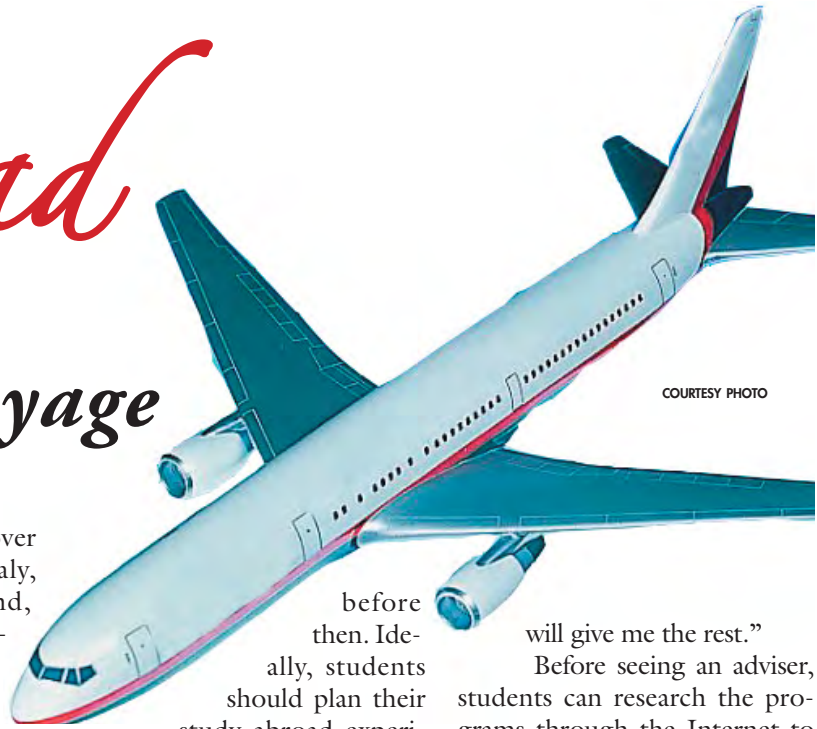




# Study Abroad

## Prepare for an educational voyage



COURTESY PHOTO

By **VILMARIE ESTRELLA**  
Contributing Writer

Studying abroad is something many students dream of doing at some point in their college career.

Thanks to university studying abroad programs, that dream is now a reality. According to Christine Jarchow, Director of the Office of International Studies, 308 FIU students are abroad for Summer A and Summer C semesters alone. That number is bound to increase once the Summer B count is finalized.

“We are very busy this time of year because this is the period when most of our students are abroad or preparing to go on their trip,” Jarchow said. “We are like every office in the university all in one — we do financial aid, plan international careers and do

some academic advising.”

Before these students stepped foot on a plane bound to paradise, they had to overcome a few obstacles that often hinder students from even thinking of going abroad.

Seeing an adviser can calm the stress. At the Office of International Studies, a student can usually get an appointment with an adviser the following day. The staff can help students pick a program that best suits the students’ priorities, whether it is getting the credits they need to graduate, learning a new language or experiencing life in another culture.

“I want to have interaction with the culture and I really want to learn French. The FIU program was excellent for me,” said Karin Carranza, an FIU alumni studying in Angers, France

during the Summer B term.

FIU offers programs in over 15 countries including Italy, Mexico, Australia, England, China and Brazil. According to Jarchow, the most popular program is at Salamanca, Spain because of high enrollment in Spanish courses and because it’s one of the most established programs — it’s been running for over 12 years.

“If [one is] looking for a cultural experience, my advice is to get out of Paris and other big cities and go to a province where Americans aren’t a dime a dozen,” said Peter Machonis, director of summer study abroad in Angers, France.

Application deadlines lie between February and March, so all the research and most of the preparation should be done

before then. Ideally, students should plan their study abroad experience a year in advance, Jarchow said.

Money is a major factor when it comes to studying abroad. Programs are costly and, on average, can range anywhere from \$2,500 to \$5,000. Applying for scholarships, getting a loan and opening a savings account a year or two in advance can help ease the load when the deadlines approach.

“I did not let money become an issue,” said Ana Valeria Almandarez, majoring in nursing. “Thankfully, I received financial aid and scholarships, and my dad

will give me the rest.”

Before seeing an adviser, students can research the programs through the Internet to become familiar with the classes offered abroad and the prices of the program. If the student finds that there are not enough choices at FIU, programs with other universities as a transfer student can be an option.

“Coming from [the] University of Florida, the whole application process was very long and tedious,” said Margaret Truitt, studying in Angers, France during Summer B. “However, I have no doubt that it will be worth it and I’m excited about living the European lifestyle this summer.”

# Fire safety code requires pit balcony enclosure

By **ANA SANCHEZ**  
News Editor

At the heart of the Graham Center, an open area known to students as the pit was found enclosed during Summer A with dry walls covering the area on the first and second floors. An unavoidable part of campus life, numerous music and interactive events take place at the pit are currently put on hold. The enclosure of

the pit is due to fire safety violation codes, which were not implemented during the construction of GC. In case of a fire on the first floor, the barriers under construction will insure the protection of people on the second and third floors by eliminating the possibility of smoke rising from below. The pit is scheduled to re-open mid-August.

“This has been a fire marshal’s criticism which we have been contending with for several years, [we have] the ability to get



**Christine Denton**, SGA vice president

**We saw construction starting without notification of the students and notification of us, so we asked to stop [construction]...**

the work done now,” said James R. Wasenaar, executive director of Student Affairs Operations and Auxiliary Services.

Another option besides enclosing the top part of the pit was installing a ventilation system on the second floor. However, price difference was significant. While the cost of the enclosure was \$30 to \$45,000, a smoke evacuation system would cost an estimated \$1.2 million. The Student Government Association was unaware of the reasoning behind the construction when it began.

“Like many students, we did not know what was going on until we set a meeting with President Modesto Maidique,” said Christine Denton, SGA vice president. “We saw construction starting without notification of the students and notification of us, so we asked to stop [construction] until we were completely informed and we did not want it to continue until we knew all the solutions possible we could work with.”

SGA was concerned with the first floor of the pit being closed off, but the closure is for the second floor in the balcony area. The closure, seen now on the first floor of GC, is a temporary barrier for the construction to take place.

“We discussed the bottom part of the balcony where the stairs are [so that it may] remain [and] people can still stand there. The way they are going to close off the smoke is that [they] are going to have doors at the top of the stairs that close with magnets and the magnets will release in case of a fire,” said Alex Prado, SGA president.

Instead of people being able to lean over the balcony, they will have to look through the glass covering the Pit to view the first floor.

“Supposedly, it won’t take away from the noise, so you can still hear what’s going on in the pit, it’s just the aspect of leaning over the balcony that won’t be there anymore. It was the best we could do,” Prado said.

Funding for the construction is coming out of Capital Improvement Funds, a state fund provided to universities for projects such as fire safety improvements.

“We wanted to make sure that it was the right decision for students and they apologized for not informing SGA as much as they should have, but they did include us in the decision making process,” Denton said.



**BEFORE AND AFTER:** (Above) Students will no longer be able to lean from the second floor balcony. (Right) Construction takes place inside the enclosed pit for the balcony. **ALEX HERNANDEZ (TOP PHOTO) AND ISIDRO PENTZKE / THE BEACON**

## NEWSFLASH

### ON CAMPUS

#### Sprinkler system installations expected to finish in the Fall

Fire safety upgrades go beyond the Graham Center pit smoke barriers. During Summer A, a sprinkler system was installed on the first floor of GC.

Work on the third floor is expected to finish before the Fall semester and the installations will continue through the Fall semester on the second floor.

The second floor work is expected to finish between late September or early October.

The sprinkler system can be installed while the building is occupied.

Second floor offices that will have to relocate have been notified.

“For the most part, [they] will be able stay in place and the work will be done after normal business hours to minimize destruction to operations in student services,” said James Wassenaar, Executive Director of Student Affairs Operations and Auxiliary Services,

The funding for the sprinkler systems comes from Capital Improvement Funds.

#### Public Health Professor honored for his research

Professor Janvier Gasana was acknowledged for his dedication to FIU’s Stempel School of Public Health. The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce named him a “Health Care Hero.” Gasana focused on data concerning lead poisoning percentages in Liberty City, Little Haiti and Little Havana.

A team of 11 graduate students gathered samples from residents in these locations and the lead levels were significantly high. In 2001, Gasana formed the Florida Alliance to Eradicate Childhood Lead Poisoning with funding from FIU.

