FANS OF THE ARTS

SPC series features architectural history scholar

ANALIA FIESTAS  
Staff Writer 
analia.fiestas@fiusm.com

On the evening of Jan. 26, Assistant Professor David Rifkind knew just what to say.

Rifkind, the keynote speaker for the Student Programming Council lecture, “What Would You Say?” spent time deliberating about the “uncertain” future with a number of students gathered in the Graham Center Ballrooms.

This is the second year that SPC allowed the student body to vote upon the lecturer.

Students were given the opportunity to select a professor that they felt they would want to lecture to them.

On the same day last year, English professor Kenneth Claus spoke about “hyperactivity as an art form.”

Rifkind, assistant professor for the architecture department at the University who teaches architectural history and theory,

A graduate of Columbia University, he completed his dissertation on the relationship between fascist politics and modern architecture in 2007.

His challenge was to answer the question, “If you had the opportunity to talk to students during a presentation, what would you say?”

His response focused on four points: “urgency, uncertainty, purpose and paradox.”

He explained that personal and professional success in the future would depend mainly on those factors.

“It’s no longer enough to just be good enough at what you do,” he said to the audience. “You have to be above and beyond to succeed.”

Rifkind suggested that one needs to find a purpose in life.

They must look for something that they are passionate about, and work hard and quickly at achieving the goals related to that purpose.

When asked what his final goal in life is, Rifkind had a difficult time answering the question because according to him, there are too many options to pick from.

However, he responded with, “I would like change. If I can somehow better the world and bring positive change to make our future less divided, I’ll be satisfied.”

Rifkind gave students his perspective on life and shared personal advice.

He concluded by reminding all those present to not just follow what someone says because they look up to them, but to follow their own beliefs and ideas so that no opportunity passes them by.

Rifkind is currently continuing his research on fascist politics and architecture.

COMING UP | News

Check out Wednesday’s issue for coverage of the discontinuation of summer financial aid by the federal Pell Grant program.

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SPORTS

Kendall Berry murder suspect may walk free

PHILIPPE BUTEAU  
Staff Writer  
philippe.buteau@fiusm.com

The case of Kendall Berry’s murder could be dismissed without even going to trial.

Quentin Wyche, 24, stabbed Berry with a pair of scissors outside the Recreation Center on the Modesto Maidique Campus two years ago on March 25, 2010. However, Wyche’s defense attorney David Peckins is arguing Wyche was defending himself.

Student Media called Peckins for an interview but he did not want to comment until Judge Milton Hirsch has made a decision but he spoke to CBS Miami on the Jan. 23 hearing day.

“The lecture was so philosophical. It was simply great. It made us think a lot about the future,” said Ryan Holmes, sophomore and architecture major.

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COMING UP | News

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More than a million Hispanic voters are the prize in Republican presidential rivals Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich campaign hard in Florida after a feisty, final debate that served to heighten political tensions with the state’s GOP primary just days away.

Among those artists in McGrath, who published several books of poems, wrote a play and libretto, translated the play “The Wasps” by Aristophanes for the Peab Greek Drama Series and collaborated with John Stuart, professor of architecture at the University, on a video-poetry piece called “14 Views of Miami.”

“My wife and I were flown out to Santa Monica, California for a ceremony where other acclaimed artists were celebrated for their art,” he said in an interview with Student Media. “The event was hosted by Tim Robbins, who was pretty neat, and I got to mingle with all the various other artists and it reminded me that art is different for many other people.”

McGrath was inspired to write by his love of reading as a child.

“The seed of writing poetry came with my love of reading. Before every writer was a writer, they were readers,” said McGrath. “In junior high school if [teachers] gave me the option to write a short story or write a book report, I jumped writing the stories, because I thought it was fun and I kept doing it and ended up here.”

McGrath feels that the building blocks of writing poetry come from real observation.

“We see the world around us, but really it goes into our heads as memory, and we digest it,” he said. “When asked what other art mediums he pursued, he mentioned painting and music while in college. McGrath joked that he didn’t have the control he had when writing poetry.

