



## Maidique to hand out diploma to 100,000th student

BY C. JOEL MARINO  
Content Editor

Out of the 3,200 students waiting to hear their names called out during this year's commencement ceremonies May 1 and May 2, one student in particular will have a chance to take part of FIU history: he or she will be the 100,000th graduate since Modesto A. Maidique became the University's president 20 years ago.

"The act of awarding the 100,000th degree holds symbolic significance for me personally," Maidique said through a university-wide press release. "Knowing that we've had such a profound impact on so many lives is very gratifying."

The student who will receive the special recognition has not been announced and will be spotlighted during one of the five graduation ceremonies taking place at Pharmed Arena.

Certain University alumni and community leaders will also be honored during the ceremony.

Some of the awards will reflect what Maidique has called one of FIU's greatest accomplishments, the approval of a medical school by the Florida Board of Governors in March.

Carolyn Roberts, chair of the BOG, will be presented with a Pillar Award "for her leadership of the state education system."

Jeffrey Horstmyer, president of the medical staff at Mercy Hospital (which may partner-up with FIU once the medical school funds are approved by the State Legislature), will be given the Cal Kovens Community Service Medallion.

The University has awarded more than 114,000 diplomas since it admitted its first class in 1972. Around 75,000 alumni live and work in South Florida.

### Spring 2006 Graduation Schedule:

#### Monday, May 1, 2006

10:00 a.m.  
College of Health and Urban Affairs  
Journalism and Mass Communications  
3:00 p.m.  
College of Arts and Sciences

#### Tuesday, May 2, 2006

10:00 a.m.  
School of Architecture  
College of Engineering and School of Computing and Information Sciences  
College of Education  
3:00 p.m.  
College of Business Administration  
7:30 p.m.  
School of Hospitality and Tourism Management  
School of Accounting  
Alvah H. Chapman Jr. Graduate School of Business

## Prado reminisces on experiences, tenure

BY REUBEN PEREIRA  
Staff Writer

Alex Prado, who graduates this week, never envisioned himself as Student Government Association President or, for that matter, even running for the position when he first enrolled at the University.

However, as he got more involved on campus with various student organizations, he realized that the best way he could make a difference was by getting involved with the SGA.

Looking back at his time at FIU, he considers the three days leading up to the moment he was announced as University Park SGA president as the single most memorable moment of his college tenure.

"It all came down to the day when I was lifted up," said Prado, referring to the moment when he was lifted up by his fraternity brothers after the election results were announced. "I'll never forget those three days."

Prado first got involved on campus with the Pi Kappa Alpha (Pikes) fraternity, with whom he rushed for during his freshman year. However, he credits the peer advisors as the first group of people to welcome him into the University.

Prado considers his term as SGA president as one of the best experiences of his life and one that helped him become a



MR. PRESIDENT: Alex Prado, University Park SGA President, will always consider his term as president as his most memorable and best experience at the University. FILE PHOTO

better person.

"From the very beginning, when I went into office until now, I've grown a lot as a person. I've learnt things that many people won't learn until they're 30 years old and I'm not exaggerating," he said.

Alfonso "Alfie" Leon, incoming SGA president, was enthusiastic when praising his predecessor who he said taught him that no matter how prepared you may be, you have to understand that every year is

different from the other.

"As SGA president, Prado has added more to the role and has raised the bar on what a president should be," Leon said.

Among the accomplishments that Prado is extremely proud of are the implementation of extended hours at the recreation center, supporting the University's initiative for the School of Medicine and extending hours and increasing services

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## Grad student achieves long-awaited goal

BY BETSY MARTINEZ  
Biscayne Bay Editor

After losing his sister about a month before he was to begin the graduate program at the School of Hospitality and Management, David Edwards decided to take sometime off.



HORTON

"It was really tough on my family, and I didn't want to start grad school with those images on my mind," Edwards, 35, said.

During his two-year academic hiatus, Edwards worked for Baymont Inn and Suites, located in Ft. Lauderdale, as an

assistant manager, but he was searching for more than a job. He wanted a career.

He resigned at the hotel and enrolled in the School of Hospitality and Management graduate program in 2004.

He said it would have been close to impossible to work as a graduate student.

Originally from Mandeville, Jamaica, Edwards arrived in South Florida in 2001 and enrolled in FIU's Hospitality Management undergraduate program. Several years earlier, he had graduated from The Joint Board of Teacher Education, a three-year program offered at the University of the West Indies, where he obtained a professional certification in teaching.