#### Research on class size cutting does not improve standardized test scores

Professor Anthony Normore and Professor Lynn Ilion conducted research using the FCAT scores from 2001-2002. They found that cutting class size is not effective toward the betterment of standardized tests.

Instead, they found that an increase in hiring well-qualified K-12 teachers would improve the test scores. The research suggests that the cutting of class size results as a more expensive alternate to raise test scores.

“Reducing class size is simply not the most cost-effective way of utilizing our resources,” Normore said.

– Compiled by Ana Sanchez

## THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

### MONDAY • JUNE 27

**New Employee Experience hosted by Human Resources:** 8:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Freshman Orientation:** 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### TUESDAY • JUNE 28

**Freshman Orientation:** 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Last day to pay tuition and fees**

**Last day to register without \$100 late fee**

### WEDNESDAY • JUNE 29

**Summer B begins**

**Frost Art Museum Wednesday After Hours:** Tori Arpad and

**Kate Kretz:** 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

– Compiled by Ana Sanchez

# Construction of Fitness Center resumes

By **DAMIAN GRASS**  
Assistant News Editor

The construction delay of the new Biscayne Bay Campus gym is finally over, but students will have to sweat it out just a little while longer before the grand opening.

An update from Gregory Olson, Senior Director of Student Affairs at BBC, assured that the problem that caused the delay for several months has been rectified. After construction began in August of 2004, an inaccurate design of the underground structure of pipes and communication lines forced the development to be postponed.

What has changed since the delay is the first budget of \$1.7 million for the construction – a sum taken from the school’s trust fund reserved for school property improvement.

“The cost to complete [the gym] has increased,” Olson said.

The original 2,400 square-foot gym, located on the third floor of the Wolfe Center, currently has 33 different types of cardio machines, 35 free weight stations and over 4,000 pounds of dumbbells.

However, since students have requested more cardio, free-weight and



**BEHIND THE WALL:** Biscayne Bay Campus Fitness Center construction continues as planned and is scheduled to open in January 2006. **ISIDRO PENTZKE/THE BEACON**

resistance equipment, the new gym will have plenty of state of the art machines to burn off those extra pounds.

However, a few of the 45 machines available for use at the new gym will be refurbished ones from the current gym.

In addition, the original blueprint of the 10,000 square foot facility, which will offer six offices, a conference room, dance studio, locker rooms and an aerobics room, was not altered despite the delay of the project.

Once the doors open for the new gym, students could face new member-

ship fees. Student Affairs will increase the price each semester for non-students, while students registered for classes will get to work-out for free. If the fee sounds too pricey, then guests can purchase a one-day pass for three dollars.

Although Olson feels that it is not likely that the new gym will be completed by the expected date of January 2006, students are just glad that the construction has resumed. If the price is right, senior and frequent user Fabiola Saint-Jean is looking forward to working out at the new gym long after graduation.

“Even if I am no longer here, I am coming back. If the membership fee is still the same, it’s cheaper than Bally’s,” Saint-Jean said. “But they need to hurry. We need more machines and this [current gym] is like a closet.”

When the day does come when all the machines have been cleared out, Olson explained that there is no final decision as to what will happen to the empty gym.

“It is possible that the Wellness Center could move from its current location near the Health Center [to that area], but it has not been established yet.”



**Paid positions are now available for Beat Reporters**

Hurry in and pick up an application today!  
Stop by GC 210 or WUC 124.

**THE BEACON**



### EDITORIAL BOARD

HARRY COLEMAN EDITOR IN CHIEF  
LEONCIO ALVAREZ MANAGING EDITOR

BETSY MARTINEZ BISCAYNE BAY EDITOR  
ANA SANCHEZ NEWS EDITOR  
XAVIER VILLARMARZO SPORTS EDITOR  
JESSICA ISER LIFE! EDITOR  
MICHELLE FERRER OPINION EDITOR  
GIOVANI BENITEZ IN-DEPTH EDITOR  
ISIDRO PENTZKE PHOTO EDITOR  
C. JOEL MARINO RECRUITMENT EDITOR

DAMIAN GRASS ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR  
CHARLENE COLLAZO ASSISTANT LIFE! EDITOR  
JENIFFER GALASSO ASSISTANT OPINION EDITOR

MICHELLE SANTISTEBAN NEWS PAGE DESIGNER  
TARA WONG SPORTS PAGE DESIGNER  
ALICIA BUSTAMANTE LIFE! PAGE DESIGNER

YAHNILET COLON COPY EDITOR  
TANYA GONZALEZ COPY EDITOR

LUIS NIN GRAPHIC DESIGNER  
VERONICA FERNADEZ GRAPHIC DESIGNER

HATZEL VELA BUSINESS MANAGER  
ALFREDO SOTO ASST. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA  
ROBERT JAROSS DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA

### INFORMATION

The Beacon office is located in the Graham Center, room 210 at the University Park campus. Members of the editorial and production staffs and questions regarding display advertising and billing should be directed to the Advertising Manager at 305.348.2709. Mailing address: Graham Center, room 210, Miami, FL 33199. Fax number is 305.348.2712. Biscayne Bay Campus is 305.919.4722. Office hours are 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. E-mail: Beacon@fiu.edu. Visit us online at: www.beaconnewspaper.com

### PUBLISHING POLICY

The Beacon is published on Mondays and Thursdays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. Advertising inquiries for classified, local and national ads may be addressed to our advertising department in our newsroom. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by Student and Services fees that are appropriated by Student Government.

## PROBLEM SOLVED: Professor creates program to halt hackers

By **BETSY MARTINEZ**  
BBC Editor



**HACKERS BEWARE:** Olivier created a formula that will revolutionize the banking industry. **ISIDRO PENTZKE/THE BEACON**

After working eight years to solve a math problem that has been overwhelming mathematicians since the early 1800s, FIU professor Frantz Olivier now sighs with relief knowing he has accomplished just that.

For years, mathematicians have been unable to factor large numbers. Olivier, who teaches Business Calculus and College Algebra at the Biscayne Bay Campus, has developed a computer program utilizing a mathematical formula that is able to factor numbers over 2,000 digits long.

"That's about five pages," Olivier said.

According to Olivier, the relevance of solving this ancient math problem in modern times is to revolutionize the banking industry by lowering fraud and increasing the number of customers.

In theory, the computer program he developed will send an encrypted message from the bank to the customer via e-mail. The original message from the bank will be a series of

numbers and the message the customer receives will be the factors of those numbers.

The program, which remains unnamed, will serve as the base program for the process. Olivier hopes to develop other programs in the future.

"The reason you can do this is because of pictography. You can encode words with numbers, and if you can factor the numbers you can actually decompose the message," said Olivier, a graduate of Columbia University.

According to Olivier, the program used by banks today sends the customer the original series of num-

bers, thus making it easier for hackers to tap into the system.

"With the current program, there's a potential to access your information by tapping into your information," he said.

Olivier appeared at the Hawaii International Conference held September 13, 2004 in front of 20 mathematicians to present his math solution during a 30-minute paper session and a 90-minute workshop.

The "Purge Equation," which Olivier created, is the main process for finding factors because, true to its name, it purges all of the wrong solutions and

signals out the right one. The program also uses the quadratic formula and a number of mathematical proofs.

"Hackers go through the backdoor and try to access different accounts by factoring. They don't know this method of factoring so they do trial and error until something works," Olivier said.

Math students will also benefit from this program because once it is available for mass consumption, it can be installed into a computer or graphing calculator and used to find factors of large numbers.

"He's a great teacher, and he's done a great job," said Robert Holmes, a junior majoring in business administration, who is currently taking Calculus for Business with professor Olivier.

Olivier is in the process of writing a grant that will aid FIU students with scholarships and facilitate future math research projects.

"Mathematics is not a forgiving field. You have to practice. Don't let past experiences stop you from studying the field you like," said Olivier.