“With music and film you have all this expensive equipment and software. [In painting, you need] a canvas and paint. With poetry, I can be all those things,” he said. “I can paint an image with my poems or write about music and all you need is a pen, notebook, yourself and time. That flexibility is what I love about poetry more than anything else.”

While teaching his creative writing graduate students he emphasizes abstraction in their work.

“People think of poetry as those lines you see in greeting cards, or violet; are blue, roses are red. No, that’s not poetry at all; if you want to say you are happy or sad, show me with your sentences. Convince me your world is real, then convince me of your emotions,” McGrath said.

One of McGrath’s former students, Richard Blanco, also achieved success in the world of creative writing.

Blanco is an engineer by trade, but has written three books of poetry, “City of Fire,” “Directions to the Beach of the Dead” and “Nowhere but here.”

“My students achievements mean more to me than my own,” said McGrath. “It’s like being a parent, you are happier when your kid wins little league than you are with your own accomplishments.”

“For that teaching is a rewarding past time, I know that I helped make the world a better place,” he said.

Blanco received his master’s in fine arts at the end of 1996, and was in one of Campbell’s first classes.

“I had an incredibly gifted artist who was also an incredibly gifted teacher,” said Blancos. “Many artists can’t teach, and many teachers are poor artists, but I was fortunate enough to have both, and he inspires me to do more, and be better.”

He added that one of the pieces written in the class became the first poem in Blanco’s first book.

“My first creative writing class [with McGrath] was by far my favorite because of the first assignement we had which was to write a poem about America,” he said of the poem, “while I was born in Cuba, and raised in Spain and Miami, my America was very different than his.”

While Blanco believes Campbell is a fluid artist, he also considers him very practical.

“He taught us that there are no difficult poems only difficult writers,” Blanco said. “And that we must be we to enjoy ourselves and have fun with each and every poem.”

Riffkinds talks about the uncertainty of the future

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“He taught us that there are no difficult poems only difficult writers,” Blanco said. “And that we must be we to enjoy ourselves and have fun with each and every poem.”

I look at building now, I don’t just see a building anymore. I see much more,” said sophmore and architecture major, Edgardo Betancourt.

Thais Mathias, a sophmore architecture major said, “For him, this is not just for a paycheck. You can tell he cares. He loves what he does, he loves teaching.”
Second half scoring burst leads to victory

BRANDON WISE
Asst. Sports Director
brandon.wise@fiusm.com

Down 15 points with 12:42 to go in the game, Head Coach Cindy Russo pulled her squad together in a timeout, hoping to keep them from completely falling apart.

“The things they were doing to us were kind of new,” Russo said. “We’re just a work in progress in terms of learning things.”

After that timeout, the Panthers came flying back to life, outscoring the Hilltoppers 39-20 to end the game. Sophomore guard Jerica Coley tied her career high in the Panthers 60-56 victory over Western Kentucky. She also became the 23rd Panther to ever reach the 1,000-point mark for her career.

Heading into the game, Coley was averaging 24.3 points per game. Following a career high tying performance, her average is up to 24.9, still behind Elena Delle Donne of Delaware.

“We started getting open on the weak side,” Coley said. “This is a baffling team,” Head Coach Isiah Thomas said. “I don’t know. The team practiced hard. For some reason we are not playing well at home.”

Late in the second half, Wright led the Panthers on a 7-2 run to trim the deficit to 49-42 with less than five minutes remaining in the second half. The Hilltoppers, who were led by TJ Price and Jamal Crook, were able to stem the Panthers offensive tide as the Hilltoppers offense and free-throw shooting sealed the win.

For extended minutes in the second half reserve guard Deric Hill played critical minutes in place of Phil Taylor. “Deric came in and gave us a spark,” Thomas said.

BY THE NUMBERS

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

FINAL FROM SATURDAY

WESTERN KENTUCKY 56
PANTHERS 60

Jerica Coley is still second in the nation with 24.9 points per game, only behind Elena Delle Donne who has scored 28.7 points per game this season. Coley is also second in the nation in total points.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

FINAL FROM SATURDAY

WESTERN KENTUCKY 61
PANTHERS 51

Jerica Coley’s career points. Coley added 36 to her total in the victory over Western Kentucky, where she eclipsed the 1,000 point mark for her career.

