Anthony tied the game with a three-pointer over Memphis Grizzlies forward Rudy Gay to send the game into overtime.

Wade iced the game for his team, making one of two free throws to give Team Wade a 141-137 lead with five seconds left.

James hit a mid-court prayer at the buzzer to draw the game closer, but to no effect to game, giving Team Wade the win over Team LeBron, 141-140.

Both teams played a physical game, including hard fouls and tough defense.

In the fourth quarter, James, Wade and Stoudemire were complaining to the referees about the calls, things that would be seen in a regular NBA game.

“Although it was a charity game, we wanted to make it a real game,” said Anthony. “We’re use to being in training camp right now, so it was gonna be competitive between us.”

Most players are ready to play this season, if the lockout situation does get figured out in the near future.

James echoed the feeling that most of the players had.

“We’ll play any day, any time. That’s why we’re here tonight,” said James.
The FIU men’s soccer team lost to Memphis 3-0 on Oct. 8.

Mario Uribe and the Men’s soccer team lost to Memphis 3-0 on Oct. 8.

The Golden Panthers drop road game

After a landmark win against No. 21 Kentucky, the Golden Panthers were hoping to build on that success on the road this past weekend in Tenn. Conference for Memphis had other plans.

The FIU men’s soccer team was shutout by the Tigers with a 3-0 score on Oct. 8 at Mike Rose Stadium.

The Tigers got on the scoreboard early with a goal from Chandler Gagnon in the 16th minute. They showed no signs of letting up as Wil Elder Gagnon in the 16th minute. They showed no signs of letting up as Wil Elder Gagnon in the 16th minute. They showed no signs of letting up as Wil Elder Gagnon.

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The loss was once again contributed by a lack of execution. Continually, the Panthers had opportunities to score but could not execute in pivotal moments within the game.

“A bit of bad luck also had a lot to do with the Golden Panthers’ loss. In minute 56:41, the Blue Raiders scored when the ball deflected off the knee of FIU’s own April Perry, resulting in a goal. “It was just one of those things that was a punch in the gut,” said Coach Thomas Chestnutt.

Even with the turn of events, the Golden Panthers continued to control the game and were still the aggressor of the game. As FIU had a fine opportunity in the first half that came up short and then in the beginning of the second half, the Panthers had two one on one chances that resulted in missed goal opportunities. “Our ability to finish chances cost us the game,” Chestnutt said.

“At the end of the day, we didn’t execute on the offensive side of the ball and it cost us,”

What was odd throughout the game was that the Raiders did not stand out any statistical category. When it came to total shots, the Blue Raiders led FIU 15-14 and shots on goal was 7-5 in favor of the Raiders.

So even though the Golden Panthers were not dominated, the Blue RAIDERS stole again. In minute 75:51, Regan Thomas put the finishing touches on a Raider win. As FIU fell to the Raiders 2-0, they place their record on the year to a 7-6-1. But the Golden Panthers have no sour taste in their mouths as they focus on the positives.

“It doesn’t matter who we play, we can create great opportunities,” Chestnutt said.

“We are creating opportunities and limiting the other team. Bottom line, if you’re doing those things you’re doing a good job.”

The Golden Panthers, of course, did have their chances to score and have the ability to baffle opposing teams, but without execution, all of that ability means nothing.

“They [the players] don’t have anything to concern themselves with except for again taking care of the moments in the game that matter ... nothing to hang their heads over,” Chestnutt said.

The Golden Panthers will now travel back home as they prepare to take on North Texas on Oct. 14 at 7 p.m.
NEWLY CROWNED ROYALTY INVOLVED ON CAMPUS

ASHLEY LAPADULA
Staff Writer

Panther fans cheered as the winners of both Homecoming courts for the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus were announced and crowned. On Oct. 2, the University hosted their Homecoming football game against Duke University.

With more than 20,000 people in attendance, the University gladly honored its tradition by introducing the Homecoming court and winners during halftime. Homecoming is known to unite the student body and welcome back alumni.