### THIS WEEK AT BBC

#### MONDAY • JUNE 27

**Educational Talent Search Luncheon:** 10:30 a.m., Balcony 2, WUC

**Summer B Transfer Orientation:** 8:00 a.m., Panther Square, WUC

#### TUESDAY • JUNE 28

**Last day to Pay Tuition and Fees - Last day to register without incurring \$100 late registration fee**

**School of Hospitality & Tourism Management presents Evening Dinners Complimentary Reception:** 6:30 p.m., Southern Wine & Spirits Beverage Management Center Dinner, HM 129

**FIU Board of Trustees Meeting:** 6:00 p.m., Ballroom, WUC

**AdScene General Meeting:** 7:45 p.m., WUC 159

#### WEDNESDAY • JUNE 29

##### Summer B Begins

**BBC Wellness Center Yoga Class:** 11:30 a.m., BBC Wellness Center.

**FIU Board of Trustees Meeting:** 9:00 a.m., Ballroom, WUC

#### THURSDAY • JUNE 30

**Black Students' Association Meeting:** 5:00 p.m., WUC 245

**Campus Crusade for Christ Impact Movement:** 7:30 p.m., Ballroom A, WUC

#### FRIDAY • JULY 1

**FIU Role Players Club Meeting:** 6:00 p.m., WUC 159

– Compiled by Betsy Martinez

## SGA president foresees bright future at BBC

By **DIANA SEMPERE**  
Contributing Writer

*The Beacon* recently sat down with Natkisha Jean-Baptiste, the Biscayne Bay Campus president, to

discuss changes, improvements in the communication system and events expected from SGA this year.

**Q: What are your plans for SGA at BBC?**

My first plan is getting our presence out there. I want students to know who the rest of my cabinet is. We're looking for new faces. We're starting a new intern program and I'm welcoming people to come and talk to me. I might be busy, but I'm always willing to work with people.

**Q: What do you plan on doing different from your predecessor?**

We are primarily the same. I have the same focus, but with a touch of my own creativity. My strategies for approaching things are more 'out of the box.'

**Q: What was your campaign strategy and what do you believe helped you win the presidency?**

The big part of my win was that I ran for Homecoming Princess. I was already in SGA and students knew I was a hard worker.

**Q: What is your major and do you feel that it has helped you during your campaign?**

My major is TV management. It helped me be like a TV personality, always being confident with enough energy to be in the spotlight.

**Q: What do you feel needs the most change at BBC?**

The internal aspect of

things, as far as the way people are treated. We don't just need to be unified with University Park; we must be unified up here as well. Administrators and students need to get along and respect each other. We must support each other and go to each other's events and support each organization. That's essential in establishing a unified campus.

**Q: When should students expect to see change at BBC?**

Immediately! We've already started planning things. During Summer B you'll start to see SGA events. We're also looking forward to Welcome Week in the fall. We're going to be doing an event called Got Questions? It's for all people who are new to BBC. They will have the opportunity to ask SGA members whichever questions they might have. It will take place around the

cashier's office, on the first two days of Fall semester and the first two days of Spring semester.

**Q: How do you feel about the Biscayne Landings construction site, and do you think it will affect BBC students?**

I look at that everyday that I come in. I think it's an opportunity for us and we need to use it to our advantage. I'm hoping it will attract more students to come live at FIU. I think that the school they're going to build is another opportunity for us; I'd like to introduce the idea of establishing a day care at BBC. It will be very convenient for parents who attend classes.

**Q: What can students expect from the new BBC gym?**

It's going to be very nice. There's a lot of money going into it. As far as I know, there will be more space and more

equipment.

**Q: Are there any future plans for construction at BBC, if so, what role would you play in that?**

Well, I know work has begun on the marine biology building. I've looked at the plans; it'll be one of our nicest buildings.

**Q: The current cafeteria for BBC does not offer much variety of food, what will the new facility offer to students?**

We're deciding now if we're going to stick to ARAMARK, which are the [current] vendors. We want to start a meal plan like the one at University Park.

**Q: What characteristic of yourself do you believe helped you earn your position in SGA?**

My openness; I'm open to meeting with people. Keeping an open mind is a challenge for some people, but it definitely isn't one for me.



**NEW SGA YEAR:** Jean-Baptiste has been giving away t-shirts and welcoming students at BBC orientations this summer. **ISIDRO PENTZKE/THE BEACON**

# OPINION

Harry Coleman Editor In Chief • Leoncio Alvarez Managing Editor • Michelle Ferrer Opinion Editor

## STAR WARS

### DOES THIS EPIC STORY LIVE UP TO THE HYPE?



## Overrated, “Star Wars” is

By **GERMAN SILVERIO**  
Staff Writer

“Star Wars” sucks, and I make this claim unapologetically. I have seen the movies, read the plots and understand all the characters and the roles they are supposed to play.

It still sucks. But don’t get me wrong, the “Star Wars” movies, especially the last three to be released, were very much eye-candy for the viewer; the special effects were amazing and much originality was needed to create some of the landscapes that appear in the movies. Yet when it comes to things such as the plot, characters, dialogue and acting, I think it’s generous to say that in this respect, the movies were mediocre at best.

This summer, we finally got to see the final piece of the Star Wars franchise, “Episode III: Revenge of the Sith,” and the anticipation of a surprisingly global audience for this movie was more than what I had ever witnessed for any other movie, be it for any of the “Lord of the Rings” or “The Matrix” movies. It was capitalism, Americanization and pop culture at its best. The saga, extending almost three decades, was now gloriously coming to an end.

“Star Wars” fans from all over the world made lines, some of which extended for miles, just to be one of those first people to see the movie. Enthusiasts from Hamburg, Germany to Lima, Peru were dressing up to go to the theater with their equally-costumed friends to partake in this mas-

sive mini-culture.

The movie, which was released worldwide by May 19, reeled in \$70.7 million in the United States alone, while in the rest of the world, a staggering \$504 million. Isn’t it unbelievable, all this, and for a movie with no real plot?

Director George Lucas didn’t succeed in creating a masterpiece, he succeeded in creating the equivalent of crack for popular culture. Like student Sean Nicolle said, who is majoring in psychology, “The whole thing has become commercialized.” This in itself is the only conceivable reason to explain the frenzy that arises every time one of these movies comes out.

Any person who takes an objective look at any of the films will realize how lacking they are in essence, making them very superficial, albeit amusing pictures.

The films, which are not produced to become Oscar-winners but rather crowd-pleasers, tend to have simple, linear plots which don’t make any movie particularly interesting to watch. Instead, they all try to blend in to supplement the greater theme and plot of the franchise.

What one is left with are child-like stories that make up a bigger one. Characterization isn’t a goal of the “Star Wars” series, when most characters lack any significant depth and tend to be somewhat shallow.

In the case of Anakin Skywalker, or Darth Vader, an attempt is made to give him a complex nature and to inspire

in the viewer some sympathy for him, but to be frank, only a “Star Wars” aficionado would find the failure of a protagonist to be believable.

The dialogue is equally unconvincing, owing gratitude in part to the fact that the movies are so riddled with stupid catch-phrases (such as “I have a bad feeling about this”) that anyone earnestly giving these movies a shot will find himself turned off by how ridiculous the conversations between characters can get. It becomes more than obvious that the actors are simply repeating memorized lines and not actually engaging each other in any real dialogue.

Finally, when it comes to acting, I admit, I’m not erudite in this art; suffice it to say that I remained unconvinced by the performance delivered in any of the franchise’s films.

I’ve seen the movies, not with the intentions of downplaying them, but because I would enjoy watching them. In this same way, I’m sure I would enjoy crack, but that doesn’t mean that crack is a good thing. Film-wise, the ‘Star Wars’ franchise is a bad product and the mini-culture that has derived from its ridiculous.

You want to see a realistic plot? Watch “City of God.” Convincing characterization? “Hero.” Powerful acting? “Y Tu Mama Tambien.” A witty script? “Big Fish.”

See what movies like these have to offer, and compare them to what’s been mistakenly labeled as a masterpiece. You’ll get the picture.

## The Force will always be with us

By **LUIS NIN**  
Graphic Designer

The storm troopers blasted into the bridge of the fugitive starship with their laser guns blazing, and the rebels blasted back. The battle ended, bodies littered the floor, and as the smoke cleared, a tall, caped figure wearing black armor and breathing heavily walked onto the scene and forever changed the face of American cinema.

Still, many people quickly wrote the series off as a juvenile fantasy that was nothing more than an entertaining action movie and therefore not worthy of any consideration.

They could look past the movie’s faults and see what has enthralled millions of audiences around the world.

Despite its overwhelming popularity, there are those who cannot put a movie with laser swords, flamboyant golden robots and planet-destroying death rays on the same level as “Casablanca,” “Gone with the Wind,” and “Citizen Kane.” Ironically, one of “Star Wars” largest critics is also the actor that played one of the movie’s most beloved characters – the original Obi Wan Kenobi.

Throughout his career, Alec Guinness established himself as one of the greatest actors of his time. Ranging from an enigmatic Middle Eastern prince in “Lawrence of Arabia” to an Oscar-award winning role as a British colonel trapped in a Japanese internment camp in “Bridge on the River Kwai,” he played an enormous list of unforgettable characters, but the world would forever only remember him as a character whom he would come to despise.