Women’s Basketball

1,023

Men’s Basketball

20

Turnovers committed by FIU in Saturday’s 61-51 loss to Western Kentucky. Eight different Panthers turned the ball over at least once.

ISIAH: “THIS IS A BAFFLING TEAM”

Comeback effort falls short against Hilltoppers

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Staff Writer
malcolm.shields@fiusm.com

The Panthers were in desperate need of a conference win on Jan. 28 against Western Kentucky. FIU did not make the situation easier for themselves. Down as much as 15 points in the second half, the Panthers struggled for most of the game shooting from the field.

In the final six minutes, DeJuan Wright put the Panthers on his back, but it was not enough as the Hilltoppers captured a 61-51 victory at U.S. Century Bank Arena.

Wright finished as the leading scorer for FIU, with a double-double, 24 points and 14 rebounds. Dominique Ferguson followed with seven points for the Panthers.

“It was a good game for him,” Thomas said of Wright. “He was the one with a decent rhythm.”

“This is a baffling team,” Head Coach Isiah Thomas said. “I don’t know. The team practiced hard. For some reason we are not playing well at home.”

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By the Numbers
**COACHING**

**Russo enjoys success for over 30 years**

**BRANDON WISE**
Atst. Sports Director
brandonwise@fiu.edu

Head Coach Cindy Russo, never set out to be the ninth winningest coach in basketball history. She also never set out to stay at FIU for over 30 years. She just knew that she wanted to be in South Florida. "I was never a goal setter. I never thought to myself 'Okay, I'm going to go out there today and break all these records,'" Russo said. "I just got out there everyday and try to do the best I can and give it all I can.

Russo came to FIU in 1977, coming over from Old Dominion, her alma mater. Since arriving in '77, Russo brought the program from the basement of college basketball all the way to its highest peak.

In 1993, her Panthers went 25-4 and reached its highest peak. "We went into those games expecting to win," Russo said. "We just expected to win.

Starting out with a full court press in the second half, the Panthers forced three straight turnovers on the Hilltoppers that all resulted in points. Fanni Hutlassa came on strong in the second half, at one point converting on two straight three-point attempts. "It was time to wake up," Hutlassa said. "We know we are the better team, and we didn't want to lose this game."

Despite committing 19 turnovers in the game, the Panthers shot 52% in the second half and pulled down 30 rebounds, 16 on the offensive side. "Defensively, when you play this team, they are just majorly stressed out and I can tell you, I am too. You see your coaches display on the sidelines. You flip on the television to watch a game, and every coach is not having fun during a game," Russo said. "They are just majorly stressed out and I can tell you, I am too. You see your coaches, us and players more than anyone else in your life.

Russo also wants her coaches to know that time with family is more important.

"I'm constantly saying to [the staff], 'stay home today, stay home with your children.' They are all just so dedicated and want to win."
Eco-themed After Hours opened spring season

Freshman Joely Carpio interacts with Annette Turillo’s installation piece.

MARCY DIAZ  
Staff Writer  
marcy.diaz@fiusm.com

On Jan. 26, the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum set into motion the first Target Wednesday of the spring season: Arts and The Environment.

Guests were treated with a great selection of art, food and music when the doors opened at 5:00 p.m.

At the heart of the Frost’s first floor was a welcoming circle of four booths representing various eco-friendly organizations affiliated with the University. The Department of Landscape Architecture, the Office of University Sustainability, the Agroecology Program, the Department of Earth and the Environment, and the School of Environment. Arts and Society all came with brochures in hand and ready to raise awareness about saving the planet.

Thelma Velez, the representative for the Department of Earth and Environment and former president of Organic Garden Club, said: “The choices we make now can ripple through and make a difference for the only resources we have. Education is key.”

An opening presentation by Jack Haime, president of the organization Bioplanet, was the first event of the evening. Established four years ago in Mexico, Bioplanet is a nonprofit organization that educates people on beneficial actions for the environment.

