New faculty to teach at recently acquired museum

MARIA BRITOS Contributing Writer

Joining the University’s staff this upcoming spring semester is Professor Tudor Parfitt, a writer, historian and self-proclaimed adventurer.

Parfitt, a Welsh professor of Modern Jewish Studies formerly teaching at the University of London, focuses on Jewish studies, which he will be teaching this upcoming spring semester.

However, his classes will not be taught at any of the University’s campuses, but rather at the Jewish Museum of Florida in Miami Beach, which was recently acquired by the University.

“It’s a tremendous place,” Parfitt said about the museum where he will teach the course “Jews of Asia” within the Department of Religious Studies.

“Parfitt has made global news with one of his discoveries. During a research adventure in Southern Africa in the late 1980s, Parfitt met an African tribe called the Lamba, who claim they are ancestors of a lost tribe of Israel and are a direct link to the lost Ark of the Covenant.

Parfitt was led to find an artifact he believed to be the Ark of the Covenant in a storeroom of the Harare Museum of Human Science in Zimbabwe.

“It’s the oldest wooden object ever found in Africa [and] built right about the time of the Crusades in the 1300s,” Parfitt said. “That’s one of the most important of my discoveries.”

SEE PARRFIT, PAGE 2

Program serves to explore “a deeper connection”

MADISON FANTOZZI Contributing Writer

Students do not need to practice Jainism, Judaism, Buddhism or any other religion to benefit from the teachings of each.

“Spirituality is a complex phenomenon,” said Nathan Katz, professor of religious studies. “It involves self-transcendence, transpersonal identification and mysticism.”

These terms are the defining characteristics of spirituality. It involves detaching oneself from worldly things, going to a place within the mind and feeling a part of a larger whole, whether with a holy entity or with the planet.

Speaking to students in 1999, the Dalai Lama said, “In the modern education system, you pay attention to the proper development of the brain, but you do not pay attention to the development of the warm heart…”

Spirituality encourages the sharing of ideas and knowledge about spiritual practices in relation to individual well-being.

“No program in the world does what we do,” Katz said. “Students cannot [learn about spirituality] anywhere else. They won’t find it in their classes or in their church.”

Spirituality is not to be confused with traditional religion.

“Religion describes a particular worldview and defines a particular set of rules in a specific cultural context,” said Daniella Vaclavik, a graduate student of religious studies. “However, I would define spirituality as a personal yearning for a deeper connection with a reality that transcends worldly experience.”

Students can participate in spiritual learning by enrolling in any one of the courses ranging from meditation, philosophy and peace studies.

Disability Center serving visible and invisible disabilities

RACHEL CUCCURULLO Staff Writer

Disability Resource Center Director Amanda Niguidula said her daily mission is to “put the DRC out of business.”

Behind the Graham Center Art Gallery is the University’s Disability Resource Center, whose staff members work to provide support and engage students of all backgrounds and experiences.

“Ultimately, if we do our job and give everyone in the University community either the insight, permission, tools or support they need, then we have done a great job,” Niguidula said.

In an interview with Student Media, Niguidula explained the history of discrimination and the misunderstanding of the experiences of those who are disabled.

This persistent, discriminatory atmosphere has resulted in students with a disability needing a place where “they can identify and say what’s working for them and what’s not.” The DRC was created to meet this need.

Stephen Loyañez, associate director of the DRC, oversees the direct service component and said that there is an abundance of options and resources available to students, assuming they don’t have a disability.

“We follow University procedures, but would like to see them changed or updated as we see fit [for students with a disability],” Loyañez said.

Loyañez said there are two broad categories he uses to talk about disabilities: visible disabilities, such as blindness, deafness or someone who is wheelchair-bound, and the invisible disabilities, which include psychiatric or learning disabilities.

A number of services are offered at the Disability Center.
Limits on class-action lawsuits at Supreme Court

MARK SHERMAN
AP Staff

The Supreme Court appeared divided Monday in two cases in which businesses are trying to make it harder for customers or investors to band together to sue them.

The justices heard arguments in appeals from biotech company Amgen Inc. and cable provider Comcast Corp. that seek to shut down class-action lawsuits against the businesses.