“I shrivel up every time someone mentions ‘Star Wars’ to me,” Guinness said.

The refined British actor practically hated “Star Wars.” In a discussion, Guinness even

admitted that he tried to convince Lucas to kill off Obi Wan in the first film.

“And he agreed with me. What I didn’t tell him was that I just couldn’t go on speaking those bloody awful, banal lines. I’d had enough of the mumbo jumbo,” Guinness said.

Guinness failed to see what made “Star Wars” so special. Like many elitist movie critics, he refused to consider “Star Wars” anything more than an action movie. They can’t look past its unconventional setting and bizarre characters and see the originality behind it. They couldn’t put aside their elitist preconceptions and just have fun. Star Wars is about imagination. Its strange worlds, weird aliens and epic grandeur capture the audience’s thoughts and never let go.

A city in the clouds, a space station the size of moon, an evil Empire and a dying order of knights that strive to save the universe. Not to mention, “Star Wars” entertains and entralls. It’s just plain fun.

“Star Wars” is not irrelevant. In many ways it is a truly classic story. I think Roger Ebert said it best, “The stories that seem immortal— “The Odyssey,” “Don Quixote,” “David Copperfield,” “Huckleberry Finn” – are all the same: A brave but flawed hero, a quest, colorful people and places, sidekicks, the discovery of life’s underlying truths.

If I were asked to say with certainty which movies will still be widely-known a century or two from now, I would list “2001: A Space Odyssey,” and “The Wizard of Oz,” and Keaton and Chaplin, and Astaire and Rogers, and probably “Casablanca” ... and “Star Wars,” for sure.”

And besides, “Star Wars” has swords made out of freaking lasers! That has to count for something.

# Graduating senior dispenses advice to incoming freshman

By **JUAN CARLOS PEREZ**  
Contributing Writer

In a little under two months, my years as an FIU student will come to an end. I still remember my first year as a Golden Panther and can't help but wish I'd listened to some of the advice I received when I first walked through the doors of the Graham Center. Had I not been so stubborn and presumptuous (I thought at 18 that I had life figured out), I would've definitely tried to pay closer attention to what my parents, teachers and peers had to say.

As a graduating senior, I feel that sharing the wisdom I've gained over the last four years is the least I can do for all incoming students. To begin with, it is very important to understand something that probably no one has ever told you in your entire life – so far, you have accomplished nothing. You've gotten into college, congratulations, but this is just the beginning.

It's not just enough to get to this level, but to graduate with a degree and go out into the world a better person for society, should be your goal.

Whether it takes you four years, or you adhere to the Van Wilder motto "Don't be a fool, stay in school," doesn't really matter as long as when you walk away from FIU, you are better prepared to have a successful life.

As far as choosing a major goes, unless you are 100 percent sure that you know what you want to do with your life, and only a small minority do, it is simply better to get your core courses out of the way and decide later.

I promise that although you may think you know yourself now, your idea of who you are will change as you progress through college.

I started off as a major in psychology before realizing that there was no way that I

**S**o far you have accomplished nothing. You've gotten into college, congratulations, but this is just the beginning.

was going to retake Statistics! I've since switched my major to English. Trust me when I say it's better to keep your options open than to jump into a major without really knowing if that's what you want to do.

It's a common thing for students to feel very confused during these four years of school. Don't stress yourself out by thinking, "Oh my God, I'm the only one of all my friends that has no idea what they're doing with their lives" because nothing could be further from the truth. The majority of people around you are experiencing the same exact thing.

If you think that you might want to be a lawyer, there are organizations on campus such as Phi Alpha Delta that can help you get a feel for what a career in law might be like. You might also want to try and get an internship with a company dealing with your planned major.

The experience definitely won't hurt and it'll look great on your resume.

If you realize that what you've been studying isn't for you, don't fret about changing majors. It's better to change your major and stay in school a bit longer than it is to go into a career that you're not happy with and then experience a mid-life crisis somewhere down the road.

Another thing you need to remember is not to forget to live life. College is supposed to be fun. You should look back at your time at FIU and remember it being a pleasurable experience.

There is nothing wrong with partying hard with friends, however, make sure you're doing it responsibly.

If you're drinking, make sure you're not driving. A DUI on your record will close a lot of doors you haven't even yet knocked on.

Also, recognize when it's time to stop, because although drinking games can be fun, they can easily turn into bad experiences. If you're new to this city

and don't know many people, there are tons of organizations on campus that you can join that will allow you to make new acquaintances that may end up becoming some of your best friends.

Whether it's a fraternity or sorority (don't pay attention to those who tell you that you're paying for friends) or some other organization such as Panther Rage or Student Council, it's good to be involved on campus somehow. You'll meet people, you'll work on your net-working skills and you'll feel like you're a vital part of something.

Whatever you do, don't become a Graham Center zombie. Go to class and then find something else to do with your time. You'll find that if you become a "GC rat", you'll end up becoming Pollo Tropical's best customer, gain weight and never do anything productive (people have extended their time at FIU by three or four years by sitting in Gracie's Grill doing nothing all day).

Believe people when they tell you about the "Freshman 15." It is not a myth. My friends and I feel ashamed of ourselves when we look at our high school pictures. There's so much down time in college that if you don't find things to do with your time, you end up eating more than usual. So take advantage of the gym (it's free), bring food from home and keep yourself busy.

It's mind blowing, really, that just a few years from now you'll be entering the real world. It doesn't seem like a reality to you now, just as it didn't seem like one to me when I was 18, but now that I just finished applying for graduation, I know that this is really it.

So take your time, listen to what others have to say, believe it or not, you might use some of the advice that people give you and try to make wise decisions, because what you do in these next few years may very well define who you'll be in the future.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

### Why did you decide to attend FIU?

- It was my first choice. Golden Panthers number 1!
- It wasn't my first choice, but FIU is a bargain education.
- It's close to home ... my mommy made me.
- This is only a temporary stop. I plan on transferring somewhere else.
- I got rejected by every other school I applied to all ... thirty seven of them.

Cast your vote at [www.beaconnewspaper.com](http://www.beaconnewspaper.com)

## WINNER & LOSER



### WINNER

**Fresh meat:** Congratulations to the incoming freshman! May your days be filled with chaos, bewilderment, stress and most of all, fun.



### LOSER

**The price of beauty:** Police are looking for a woman who injected five others with illegal silicone injections. Two of the women are in critical condition and another one is not expected to live. Now, who's the bigger loser – the fugitive woman or the other five who let themselves be injected by some random lady?

## QUOTEABLES

*"Contrary to reports, I was not overheard in a restaurant saying 'Oh no, not again.' That's absolute rubbish."*

– **Danielle Spencer**, Russell Crowe's wife, on finding out that her husband had been arrested.

*"He didn't smell too good when I was working with him and he was in that suit."*

– **Gary Oldman**, actor, on *Batman Begins* co-star Christian Bale.

*"George Lucas is a sadist, but like any other young girl in a metal suit chained to a metal (creature), I keep coming back for more."*

– **Carrie Fisher**, actress, who played Princess Leia in the first three *Star Wars* movies, at the AFI Awards honoring the films' creator.

*"We chose her middle name because when she's pulled over for speeding she can say, 'But Officer, we're on the same side.'"*

– **Penn Jillette**, magician-comedian, on naming his newborn daughter Moxie CrimeFighter.

*"Supposedly it won't take away from the noise so you can still hear what's going on from the pit, it's just the aspect of leaning over the balcony that won't be there anymore. It was the best we could do."*

– **Alex Prado**, SGA president, on enclosure of the balcony in the Graham Center pit.

*"Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes announced that they have gotten engaged. Afterward, Katie Holmes was very excited and said 'I couldn't believe it when my publicist told me.'"*

– **Conan O'Brien**, television personality, on the newly engaged couple.

*"It's not like I can say 'God I'm sexy.' If I do my wife clubs me."*

– **Patrick Dempsey**, actor, from *Grey's Anatomy*.

# Need Advice?

Write to **Leoncio and Alicia** and appear in **The Beacon's** advice column, "Our Two Cents!"

[beaconopinion@yahoo.com](mailto:beaconopinion@yahoo.com)



## SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off in GC 210 at the University Park campus, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or sent to [beaconopinion@yahoo.edu](mailto:beaconopinion@yahoo.edu). Letters must include the writer's full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. If brought in to an office, a legitimate ID may be accepted instead of a phone number. *The Beacon* reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 400 words.