They have already rooted their organization in Mexico, Honduras, Haiti, and of course, the U.S. Currently, they are working on community projects like the one in Haiti where 120 families are working to reforest their barren lands.

SEE ECO, PAGE 6

Top: [From left to right] In a scene from the play, Junior Albert Campillo played Dr. Daldry. The role of Mrs. Givings was played by Senior Michelle Antelo, and Senior Alexander Machado played Dr. Givings. Bottom: A final look at Machado and Antelo, as the Givings, closed “In The Next Room” (The Vibrator Play). The play ran from Jan. 27 through the Jan. 29.

The Department of Theatre debuted the first production of the semester, “In the Next Room (The Vibrator Play),” written by Sarah Ruhl and directed by guest director Jesus Quintero. The play explores themes of sexual repression, the oppression of women and the difficulty of marriage.

Turn to page six for a full review by Alfredo Aparicio.

IN THE NEXT ROOM  
(The Vibrator Play)

TOP 5: APPS FOR YOUR SMARTPHONE

1. Move over, Facebook! Twitter is the No. 1 app on campus. For those who tweet like there is no tomorrow, this app is ideal to keep your followers updated when you are on the go.

2. Need help getting somewhere? Google Maps will come to your rescue, getting to your destinations successfully.

3. Ever hear a tune and wish you could know the source? Well, there is an app for that. Shazam lets you record a clip of any song and will identify the artist, song name, and give you information on how to purchase the music right on your smartphone.

4. This application is perfect for when you leave your MP3 player at home. With Pandora, one can simply make a station based on a favorite artist and get a variety of the music of that genre. Pandora is a great way to explore new music that fits your personal taste.

5. If you are not quite sure where to get dinner or drinks, Yelp is the perfect go-to app where you can find user-generated reviews for any establishment. Staff, prices and ambience are all commented on.

There are some apps you just cannot live without. These are the top five apps for smartphones that you voted for. Look for next week’s poll at www.facebook.com/fiusmlife.
Environmental works featured in Frost exhibit

ECo, PAGE 5

They are also working on their Million TREES Miami campaign, which is a community centered effort to plant a million trees by 2020. The Wolfsonian Teaching Gallery, which can be found on the second floor of the museum, displayed Metropole/Colony: Africa and Italy.

The exhibit included maps, memorabilia, posters and paintings of the influence African colonization had on Italian culture. “We want to bring this collection to students—all students—whatever their major. We hope to have something in our collection that will inspire and educate them,” said Cathy Leff, director of the Wolfsonian.

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Cathy Leff, Director The Wolfsonian-

Featured artists Maria Thereza Negreiros, Annette Turillo and Qin Feng displayed their own works for the evening on the third floor. Many of these works continued the art and the environment theme.

At the early age of nine, Negreiros found her love for art. Her inspiration was her surroundings in the forest of Brazil, and her love continued to grow not only for art, but for the place she came from.

“A Thought for the Planet” by Turillo brought an interesting twist to the normal gallery experience. With a mix of media, modern art and a public writing station equipped with stationary paper and colored pencils, Turillo’s display was very original.

Melissa Ussa, a junior, described it as “interactive, engaging to connect with the artist, and expressive about the only earth we have.”

Feng, a self-taught artist, began painting at the age of 14. He learned through experience and was motivated by philosophy and the Chinese language.

He has an ability to create different combinations of harsh, soft and precise brush strokes in the same medium.

“I do not start with an idea when I paint,” Feng said, “but let the movement of my brush to express its own message.”

The Frost will be hosting the next Target Wednesday on Feb. 22 between 6 and 9 p.m., which will feature ARTWORKS!, an art therapy collaboration.

### Women need more than a vibrator

By its title alone, you might think “In the Next Room (The Vibrator Play)” is simply a vulgar dramatization of the early beginnings of a sex toy, which was originally used to cure hysteria in women.