Instead of teaching, he went on to become a sports journalist and worked

for The Gleaner, one of the largest newspapers in Jamaica, and then pursued a career in sports radio. However, although "it was fun, it wasn't challenging," Edwards said.

His adaptation to South Florida went smoothly because Edwards had friends in Miami and had already visited the city several times before he moved. For Edwards, the challenge was in the books.

"It's a lot more intense because FIU is a research institution and every class requires a huge research paper," he said. "People told me that you read for a degree, and grad school taught me what that means."

But after completing several 30-page papers and conducting group research projects Edwards said that the program

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## Art student discusses time at University

BY HARRY COLEMAN  
Editor in Chief

After five years at the University, Andrew Horton will be able to call himself an alumnus when he receives his degree May 1.



HORTON

A graduate of Christopher Columbus High School, Horton is graduating with a bachelor in fine arts and a 3.1 grade point average.

Horton's current

work is on display at the Frost Art Museum's BFA exhibit.

The Beacon talked to Horton about his time at FIU and what he wants to accomplish in the future.

**Q. What is your most memorable moment as a Golden Panther?**

The first time I showcased my work in the University student show in 2004. It was the first time I showed my work anywhere, something very important to me.

**Q. Is there a particular professor you credit for your success here at the University?**

Out of the top of my head there are

two - drawing professors Clive King and Gretchen Scharnagle. They both helped me find out what I was trying to do and pushed me to go further. They were both willing to spend a lot of time talking about anything that would help bring the art along.

**Q. Through the years, which class challenged you the most?**

It would be my art visual thinking II class because it forced me to look critically at my own work and start exploring other artists. It was a real critical point in evolving me to the next level as an artist.

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## School of Architecture

### Master of Architecture

Anna Cristina Abreu  
Lorena Alvarez  
Jessica Crystal Beedle  
Alicia M. Benitez  
Lorena Brockway  
Milagros Mercedes Cueva  
Pina Del Conte  
Manuel Del Monte  
David B. Diaz  
Andrew Bruce Dunlap  
Brian Font  
Hector Jesus Hernandez  
Jose Federico Hurtado  
Mary A Izquierdo  
Policia Tomoya Lubenova  
Eduardo J. Luna  
Salvador Ben Mitrani  
Andy Tsoan Ng  
Mario A. Perez  
Gonzalo Pulido  
Lester Rey  
Bayardo Adam Sandoval  
Norma F. Vallejo  
Juliana Vergara  
Miledys Victorero  
Jeffrey Kemp

### Master of Landscape

Architecture  
Marissa Abreu  
Maria Ayub  
Margarita Blanco  
Paolo Joaquin Ferrera-Morales  
Monique V. Hall  
Miguel M. A. Hastings  
John Benjamin Hutchens  
Derick C. Langel  
Rosa Isabel Luy  
Laurinda Hope Spear  
Emilia Velásquez

### Bachelor of Arts in Architecture

Raphael Jose Alba-Machado  
Maria Paula Amaya  
Scarlett Alina Arana  
Juan Sebastian Arguello  
Elizabeth Victoria Arnaiz  
Jessica Lynn Ball  
Silvia Alexandra Bolivar  
Mayumi Bravo – Cum Laude  
Giancarla Denisse Capriolo  
Rosangelina Castro – Cum Laude  
Ruben Armando Colon  
Domini V. Cunningham  
Emile G. Dajer  
Sergio D. De La Espriella  
Gilnett D. De Leon  
Mударra  
Kirk A. Duncan  
Julio E. Estorino  
John Robert Garcia  
Edgar A. Gonzalez  
Gloria A. Gonzalez – Magna Cum Laude  
Jaimie D. Guzman  
Paola Andrea Guzman Rodriguez  
Ivet Hernandez  
Giovanna Jaspid  
Karl J. Jiram  
Charlene Alyssa Johnson  
Caroline Joseph – Cum Laude  
Kieran Rohan Lachman  
Kacey L. Lewis  
Kelvin Devon Liburd  
Mike Lopez  
Diana Maria Mackay  
Kenneth Lang Mata  
Edward Alan Mendez  
Tanya E. Noguerras-Pelaez  
Carlos Omar Nunez  
Mauricio Osorno  
Claudia P. Ospina  
Kathleen M. Ossa  
Maria Del Carmen Quincoces  
Krystal Anne Reeve – Cum Laude  
Andrew K. Richardson  
Maria Ivelisse Rios