# LIFE!



# where ART meets LIFE



By **RAYNEL KINCHEN**  
Contributing Writer

On June 17, the Frost Art Museum at University Park campus held an opening reception for the Florida Artists Series. Associate art professors Kate Kretz and Tori Arpad are displaying exhibits, *Grace and Shame* and *confluence*, respectively. The exhibits are a refreshing and honest look into human emotion and life, as well as the crucial balance of the environment and our place within it.

Karen Kretz's *Grace and Shame* features a mixed media exploration of emotion. Some presented works include the impressive "*Defense Mechanism Coat*," an ordinary

wool coat turned into a striking and thought-provoking type of armor. The outside of the coat is covered entirely in roofing nails, representing the hard exterior many members of society may wear at one time or another. The inner lining is blood red with detailed embroidery of actual veins, representing the insides that must be

protected at all costs.

Kretz also displayed other articles of clothing with bold and poignant statements represented on them.

For example, in "*Bleed*," two shrunken leather gloves in a

dyed dull red are outstretched, as though asking for something crucial to existence.

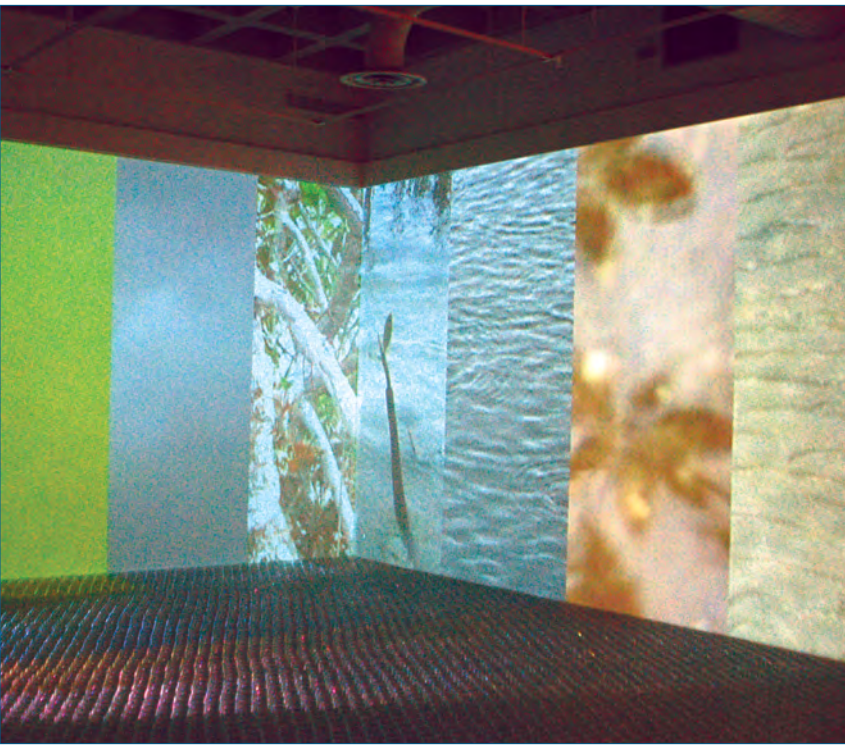
Her piece entitled "*Summer Night Breeze*" is an elegant tribute to her childhood and memories of falling asleep outside while watching the leaves rustle in the trees.

"*Fertilization Dress*" is a sedate little black dress adorned with embroidered sperm with faux pearl heads all aiming towards the area of reproductive organs, except for one that is aiming for the embroidered replica of a human heart. It implies that fertility definitely affects us in more than just a physical way.

"*Sacred Ovaries*" is a painting that takes a stark look at the decision of whether or not to have a child when your position in life is not beneficial to the child at all.

"[This painting] is filled with symbols of human frailty. It's about the questions 'Do you bring a child into the world when you know that no matter how hard you try, you're going to bring some baggage with you....' and 'Will I bring a child into this world when I know there are ways in which I'm going to mess it up no matter how hard I try, no matter how much I educate myself?' And so that's sort of what it's about," Kretz said. "The symbol of the sacred heart of Jesus is what it's appropriated from, and that's a symbol of redemptive love and I thought what love is more redemptive than reproductive love?"

Kretz's "*Fate of a Technicolor Romantic*" is a sentimental look at the differences between the real and the ideal. An acrylic, oil and canvas painting, it draws you in immediately with its impressive size and relatable features. With nail polish and nail polish remover on a table, stuffed animals everywhere, books



**ART IS LIFE:** Kate Kretz's *Grace and Shame* documents the spectrum of human emotions, while Tori Arpad's *confluence* aims to pay tribute to Mother Nature. **ISIDRO PENTZKE/THE BEACON**

???

# Dazed & Confused

## Starting your college career off right



GRAPHIC BY VERONICA FERNANDEZ

# How to...

A series by Alicia Bustamante

Summer term means different things to different students. For some, it's a chance to get a head start on a potentially rigorous Fall course load while for others, it's a chance to find out if the third time taking Finite Math really is the charm (Hint: it helps to buy the book.)

For those of us with experience, this is just another semester. We've learned to cope with procrastination, hangovers and part-time jobs, usually while dodging hurricanes and becoming jaded in the process. But, there is a select group of students whose beautiful and slightly tragic innocence wavers in the sun like an unpicked flower. These students are freshmen. Summer term is the lawnmower.

To those who made FIU their first choice, congratulations! You've joined an elite group of young people committed to learning and excellence. For those who made FIU their last choice, don't worry; there are plenty of ways to enjoy serving your sentence without the discomfort of a partial lobotomy.

Here are some tips on how to

get the most out of your first semester in the 'real world.'

### MAJOR MANIA

Rule of thumb: if you can't pronounce the name of the building that houses your potential major, then you don't need to be thinking about that major yet. Take classes that appeal to you. College is about expanding your mind, so don't be afraid to explore what FIU has to offer. Watch out for the underwater basket-weaving class, it's harder than you think.

### NO CLASSES BEFORE NOON

It's been said many times, "I went to school at 7:30 a.m. every day, logically, a 9 a.m. class wouldn't kill me." Wrong! It will. Unless you are one of the few 'morning people' that exist (college makes you nocturnal), it is highly recommended that you stick to midday or later classes.

### MEAL PLANS ARE FOR SUCKERS

The taste of the food in the cafeteria is unreliable at best. The repackaging of food is also slightly unnerving. Tuesday's grouper fillet will turn into Wednesday's grouper gumbo and Thursday's grouper 'surprise.' Now, I don't know what the shelf life is for grouper, but I do know that college students have better things to think about.

### HAVE YOU MET MY GOOD FRIEND, DROP DATE?

Above all other important academic dates, the drop date is paramount. Dropping classes isn't really

admirable, or always the best choice, but if you see that after three weeks of notes all you have written is "anthropology: the study of ants," it's nice to have that date handy.

### LOOKING FOR ANSWERS: A LESSON IN FUTILITY

Finding help and advice at FIU can be as difficult as ... finding help and advice at FIU. Take matters into your own hands. It's important to be on top of your own education's path. From course loads to classroom location, it's important to be self-reliant. If you're lost, look at a map.

If anything, you can always look to your peers for help. Most of them will be more than happy to reluctantly stop, only to sigh, roll their eyes and point in a vague direction that leaves you more confused than where you started. Hey, we're here to help.

### EXTRA, EXTRA!

Sometimes the summer term can seem like a good time to jump into some extracurricular activities. Be careful of overloading yourself while you have lots of time on your hands. Before you know it, it will be Fall semester and you'll have six classes, student government meetings, rush week, tap dancing lessons and ninja sparring matches to attend.

### MARKS OF INTELLIGENCE

The first semester of college may seem overwhelming, but in a blink of an eye it will be your third year of school and you'll be a pro. Clearly, you have somewhat of a good head on your shoulders. You are reading *The Beacon*, aren't you?

LIFE!



SOME FAVORITE THINGS  
BY JENIFFER GALASSO –  
ASSISTANT OPINION EDITOR

### 1. FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Corny, yes, but also true. My life wouldn't be complete if I didn't have my crazy friends to make me laugh and my family to keep grounded. Whether I need help or want to kill time, I always have someone to count on to be there. There is no greater thing in life.

### 2. GRILLED CHEESE ON THE GRILL

Much like the contentment you feel when you're in love, grilled cheese does that for me, minus the fights and breakups. Now, wait, to get the true effect, you must make sure the grilled cheese is made on the stove and not in the toaster or even worse, cold. It's only then that it is able to soothe my soul.

### 3. CHILDHOOD CHARACTERS

Hello Kitty and Rainbow Brite, my friends from my younger days. My parents introduced them into my life at the age of three and started an extensive collection, which I have yet to let go of. Their TV series' and movies would entertain me for hours. 'Till this day, I continue extending my collection. And yes people, I still watch the movies.



