New York Times writer speaks to University students

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The University hosted Thomas Friedman, a New York Times foreign affairs columnist, to speak on Feb. 13 about America’s challenges and his latest book “That Used to Be Us.”

The lecture was part of the Geopolitical Summit “Rediscovering America,” which was held in the Graham Center Ballrooms to discuss issues that currently face the nation and the world.

“We cannot fix our problems if we don’t ask what world we are living in. That is not how we start our day politically,” said Friedman, to a large audience of students, faculty and community members.

Friedman, a three-time Pulitzer Prize winner, has worked at The New York Times since 1981, where he has covered events such as the First Palestinian Intifada and the 1982 Lebanon War.

He is also the writer of the best-selling non fiction books “The World is Flat” and “Hot, Flat, and Crowded.” Friedman focused his lecture on two of the country’s challenges described in his latest book: Our view of the world and our response to globalization.

He explained that that progress is halted in America because of the “broken” political system.

However, he believes that despite differences between the two main political parties, the country is “nowhere as near as divided as we watch it on cable.”

“I think he’s right. The system is unwilling to compromise. There is no sense of unity in the political system,” said Carolina Mendosa, an international relations junior.

Despite its internal issues, the author believes that America still plays a major role in world politics.

“We believe the US has done a lot of dumb things, but it is still the tent pole of the world,” said Friedman. “If we weren’t talking about post-911, we would be talking about how we are in the middle of an [information technology] revolution that takes the world from connected to hyper-connected.”

The author recalled that when he wrote “The World is Flat,” the world’s biggest cities were well connected to each other, but small towns were still out of the grid.

However, he said that this has changed, as people in places like Daraa, a Syrian town of 97,000 people near the Jordan border, can record situations of the recent uprisings and post them online for the world to see.

“In the next five years, we will live in a planet where everyone has a cell phone,” he said.

Friedman commented on social media, advising young enthusiasts that even though their “lives may be
Thomas Friedman addresses the challenges America faces today

"I think he's right. The system is unwilling to compromise. There is no sense of unity in the political system."

Carolina Mandaza, Junior International Relations major

Students choose to hear about stem cell research for first Science Café

"For a very long time, we, as people, have had this notion of fixing our parts...when they are diseased."

Matthew Williams Lench, Faculty Director of Education Harvard Stem Cell Institute

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"The country is full of people that didn’t get the word. Enormous energy from the ground up, this country is full of people who are just too dumb to quit."

Following the lecture, a teach-in was held to discuss Friedman’s latest book, with University faculty such as John Stack, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences; Shlomi Dinar, professor of international relations; Joe Gablondo, professor of law; and Alan Gunnerson, professor of economics.

When asked about what the “next major breakthrough” would be in treatment using stem cells, LENCH named diseases “where one type of cell is missing” like Parkinson’s rather than those “that are more complex, where there are a lot of different things going on.”

"A lot of people from the community came out,” Van Dervort said. “I’m really happy with how it went.”

The time and location for the last three Science Cafés have not yet been decided.

The Beacon – Wednesday, February 15, 2012 www.fiusm.com
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The weekend didn’t go quite as well as coach Melissa Applebaum-Dall’au and her team would have liked it. At the Lady Raider Shootout in Lubbock, Texas, the Panthers fell to 1-9 on the season after getting swept 6-3 in the three day tournament.

On Friday, FIU fell behind early to New Mexico State after losing in doubles 2-0. Karyn Gutormsen and Giulietta Boha lost their set 8-4 to Manon Sylvain and Denise Van Der Ben of North Texas.

On Sunday, the competition didn’t get any easier, as the Panthers faced off against the Rice Owls, who were ranked number 24th in the nation. The Owls took on Santa Clara ( #73 in the nation) and lost 4-1.

Finally, in the bottom of the sixth inning, FIU struck the decisive blow when Arcuri singled and was driven in by a McClain double. That double was then followed by a Peller single and fittingly concluded with a Brie Rojas three-run homer, giving FIU an 8-0 lead and exercising the mercy rule.

Dawson completed her second career shutout, allowing four hits in six innings pitched to get the win.

UAB 6, FIU 4
FIU had another game 15 minutes later against UAB in which they lost 6-4, dropping their record to 1-9 on the year and concluding the COMBAT Classic. Jenn Gniadek (0-2) only pitched one and a third inning allowing two hits and four walks and four runs (two unearned) in the loss.

