FIU professor meets with holocaust survivor

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Ada Monserrat, a professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, has made it a personal ritual to visit a piece of history every single school break. Monserrat has visited a myriad of historical landmarks, and interviewed historical figures such as Stephen Hawking.

This winter break she continued her historical ventures to interview a lady by the name of Hannah Goslar. Goslar was Anne Frank’s childhood best-friend, and is her last surviving friend. According to Monserrat the interview was an absolutely inspiring.

Anne Frank was one of the 6 million Jewish victims of the Holocaust at age 16. In her short time she chronicled her experiences in a diary which has become the most famous memoir of all time.

Professor Monserrat got a chance to interview and converse with a living breathing character of the story, who lived an inspiring journey of her own.

According to Monserrat, Goslar described Frank as a “Very outgoing girl, very outgoing. Always riding a bike and very happy and active.”

Goslar, nearly 90 years old, is still a very busy woman. She is an author and a renowned public speaker who relays her very own experiences in the Holocaust to promote peace and awareness.

Professor Monserrat describes a story from Goslar that gives a small glimpse of what the victims went through.

“She described her last meeting with Anne where she was throwing food over a fence that separated them.”

They were in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp where Anne Frank would pass away at 16, just a few days later.

Monserrat retold Gosler’s account of the event, mentioning, “You weren’t allowed near the fence or you would be shot and she risked this.”

Hannah Goslar repeatedly risked her life to help her fellow victims in need.

Professor Monserrat recommends for students who are interested in these type of experiences to read up on history.

“I read a lot of history and about important events, I want to learn about them and then travel over there.”

For example, her meeting with Hannah, “I researched and then wrote back and forth. It takes a while but then I make it happen. You just have to get feedback. It’s very informative, interactive and entertaining,” says Monserrat.

On her students, "I encourage them to follow, to learn about the things that interest them and to research it.”

School of Music hosts international festival

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The passion and love for guitar is taking over the FIU School of Music with the Miami International GUITAR Festival starting Wednesday, February 24th until Sunday February 28th.

Dr. Mesut Özgen, Coordinator of Classical Guitar Studies at the FIU School of Music and Founder of the MIGF is organizing the five-day festival with various activities.

The masterclasses are offered for the advanced guitar students that register, and they perform in front of the artist and the students get feedback. It’s very informative and entertaining,” says Özgen.

The masterclasses are offered including a variety of music from modern 20th century artists and composers from around the world. The Miami Guitar Trio, The Miami Guitar Orchestra & Student Showcase and a closing performance are highlights of the festival from FIU student majors in Music Composition, Felipe Carvajal.

A forum for free student expression at Florida International University

Vol. 27 Issue 59

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One copy or person. Additional copies are 25 cents.

NOTHING LIKE A FIRST TIME WIN

FIU Women’s basketball team celebrates their first Conference USA win, Thursday, Feb. 4. The Panthers defeated the University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazers 72-61.

Megan Tai/The Beacon

I hope to bring international and local artists together as well as students to have a high quality but entertaining music festival.

Dr. Mesut Özgen
Coordinator of Classical Guitar Studies
FIU School of Music

I will be closing the festival with a Flamenco concert. I will be playing ten of my original compositions.

Dr. Mesut Özgen
Coordinator of Classical Guitar Studies
FIU School of Music

SEE MUSIC, PAGE 2
NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Microsoft selects 10 startups for accelerator

Microsoft is lending a hand to a set of startups working in the highly technical realm of machine learning.

The company on Thursday said it had selected 10 startups out of 720 applicants to participate in a four-month accelerator in and around Seattle.

Tech accelerators are designed to help new companies get off to a running start, offering guidance, networking and funding.

During the four-month program, companies will have access to Microsoft’s own machine-learning engineers, among other experts. Also included are grants that give companies, if they choose, access to Microsoft’s cloud-computing platform.

“When we started, what we had in mind is, ‘What can we do to help’ great startups that will eventually put Microsoft in the center of the ecosystem?’” Larry said.