Alfredo Roig and Jacky Negret were both crowned as this year’s Homecoming king and queen for MMC, while Lindsay Burnett and Pablo Haspel were the winners for BBC.

With so many overwhelming emotions, both the kings and queens were smiling from ear to ear as they posed for photos.

Roig, a senior, is studying sports management with a certificate in leadership studies. He hopes to pursue a master’s degree in mass communications. He was nominated by Pi Kappa Phi, his fraternity, to represent his organization in the Homecoming court.

“We [Pi Kappa Phi] couldn’t be happier to know [Roig] won the Homecoming King title. He is certainly going to make FIU proud,” said Matthew Handlon, a senior and Pi Kappa Phi member.

With an extensive list of involvements on campus, Roig takes pride in all that he has given to his fellow Panther community. His involvement on campus includes being part of the Week of Welcome committee, GO Team, Homecoming Council, Dance Marathon and Panther Camp. Roig currently writes for the Sports section at The Beacon newspaper.

“Honestly, it was very overwhelming. I was so happy that I was able to share the experience with my mom and dad that night. I still can’t believe that I’ve been so blessed … It is an incredible honor to be Homecoming King,” said Roig.

Burnett, a public relations major, wore a beautiful red gown that sparkled as she stood on the field, anxious about the result.

“I was super excited when I won! I tried hard not to smile too big on the field. I was more nervous about being on that huge screen,” said Burnett.

Burnett has demonstrated various leadership roles. She is the finance chair of Panther Power, a member of the Student Programming Council and a site leader for Alternative Breaks. She hopes to represent BBC as well as she can.

Haspel, a senior, received the Homecoming Queen title for BBC. He is currently the Honors College senator, president of the FIU-BBC Badminton club and involved with the Student Government Council – amongst other leadership roles.

“I felt honored to have been given the opportunity to represent BBC,” he said.

“Having my dad by my side just made everything that much greater. It still feels so surreal. The sense of accomplishment and gratefulness towards everyone who supported me is hard to put into words,” said Negret.

Negret, a senior, was nominated by her sorority sisters in Phi Sigma Sigma to run for this year’s Homecoming court. She was extremely thrilled not only to represent her sorority, but also the entire campus as queen just before graduating.

“I found my favorite to have been given the opportunity to represent BBC,” she added.

“My dad is my hero and he is always by my side to support me,” said Negret.

“One thing these newly crowned kings and queens have in common is that they have definitely felt the overwhelming happiness flood their lives. They share the common grounds of being proud to have this position in their hands. They all, joyfully, look forward to a great year of activities.

CLASS REUNION

University alum creates non-profit to promote literacy

A nonprofit organization ComicEd, this organization collaborates with after-school programs and community centers in the Miami area, and provides access to comic books and graphic novels for various ages. ComicEd also strives to improve the literacy rate and comprehension skills of local children and teens.

The process of ComicEd’s first comic book had already begun, but it was in need of more artists and characters. Alvarez collaborated with other artists – including Angel Sand, University student Eric Gonzalez, Alex Rocky Ferrer, Matt Sagorski and Brian Bernard – and began creating more heroes, including the E-Male, the Manazon, King of the Amazons, Black Caesar and more.

The collaboration was a learning process for all. Alvarez and the rest of the staff had to thoroughly research their history to put the story together. They considered the placement of panels, narrative boxes and word balloons. It was difficult to balance art and text, so pages had to be added just so words were not overwhelming.

Alvarez has grand plans for ComicEd. Although most of their readers are based in Miami, ComicEd plans on doing a convention circuit to get their name out. Digital publication is also on their agenda, with the help of Graphicly.com. From there, readers can enjoy comic books from their iPads or other mobile reading devices.

They will also relaunch their website. With the hope of moving to Broward County, ComicEd will work with middle and elementary schools.