COMBAT CARDS
Louisville, who defeated FIU 4-2 on Feb. 11, went home as winners of the COMBAT Classic. The Cardinals, who are now ranked 24th in the nation, went undefeated in the tournament, winning all five games.

UP NEXT
The Panthers will now look toward this upcoming Friday when they take on the University of Illinois at Chicago (2-3) at 5 p.m. and then a nightcap against Providence (0-0) at a 7 p.m. start time.

Tennis team swept; basketball hits road for UALR

Free Press Photos

Megan Horne (left) takes a swing during FIU's doubleheader against Louisville and UMass on Feb. 11.
Late rally falls short at home against Denver

Jeremy Allen scored 27 of his career-high 29 points in the second half against the Pioneers on Feb. 11.

The Panthers began the second half using the full court press. Combined with a 16-7 run, the Panthers trimmed the deficit to 45-30. Allen and Wright began to attack the rim to get the Panthers back into the game. An Allen three-pointer trimmed the Pioneers lead to 50-38 with 10:42 remaining in the second half.

The Pioneers struggled to knock down shots from the field in the second half. A three-pointer by Wright cut the deficit to eight with eight minutes remaining.

With less than seven minutes remaining, another Allen three cut the deficit to 58-52. The closest FIU got to tying the game was at 58-55 with 5:26 remaining. But Brett Olson’s 19 points and Chris Udofia’s 17 points sparked the Pioneers with a late charge to close out the game.

“They were the better team,” Allen said. Allen also eclipsed the 1,000 career-point mark on a layup in the second half.

Off the bench, Cameron Bell provided a spark for the Panthers off the bench. “I’m just trying to get out there and make a difference,” Bell said. He finished with 12 points and eight rebounds.

For the entire second half, Phil Taylor and Dominique Ferguson sat on the bench. “They have to play better,” Thomas said “Some nights they look good, some times they don’t.”

Thomas stated that it could be a possibility that Deric Hill may start his second game in place of Taylor for the Panthers’ next game against UALR on Feb. 16.
Chinese art comes to Frost

The Frost Art museum displays Tianjin sculptures and paintings capturing China’s tradition in this exhibit.

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For more than a year, 30 Chinese artists have been striving to perfect their creations in time for the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum’s Tianjin Arts in Miami event.

This year, the event will be open on February 10 to the 16, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. From two-foot sculptures to wall-sized manuscripts, all of the art pieces were presented to solidarity and celebrate the University’s Tianjin Center in the People’s Republic of China.

The Tianjin Center was established in 2003 by the partnership between the University and the Tianjin University of Commerce. Since then, the two universities have worked together to guide students through the field of global hospitality and tourism through degree and study abroad programs.

Chinese culture is a major theme that inspired everything, from the artwork to the catered treats.

Nonetheless, the subject of collaboration was more prominent.

“Cooperation between China and the United States has been going on for some time,” said President Liu Shuhan of the Tianjin University of Commerce. “We only hope that time allows us to further promote trust and further strengthen our already sturdy bonds.”

The degree program does not stop once students receive their diplomas. “This program will create new job opportunities here and in Tianjin. By working together, we will succeed in achieving mutual success,” said President Mark Rosenberg.

Both art directors presented each other with pieces from their own art collections.

A colorful piece by Pip Brunt, associate professor, was presented to President Shuhan and a portrait of two eagles by Liu Chaoshui, vice director of the Tianjin Art Institute, was given to President Rosenburg.

Although these two works were exchanged gifts at the event, there were many beautiful works mounted on the museum walls that caught equal amounts of attention.

Traditional Chinese calligraphy and ink art were the dominant styles of the collection.

Professor Guchen Schampl of the drawing department said, “The craft of calligraphy in itself is very difficult to master because of the mediums that the artist needs to use. They have to start from scratch and if they make the slightest mistake, it makes every stroke on that painting even more important and meaningful.”

However, watercolor paintings and abstract art did make the occasional colorful and bright statement.

Surprisingly, photo-realistic oil paintings, like Xia Congyi’s painting, “Flowerage: Maiden,” created a stir among professors and art-goers.

The painting displays a young Chinese girl dressed in traditional clothing and standing in front of an intricate wooden window panel.

No matter the art medium, professors from Tianjin University showed their mastery within the art community.