Before you’re able to get Apple’s Siri or Microsoft’s Cortana to reliably reply to a request for a list of nearby coffee shops, for example, companies need to collect and analyze a mountain of data, Braga said.

“There’s contextual information, accents, background noise, then you need to detect intent,” said Braga. “There’s many different ways of asking. ‘Find me the nearest Starbucks?’”

French researcher says Zika link to Guillain-Barre syndrome is ‘almost certain’

The Zika virus’s health effects generally are described as mild flu-like symptoms for those who show symptoms at all or not yet certain, with references to Guillain-Barre syndrome, which causes paralysis, or microcephaly, an often devastating birth defect.

Over the course of the French Polynesia Zika outbreak, the incidence of Guillain-Barre increased twentyfold, the researchers noted.

But they did warn that Zika merited “rigorous clinical monitoring,” despite its reputation for inducing only mild symptoms in most of its sufferers.

“The observation that severe clinical complications may occur highlights the need to strengthen surveillance for this emerging virus,” the authors said.

In an interview this week with the French magazine Le Point, Musso said he believes the Guillain-Barre link is “almost certain” and that the link between Zika and microcephaly in infants is also near certainty.

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DISEASE DISCUSSION

Zika Watch forum, informing the local community of the infectious disease.

DeGennaro, Dr. Consuelo Beck-Sagué and Carolin Lusby speak at the University’s (From left to right) Dr. Aileen M. Mamy, Francisco Fernandez-Lima, Matthew DeGennaro, Dr. Consuelo Beck-Sagué and Carolin Lusby speak at the University’s Zika Watch forum, informing the local community of the infectious disease.

School of Music hosts GuitART Festival

MUSIC, PAGE 1

compositions with a full ensemble. My music is modern flamenco with some parts of jazz influence,” says Carvajal.

The Masterclasses and concerts will take place in both the WPAC Recital Hall and Concert Hall.

The Miami Guitar Orchestra and Student Showcase Concert on Saturday February 27th and the Miami Guitar Trio Concert on Sunday, February 28th are both free for FIU Students.

Dr. Ogren is not only arranging the festival, but he hopes to make the festival more known.

“There are people that have attended the concerts and are so impressed with them, and don’t know anything about the Guitar Orchestra! They are always so surprised and always tell me they wish they knew more about them,” he says.

“I hope to bring international and local artists together as well as students to have a high quality but entertaining music festival.”

Carvajal says that he thinks that it’s important to hold music festivals, especially this one.

“Every concert and workshop is going to be different and all the musicians attending are great. The concerts and masterclasses help the guitar community grow and improve and it’s a great opportunity,” he says.

Tickets to this festival range from free admission to $35.

Ogren thinks that the Miami International GuitART Festival is important and one of the biggest guitar events especially for the FIU School of Music.

“If you look at all the other events going on in the world like wars, global warming and hunger, this has zero importance in terms of solving those problems. However, this is human nature and you can’t ignore these problems. But, we can’t live without music and it’s impossible to live without art.”
New Barbie pushes for realistic beauty

Thoughts on a Page

DAMIAN GORDON

Binge-watching online ruins how we view shows

The feeling of despair hits like a family member recently dying; but if they didn’t know because you’ve been watching all the seasons of the “X-Files” and can’t even remember what human contact is like. This feeling isn’t because of aliens, just another downside to binge-watching.

This is a new age where a viewer doesn’t have to tune in at eight to consume it. The user on how they’ll leave the choice up to the shows. The less you enjoy it exciting, but the more you watch, the less you enjoy it over time.

Recent programs on Netflix, such as “Narcos” or “Jessica Jones”, release all their episodes at once, leaving the choice up to the user on how they’ll consume it. This method of releasing content isn’t good for the fans as this creates a scattered community where one person may be on episode two while another has already finished the entire season in the first week of its release.

Watching a show like “The Walking Dead” every Sunday leaves room for a forum of discussion and speculation to happen while fans wait for the next episode over the week.

Long binge sessions can give similar feelings like one’s after a big Thanksgiving dinner. A participant takes in so much only to end up asking questions such as “why did I do this to myself?” or the overly dramatic “is this how I die?”