Left: ComicEd’s first comic book featuring The Miami Marvel was alum Socrates S. Alvarez’s first venture in the world of comic book publishing.

Right: Alvarez draws for fans at ComicEd’s 10 cent comic book sale at Wall’s Ice Cream.
The Beacon – Wednesday, October 12, 2011
www.fiusm.com

“THE WHOLE LOVE” a new fresh take for Wilco

We usually place predisposed expectations on something. When it comes to Wilco, we have experienced a full circle of music that expands from Americana, to intricate pop melodies, to airy, light folk fare. They have done it all exceptionally well, so we would not be remiss to think that after “Wilco (The Album)” they had created a final culmination of all their past creations and complete the wide-ranging music saga they constructed.

One thing you can expect from Wilco is that you will always be surprised by their next move. This is the case with their new LP, “The Whole Love,” the first album on their own label dBpm. It is a fresh, invigorating album that differs away with the casualness of their last two LPs.

Opening tracks usually set the mood and the sonic direction of an album, but “Art of Almost” is a fragmented opener. Static sounds swirling around an unconventional drumbeat with robotic sounds and rain drops have leadman Jeff Tweedy creeping in with: “No, I froze, I can’t be so far away from my wasteland.” Orchestral string slide in the background and hits the crescendo with a full-on rock jam filled with clattered guitars.

It feels like they are teetering on the edge of critical mass by the end of it, with enough frenetic force to show everyone that the daft “dad-rock” genre that has been given to them has dissipated.

There is a wider scope on “The Whole Love,” and Wilco manages to expand on all their past soundscapes. The lead single, “I Might,” chugs through with its crunchy, distorted bass line, courtesy of John Stirratt. It all simmers together with lively organs and slashing guitars. Even when Tweedy is referencing Slim Jim pies and him potentially setting kids on fire, it is still enjoyable, catchy pop that Wilco excels at.

Beatles-esque songs like “Sunloathe” and the jumpy, synthy waltz of “Captiol City” are still entirely Wilco but contain a ’70s-inspired sound that you can instantly notice.

Something else that is noticeable is Tweedy’s ability to dig into deeper emotions, like with the catchy “Born Alone” where he openly sings “sadness is my luxury.”

Much like the album, Tweedy forgoes the thought that deep-rooted music cannot be enjoyable and engaging at the same time.

And although he is earnest, on “Black Moon,” Tweedy soulfully croons about being an old soul, waiting for an awakening.

It sounds like self-introspection, laced with a beautifully paced steel pedal and acoustic. The 12-minute folk closer, “One Sunday Morning,” shows Tweedy sympathetically singing the heartbreaking narrative of a grieving son over his dead religious father that never accepted him.

All of the layered instruments of rain drop like keys, ghostly-sounding pedal steel guitar, and melodic acoustics that is as pleasant to the ear as it is emotional.

It is a fantastic closer for an album that is as organic and fleshed out as anything they have created.

Wilco is able to create an album that is as enjoyable to blast through your car stereo as it is with detailed listens through your headphones.

Their penchant for crafting adventurous, colorful music is still in tact, and a big “folk you” to anyone that expected middle-aged men to fold.

Radiate Reviews is a weekly music review column. Look for it every Wednesday this fall.

Columnist
MIchael Hernandez

RADIATE REVIEWS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2011

FIU School of Music

Gibson Concert Series

FIU LATIN JAZZ ENSEMBLE AND COMBO 1

An evening of jazz standards and creativity

WHERE: 8 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public

WHERE: Gibson Miami Showroom (in the Dennis Building), 2751 North Miami, Avenue, Ste 8

JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL

“Maboroshi” will be shown

WHERE: 1-3 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public

WHERE: MMC GC 140

FIU DANCE MARATHON

A fundraiser at California Pizza Kitchen. Just bring in the flyer, present it to your server when ordering and 20% of your check will be donated to their organization.