Each piece had an objective of not only showing an artist’s own individual style but the Chinese community as a whole.

This event expresses not only the importance of Chinese culture and arts, but universal communication.

For more information, visit the museum’s website at www.frostartmuseum.com.
Proposition 8 a step toward gay rights

A few local bands steal the spotlight

Let me put this out there, as a 25 year old who only got the tail end of Biggie and Tupac's careers, it's pretty impressive seeing a crowd mixed with 40 year olds in business suits, 30 year olds in Timberlands and drams, and twenty-something year olds watching in amazement as the aforementioned aged groups flawlessly spit Biggie verses. After the bottle of Jack that was being passed around by Mayday was drained, and after being on stage for over an hour, the band dropped the mic and stepped out of the spotlight as the crowd made their way to the food truck that was on site for Mac and Cheese Hamburgers, and reluctantly headed home, myself included.

All in all, Bardot was a bust, although Abdeul has some unrecognized potential, if he really just realizes that venues such as Bad Kabale aren’t appropriate if you’re trying to attract a crowd that has never been to a hip hop concert before. The Stage redeemed the night with Parable vs. Mac Soto and Mayday killing it.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TIME MANAGEMENT AND STUDY SKILLS FOR ENGINEERING STUDENTS
WHEN: 10-11:30 a.m.
WHERE:MMC GC 305
HOw Much: Free to students

SEEDS OF SUCCESS SPEAKER CAMPUS LIFE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SERIES
WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE:MMC GC Ballrooms

DREAM MACHINE ROLL-OUT
WHEN: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
WHERE: MMC Librar
How Much: Free

CAREER FAIR SPRING 2012
WHEN: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
WHERE:BCC WUC Ballrooms
How Much: Free

CONTEMPORARY ASIAN AND AMERICAN COMPOSITIONS: CHEN-HUI WEN AND JACOB DAVID SUDOL
WHEN: 8:30-9:30 p.m.
WHERE:MMC GL 141E

MYERS-BRIGGS TYPE INDICATOR: YOUR PERSONALITY TYPE (PART 1)
WHEN: 12-3 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GL 141E
How Much: Free

KEYBOARD ARTS SERIES: RATMIR MARTINOVIC
WHEN: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
WHERE:MMC GL 141E
How Much: Free

ECONOMICS OF THE MAKER MOVEMENT
WHEN: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
WHERE: MMC CBC 121
How Much: Free

TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED EMAIL:
CALENDAR@FIUSM.COM
Class Dismissed

Retroactive tuition payment offers fix

In California, a group of students have found a way to make student loans obsolete.

According to a Huffington Post article written by Tyler King-kade, students at the University of California Riverside have devised a method in which paying tuition will take care of itself. Specifically, these students proposed a five percent of every paycheck from the university’s graduates will go toward paying off their tuition for 20 years, with adjustments made if the student is from out of the state or if the graduate works for the public sector.

They reason that such a system would eliminate the need to pay up-front for an education and for student loans.

The idea of paying for a college education retroactively may seem radical to some, but to me, it is exactly the solution we may be looking for.

Instead of paying out-of-pocket, students could pay their tuition costs in a different way that they pay their contribution to Social Security: without a second thought.

If nothing else, this solution could make sure that the middle class continues to have access to higher education,” as said by UC President Mark Yudof, who was presented with this idea on Feb. 9.

Such a system could indeed be great for FIU, especially with our tuition on the rise.

As of now, the estimated annual tuition for an in-state student is $5,678.02 and $18,073.02, for an out-of-state student, according to the FIU’s admissions website, which would make an average four-year college career at FIU cost anywhere from $22,712.08 to $72,308.08.

The idea of paying for a college education retroactively is exactly the solution we may be looking for.

In the article, several naysayers argued that an income-adjusted repayment system is unfair to students with a degree that could help them acquire higher-paying jobs, who may pay “too much” should this become a real policy.

Furthermore, there is the argument that post-graduation employment isn’t guaranteed.

Although the latter concern is valid, I have to disagree with the notion that such a system is inherently unfair. For those students who acquire higher-paying jobs, I would assume that they, all graduates, could afford this percentage much more easily than their lower-earning counterparts.

According to an article, a college graduate with a salary of $50,000 would feel a $5,000 annual payment much more than their fellow graduate who earns a salary of $100,000. However, a college grad earning $50,000 only paying $2,500 per year would be much more manageable.