According to a study by MarkerCast, binge-watching isn’t even a social activity as over half of bingers prefer to watch their shows alone. You know what they say, the family that binges together, stays as far as humanly possible from each other while doing it.

Think back to running through a season of a show. There’s probably not another person in the room sharing that experience. Compared to watching something with a group like NFL, “American Idol” or even “LOST” in its heyday, bingeing can be isolating.

Episodic shows also have room for improvement since a series with longer seasons usually take a mid-season break and the writers can get feedback. They then get a chance to fix any mistakes from the first half of the season.

Shows “On Demand” are just another factor causing this generation to have a shorter attention span. I’m surprised when relationships even last more than a week these days because of this lack of attention.

Bingeing can turn a masterpiece like “Breaking Bad,” which slow cooked its story up through the seasons to its boiling point, into mere fast food where you consume, enjoy and forget about it later.

There’s not really a moment to sit down and digest what just happened as the opening theme is already playing for the next episode.

I enjoyed “Daredevil” last year, but a lot of sequences just blend together in a blur when thinking back on them. This problem isn’t due to the quality, but rather a quantity of how many episodes were watched so closely to each other.

This is where self-restraint comes into play, except those who have probably already wait week-to-week for a new episode. As for me, I’ll have a pile of books and homework from school to keep me restrained from doing anything.

Thoughts on a page is a commentary on the topics everyone thinks about, but doesn’t discuss. For further commentary, contact Damian Gordon at damian.gordon@fiusm.com.
Miss FIU’s fitness journey

A few months ago, Stephanie Almeida approached me to be her personal trainer as she signed up for the Miss FIU 2016 pageant. This was something new for me, to fitness train someone for a pageant but I accepted the challenge.

Almeida possesses two major strengths, promising potential and dedicated determination. When these two are combined, it is possible to achieve any goal. The pageant has a lifestyle and fitness portion and our goal was to get the highest score there.

While we were set on outdoing the judges with our lifestyle and fitness presentation, we had a bigger goal-taking the crown.

With responsibilities such as school, work and other commitments Almeida and I still made it a priority to meet and train on regular basis. The lifestyle and fitness portion requires contestants to wear a swimsuit and judges base their score on the contestants’ aesthetic appearances of their body. Therefore, it was essential for us to target every muscle of the body in our regular workouts.

We dedicated each day of the week to a different set of muscles, alternating for a more lively routine. Building muscle was key to getting Almeida looking and feeling her best, for this we focused on high weights, as opposed to low weights, which require more cardio and will burn fat. High weights build muscle mass.

Once we worked out the logistics we got started. The first few weeks was the focus on pull ups, push ups, sit ups and squats—all using her own body weight. Once her muscles were trained in the basics we began weight lifting for bodybuilding.

Building pageant-ready abs was also a priority of ours. I have three rules for chiseled abs: eat clean, sweat and rest. Almeida performed her exercises on her own.

Along with a fitness routine, we also came up with a meal plan for Almeida. Good nutrition is the base that a successful fitness lifestyle stands upon. To make this base as strong as it could be our meal plan had to be strategic, providing Almeida with the necessary nutrients to build muscle and have the energy to reach her goal. In health and fitness we always concentrate on the physical attribute; however, our mental health should not be taken for granted. Along with physical and nutritional training, Almeida practiced regular meditation. This practice has been proven to lower stress levels and clear the mind—key elements for her goal of taking the Miss FIU crown.

The day of the Miss FIU Scholarship Pageant had arrived, all of our hard work will add up to this moment. Our fitness and lifestyle training went beyond that portion of the pageant, our training was showcased in how Almeida carried herself throughout the pageant. She was physically and mentally prepared for all aspects of the pageant—the evening gown, talent portion and so on.

The moment we all had been waiting for arrived, the crowning of the next Miss Florida International University. There was an air of anticipation in the room and finally it was announced, “Stephanie Almeida. We had reached our goal. All it took was discipline, determination and meditation.

Our Journey, however, did not end there. Almeida continues her fitness training to maintain her wellbeing and inspire FIU students to do the same.