In reality, “In the Next Room,” written by Sarah Ruhl and directed by guest director Jesus Quintero, explores themes of sexual repression, trials and tribulations of marriage, and the oppression exerted on women through surprisingly human characters and grounded story lines, making for a very enjoyable two hours.

The play tells the story of various crumbling marriages and how they were affected when they came into contact with the “vibrator” at the dawn of the age of electricity.

Somewhere between Alexander Machado, Edison hanging on his office wall and how he was obsessed with electricity, to the sexual shortcomings of women’s and men’s, and how she has come to terms with the sexual shortcomings of her own bedroom.

In this endeavor, “In the Next Room” is surprisingly realistic. While the “vibrator” is comical and interesting to watch, it is how these characters react to one another that brings together all the different threads of the play.

Anto is, by far, the standout performance of the play. Mrs. Givings is far from easy and requires a deep concentration and dominance of character.

Her internal consciousness is constantly working to unwrapp herself and she jumps from humor to dramatics and back—sometimes in the same sentence.

However, Victoria Collado, a senior performance major, who brought life to Mrs. Daldy, is not far behind.

While she is mostly confined to the humorous aspects of the play, her clumacquar with Annie, Dr. Givings’s assistant, is one of the play’s highlights.

Annie and Collado together on stage was the best, considering they play of off each other’s comedic talents so well; the jokes are fresh and insightful, and ultimately keep the audience laughing as more serious themes come into play.

Annie, for the most part, is silent, but “silence is golden.” Caitlin Wiggins, a senior performance major, gives Annie the extra push needed to bring the background character to the foreground.

She is mostly absent from the main conflict and drama, her brief scenes—full of mouth-twisting, eye-rolling, ridiculousisms—serve to shed light on who she is and how she has come to work for a man who has no control over his life and is obsessed with electricity, to such an extent that she actively praises a photo of Thomas Edison hanging on his office wall.

The mad scientist routine of Dr. Givings can get old fast, yet he is an misunder-Newtonian. “In the Next Room” is more about how human relationships are difficult and trying, but the love gained from them is more rewarding than the instant gratification of an electric machine.

While he is mostly a free sexual relationship with his wife.

In this, I applaud the cast, including the minor charac-

ters, because it is no easy task to talk about sexual intercourse and relationships, let alone act out an orgasm for a crowded theater—but they do it.

At various times, I wondered how they could do it, considering that even a male character, Leo Irving, played by Lucas Hood, a theater major, had to act out at least two scenes with the infamous vibrator, giving him the inspiration to paint the wet nurse of the Givings, Elizabeth, played by Krystal Joseph, a senior theater major.

Aside from a beautiful singing voice, Joseph plays uncomfortable well, consid-ering Leo is trying to paint her breast feeding for half the play.

Dr. Daldy, the husband of the eccentric Mrs. Daldy, is ushered in and out the play to announce rapid fire one-liners full of sexual innuendos that always managed to get a rise out of the audience.

At the finale, the audi-
cence ultimately realizes that this play is about everything but the “vibrator,” although it does serve to propel much of the action forward.

“The Next Room” is a free sexual relationship with something.

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Hillary Clinton: the perfect vice presidential candidate

NEDA GHOMESHI
Opinion Editor
neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com

After a successful term as secretary of state, it is time for Hillary Clinton to assume the role of vice president. For this election, President Barack Obama should ask Clinton to run alongside him.

As secretary of state, Clinton has made significant, positive changes, such as taking out Osama bin Laden, skillfully managing the Arab Spring and pulling troops out of Iraq. In Nov. 2011, Clinton’s visit was the first time in more than 50 years that a United States official traveled to Myanmar.

As the vice presidential candidate, she will be able to focus voters’ attention on foreign policy accomplishments and distract them from the nation’s economic failures.

Not only will she assist Obama in winning the Democratic party, but with her success as secretary of state, she has the potential to persuade Republicans too.

The University’s admission process contained the most minimal application I had to submit during my senior year of high school. I was secretly glad that I didn’t have to write another essay about the greatest lesson I had ever learned, but I remember being a little troubled that, to the admissions office at the University, I was nothing more than a name and an SAT score.