RAINBOW BRITE COURTESY PHOTO

### 4. DENNY'S

The place for breakfast and late dinner. The wait staff is usually rather interesting, not to mention the option of being there for hours and unwinding while being silly with friends. Did you know that you could order a single slice of ham? I tell you, they have it all.

### 5. MOVIES

Good, bad, cheesy, girly, action; you name it I like it. Movies are the best, especially in the comfort of your home. By yourself or in groups. Perfect excuse to eat junk food, get comfy and just block out the rest of the world. Blockbuster night? Count me in!

# DID YOU KNOW?

The US has the most cinemas (23,662) while India [the country that produces the most movies – about 800 a year, twice as many as Hollywood] has about 9,000 cinemas and China has approximately 4,600 cinemas.

– www.didyouknow.cd/fastfacts/music.htm

## Batman Begins soars over expectations



**GONE BATTY:** "Batman Begins," starring Christian Bale, has grossed a total of \$72.9 million since its U.S. release on June 17. COURTESY PHOTO

By **LEONCIO ALVAREZ**  
Managing Editor

The Batman extravaganza has returned, and this time in the form of a long-awaited prequel. Being a fan of the original Batman comic book

series by Bob Kane ever since I was young, I was not looking forward to the film that much. The thought of seeing yet another mainstream actor take on the role of the caped crusader enraged me, but after watching the film, I knew exactly

why Christian Bale was chosen to play Batman.

Bale recently lost over seventy pounds for his role on "The Machinist", but he certainly beefed up for

See BAT, page 8

# Dave Matthews Band evolves with new album

By **STEPHANIE MACHADO**  
Contributing Writer

Striving on their 14th year together, the Dave Matthews Band have made a name for themselves in the indie/pop/rock scene. Heard pulsating throughout the many frat houses of America, this quintet took their mellow, feel-good tunes, straight to the top and have since held on to the lime light with a kung fu grip.

Their latest album, *Stand Up*, is a bit of a reinvention of the signature Matthews sound. This album is much jazzier than their earlier efforts and incorporates several funk-inspired riffs and a much-improved sound as a whole.

This might have something to do with the producer swap that took place during the recording of this album. For the famous *Everyday* album, the band had producer Glen Ballard, but for

*Stand Up*, Mark Batson – best known for working with artists such as Seal, India Arie, 50 Cent, The Game and Eminem, – took on the challenge. The band basically jammed for hours, and through these sessions, *Stand Up* was born. A skilled producer like Batson, who could sort through hours of music and pick the best clips, was definitely an asset to the band.

The album tries to appeal to a more mature audience. If you are a die-hard Dave fan and a little afraid of change, you may shake your head and cross your arms and want nothing to do with this Dave Matthews makeover. For those more open-minded fans and pretty much anyone who can recognize well-written music, in the very least will appreciate *Stand Up*.

“This album is about love, life, God, death and sex,” Matthews told to *Rolling Stone Magazine*. All are evident throughout the



**STANDING OVATION:** The Dave Matthews Band returns to the music scene with their newest album, *Stand Up*. COURTESY PHOTO

tracks.

A highly democratic group, DMB included several politically charged songs on *Stand Up*. At first I scoffed at the so-called sincerity of these tracks, seeing as there is an obnoxious trend of rock stars thinking of themselves as political analysts in order to gain popularity, a la Green Day or Eminem.

However, “American Baby” has a sweet summer-time feel to it and a catchy melody. “Everybody Wake Up,” is a bit more direct in its anti-war message, including a line that says “see the man with the bomb in his hands,” but the song is well developed and the lyrics are convincingly sincere.

*Stand Up* has its great

moments, like the classic sound of songs like “Dream Girl,” a ‘backyard barbecue’ song, and the satisfying lullaby “Out of my Hands.” “Stolen away on 55th and 3rd” has an impressive funk quality to it and was the highlight of the album. But there are also the lamer notes on the album such as “Steady as We Go,” which left much to be desired. The extremely simplified drums of Carter Beauford, though less cluttered, were a definite disappointment.

For a band who tends to be much better live than in the studio, this was a wonderful achievement for the Dave Matthews Band. It was a step in the right direction, and hopefully DMB will continue to surprise us for years to come.

**MUSIC**  
★★★★★  
Dave Matthews Band  
*Stand Up*

# Long-awaited prequel fails to disappoint audience

From **BAT**, page 7

this role. He brings a certain dark characteristic to Batman that has not really been seen in prior “Batman” movies, or even television shows for that matter. Michael Keaton played Batman in 1989 and 1992 for Tim Burton’s reinvention of the original television show, but after witnessing Bale’s portrayal, he certainly is the best one yet.

The movie sets out to portray how the rich and famous Bruce Wayne actually becomes the mysterious superhero, and it does not leave any questions unanswered. Bale plays this aristocratic character with so much ease that one would think he has been doing it for years.

During a collection of flashbacks, the

audience sees Wayne as both a young child and a college teenager hosting a love connection with Rachel Dawes, played by Katie Holmes. A lingering love interest is a repetitive factor that has been seen in all the “Batman” films, and frankly, without it, this film would not be the same.

The character of Bruce Wayne is seen much more than that of Batman, and this is what makes this Batman stand out amongst the others. This is the exact idea director Christopher Nolan, who is widely known for having the backward thriller “Memento” under his belt, wanted to convey to his audience.

Unlike the other “Batman” films, this one is actually believable. Most roles in

the film seem real and the actors playing them seem like they did their share of preparation before the initial filming began, except for veteran actor Morgan Freeman.

Freeman plays Lucious Fox, an employee of Wayne Enterprise, and his role was nothing new or refreshing. Freeman has played similar roles in the past and it just seemed as if he was playing himself; believable, but commonplace at the same time.

A “Batman” film would not be a “Batman” film if a menacing villain was not seen from time to time causing a raucus. In the film, the villain was ‘The Scarecrow,’ played by young, blue-eyed Cillian Murphy. In this case, the villain is unmasked quite easily, but brings a

whole new set of problems to Wayne.

Special effects were not at all overused and were mastered to the point of making the film believable and adding to the profitable franchise the “Batman” series has collected throughout the years.

I went into the theater not expecting much, and walked out with more than what I bargained for.

“Batman Begins” clobbers its predecessors in both originality and creativity, and will no doubt be the hero of this summer’s blockbuster hits.

**FILM**  
★★★★★  
*Batman Begins*  
Directed by Christopher Nolan

# Exhibits offer honest look into human emotion, environment

From **ART**, page 6

scattered on shelves, a picture of Jesus on the wall and “The Sound of Music” popped into the VCR, it could easily be anyone’s home.

“It took a year to paint and it’s a kind of self portrait. It has the romanticism or the idealism of the television set versus the reality of a 40-watt light bulb dimly lighting this interior. It has all the books and movies that helped form my ideals, that make it kind of tough to live in the world because I have this very idealistic notion of things,” Kretz said.

*Confluence* by Tori Arpad is a journey into Florida’s own backyard. It is an elaborate multi-media exhibit that mesmerizes the mind. The main portion of this exhibit is a dimmed room with a multi-panel projection of eight different aspects of the Everglades.

The different sections included the sky, footage from underneath the clear green water, delicate raindrops on the pond, various plants and waves against a sandy shore. Sur-

rounding these ever-changing images are about 8,000 clear Solo cups.

When asked about the cups, Professor Arpad said, “Part of it is meant to be a physical spectacle. You go in there and that is really a lot of cups. And so you’re struck by that.” Arpad also made it clear that she plans on reusing the cups in a new project that she is currently developing.

During the reception, graduate student Anna Callner performed a cello piece transcribed by Juan Pablo Carreño from a Gaayatri mantra.

“From a physical perspective, playing the cello, accompanying the piece while the video is being playing, it’s really very moving ... I find that it’s very easy to respond to her images. They’re just very quiet and kind of restful, peaceful and meditative,” Callner said.