Motivation Monday is a weekly column covering fitness and health from a personal trainer’s point of view. To offer Nihat comments or suggestions email life@fiusm.com.

The making of a Panther

With the overwhelming amount of conversations heard in different languages throughout the campus, new students like Kacens can find it difficult to begin assimilating with the diverse culture of FIU.

Often promoted at orientation, a three-day excursion to Lake Placid in South Central Florida like Panther Camp helps transfer and freshman students meet each other every spring and summer.

But what an outsider might not realize when deciding whether to experience a camp like scenario with strangers from all parts of the globe is that Panther Camp is more than just an opportunity to network. For some, it helps them discover themselves.

“I came here as an introvert but with the help of my Echo Family I was able to open up and feel comfortable with doing so,” said Shiv Panchal, a freshman majoring in marketing.

Bryant also poked fun at students, encouraging confidence and creating an accepted atmosphere. When interacting with the students he did not seek the right answers, only the confidence to speak up. While Bryant’s topics ranged from African history to growing up in the ghettos of Central Florida, he created an honest, direct and light-hearted environment. His lecture was far from the conventional one-way setup. It was a reflection of his values and his work in Inner Vision International, showing students how far character development goes in the development of a leader.

From humble beginnings, he continues to represent diversity within FIU and his home back in Chicago. He hopes his involvement on campus will teach students that with the proper work ethic, anything is possible; “if you come here and get your education and leadership positions, those skills will transfer into your career,” said Bryant.

“We all have strengths, promising potential and dedicated determination. When these two are combined, it is possible to achieve any goal. The pageant has a lifestyle and fitness portion and our goal was to get the highest score there. While we were set on outdoing the judges with our lifestyle and fitness presentation, we had a bigger goal-taking the crown.”

“Someday here,” said Eliana Alba, a junior majoring in nutrition.

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“Some day here,” said Eliana Alba, a junior majoring in nutrition.
Zombies camp up a Jane Austen classic

JOSEPH CARDENAS
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

The shoegaze revival lives on. At least, it would certainly appear that way after listening to “Hypatia,” the sophomore album by the up-and-coming band Wray. While their mother wants them to marry suitable gentlemen, Elizabeth, is like most independent women in an otherworldly Victorian age, took the world by storm for its use and manipulation of great literature won’t change how you experience this film either.

Much like their contemporaries Title Fight, Wray had early roots in punk rock before switching up for a dreamier aesthetic. For reference, check the title track, built on Drugs Americana aesthetic while being forced, preferring instead to dig into more dimension to an often shapeless sound. "Hypatia" finds a band now settling comfortably into a creative peak. As the revival lumbers on, countless carbon copies will undoubtedly be pushed out of the machine this coming

As the events of Austen’s classic plays out - she is acquainted with the arrogant Colonel Fitzwilliam Darcy, who cares about defending the country from the threat of humanity’s destruction. His pride clouds him from seeing how he treats others; her prejudice misguides where she places her trust. But they reconcile and begin falling in love.

However, there’s still the ever-looming threat of the four horsemen of the apocalypse and a literal array of zombies to worry about. Who’s on what side and are the undead capable to live? After all, it wouldn’t be a fun Jane Austen story without blood and an existential global doomsday in it.

"There is a central love story, and it’s important that we believe in that," Matt Smith said, "but also it doesn’t take itself too seriously, which I think is important.”

That really was the most wonderful thing about the movie, that high class society is somehow not lost amid a zombie apocalypse. It’s what makes it hilarious and earnest. The movie successfully takes Austen’s classic and turns it into a ridiculous camp horror without compromising the integrity of the original novel. It was “Pride & Prejudice”... with zombies.

The film also stars Sam Riley from “Maleficent” and “On The Road,” and Lena Headey, from “Game of Thrones,” and is now playing in theaters. Valentine’s Day around the corner, maybe a compromise for some old fashioned romance with blood and guts thrown in the mix, would make the perfect date night.