The only thing I would change is the time period in which this five percent cut is taken.

Instead of having a set repayment period of 20 years for every student, it should cease as soon as their tuition is paid off.

In this case, graduates with higher paying jobs may be at an advantage in that they would be paid off faster since they would indeed be paying more, given that their tuition is relatively low.

Tuition costs will not be on the decline anytime soon, and we must come up with innovative solutions that will help ease the strain.

Otherwise, more and more qualified students will either major in debt or not go to college at all.

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

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Friedman: average is officially over


Friedman’s lecture touched upon core issues of the present and near future and the much-needed impulse to, in the most simple terms of, “be better.”

The Beacon agrees with this notion and notes that as an international university, his assertions that we are a hyper-connected, increasingly globalized society is not just a theory but each student’s reality.

Friedman gave a four-paned approach to how Americans must act in order to match the intense global competition.

The Beacon thinks the advice is timeless and also completely aligned with FIU’s commitment to cultivating students who are global competitive players.

Friedman said that Americans must think like an immigrant, an artist, an entrepreneur, and lastly like a waitress from Perkins Pancake House in Minneapolis.

In regard to thinking like an immigrant, Friedman argued that we are all already immigrant to the new hyper-connected society in which we live. Imploving the crowd to realize there is “no legacy spot” after graduation, he urged his audience to “always be hungry.”

Secondly, to think like an artist, Friedman stated you must be so proud of your work that you always want to carve your initials into your product at the end of each day.

His third piece of advice, to think like amazon.com, is to be consistently invent yourself and to continue, “be in beta.” This advice is spot on; students and graduates should never become complacent in their identity or their career path.

His final note, to think like a waitress at Perkins Pancake House stems from a personal anecdote of a time when a waitress brought his friend his side of fruit, she said simply, “I gave you more fruit.” He followed this story with an immediate exclamation, “be entrepreneurial.”

Students and recent graduates should emulate Friedman’s approach.

Secondly, The Beacon completely agrees that as Friedman states, “average is officially over.”

Student has right to oppose school’s religious innuendo

A student has right to oppose school’s religious innuendo

Mr. Sorondo seems to suggest that Jessica Ahlquist’s efforts at removing an illegal prayer banner from her public school. I was appalled to see the disdain for Ms. Ahlquist’s efforts (or those of her lawyers) when perusing an article written by Trinity College, those whose efforts at removing an illegal prayer banner from her public school.

I am writing in response to a Huffington Post columnist who called her “an evil little thing.” She has received so many death threats that she has to be escorted to her school by police.

Mr. Sorondo seems to suggest that Jessica was simply jumping on the bandwagon of “an increasingly negative” form of atheism. I find your assertion that “the individual is the new God,” or “Powerful Chthulu,” or “Pancakes House” stems from a personal anecdote of a time when a waitress brought his friend his side of fruit, she said simply, “I gave you more fruit.” He followed this story with an immediate exclamation, “be entrepreneurial.”

According to a Huffington Post article written by Melissa Zwilling, Chemistry Graduate student to read this “Letter to the Editor” in its full text, visit FIUSM.com.
Don’t waste time at Bardot, and head over to The Stage

When going out to watch music, there’s nothing worse than arriving at a show and the hosting venue being the worst aspect of the production.

On the other hand, nothing makes up better for this than crossing the street and finding a gem of a show that negates the sleaziness of the past spots.

On Feb. 11 Abdecaf, Steve Vaynshok, a junior public relations student’s stage name, opened up a show for Com Truise at Bardot, a pseudo-swank bar in the Miami-Midtown area which caters to Brickell’s finest, or Manhattan’s dreggies.

After having to deal with Bardot’s gatekeeper for 20 minutes, in which he kindly informed us of the venue’s “No Camera Policy,” he was kind enough to rhythmically ask that “If we didn’t let cameras in when Moby came, what makes you think we’ll let you in with one to this show?” After having to negotiate the cover charge, we managed to walk in to Abdecaf’s set...which lasted just as long as the gatekeeper episode.

After an otherwise uneventful 20 minutes at Bardot, the night took a fortunate turn with an adventure over to Miami-Midtown’s The Stage on Feb. 11 where Parable vs. Max Soto opened up for Mayday to a full house.

It was quite an experience to find Moby and The Strokes’ stage style and set list...which lasted just as long as the gatekeeper episode.