Amgen is fighting securities fraud claims that misstatements about two of its drugs used to treat anemia artificially inflated its stock price. Comcast is facing a lawsuit from customers who say the company’s monopoly in parts of the Philadelphia area allowed it to raise prices unfairly.

Last year, the Supreme Court raised the bar for some class-action lawsuits at an early stage of the lawsuit that Amgen’s claims about the safety and effectiveness of the drugs Aranesp and Epogen affected the stock price.

Several justices indicated they had no problem with the idea that, unlike in the Wal-Mart case, all the Amgen investors were in the same boat and could clear an early hurdle that tripped up the Wal-Mart employees.

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Course titled “Jews of Asia” to be offered in the spring

PARFIT, PAGE 1

Parfit also said he has an international family. He met his partner, a Cuban native, while in Italy.

“For her, coming to Miami is like coming back home and [she is] absolutely delighted to be here,” Parfit said.

They have seven children, born in Italy and the U.S. One of their children resides in London.

“FIU is much bigger and it’s a very exciting place to be,” Parfit said, comparing it to the University of London.

“Coming from England, it does look like a Garden of Eden... It’s much more luxurious in a way.”

Events scheduled on spirituality

MEDITATION, PAGE 1

Diwali” at GC 140 from 4 to 6 p.m.

“Students who attend will have the special opportunity to understand the deeper meaning of these festivals in their own traditions, going beyond the mechanics of celebration and into the

underlying essence of what they represent,” Vachlavik said.

The lecture will address the universal symbol of light in the three different festivals. This interfaith discussion will go into the ways these three traditions relate to each other.

“Our coming discussion should help participants identify and express this light in their lives,” Tumpkin said.

“Regardless of religious affiliation, the light is recognizable in everyone as they move from a selfish to a selfless interchange.”

Disability Resource center working with faculty on courses

DISABILITY, PAGE 1

DRC, including extended testing time, minimal-distraction testing rooms, technological equipment and software, four computer labs in the library and special access to tutors.

Scholarships designed for students with disabilities are also available. The Johnson Scholarship, the Dr. Fareed Haj Scholarship Endowment for blind or visually impaired students and the Ignite fundraising campaign are open to students at the DRC.

Gabriela Alvarez, assistant director of DRC, said that a part of DRC’s job involves serving as access consultants, especially to faculty members.

“A crucial role of the DRC is our interaction and consultation with faculty members because at the end of the day, the ones who are providing the learning and academic environment are the faculty members,” Alvarez said.

Their work involves dialogue, discussing and mapping out plans with faculty to create accessible courses.

Faculty members are encouraged to go to the DRC to receive more information on creating courses that are more disability-friendly. Students are also trained on how to speak to professors or convey needs to fellow students to feel more comfortable.

University students can volunteer with the DRC as note-takers for students with a disability.

“This is a philanthropic engage-
As students, we are given and encouraged to take advantage of our freedom of expression, whether it be in the classroom or amongst our peers throughout the University.

However, an idea that isn’t brought into the limelight as much isn’t a student’s freedom of expression. No one is required to attend a Catholic church, nor is it required for a professor to lecture that the Bible is a book of myth and that in her opinion those who believe in creationism should not be allowed to be university faculty or student member.

On Oct. 30, the Christian News Network published a story criti-icizing the University’s Honors College Dean Lesley Northup for comments she made during a class lecture stating that the Bible is a book of myth and that in her opinion those who believe in creationism should not be allowed to be university faculty or student member.

The Christian News Network’s article goes on to interview Jason Lisle, director of research at the Institute for Creation Research in Dallas, Texas, to counter any comments which Northrup could possibly raise to further explain what was said during her lecture. The only thing that Lisle does effectively is to preach a message of intolerance towards anyone who dares question the good book, regardless of what walks of life an individual may be from, or what denomination of Christianity someone may observe. In the case of Northrup, she is a priest of the Episcopal Church.

The purpose of Northrup’s lecture, according to comments she made to the Christian News Network, was to encourage her students to keep an open mind, especially when it comes to religion.