MUSIC NOTES

The shoegaze revival

SHOEGAZE BAND RELEASES SOPHOMORE ALBUM ‘HYPATIA’

Christopher Rodriguez

Much like their contemporaries Title Fight, Wray had early roots in punk rock before switching up for a dreamier aesthetic. However, their approach is distinctive: infusing elements of jangle pop, post punk and even their own southern roots. "Giant," for example, with its driving melody, is deceptively inspired by War on Drugs Americana aesthetic while being bathed in layers of lush guitar.

While the songs don’t fuss or fight for your attention, they do exist to please. Wray knows the value of a well-crafted hook and uses it to great effect. For references, check the title track, built around an infectious guitar riff that is immediate and inviting. On "Jennifer," the melody sounds closer to 80s pop act Toronie Turune, rather than obvious influences such as Catherine Wheel while crossing waves of rever.

Rarely does Wray’s sound feel frantic or forced, preferring instead to dig into more languid aspects of the genre. Yet they still make it enticing. On the opening track "Belong," there is no grand gesture or alarming dissonance. Just a continuous rhythm delivered with a sense of cool detachment. Such is their approach, which may be more intriguing to seasoned listeners of the genre than newcomers.

Yet the catchy moments are abound. "Regular," which would certainly recall contemporaries DIIV, the band showcases their aptitude as a cohesive unit, delivering a beachy melody that would most certainly work for anything from a summer night outing to a solo dance session in your bedroom. And as the song progresses, the sound becomes more aggressive yet all the more inviting.

The band must certainly has an incredibly effective rhythm section despite the fact that the drums are often buried in the mix. The vocals are melodic and unobtrusive. Impressively, none of the songs on this record ever feel haphazard or like they’re on the verge of falling apart. Each song is tightly structured and cohesive. "Purged," for instance is a demonstration on how the shoegaze revivalists adhere to their cool detachment. Such is their approach, which may be more intriguing to seasoned listeners of the genre than newcomers.

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F I R S T C O N F E R E N C E W I N F O R C H I N N

The women's basketball team bask in their first conference win of the season against the University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazers Thursday, Feb. 5. The win also marks Head Coach Marlin Chinn’s first conference win since joining the organization.

The numbers that C-USA is providing on “scoring offense” don’t tell anyone anything other than that team scores a lot. That number has no context. It can be affected by many things, pace most notably. If a team is leading the conference in scoring offense but shoots a low field goal percentage is that team good at offense? They score a lot inefficiently so you can safely say no correct?

Well, that field goal % doesn’t take into account that three pointers are worth more than two pointers and a three is a harder shot. So if a team takes a lot of 3’s and scores a lot, they will need fewer shots because of the value of the three, despite shooting a lower percentage.

All that and I still haven’t discussed how offensive efficiency takes all of those factors into account and provides a contextualized number used to evaluate a team.

Conference-USA however, refuses to include such numbers on their website. Instead they provide those useless counting stats, which don’t help in the evaluating of a team. I feel bad for Bill Russell; he doesn’t know what he was missing.

T-Time is a biweekly column about women’s basketball in FIU. To contact Giancarlo email him at giancarlo.navas@fiusm.com

Freshman guard Kristian Hudson drives the ball down the lane against UAB Thursday, Feb. 5. The Panthers next game is at the University of Texas at El Paso Thursday, Feb. 11.
Turnovers hold back Panthers in 74-69 loss to UAB

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The FIU men’s basketball team (11-12, 5-5 in Conference USA) dropped their third straight game in a row on Thursday, Feb. 4 as they fell to the University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazers. The Panthers constructed impressive scoring runs in both the first and second halves, but the Blazers were able to ward off their charges and take the contest 74-69.

For the first time in weeks, Head Coach Anthony Evans mixed up how he used his players. While senior forward Davion Draper and senior center Adrian Diaz still led the way for FIU, the surprising addition of those on the bench players much more than in past contests.

A struggling version of junior Donte McGill was a mismatch for players in particular. FIU’s three point scoring by far in weeks. FIU senior center Adrian Diaz found a worthy challenge in UAB center Tosin Mehinti in a matchup of 6-foot-9 against 6-foot-11. The two players made each other work for their production all night. Diaz ended the contest with 14 points, six rebounds, and five blocked shots. Mehinti notched a season-high 13 points and seven rebounds.