Arianny Rodriguez  
Raul M. Ruiz  
Monica Santayana – Cum Laude  
Ana C. Schultz  
Ryan M. Smaldone  
Raul Soto III  
Cassandra Anne Straus  
– Magna Cum Laude  
Patrick Brian Thorpe  
Daisy Torres  
Ivania P. Ulloa  
Debbie Vaisberg  
Andrea Valle  
Alejandro David Vazquez  
Marta C. Visbal

### Bachelor of Interior Design

Jennifer R. Benjamin  
Cristina Maria Macias  
Jorge L. Mesa  
Kenzie L. Perry – Magna Cum Laude  
Yelsi M. Saravia  
Katherine Steinberg  
Rachelle Turner

## College of Arts and Sciences

### Doctor of Philosophy in Biology

Avner Ittah  
Diane J. Rowold

### Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology

Abdolrahim Javadzadeh  
Dean A. Wagstaffe

### Doctor of Philosophy in Economics

Claudia Haydée Wehbe

### Doctor of Philosophy in Geosciences

Fabian Duque-Botero  
Sedelia Durand  
Samantha Lorraine Evans  
Zhong Yang

### Doctor of Philosophy in International Relations

Ellie C. Schemenauer

### Doctor of Philosophy in Physics

Merritt S. Cook

### Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology

Constanza Berger  
Julian A. Gilbert  
Kerrie L. Lum Lock  
Margaret C. Reardon  
Daniel Stewart Whitman

### Doctor of Philosophy in Spanish

Carlos Sanchez-Garcia

### Master of Arts in African New World Studies

Ann Jacinta Worme

### Master of Arts in Asian Studies

Norbis Sanchez

### Master of Science in Biology

Duane M. Choquette  
Kevin M. Cunniff  
Charles William Goss  
Gregory Michael Juszli  
Robert Kennedy Lowery

### Master of Science in Chemistry

Julio C. Cabrera

Baishakhi Das  
Patricia A. Harrison  
Farhana M. Kibria  
Roberto Carlos Roa  
Jun Shi  
Sheena P. Szuri  
Sayuri Umpierrez

### Master of Arts in Comparative Sociology

Jennifer W. Borum  
Lilia Cunningham  
Emily Elizabeth Eisenhauer  
Marcos H. Feldman  
Valerie Lambert  
Connie M. Viamonte  
Anna Christine Winter

### Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

Andrew P. Cohen  
Michael K. Creedon  
Jeanne De Quine  
Lauren A. Doyle  
Jeffrey D. Greene  
Elizabeth Sarah Miller  
Melanie Neale  
Astrid Ozols Parrish  
Andrew Fred Reich  
Richard L. Toumey  
Susan Vervae

### Master of Arts in Economics

Mariana Martinez  
Gali Milbauer  
Jose Ramon Miranda  
**Master of Arts in English**

Alison Nicole Hesh  
Hans Sacha Morgenstern  
Michael Elliott Portnoy

### Master of Science in Environmental Science

Tainya C. Clarke  
Pablo F. Gottfried  
Robin Marlene Gray-Urgelles  
Christina Marie Hoffman  
Patricia A. Houle  
Rita Ngabo-Mugisha  
Kimesha Angeliqye Reid  
Seema K. Sah  
Kathryn E. Stanaway  
Lindsey A. Waggoner  
Laura Anne Yeung

### Master of Science in Forensic Science

Stephanie K. Bell  
Todd M. Crandall  
Melissa S. Doud  
Lorraine Katy Edwards  
Leighton C. Parkins

### Master of Science in Geosciences

Pallov Pal  
Camilo Ponton Guerrero

### Master of Arts in History

Cynthia Marie Busch  
Anna C. Cullen  
Berbeth S. Foster  
Jimmie L. Green  
Rodolfo Leal  
Hector John Meletich  
Meiyolet Mendez  
Silvia Z. Mitchell  
Justin D. Phillips  
Cristina Rodriguez  
Marie Angela Smith

### Master of Arts in International Studies

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Ofelia Martinez  
Rachel M. Martinez  
Francisco A. Mora  
Giselle Peruyera  
Rita A. Sabat  
Anne Marie Sarver  
Shana Sheleia Smithner

### Master of Arts in Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Desiree Avila  
Terry Andrew Bayliss  
Angela P. Bonilla  
Hector David Cadavid  
April H. Dawkins  
Elva Gonzalez  
Laura Ashley Holtz  
Cándida Iglesias  
Rhonda L. Jeffers  
Angela Rose Kanney  
Marisa S. Montes  
Edme D. Pernia  
Zipporah Alisia Slaughter  
Janet C. Vazquez  
Valentina Zendejas