WHERE: Ongoing

WHERE: 100 Miracle Mile, 305.774.9940

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2011

JOIN US AT AN EVENT WHERE

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FIU DANCE MARATHON

A fundraiser at California Pizza Kitchen. Just bring in the flyer, present it to your server when ordering and 20% of your check will be donated to their organization.

WHERE: Ongoing

WHERE: 100 Miracle Mile, 305.774.9940

WRITE TO CALENDAR@FIUSM.COM TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED!
On Oct. 8, California Governor Jerry Brown made the second half of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act a reality. It is time for Florida to do the same.

Upon approving the second half, The California DREAM Act grants eligibility to illegal immigrants for state-funded financial aid, allowing undocumented students to finance their college education. I believe that this is a step toward educational and economic progress, especially in Florida.

The benefits of passing a similar act in Florida are immense. It is no secret that Florida, particularly Miami, is a stomping ground for many illegal immigrants, many of whom with young children already incorporated into our public schools.

In Florida, according to a report done by Students Working for Equal Rights, “Each year about 5,000 undocumented students graduate from Florida high schools, but only 5% go on to college, compared with 75% of our high school classmates.”

As of now, 2,500 international students attend the University, according to International Students and Scholar Services. If The DREAM Act were passed in Florida, imagine how many more international students would be able to contribute second half to our University. Having already been educated as an American student, it would be the natural next step to allow them to further their education in our colleges and universities rather than leaving us to support them financially.

Besides, the California DREAM Act, and others like it, is not without its stipulations. To be eligible for the benefits, aside from meeting financial and academic standards, the recipient must have entered the state before the age of 16, attended a California high school for at least three years, lived in the United States for at least five years and must be currently seeking to legalize their immigrant status. These requirements are fair, as it puts the impetus on legalization on the immigrant and is not an automatic gateway to citizenship.

Also, by allowing undocumented students access to a college education, this could be the additional boost we need to get the economy back up to speed. As stated by student Ting Yang in a Student Media report: on the DREAM Act, published on Sept. 23, “I wish I could have had them support me in college and maybe realize I could be an asset to their company just give me a chance.”

Aside from entering the workforce, these formerly undocumented students should be able to contribute second half to the American economy. They would also alleviate the presence of undocumented workers, which has put a strain on the U.S. economy for quite some time.

Immigration illegal may be a thorn in the side of many policy makers, but building bigger fences is not always the answer. Providing them the aforementioned requirements, giving undocumented students the tools they need to acquire an American education could benefit the entire world. California sees this; now it is Florida’s turn.

“Class Dismissed” is a biweekly column critiquing education in America.

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Wednesday, October 12, 2011

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The opinions presented within this paper do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are equal with all others, both of this date and all others. The Beacon welcomes all perspectives, regardless of political, social, or religious beliefs.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS
Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (no word minimum) to neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY
Letters are edited on the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and editorial and column editors. Letters in response to an editorial or column, sent to neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com.

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Overestimation of funds burdens departments
As work study students let out a sigh of relief that their funds have been restored, departments are left holding their breath as they figure out how to pay them. Although the University swiftly responded to students’ grievances about the work study program getting slashed, the solution required minimal action and effort on the Financial Aid Office’s part.

The University typically receives between $300,000 and $750,000 for work study funds. Because of federal guidelines for paying the program for the current year, the University was given only $135,000.

To prevent the potentially detrimental outcome of students not receiving vital work study funds that they had depended upon, the Financial Aid Office concluded that departments will have to pay 18 percent from their departmental budget to compensate for the funds that were overseen.

This solution is problematic for several reasons: it burdens depart- mental resources, diminishes accountability, and does not encourage accountability for ensuring this mistake does not happen again. Furthermore, having the depart- ments revamp and modify their already existing budget to compensate for an overestimation is not a solution; it is a passing of the buck and a passing of the responsibility to compensate and be accountable for their mistake.