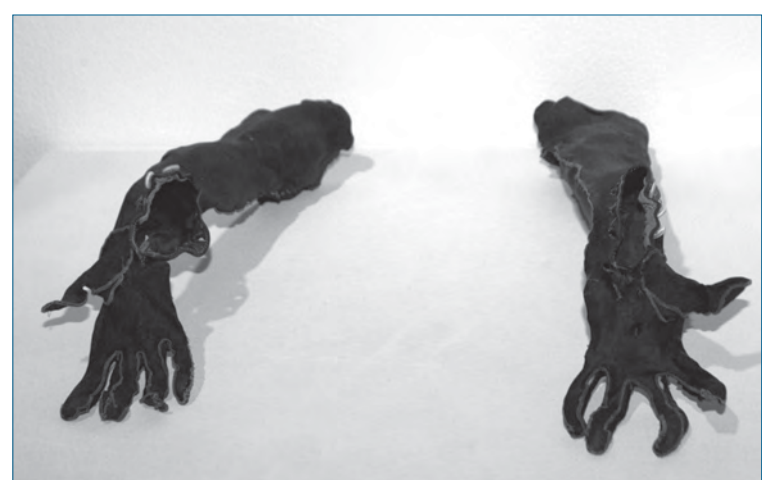
Other portions of Arpad’s exhibit include a series of books based on a series of notes written by Leonardo Da Vinci.

One book explains the

details of human interference in the environment and describes various projects such as dam building all over the world. Another book is about naming the colors found in nature in a manner similar to the paint sample squares that you would receive at Home Depot prior to picking a paint color. Chairs are placed in front of the display so that the audience is encouraged to sit and look through these detailed books.

There was also a video playing on a loop, featuring footage from a kayaking trip in the Everglades. During filming, the camera was placed on her arm; the video contains no framed shots just the simply pure, unadulterated, honest and breathtaking Everglades. *Confluence* is an open look at the environment around us as it is and not manipulated by man into anything else.

*Grace and Shame* and *confluence* will run until July 31, 2005. The Frost Art Museum is located on the University Park Campus in PC 110. It is free to the public and museum hours vary.



**GRACE AND SHAME:** Kate Kretz’s exhibit includes articles of clothing made to resemble parts of the female anatomy, some with unusual and unnatural defense mechanisms. ISIDRO PENTZKE/THE BEACON





**"HAUNTED"**  
By Chuck Palahniuk  
404 Pages, 2005

By **JESSICA ISER**  
Life! Editor

"Haunted" is not an ordinary novel. Then again, Chuck Palahniuk is not an ordinary author. Palahniuk, who also wrote "Fight Club", has a reputation for writing dark, nihilistic and often gruesome novels documenting the darkest aspects of human life. His novels are harsh and desolate, but also surprisingly realistic in their depiction of human emotion and thought. "Haunted" is no different.

Eighteen strangers answer an ad promising three-months cut-off from the outside world in a quiet, distraction-free environment where they can produce their next masterpiece, whether it is a screenplay, novel or poem. They are told to bring only

the necessities and are asked to abandon their given names in exchange for descriptive nicknames. These strangers expect to leave with their life's greatest achievement, but instead, get more than what they bargained for. Before the novel is over, all of them suffer self-inflicted injuries, accidentally kill themselves or are killed by someone else.

Palahniuk creates an interesting and unforgettable cast of characters, all of which have shady and troubled pasts. Nicknames like Saint Gut-Free, Chef Assassin and the Reverend Godless hint at the dark secrets each person holds, also the things they are trying to escape from.

Due to the unusual format the novel has – it begins with the main plot, followed by a free verse poem about a certain character, followed by that character's "story" – one gets to catch a glimpse into each character's life in a way other novels could not afford to do without sacrificing relevance to the main plot. But in "Haunted", the main plot and the individual tales flow together and compliment each other so well that without the tales, the plot would be nothing.

This novel is not for the faint of heart. "Haunted" is at times disgusting – deliberate amputation of limbs, cannibalism, etc. – but there is something about this

novel that won't let the reader put it down. It lures one in with three-dimensional characters and a suspenseful plot, and pulls the reader into its trap. Much like the characters' plight in the book, once one begins "Haunted", there is no way out until it's finished.

**"ALL FAMILIES ARE PSYCHOTIC"**  
By Douglas Coupland  
279 pages, 2002

Let's face it – not all families are cookie-cutter perfect. They have faults and flaws, have gone through difficult times and aren't always complete with a mother, father, daughter and son. Some are so broken that they have lost all semblance of a family long ago. But this doesn't mean that the members of these imperfect families don't love each other. Sometimes, events that would usually destroy a family could ultimately bring them together.

In "All Families are Psychotic", one family, each member with his or her own problems, struggle to stay together even when they are at the breaking point.

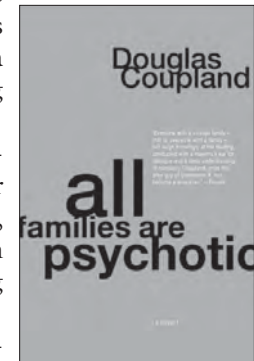
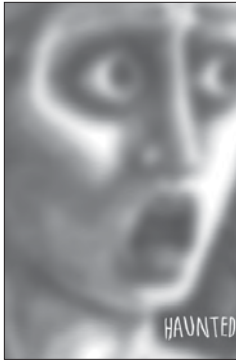
Douglas Coupland has created a completely realistic family, even though nothing about this one is 'normal.' Mother, Janet Drummond, and father, Ted Drummond, divorced years ago; Ted later married a younger woman.

Janet and Ted's daughter, Sarah, is an astronaut, their son, Bryan, is manic-depressive and the other, Wade, has AIDs. In a twisted set of events, Janet herself contracts AIDs and copes with her ill health throughout the novel. With their own distractions – affairs, pregnancies, and illnesses – the Drummond family somehow pulls it together in order to support Sarah and watch her first shuttle mission into space.

The whole novel revolves around that one event and sidetracks into the various individual situations family members get themselves into. "All Families are Psychotic" is funny, scary and touching all at once.

All family members are accessible, even though most people will never go through what some of the family members went through. Even though some characters deserve what they get, one finds himself caring about their plight. This novel is an easy read, but not for those who frown upon foul language and racy subject matter.

"All Families are Psychotic" is exactly what the title says. Sometimes, families are insane and on the verge of meltdown, but with love and understanding, even the most troubled families can be saved.



## **THE BEACON WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ALL INCOMING FRESHMAN AND TRANSFER STUDENTS TO FIU!**



There are several positions available at *The Beacon*. If you're thinking about getting a job or an internship at a newspaper, it would behoove you to get some experience with us. The following positions are available (some of them even pay!):

**Copy Editors**  
**Advertising Representatives**  
**Writers**  
**Photographers**

Stop by our offices in GC 210 or WUC 124 for an application or e-mail  
Recruitment Editor C. Joel Marino  
at [beaconrecruit@yahoo.com](mailto:beaconrecruit@yahoo.com).

# While We WERE GONE

## University to address water resource problems



The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) signed a \$3.75 million, 5-year cooperative agreement with a consortium, led by FIU, to address water resource problems around the world through technical assistance and training.

The Global Water for Sustainability program (GLOWS) engages in a multitude of water-related issues ranging from improved water supply and sanitation to protecting important aquatic ecosystem services that sustain human communities.

FIU environmental studies professor and GLOWS project director Michael McClain endorses the concept that water must be managed from the perspective of entire river basins.

GLOWS is mounting pilot projects in three of the world's most important river systems: the Mara River tributary to the Nile River system in East Africa, the Pastaza River tributary to the Amazon River in Peru and a third project currently under design in Asia.

FIU will provide special expertise in the studies required to guide management plans and higher level government actions. These include analyses of water resource quantity and quality, assessments of institutional strengths and weaknesses and the evaluation of creative financial mechanisms to facilitate improved water management.



**PROVIDING EXPERTISE:** Professor Micheal McClain (right) will assist in analyses of water resources in three of the worlds most important river systems through a five year cooperative agreement with the U.S. Agency for International Development. **PHOTOS PROVIDED BY FIU MEDIA RELATIONS**



## JOIN THE TEAM!

*The Beacon* is searching for talented and dedicated individuals to become part of our team.

**Positions include: Writers, Copy Editors, Advertising Representatives and Photographers.**

Stop by our offices in GC 210 or WUC 124 to apply.

## Law school makes history, graduates 52

The College of Law graduated its first class last month, with 52 students walking away with law degrees on May 22 at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

Reportedly, about half of the new graduates have landed jobs. However, Leonard Strickman, dean of the law school, told *The Miami Herald* that he expects 90 percent of the students to have jobs by the time the school takes the official count early next year.