### Master of Arts in Linguistics

Melanie Melinda Hesbacher  
Dennis Knight  
Filiz Kunuroglu  
Bo Yang

### Master of Science in Mathematical Science

Erick Jose Robles

### Master in Music

Mileyka Burgos  
Charles O. Carey  
Juan Pablo Carreno  
Carlos Enrique Castro  
Peniche  
Paul Livingstone Clem III  
David Maldonado  
Courtney L. McLean  
José Antonio Monrouzeau  
Heledys Rodriguez  
Debora Sanchez

### Master of Science in Psychology

Bimal Pandey  
Naipy C. Perez  
Adnan Salem

### Master of Arts in Political Science

Vanessa Brito

### Master of Science in Physics

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Constanza Berger  
Sabrina E. Des Rosiers  
Carla Eugenia Marin  
Kristin Ann Nichols-Lopez  
Lugarda Parra-Bencomo  
Eugenia Inés Perez  
Kenneth R. Randall  
Sara Richardson  
Tara May Sheehan

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Sharon D. Hobbs  
Jo-Anna Sullivan

### Master of Arts in Spanish

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Ariadna V. De Oliveira  
Alina Del Carmen Gonzalez  
Neil O. Joan  
Ilma N. Lozano  
Dongming Chen  
Dane Robert McGuckian  
Jin Xia

### Master of Fine Arts in Visual Arts

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Hugo C. Moro  
Isabel P. Moros-Rigau

### Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art

Lisa Jean Ashinoff – Magna Cum Laude

Margarita Benitez  
Kathleen Allison Bulger  
– Magna Cum Laude  
Daniel Edwin Clapp Jr.  
– Cum Laude  
Edgar Alexis Flores  
Gary Gaile Fonseca  
Javier Gonzalez – Magna Cum Laude  
Shelly Guberek – Cum Laude  
Andrew Horton  
Kelly M. Kuylen – Cum Laude  
Silvia Elena Llopis  
Luisa Maria Mesa – Magna Cum Laude  
Hugo Andres Montoya  
Laura K. Ploude – Magna Cum Laude  
Yeila R. Rodriguez Fuentes  
Angela Helen Roell  
Danielle Allison Rottler  
Nicole Marie Soden – Cum Laude  
Donna Lee Steffens  
– Magna Cum Laude  
Betzy Almaguer  
Robert Lief Axberg  
Vanessa Marie Garcia  
– Magna Cum Laude  
Eleanor Reid Hinshelwood  
– Magna Cum Laude  
Eunice Lorenzo  
Melissa A. Murillo  
Cristina Robles  
Klaudio Rodriguez

### Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies

Phillip Turner

### Bachelor of Science in Biological Science

Tonika Hilda Accius  
Allison Acero  
Shirley Adames  
Taimur Ali  
Felix Gabriel Alvarez  
Priya Anand  
Krystal Rosario Anson  
Alicia Estelle Bamberg  
Alina Benin  
Darrell Ryan Braham  
Aurelio Antonio Bula  
Leyaini Cabezas – Cum Laude  
Roberto C. Carmona  
Vanessa Casanova  
Yadaira Castillo  
Ranjana Champatsingh  
Nikeisha Latoya Chin  
Michael Paul Chong  
Liliana C. Cosenza  
Jeannette Marie Cruz  
Annie Cuenca – Summa Cum Laude  
Cynthia D. Del Castillo  
Karina Maria De la calle  
Rimsky L. Denis  
Alessandra Dominguez  
Marlon Eugenio Echaverry  
Jessica June Eghbal  
Mfonobong I. Essiet  
Idania A. Fernandez  
Jessica M. Figueroa  
– Summa Cum Laude  
Mary Arden Fortner  
– Magna Cum Laude  
Luis Aurelio Gonzalez  
Mayelin Gonzalez  
Janet Marie Goodson  
Ros-Ana M. Guillen  
Aditi Uday Gurkar  
Jennifer Denise Gutierrez  
Natalie Gutierrez  
Lillian Gutierrez  
Sami Hakim  
Charlie Steven Haz  
Anna Julieta Hernandez  
– Magna Cum Laude  
Annellys Hernandez – Cum Laude  
Howard Wilson Hoo  
Natasha K. Juncal  
Nalini Lalarukh Khan  
– Cum Laude  
Flavio A. Kottar – Summa Cum Laude  
Christina Mirjana Lanza  
Sixto Manuel Leal