For it being Abdecaf’s first live performance with his complete set up—keyboard, laptop, and drum pad which experience some slight technical difficulties—it was a pretty all around solid set, but lacked from any memorable moments.

The only thing that kept me at this show, for at the very least the duration of Abdecaf’s set, was the fact that Vaynshok is a member of the University. As soon as he unplugged his guitar, and we finished up our two drinks that cost well over $50, we were kindly informed that the seats we were occupying are reserved for bottle popping customers who will be arriving at 1 a.m.

It was 10:50 p.m. We left. Being that the light was still young, we went on a limp and seized the day by crossing over to The Stage, for a surprisingly refreshing hip-hop show with Parable vs. Mac Soto opening for Mayday, both local Miami troops.

With the sultry sounds of Max Soto being the first notes hitting the crowd with a John Legend-esque feel that both gays and girls reaching out for the better halves, I’ve got to admit, I felt slightly out of place being there with only my photo editor, Andres Bedoya.

In terms of full disclosure, Andres was a little preoccupied at the moment fending off a voluptuous cougar who with out saying a word began twirling Andres’ Salvador Dalí-like mustache.

With the duo’s juxtaposed styles, with Mac Soto’s soulful hooks and the hip-hop stylings of Parable comprising of the verses, they were able to keep the crowd of 20 to 40 year olds tapping their toes.

SEE MAYDAY, PAGE 6

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‘Happy forward moves’ to be showcased in “Queen of America”

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Pulitzer Prize finalist Luis Alberto Urrea will read from his latest book “Queen of America” at the Commons and Noble Writers On the Bay reading series on Feb. 16.

Urrea, a member of the Latino Literature Hall of Fame, is a novelist, poet and essayist known for his lyrical and sometimes brutal reflections on life along the U.S.-Mexico border.

“He is an entertainer and that’s why he’s been invited,” said Debra Dean, coordinator of the Writers on the Bay series.

According to Dean, it is one of those experiences where you just have to see it to hear for yourself. In fact, Dean is responsible for getting Urrea to come and read from his latest novel. Knowing him personally, Dean has become one of the factors that allowed Dean to ask him as a favor to make an appearance.

“He is known all over the world, and we are lucky to get him,” Dean said.

This will be his first time visiting FIU, but he’s been in Miami before for the annual Book Fair. He will also be visiting a few other schools on his tour including Calvin College and Lehigh University.

He is also a distinguished professor of Creative Writing at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

His previous book, “The Hummingbirds Daughter,” a historical novel, is the prequel to “Queen of America,” despite different writing elements.

“It’s a personal favorite because I feel I made something happy forward moves in my writing. It is, by nature of the genre, different from its predecessor. Yet it still trods the pathways of the former book.”

Ureja wrote in the “About the Book” section of his website.

It tells the story of Teresa McManus, who has written books in multiple different genres including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and anthology. Multiple critics have given good views about the book including Publishers Weekly.

The Publishers Weekly statement said, “Each scene in ‘Queen of America’ unfurls gracefully, like delicate wisps of smoke. It will spark fire in readers’ hearts.”

Luis Alberto Urrea will speak at 8 p.m. at the Biscayne Bay Campus bookstore.

Whether or not the media is full of ‘bull’ to be discussed

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Renewed attention to bias has given media studies new urgency, an issue that writer and media sociologist John McManus will address when he visits the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre on Feb. 15.

His latest book “Detecting the Bull,” an online book derived from ethical standards set by The Society of Professional Journalists, promotes accessibility to students used to getting their news online. Full video and audio follow the text in this derivative work that can teach journalism students “how to identify bias & junk journalism in print... in an era of buyer beware journalism,” McManus said.

The work provides a set of rules for accuracy based on empiricism: the logical assembly of reliable evidence.

McManus’ new book has received critical acclaim from journalist Judy Muller, Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism, University of Southern California, and former ABC correspondent and NPR commentator.

Muller says, “Detecting Bull is an outstanding piece of work — thought provoking, user-friendly in its presentation and full of great material. Real life examples are especially helpful and provocative (always great for classroom discussions).”

“Detecting the Bull” is co-sponsored by The Honors College and SGA. The event starts at 6:30 p.m.

DETECTING THE BULL

• Time: 6:30 p.m.
• When: Feb. 15
• Where: Mary Anne Wolfe Theatre