Lisle’s is the complete opposite, that Christians are supposed to be narrow minded. If we’re going to take God at His Word, we have to believe that Jesus is the only way,” said Lisle to the Christian News Network. “When people say there are many different truths it really isn’t truths — it’s beliefs. And there are many different beliefs to be sure, but most of them are wrong.”

Everyone is entitled to express their thoughts and beliefs, regard- less of what they may be. I understand that not everyone would take kindly to a professor lecturing that the scriptures upon which their religion is based is a series of metaphors, but that doesn’t take away from the fact that Northrup is entitled to the same freedom of expression as the raving evange-lists at the fountain between the Graham Center and Charles Perry Building who yell that everyone and their mothers are going to burn in hell as sinners. Granted, the topic for which Northrup was lecturing on was not one that would not generate a degree of controversy or at the very least some religious zealots, but to attempt to discredit a University administrator for teaching tolerance, there is no excuse for that - especially not with a message of intolerance.

Northrup was well within her rights to lecture on the topic of her choosing to her students. The Christian News Network needs to take a step back and realize that just because they see the world one way doesn’t mean that all nearly 7 billion people on earth need to view it the same way as well. Whether I agree or disagree with what Northrup said is irrelevant.

What is relevant is that if you’re a student in a course in which a professor is addressing controversial issue, raise your hand and debate the matter, don’t cower behind a smart phone to video tape a lecture and subjectively edit the video before sending it to religious groups who will go out of their way to shame not only your professor, but the University as well.

—Jonathan Szydlo
The Beacon – 4 Wednesday, November 7, 2012

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**VETERAN & MILITARY AFFAIRS OFFICE**

**ALFREDO APARICIO**
**Staff Writer**

The obsession with beauty, its ever-changing ideals and their consequences, will be at the heart of theater student Tatiana Pandiani’s devised piece for her Directing II Thesis, The Beauty Project.

It will combine the talents of singers, dancers, actors and musicians to create a completely original piece chronicling the everyday struggle with beauty through vignettes featuring monologues, stream of consciousness writing samples, dance routines and musical pieces.

Pandiani, senior performance major, researched for the project, which will be presented at the Advanced Research and Creativity in Honors Conference next spring and stems from her work with the ARCH program in the Honors College at the University.

“I chose beauty because it affects me, a lot of people in my life and people I don’t know,” Pandiani said. “In the university setting, you have people still becoming adults, finding ourselves and I think that we are all concerned with beauty, but the question is: when is too much, too much and when is too big, too big? We are exploring those limits.”

The first workshop, which served as an informal audition, was open to everyone and cast nine performers of various talents and experiences to devise and write a script through of various workshops during the semester, drawing on their own lives for inspiration.

“It’s not a conventional theater piece. Devised theater has forced us to go step-by-step and listen to each other and realize that the performers are not interchangeable, they’re specific people,” Pandiani said.

“The performers don’t have any roles. They create the role they play and write for them- selves, as well as others.”

For Pandiani, creating the script has been a very intimate process because of the lack of previously established ideas and definitions.

She allowed each performer to individually share who they are, how beauty has affected or is part of them and given them the opportunity to embrace themselves.

“It’s about trying to make it appealing and accessible to audi ences and finding the universal aspect to it that will speak to the community,” Pandiani said.

One of the most recent work shops focused on hair and the socially constructed ideals behind it.

“Some people have intense, frizzy hair, but the ideal is always straight and flowy,” Pandiani said. “We explored how much we, as a group, take care of our hair and how much people read into hair styles and judge someone by it.”

Some of the more surprising findings of Pandiani’s research has been analyzing how far some people will go for beauty.

One book, “The Beauty Myth” explained that the South Beach Diet provides dieters with half the calories the Nazis fed prisoners in concentration camps, which amounts to around 700 calories daily.

“It’s scary to read about how these fashions and trends transcend age and ethnic groups, especially since most ideals are constructed, in my opinion,” Pandiani said.

Pandiani also researched psychology, women’s studies and visual arts, such as adver tising and photography of the 20th century, as well as how male and female ideals are portrayed.

“Photographs have helped me more because we are a visual culture, mostly,” Pandiani said.