Vanessa Elisabet Lebrón  
Lina M. Liscano  
Eduardo Jesus Lopez  
– Cum Laude  
Emilio Enrique Lopez  
– Magna Cum Laude  
Michelle Lopez  
Lizbeth Manoah – Magna Cum Laude  
Monica Mauri – Magna Cum Laude  
Sergio Mauri – Magna Cum Laude  
Megan Ann Meade – Cum Laude  
Carolina Mendoza – Magna Cum Laude  
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David Mesa  
Kaleed Mohammed  
Nicole Y. Murphy-Derisma  
Ahmed M. Naffi  
Yaima Nogueira  
Ursula V. Ochoa  
Mayelin Lisset Oliva  
Zuriany I. Olive  
Yesenia Osle  
Alex A. Padron  
Marco A. Paez  
Adriana Patricia Perez  
Kevon J. Pierre  
Reynaldo Pita – Cum Laude  
Eduardo Marino Reyes  
Rene E. Rodriguez – Magna Cum Laude  
Eduardo J. Rodriguez Perez  
Claudio Alberto Rosario  
Jennifer Lee Rosello  
Alejandra Sarmiento  
Maria Angelica Sherman  
Kara Leigh Smythe – Magna Cum Laude  
Avinash Rai Sukhrum  
Beatrice M. Torres  
Brian Valle – Magna Cum Laude  
Kirill V. Veselov  
Rocio Villanueva  
Harold Villegas  
Angelina Marie Walker  
Lynette Wallace  
Krista Simone John-Williams  
Naila Williams  
Robin Yang  
Ronald Yglesias

### Bachelor of Science in Chemistry

Michael A. Benitez  
Terrell Wayne Bohannon  
Erica Marie Cahoon  
Adriana Patricia Campos-Serrano – Summa Cum Laude  
Jose Maria Cesar  
Sandra T. Dejean  
Luis F. Diaz  
Stephanie Gonzalez  
Heberto Hernandez  
Melissa Jimenez – Magna Cum Laude  
Flavio A. Kottar  
Natacha Lamour  
Sheren S. Leung – Cum Laude  
Andrea Marina Mancinelli  
Brandon Paul Meyers  
Lucrecia Maria Montes  
– Cum Laude  
Andrea Perilla  
Yenia Silva – Summa Cum Laude  
Eduardo Ernesto Valdes  
Tyesha N. Ware  
Yeivelis Batista  
Terry W. Bohannon  
Erica Marie Cahoon  
Luisel Rodriguez  
Yenia Silva  
Stephanie Sosa  
Eduardo Ernesto Valdes

### Bachelor of Arts in Dance

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Christine Anne-Marie Elie  
Alina V. Guerrero  
Monica Marie Horstmann  
Katrina Markitsha Hughes  
Allisen A. Learnard – Cum Laude

Viviana Shahira Neder  
Lindy Annette Negron  
Perpetua Javette Phillips  
Mayte De La Caridad  
Suarez

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Sacha Anthony Boxill  
Darrell Ryan Braham  
Rafael Emilio Cabrero  
Mario A. Cerna  
Robert De Jesus  
Carla Andrea De Martino  
Lydiam Maria Diaz  
Dakarai O. Dorsett  
Andres Galvis  
Arben Hankollari  
Melissa Leigh Hellerich  
– Magna Cum Laude  
Luis A. Hernandez  
Tanya Higgs  
Katrinn Hussmann – Magna  
Cum Laude  
Christopher Infante  
Yuleidy Joa  
Esteban Lopez – Cum  
Laude  
Marie Brice Malebranche  
Jean-Bernard Pierre  
Daniel Rowinsky  
Alexanders Saenz  
William P. Sewell  
Natasha Steinel  
Julian Marcelo Wagner  
Alexander J. Weber

#### *Bachelor of Arts in English*

Karen Anne Abbot  
Rachel Marie Acosta  
Saintanise Agenord  
Zaida D. Alfaro  
Carlos R. Allen  
Raquel Alexis Alonso  
Torika A. Alonso-Burford  
Jaime Alvarez – Cum Laude