FIU lacked energy coming out of the gate. The Blazers had already gotten out to a 20-8 lead with 12:45 minutes left in the first half. The result was FIU entering the game up at 20-20. FIU took the lead before the half and went into the break up 41-36.

FIU turned over the ball on Tuesday in their last game against UAB and UAB entered the game with an 8-1 record. While senior forward Davion Draper and senior center Adrian Diaz still led the way for FIU, the surprising addition of those on the bench players much more than in past contests.

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Panthers add size and talent on National Signing Day

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There are few days in all of sports that have as much importance and excitement surrounding them than National Signing Day. The futures of both young men and college football programs around the country are shaped on the first Wednesday of every February.

This Signing Day was a critical one for the FIU Panthers, as their football program is at a point where slight improvements can propel them to regular bowl appearances, while making a couple wrong moves could send the Panthers to the bottom of Conference USA.

While it’s much too early to tell how any of these players will turn out once they’re playing at the college level, early indications show that the Panthers came away with a very solid recruiting class that addressed a lot of holes and added some much-needed size to the roster.

“Turner mentioned that the team got just about all of the players they were targeting to sign, and is optimistic that there are a few players in the new class of Panthers that can make an immediate impact on the field,” Turner said. “One of those players in particular is junior college transfer cornerback Khairi Reaser. After finishing two seasons at San Jose City College, Reaser will look to capitalize on potential openings to get bigger and stronger,” Turner said. “We liked [Reaser] a lot on film, brought him in and liked him as a person, and we think he is a guy that hopefully can come in and contribute early.”

It’s rare that Turner brings in a player from junior college, so it’s a safe bet that he and the FIU coaching staff saw a lot in Reaser. Turner added that the standouts of this recruiting class is 6-foot-2 wide receiver Stanley Thomas. A three-sport athlete in high school (football, basketball and track & field), Thomas comes into an FIU program that has drastically needed a standout wide receiver for years. If Thomas comes into his own this offseason and can use his height to his advantage, he could line up very nicely on the opposite side of Thomas Owens.

Overall the 2016 recruiting class has 24 new signees, with 20 coming from the state of Florida and one coming from each Illinois, Oklahoma, California and Georgia. FIU always recruits heavily in Florida, but the growing number of out-of-state players is an indication that the Panthers are looking everywhere for the best possible players to take the field in blue and gold.

There is still a lot of time and practice to go for the Panthers, but after a successful start to the offseason the Panthers are eagerly awaiting their season opener against Indiana University Thursday, Sept. 1.
Java Jam exposes various cultures to BBC students

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The Biscayne Bay Campus will be hosting an opportunity for coffee, conversation and immersion in the culture of the Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean New Year today, Feb. 8, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the AC-2 Bus Stop. Java Jam, dubbed for its resemblance to the conversationalist atmosphere of a coffee lounge, is an event that will be periodically occurring throughout the spring semester. Students, faculty and staff will be offered coffee and snacks while experiencing different cultures and languages. Java Jam will occur several times within the spring semester, each time featuring different cultures to celebrate like those of India on March 14 and Venezuela and Colombia on April 14.

This is a great way to expose oneself to the diverse perspective of each culture and to ignite a greater understanding of the world we exist in. We all come from different cultural backgrounds which combine to create a greater collective human circumstance. Understanding begins with mere exposure and coffee, conversation and snacks is a great place to start. The ecosystem of a well-rounded mind requires exposure to new experiences as it cannot grow without them.

Java Jam is not only an opportunity to grow mentally, it also offers a communal aspect that is incredibly special. Students, faculty and staff should take this opportunity to engage with others in a setting of a culture that may or may not be familiar to them. Those who are familiar with the featured culture can help inform those who are still learning of it. This setting for the exchange of information helps build social bonds and immersion between attendants—except better, thanks to the cup of coffee warming their palms.

DANCES WITH WOLVES

Brandy Owen, a freshman business administration major, mirrors the dance moves of instructor Juliana Demard in the weekly Dancing at the Wolf class. The next class is Tuesday, Feb. 9 at noon.