In creating this piece, Pandiani hopes audiences will ponder their own personal relationship with beauty and aesthetics. She hopes viewers discover many questions and don’t fear the lack of answers.

“A lot of the stuff we are asking we find that we don’t have the answer to. Instead of finding the answer to: ‘what is beauty?’ I want the audience to engage fully with the piece and create awareness by bringing an open mind,” Pandiani said.

“We’re trying to be artists that are involved with the community, creating something fresh and original.”

**THE ART THEATER CINEMA THEATRE**

**SKYLAR SIEGEL**
**Contributing Writer**

With the economy still recovering and the uncertain job market, the holiday season is a rough time for many parents trying to make ends meet. For those families that cannot afford to put gifts under the Christmas tree for their children this year, the Toys for Tots foundation is ready to step in.

Toys for Tots aims at giving less privileged families toys for their children.

“Many of the families that are involved with the drive, it’s a personal relationship,” said Mike Pischner, director of veteran and military affairs.

“The veterans’ affairs office, along with FIU’s veteran alumni association, will continue to promote the drive until Dec. 18.”

The toys will vary.

“I’ve seen children on TV receive everything from bicycles to Barbie dolls from a Toys for Tots drive, so different organizations are able to give different things,” said Pischner. “We are just asking for students and faculty to bring whatever they can, any unwrapped toy is welcomed.”

The veterans’ affairs office, along with FIU’s veterans alumni association, for thoseFIU runs a Toys for Tots drive for underprivileged communities.

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Toys for Tots drive collections began Oct. 15 and will run until Dec. 18. The Marines will deliver gifts to the children 20 to 30 days prior to Christmas.

“The best part of helping Toys for Tots is to see how many kids we can help,” said Pischner.

The types of toys children receive from the drive will vary.

“I’ve seen children on TV receive everything from bicycles to Barbie dolls from a Toys for Tots drive, so different organizations are able to give different things,” said Pischner. “We are just asking for students and faculty to bring whatever they can, any unwrapped toy is welcomed.”

The veterans’ affairs office, along with FIU’s veteran alumni association, will continue to promote the drive until Dec. 18. Tuesday, Nov. 5 and Wednesday, Nov. 6, marines in uniform, such as Mike Larin, will be encouraging students in MMC to become involved with the drive.

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Swing with the University’s Studio Jazz Big Band

I see jazz as one of the biggest and most different approaches in music. It’s interesting to look at what the school jazz band can do with it and also support the musicians of tomorrow.

The best part about playing this style of jazz music is that it takes you back in time. Most jazz groups these days are made up of four or five people,” said Seth Merlín, a trumpeter on the band, after he and his peers were doing rehearsing the classic “In the Mood” by the late Benny Goodman.

Professor Hacker also emphasized the importance of this coming event as the first time being presented by the Gold Coast Jewish Society, a Florida non-profit organization dedicated to the perpetuation and advancement of jazz music as an art form.

The director and the band are excited and eager to perform in this and other similar events; however, their expectation regarding the support of FIU students in general isn’t very high. Many members of the band say that most University students don’t even know these concerts exist.

“With so many other events going on all the time at school, I don’t think many people know about these concerts,” said Merlín, a sentiment shared by another trumpeter, Kelley Gonzales.

“Not many people in FIU are aware of these events,” said Gonzales. “Probably because we don’t advertise enough outside of the School of Music.”

“I see jazz as one of the biggest and most different approaches in music,” said Alexander Coombs, music major. “It’s interesting to look at what the school jazz band can do with it and also support the musicians of tomorrow.”

What is undeniable is that attending the swing with the Big Jazz Band’s concert should prove a great way to demonstrate school spirit and a chance to learn about legends from the past, interpreted by future ones.
**FIU sweeps Owls, prepares for final match**

**JONATHAN JACOBSKIND**  
Staff Writer

On a team where hitting efficiency is at an extreme low, FIU 8-17 (5-8 SBC) nearly knocked their overall percentage with a 296 average last Friday in a 3-0 sweep against Sun Belt rival FAU.

The Owls were better off staying in the locker room for the first set as they notched a giant goose egg, astonishingly getting swept 25-0 in the first set.