Krystal Alvarez  
Maria Areiza  
Maria E. Arguello  
Andrew Keene Baldwin  
– Cum Laude  
Sasha Bocanegra  
Taqesha Shantel Brannon  
– Cum Laude  
Janelle Diane Bravo  
Kristy Lee Brundage  
Sergio Burgos  
Paola A. Campuzano  
Michelle Ann Cardenas  
Elizabeth Chang  
Celia Maria Chomon  
Don G. Cornish  
Kevin Patrick Cortina  
Dwayne Courtney Daley  
Megan Michelle Dey  
Gricel Dominguez – Cum  
Laude  
Jobeth H. Eson – Cum  
Laude  
Cristina S. Estevez  
Angelina Marie Fadool  
– Summa Cum Laude  
Vivian Marie Farias  
April Y. Ferguson  
Christina Marie Folkman  
– Cum Laude  
Alejandra D'Anne Fox  
Ilean Yvonne Frost  
Sophia Gloria Isidora Funk  
Diana K. Gamil  
Sergio Thomas Garcia  
Emily Rebecca Geyer  
– Cum Laude  
Stephanie Lynn Gilmore  
Rebeca Gonzalez  
Gabriel Ruben Graña  
– Cum Laude  
Lorna Ivette Hawkins  
– Cum Laude  
Amanda Frances Healy  
– Summa Cum Laude  
Menachem S. Herssein  
Crystal N. Jackson

Christie Jorge  
Kristin A. Kawass  
Tatiana Elyse Knight  
William Lisenbee  
Patricia Noelle Lontok  
– Cum Laude  
Madelin Loreda  
Lourdes Lourido  
Yesenia March  
Yelena Martinez  
Wendie G. Mateu – Cum  
Laude  
Candace Marie McAfee  
Saul David McClintock  
Ruthie W. Metcalfe  
Madelyn Mirabal  
Latoya M. Moore  
Susan Asher Renée Munger  
Martina Olivia Munian  
– Summa Cum Laude  
Madeline Marie Munoz-  
Bustamante  
Kim M. Murray  
Victoria A. Ohanna  
Katherine Palacio  
Reinol R. Piedra  
Marcy Piltzer  
Lissette Marie Pol  
Shannon Catherine Pollitt  
– Cum Laude  
Devon Brooke Renwick  
Cynthia G. Rocha  
Felix X. Rodrigez  
Katherine Ros  
Daniel E. Santiago  
Nohora C. Silva-Osses  
Cristina Teresa Sotolongo  
Monte Barrigan Starkey  
Avinash R. Sukhram  
Karlynn R. Taylor  
Simone Gabrielle Tobie  
Ginelle Ghenori Torres  
Susan Rachel Torres  
Johanne Toussaint  
Yelisabet V. Udolkin  
Nicole Valenzuela  
Edwin Vergara

Cherilyn Vicente  
Maria P. Vilchez  
Milagros Regina Viquez  
Jessica L. Wheelock  
Malik O. Wilkes  
Charles Reade Zachritz III

#### *Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies*

Stephen Christopher Davies  
– Cum Laude  
Sean Michael Ferguson  
Marian Learned – Magna  
Cum Laude  
Catherine Esther Morin  
Jennifer H. Osborn  
Olga Sánchez  
Nadia Patricia Amador  
Luis A. Lopez  
Angela Kay Niemeyer

#### *Bachelor of Arts in Geography*

Fabiola Michelle Mejia  
Kristian A. Moreira  
Kevin Xavier Chau  
Mary Arden Fortner  
Maria Cecilia Pages

#### *Bachelor of Arts in History*

Lourdes Nicole Armijo  
Naylet Maria Blanco  
Cristina Canales  
Steven M. Carlo  
Antonietta Di Pietro  
Jose O. Fernandez – Cum  
Laude  
Michael Anthony Fernandez  
Christopher J. Fraga  
Jimmy Gonzalez  
Charles William Lang  
Juan Carlos Moya  
Katrina Francesca Nuñez  
Khara Nicole Perkins

Jonathan Ericka Ramirea  
Melissa L. Rodriguez  
– Magna Cum Laude  
James Fernandez Rogers  
Sydney B. Sheran

#### *Bachelor of Arts in Humanities*

Claudia Cervantes  
Sarah A. Easparro – Cum  
Laude  
Wids Louis  
Amy M. Pizzuti

#### *Bachelor of Arts in International Relations*

Sebastian Acosta  
Fredda M. Acuna  
Fernando F. Aguado  
Pierre Andre Alcidera  
Ela Maria Hernandez  
Andino  
Wendy J. Appleton  
Marilise Jessica Bastien  
Angela Beltran  
Varona T. Benjamin  
– Magna Cum Laude  
Jean-Claude Misha Bennett  
Jean-Paul Bramby  
Sebastian J. Blake – Cum  
Laude  
Douglas Andres Briceno  
Alecia Ruby-Mae Brown  
Courtney Basil Bryant  
Melissa M. Contreras  
Richard A. Cores  
Andres Cortes-Villa  
John Patrick Curry  
Michelle T. Dajani  
Luka Damjanovic  
Karen Rae Dyer  
Dmitriy Ekht  
Ramón Enrique Flores  
Brian Fonseca  
Tatiana Amaloha Franco