In an interview with Student Media, Francisco Valines, director of Financial Aid, responded to the claim that department heads are being inconvenienced.

“We understand that they’re not happy. We’re approaching the problem by saying, ‘We’re willing to do what we can to help students continue to work.’” The office’s response shows a lack of understanding of the problem; it is not that department heads are willing to do what they can, but that they are left with no other choice.

The Financial Aid Office over- estimated the number of students accepting the offered work study posi- tion by $75,000 and $100,000. Valines, they had no way of knowing how many students were going to be working and what their actual payroll would be because students don’t start working until school begins.

This lack of accountability is a glaring error in the University’s estimates on such a crucial issue are careless. Valines also stated that esti- mates are made through history and “that’s not follow the process.”

The total deficit for work study funds amounts to $165,000, this is a huge expense for departments but not a huge expense for our University funds. The Beacon thinks the proper solution does not lie in dumping the responsibility on the departmental side, but that the University should utilize already existing resources and a comprehensive plan to ensure this never happens again.

Youth must carefully evaluate candidates
ANTHONY PERERA
Contributing Writer

The next presidential election is just 14 months away, which will right around the same time many of us will be graduating and finally stepping into our ever-changing economy and workforce. This is why the next election will be a key one for the youth to participate in, seen as how there is a plethora of candi- dates to vote for in the primaries if you register as an independent or Democrat. If you are a registered Democrat, then all you have to do is sit back and watch the Right-Wingers battle for the youth to partake in, seen as wanting to do away with it altogether.

As of now, there are eight serious candi- dates to the Republican nomination. Barack Obama will be up for re- election. The three main candidates, according to Politico and George Washington University Battle- ground polls. Those three are Mitt Romney, Rick Perry and Michelle Bachmann. These candidates have extreme social and political views that we, as students, should take seriously when choosing whom to support.

The three main candidates, while more different than the rest, suffer from weaknesses in strategy. Many young people might not be too concerned about this issue now, but Social Security will be a great asset to our future in the future, and Perry has been spotted as wanting to do away with it altogether. In his book, “Fed Up,” he describes Social Security as a “Ponzi scheme” and “unconstitutional.”

Meanwhile, Bachmann has vowed to ban same-sex marriages as wanting to do away with it altogether, while much more charismatic than Romney, is another interesting candi- date now, but Social Security will be a great asset to our future in the future, and Perry has been spotted as wanting to do away with it altogether.

There are few candidates that are currently fighting for the Republican spot, most of which are trying to get the Vice President position alongside whoever wins the main nomination. This is because there are three main front runners, according to Politico and George Washington University Battle- ground polls. Those three are Mitt Romney, Rick Perry and Michelle Bachmann. These candidates have extreme social and political views that we, as students, should take seriously when choosing whom to support.

The three main candidates, while more different than the rest, suffer from weaknesses in strategy. Many young people might not be too concerned about this issue now, but Social Security will be a great asset to our future in the future, and Perry has been spotted as wanting to do away with it altogether. In his book, “Fed Up,” he describes Social Security as a “Ponzi scheme” and “unconstitutional.”

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“Class Dismissed” is a biweekly column critiquing education in America.

Having already been educated as an American student, it would be the natural next step to allow them to further their education in our colleges and universities. Also, by allowing undocumented students access to a college education, this could be the additional boost we need to get the economy back up to speed. As stated by student Ting Yang in a Student Media report: on the DREAM Act, published on Sept. 23, “I wish I could have had them support me in college and maybe realize I could be an asset to their company just give me a chance.”

Aside from entering the workforce, these formerly undocumented students should be able to contribute second half to the American economy. They would also alleviate the presence of undocumented workers, which has put a strain on the U.S. economy for quite some time.

Immigration illegal may be a thorn in the side of many policy makers, but building bigger fences is not always the answer. Providing them the aforementioned requirements, giving undocumented students the tools they need to acquire an American education could benefit the entire world. California sees this; now it is Florida’s turn.