It was the first time all season FIU did not surrender at least a point in one whole set. The Panthers came out with high intensity against their Sun Belt foe from Boca Raton.

Despite dismantling the Owls in the first set, the team's inconsistency crept up again to haunt them as The Panthers coughed up 22 points in favor of the Owls in the next set, only winning by three points.

"I definitely see some improvements from the team. We were playing a cross-town rival so the girls were more amped up to play," Head Coach Trevor Therould said. "Although I think we are getting better as a team, I still think there is a great deal of inconsis-ency, as you saw from the first set to the second set, where we completely dominated in the first set but almost dropped the second set.

FIU does not have the luxury of cele-brating too long as they are facing two must win scenarios on their hands in this weekend matches against South Alabama and Troy.

Even though the Panthers have a sub-par conference record, wins versus every game but we have to work on our ability to win the game."

Even though the Panthers did not make the tournament and the sense of disappointment was lingering in the air. Dawkins still believes in the future of this program.

"It's very disappointing. It was our goal from the start of the season to play in the tournament," Dawkins said. "However, every game is a learning curve and this team has a bright future ahead of it."

The Panthers now look to improve on their 2012 record by enlisting a new recruiting class and focusing more on a movement Arena and his team have tried to build this year.

"We graduated five seniors and we have seven commitments already for next year," Arena said. "The idea is to take the foundation and the idea we established now and add on some very important pieces. We think they are going to come in and make our team deeper, and elevate the quality we have on the field."

FIU moves into the off-season with an 8-8-2 record, three more wins than last year and the most since 2005. The Panthers will look to improve on this record and start the 2013 season ready to enter the tournament under the tutelage of Arena.

Albrecht is excited about the future and direction of this young Panther team.

"It's just my second year and I can already feel the change," Albrecht said. "It's getting much better every year and I feel that next year it's going to be even better."
Club takes home 13 medals in first ever competition

BRYAN PALACIO
Contributing Writer

"Aside from the final outcome, I'm just proud of the team and how hard they have worked together," said Coach Ray Alvarez. "From the beginning they have sacrificed their time and effort to become as successful as possible." He is also very proud of his brother, as everyone probably should be.

Before Chris' injury, he had just been accepted into one of the top Taekwondo training centers led by the Olympic Taekwondo Team Coach and two-time Olympic Silver Medalist, Juan Morenos. Chris was just in his second practice when his injury occurred.

"I was very excited about the opportunity and was devastated when I injured my knee," said Chris. "My motivation was basically to return back to training there as soon as possible so that I may continue working towards achieving my goals in the sport."

He had a complete tear of the meniscal in his left knee, this caused the meniscus to flip over and wedge itself under the knee cap, locking his knee into place. The immediate surgery took six hours but was completely successful with the doctor reattaching the meniscus without having to remove any of it. The next day he was already rehabbing using a machine that worked his range of motion six hours a day. His recovery time to be able to do Taekwondo again was seven months. He was already back to training after just five.

All his effort and work paid off as he was able to score a gold medal in the Men's Black Belt Division, besting his final opponent 10-4.

"With Ray earning silver and Chris gold, the coaches' inspirational performance resonated with the team. Fuhian Feierabend, Alfonso Meneses, and Daniel Cuyen all excelled in their divisions and won 1st place in their sparing events."

"The competition was amazing, for beginners and advanced belts," said Fuhian Feierabend. "The tournament was very competitive and I'm excited for how we finished."

The coaches couldn't have been more proud of them and look forward to them having much more success.

"Not only did they train hard but they applied everything they've been learning over the last few months in the ring," said Ray. "They are definitely going to represent FIU well for the rest of the tournament season."

The team will be competing next year in April's US National Collegiate Taekwondo Championships.

-sports@fiu.edu.com

Final home match for three star seniors in career

"You never know how a team can play when it is put in a position to have to survive, so we just need to make sure we play at a high level in order to survive and move on."

This weekend may not be the end of the 2012 campaign for the Panthers, but one thing is for certain, and that is it will be the final home match for four seniors on the squad.