FIU accepted me without knowing a single thing about me, or the thousands of other students that are accepted to the University every round of applications. The application to FIU is simple. There are a few forms to submit, which ask for a short summary of achievements, in addition to requests for high school transcripts, test scores, proof of residency and so forth.

Unlike the other major state schools, like University of Florida, Florida State University and University of Central Florida, ours is completely void of an essay.

The lack of a personality in the application by way of a personal essay or a detailed list of extracurricular activities and achievements reveals the University for what it really is: a business. It’s no secret that we, as students, are our school’s cash cows. However, as an incoming freshman who was drunk off the lofty ideal of academia, I wished it wasn’t that way.

I wanted the school to care about me and my personality, and I wanted to be assured that my qualities as a person would add to the well-being of the University. This cannot be achieved through a form that does little to tell an admissions officer who I am or the quality of writing that I am capable of.

Students need to feel that they have earned their admission to the University. The acceptance rate to the University is 39.5 percent according to U.S. News, which is astronomically low when compared to other public universities in Florida. UF’s acceptance rate is 43.2 percent, USF is 44.56 percent and FSU is a high 59.52 percent. Based on that factor alone, students should feel a sense of accomplishment when receiving their acceptance to the University.

Part of that accomplishment should come from knowing someone in the admissions office read their essay and decided they were good enough, not just because of test scores and grades, but because their character merited it.

The most important reason that our application should have an essay portion is so the admissions office can use it to determine whether an applicant’s writing skills are up to the University’s standards.

We know that our writing skills will be tested throughout our careers as undergraduates just by looking at the Undergraduate Core Curriculum, where all students are required to take two humanities with writing courses. An essay on the application won’t determine whether a student is capable of passing these courses, but it will allow admissions officers to see the level of sophistication a student is capable of. This could, over time, improve the overall quality of students attending the University.

As our school grows, we have to accept that there will be a lack of personal interaction between the University’s faculty and staff and students. This makes it all the more important that the application has an essay.

A personal essay written by an applicant can convey so much more than numbers.

When applying to FIU, students should feel a sense of accomplishment by knowing their writing skills are up to par with the University’s standards. The application should not deter students, it should encourage them to write a personal essay that will represent who they are, both academically and personally.

As the vice presidential candidate, Clinton will be the first female vice president in U.S. history. This fact alone will encourage female voters at the polls.

Clinton has been a first lady, a New York senator and a secretary of state. It is time for her to assume the position of a vice president.
A survey taken in 2005 by parents.org showed that 54 percent of kids have a TV in their bedrooms. With programming just a push of a button away, the survey also showed that while parents weren’t watching over their shoulder, 44 percent of children would change the channel to something else, while 25 percent would end up watching MTV. But 62 percent of these same children said that TV shows and movies depict violence and sex frequently and often influences them to think differently on those topics.

These findings have manifested themselves in a Supreme Court case presenting an argument on whether the Federal Communications Commission should tighten its grip on the major networks’ incidences containing these profanities. The focal point of the case revolved around the ABC network. The FCC fined the network $27,500 for each channel that aired an episode of “NYPD Blue” depicting a woman’s buttocks and breast; the FCC called it indecent.

The lawyer representing ABC, Seth Waxman, lobbied the court by pointing to a statue of Lady Justice at the top of the court building showing her breast, suggesting there was not a difference.

The networks argue that this is an infringement of freedom of speech and expression, while the Supreme Court suggests that the scenes depicted on television today are not as offensive as they may have been a generation ago.

“Tourism and trade are the economic base of the county,” Salazar-Carrillo said. “It’s difficult to find a middle ground, especially being an advocate of free speech and as a parent,” said Allan Richards, associate dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Social media outlets like Facebook, Twitter, MySpace and YouTube have made some content easily accessible by children across the nation, making it extremely difficult to limit what children watch.

In today’s world because of economic conditions, parents may not be there to monitor their kids. I think the door has already been open for descriptive language and images to be portrayed, especially with today’s generation, but there are some standards set so those things don’t eventually break the ceilings,” Richards said.
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