Amy R. Frizzell  
David Andrew Fry – Cum  
Laude  
Gabriela Garzón – Cum  
Laude  
Nicole Marie Grimal – Cum  
Laude  
Lauren M. Harvey  
Yama Hasheme  
Sherman Humphrey  
Thanavat Jirakunsombat  
Sophia Nicole Jones  
Amal Kassawat – Magna  
Cum Laude  
Andrew D. Kreffit  
Steven D. Landau  
Ana Sofia Leon  
Roserdley Lindor  
Andrea Suzette Lopez De  
Castilla  
David Bjorn Malmstrom  
– Magna Cum Laude  
Bashir Martin  
Marisela C. Martinez  
Diana C. Mendez  
Karen Mooneram  
– Summa Cum Laude  
Randol Didier Mora  
– Summa Cum Laude  
Kristian A. Moreira  
Danielle M. Nied  
Jose Alberto Nieto – Magna  
Cum Laude  
Enid Aleida Nuñez – Cum  
Laude  
Manuel Perez IV  
Clinton Pickett  
Catalina Quintero – Magna  
Cum Laude  
Jillian Marie Rausch  
Adam George Reeder  
Eric Rivera  
Natasha Rivera  
James Rafael Rodriguez  
Nestor Daniel Rodriguez  
Armando A. Rodriguez  
Rebeca Rojas Valmaña

# it's about to **heat up!**



## FIU students!

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# Love of animals leads to creative art

From ART, page 1

**Q. Now that you will graduate, what is your dream job?**

Ideally, I would love to be able to work solely as an artist. It would also be really cool to be an art professor at the college level or work at a museum.

**Q. Which drawing do you cherish the most and why?**

There's one drawing I have in the current BFA show that deals with an issue close to me, which is animals, especially dogs. I've had dogs all my life, and I've worked with the Humane Society. It's a subject I take very seriously.

**Q. What advice do you give to future art students?**

Make sure to really

learn about your art history and check with the counselor often.

**Q. Can you use one word to**

describe how it will feel when you receive your degree?

Relieved.



**ANIMAL ART:** Horton credits the painting above as one of his favorites, due to his involvement with the Humane Society. HARRY COLEMAN/THE BEACON

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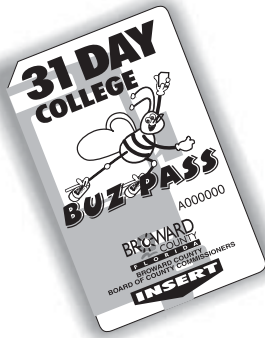
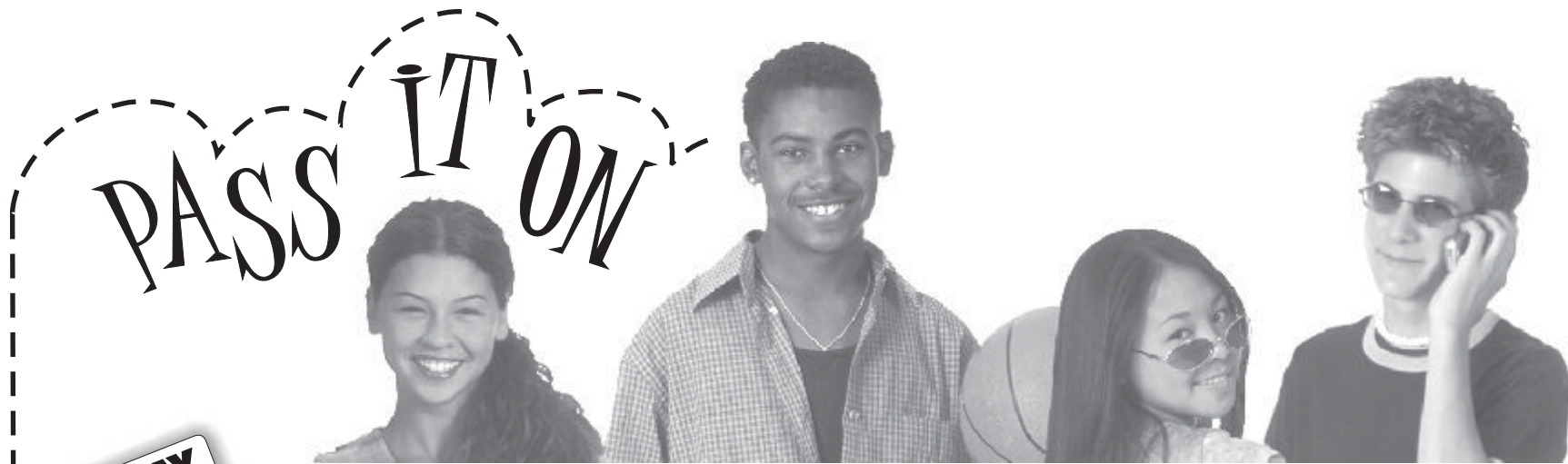
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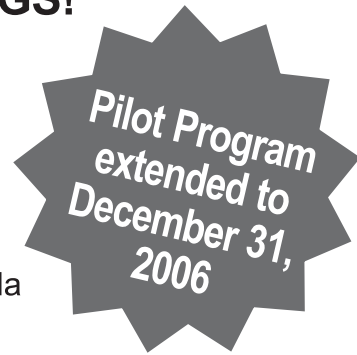
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# Prado plans to attend law school