The match against Troy in Sunday will mark the final time FIU fans will catch a glimpse of Renee Forde, Marija Prsa, Ryanna Milligan and former All Sun Belt and FIU legend, Jovana Bjelica, play here in the friendly confines of US Century Bank Arena.

Bjelica has yet to step foot in a match in her final year of collegiate volleyball career as she suffered a fluke injury in the first game of the season that resulted in her breaking her right hand.

The 4-6 week timetable for her return has been severely prolonged, as she still has not made an appearance.

As for Bjelica and the rest if the seniors class, Theroulde believes the best is yet to come for these talented athletes.

"It is almost like seeing a child grow up and leave home and go on to their next level. Yeah, you're sad that their leaving, but you're extremely proud that they have arrived at the next phase of their lives in terms of their volleyball and academic achievements. This year Marija [Prsa] wants to play professionally, so does Renee [Forde] and Jovana [Bjelica] so I am extremely delighted to see them move on with their volleyball career."
When beer spills over the boundaries of the norm

BARBARA CORBELLINI DUARTE
Asst. News Director

Beer can be more than just a drink and the University’s beer club is expanding those boundaries.

The Biscayne Brewers Bash, which was the first event organized by the Biscayne’s Renowned Engineers of Wort, brought 16 local brewers from South Florida and featured more than 40 types of craft beer on Sunday, Nov. 4. It was sponsored by the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

“This is very personal. You get to meet the person who makes the beer,” said Angelica Hernandez, who is studying nursing at Broward College. “This is the generation in college can learn how to make beer,” Zunno said. “They are the future of craft beer.”

Matthew Weintraub and Zhiling Yang, president and vice president of B.R.E.W., arrived at the Kovens Conference Center at 6:30 a.m. to set everything up.

Weintraub said they chose to feature these seven beers because they are the ones taught in the beer courses at the University. He said those are beers anybody can learn how to make.

Jamie Zunno, a beer enthusiast who has been around the craft beer scene for years, said the event was better than Oktoberfest.

“This is amazing. There’s enough beer, enough people, but not too much that you cannot walk,” she said. “You can try everything.”

Zunno is fan of the B.R.E.W. beers and was impressed with the bread.

“It’s great that the younger generation in college can learn how to make beer,” Zunno said. “If you say there’s oak, brandy and sweet potato, you’re going to taste all of it. It’s creative beer.”

The 16 local brewers featured beers made with ingredients like cocoa, cucumber, croissant, coffee, blueberry, brown sugar, raisins and vanilla.

Open Ales, a Hollywood brewery, featured two beers that owners claimed had an “in your face” flavor.

“It’s a flavor that’s forward,” said Munty Vardas, one of the owners of the brewery. “So if you say it’s oak, brandy and
deadlifts, which can cause back pain if the person does not lift the loaded barbell correctly.

“If students develop healthy workout habits from now, it will benefit them in the long run,” said Reddick.

Timothy Gladden, fitness trainer from TSJ Fitness, and Christine Reddick, a nutritionist at the University, will be at the event and decide to go.

It’s not just a festival to get drunk as if beer is only about alcohol,” Yang said. He used to export wine to China, but now he prefers beer.

“Beers have so much more variety than wine and so many more points of control,” he said.

“Wine depends on weather and soil, and beer doesn’t.”

“The busy college life can make it hard for students to find time to exercise, but the Biscayne Bay Campus Recreation Center will give them a helping hand. Set for Nov. 8, the Recreation Center will host the Fitness Day at the Bay in the Wolfe University Center Room 223 at 2 p.m.

Karen Cruz, intern at the Rec Center, came up with the idea to host the Fitness Day after conducting a survey at the fitness center asking students about problems they experienced like muscle strains before and after exercising.

“Getting geared toward the do’s and don’ts of fitness and how to prevent muscle strains before and after a class. Students will also learn how to properly fix shortfalls as this can affect them during a workout,” said Christina Reddick, assistant director at the BCC Rec Center.

At the event there will be fitness instructors, chiropractors and nutritionists to answer questions students may have. They will also do demonstration exercises for students to follow.

Instructors will show how to properly do several exercises, such as

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