“Class Dismissed” is a biweekly column critiquing education in America.

There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.”

Colin Powell, former Secretary of State

The Beacon
SJMC unable to renew grant for continuation of SFNS

NICOLE CASTRO
Staff Writer

After two years of operating, The South Florida News Service, a program that allowed students to publish their stories on The Miami Herald, The Palm Beach Post and The Sun Sentinel, was unable to renew its $50,000 grant for the news service.

A grant of $10,000 was awarded by each of the newspapers and $30,000 was given by the McCormick Foundation. The program eliminated one of the two ways in which School of Journalism and Mass Communications students currently obtained experience through the program, the other being Professor Neil Reisner’s orientation approaches are facing.

It was a small amount of content sharing before they called SJMC to propose if students can provide stories for them. “SJMC told them that we would start something called the South Florida News Service and it would be student produced. The SFNS was embedded in classes that already existed. Rather than taking up the whole class, it was a project for the class room,” Richards said.

Although it was an auspicious time to obtain grants because of the need to downsize, this year it would prove to be slightly different.

The grant from which student writers obtained a small stipend that the school paid Chris Delboni, director of the SFNS, was turned down a year ago by the Chicago based McCormick Foundation, as they decided to take up Illinois-based projects.

The South Florida newspapers were also unwilling to invest, and according to Richards, it may be because they have been using small community paper contributors that are satisfying the need for local news that SJMC students once satisfied, although this has not been confirmed.

“A lot has change economically and in the field of journalism. Everything is restructuring (SFNS) is too important for the students and journalism. We just need to know now how we are going to revamp it. But I just can’t imagine this program going away,” Delboni said.

According to Richards, being able to sustain a project such as the SFNS is a struggle that many schools using project-oriented approaches are facing.

But this can be attributed to changes in mission by local papers and if they are interested in the back end. How electronic publishing opportunity for them to see how it’s done through the editors outside Florida that might be interested as well.

“The students will be freelancers,” he said. “It will give them an opportunity for them to see how it’s done through the back end. How electronic publishing happens which is really interesting. It is not just to send it in and have someone post it for you.”

GOING PINK

Ludovica Virgil, graduate student in human resource development, hands out gift bags to Chengtao Wang, as part of Breast Cancer Awareness month.

Track courses for education minor offered at the Bay

KATIE LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

The education minor program at FIU offers students an opportunity to ensure a life-long career opportunity in teaching for its participants.

Student indecision and a harsh job economy can make choosing a major a daunting task, and a consistent need for teachers can help take pressure off when faced with a dead-end in a career hunt.

“Teaching will always be there,” says Jane Oliveira, program assistant for the College of Education at the University, “and it’s always great to have the option.”

Using the education minor program can be beneficial to any major, and help open doors that otherwise require numerous hurdles that a graduate may not have time for.

Florida has three requirements to become a certified teacher, including completion of educational courses, Florida certification exams, and at least two years of teaching experience.

Since 2007, the Universities education minor has been approved to meet the state’s criteria for the first stipulation, and allows you to teach in an assisted environment in your specialization, or field of major. Transcript for successful graduates are also stamped as “State Approved” to help expedite the process.

“The courses the state requires are exactly in our minor,” says Oliveira. “It’s a great foundation for future developments.”

According to a pamphlet released by the College of Education, “A minor in education is a smart idea if you are interested in pursuing a career as a school teacher and your major is outside education, or are unsure about your career plan and would like to have the option to teach if you later decide.”

Upon graduating, a student must pass the Florida Teacher Certification Exam (FTCE), a three-section exam, and complete two years of public teaching. Once there is an offer of employment, the state gives prospective teachers three years to complete the requirements.

Most majors offered make a student automatically eligible for the program, and studies in certain arts and sciences majors allow for an even more streamlined degree.

“Even if teaching is not your first choice, it’s great to have another option,” says Oliveira. “It’s something you never lose.”