From PRADO, page 1

within the University Health and Wellness Center.

However, Prado admits that there were some things that he could have done better including expanding Panther Card services and having better communication with the faculty senate and some campus organizations at the beginning of his term.

Omer Bill Buchanan, Student Programming Council president and a friend of Prado stated that Prado will be remembered for his accomplishments as well as for his tenacity.

“Of all the things, I think he’ll be remembered for bridging the gap between the administration and the students,” Buchanan said.

Prado also credits Christine Denton, SGA vice president, as one of his greatest assets stating that their diverse personalities actually complimented and balanced each other.

“I’m very business oriented and she’s very spontaneous and bubbly,” Prado said. “And she really helped me to become more of a people person.”

During his year as president, Prado enrolled in more than 27 credits.

Prado described his typical day as waking up at 9 a.m., getting things done with SGA throughout the day, studying in the evening and then working at



**REACHING OUT:** Alex Prado campaigned several weeks before the 2005 SGA elections. HARRY COLEMAN/THE BEACON

the office until 2 a.m.

“You know, I think I’m one of the craziest SGA presidents ever,” Prado said. “I didn’t go out on the weekends – all I did was study.”

Prado thanked his girlfriend Luisa Martinez for helping him cope with things through the year and considers her his sanity.

“She was my huge sanity. She helped me out with my apartment, and we’d go out to movies or to dinner. She helped me greatly throughout the year.”

After he graduates this semester, Prado plans to work with Anitere Flores, the State House Representative for District #114 (which is the district FIU falls

under). He also plans to take the LSAT this coming fall and then enroll in law school by the fall of 2007.

When asked about what advice he would give to incoming FIU students and currently enrolled students, Prado emphasized that every student sets the bar of what the University will be and can be and that they should make the best of their college years.

“Experience all the things the University has to offer – from campus life, to housing and to student government,” he said. “Students should come in willing to embrace the experience that FIU can offer them and that way they can, in turn, receive the best.”

# Edwards to miss “shooting the breeze”

From GRAD, page 1

has made him career-ready.

“The grad program has prepared me to look for more senior level positions,” he said. “I have a grasp of what drives executive positions ... and why some executive decisions are made.”

But for Edwards, it wasn’t all work and no play.

His fondest memories include volunteering for The House of Angostura, a Caribbean-based company, which produces bitters and rum products exported worldwide, at the annual Taste of the Caribbean University Fete and the Back-to-School Bar-b-cue, which takes place during the beginning of the Fall.

“I always looked forward to that because I looked forward to seeing my friends who I didn’t see during the summer,” he said.

One of the things he said he’ll miss most about FIU is “shooting the breeze,” which means hanging out with friends outside of the Hospitality Management building and looking out to the Biscayne Bay.

Edwards has a couple of employment offers lined up already.

The most promising offer is from The Hilton, which will soon be opening up in Ft. Lauderdale, and he got the interview though the School of Hospitality and Management a couple of weeks ago.

He said that his sister’s death gave him the inspiration to keep going and that he enjoys the hospitality field because it’s always changing.

“You’re in a business where you never work [less than] 40 hours a week and no day is ever the same,” he said. “A lot of people think that hotels are all about smiles, but it’s more complex than that.”

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