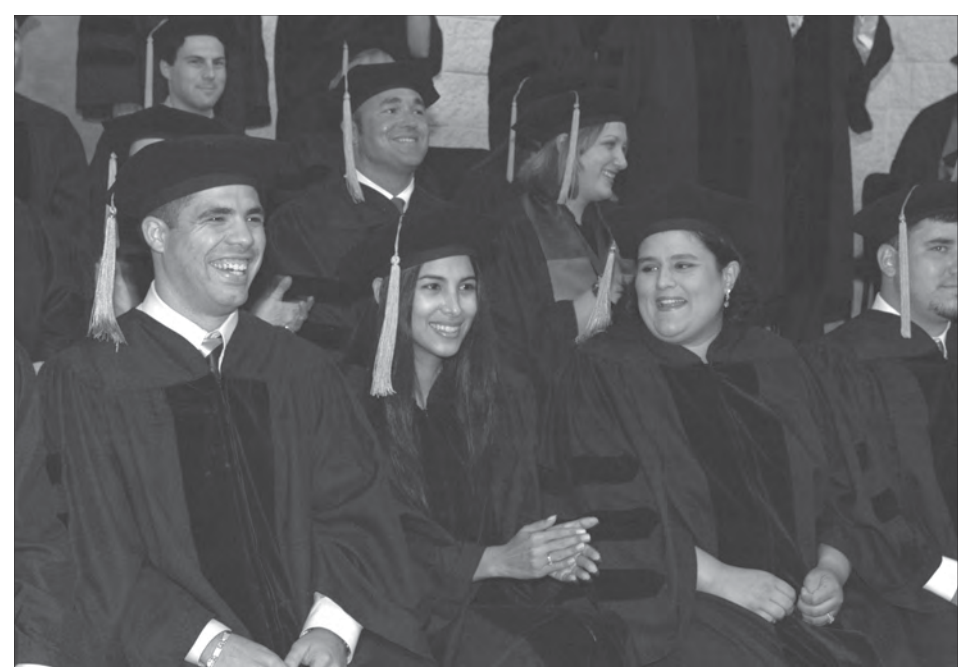
FIU fought for some 12 years to open

the College of Law, the only public law school south of Orlando.

The law school has a temporary accreditation. The school can't attain full accreditation until the \$34 million Rafael Diaz-Balart College of Law Building, currently under construction, is complete.

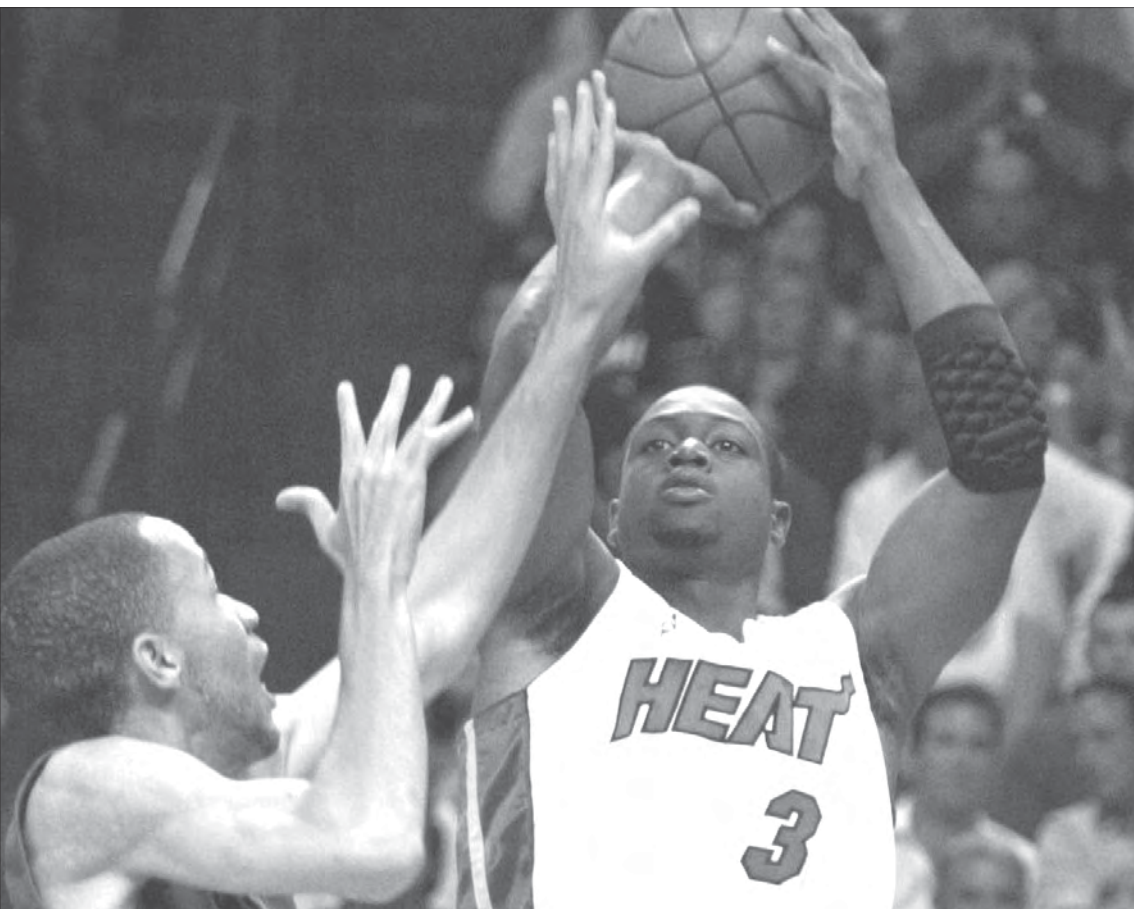
Meanwhile, students have been taking classes in the library and other office spaces.

When it's finished, the new building will be in front of the Pharmed Arena.



**ANOTHER MILESTONE:** The College of Law graduated 52 students last month at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center. About half of the graduates have already secured positions at prestigious law firms in South Florida. **PHOTO PROVIDED BY FIU MEDIA RELATIONS**

# Wade serves as role model for future NBA players



**HUMBLE:** Dwyane Wade has established himself as a leader of the Miami Heat despite not being as outspoken or flashy as other NBA superstars. **KRT CAMPUS PHOTO**

By **JUAN CARLOS PEREZ**  
Contributing Writer

It's not surprising that many people have become disenchanting with the sports world these days. They're fed up with the ridiculous salaries that athletes receive and fed up with their childish antics. Names like the NFL's Randy Moss, the NBA's Latrell Sprewell and MLB's Barry Bonds come to mind. But it's time for everyone to relax. Dwyane Wade has arrived.

In spite of recent trends to skip college and head straight to the pros for the immediate gratification of a million dollar paycheck, Wade instead chose to attend Marquette University, where he maintained a grade point average over a 3.0.

Not an easy task at a Jesuit school.

After his junior year, Wade was drafted fifth overall by the Miami Heat in 2003, but was a side note in a draft that included LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony. Yet, Wade was the only one whose team advanced to the second round in last year's playoffs.

Wade carried the Miami Heat on his young shoulders by raising his scoring average from 16.2 points-per-game during the regular season to a team-high 18.0 points-per-game in the playoffs. Not only did he lead his team in scoring, he also led the team in field goal percentage and assists, joining the ranks of Stephon Marbury, Billy Ray Bates and Michael Jordan as the only rookies to have done so in the shot clock era.

Not an easy task for a first year player.

Wade clearly established himself as the future leader of the

Miami Heat and made team President Pat Riley and General Manager Randy Pfund look like geniuses for selecting him.

Wade also shares something else in common with Jordan, Magic Johnson, Wilt Chamberlain, Oscar Robertson, Bob Cousy and Larry Bird: they are all the only players to ever average 25 points, eight assists and six rebounds in a playoff round – as Wade did against the Washington Wizards this postseason. This was all accomplished while guarded by Larry Hughes, who was named to the All-NBA Defensive 1st Team.

Not too shabby for a guy no one had ever heard about two years ago.

After the Heat acquired Shaquille O'Neal last season, the first thing that Dwyane Wade did was clear the air between himself and Shaq. He wanted the "Big Aristotle" to know that he was not Kobe Bryant and that he was more than willing to let Shaq have the spotlight and be the leader of the team.

That is the type of person and player that Wade is. He does not have the ego of your typical athlete. He is humble and friendly. He is selfless, as he proved in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference Finals when he took not one, but two injections in order to play through an injury and attempt to give his team an opportunity to win. Wade did the best he could do with a strained rib muscle that stole his biggest assets: his athleticism and his ability to drive the lane and draw fouls.

After the game, when he was battered and in unbearable pain, Wade didn't have the heart to tell his son, Zaire, that daddy was too tired to play. Instead, he stayed up until three in the

morning playing with his son.

This NBA season, Wade ranked in the top ten in points per game (24.1), free-throw attempts (762.0), free-throw attempts per game (12.3) and assists per game (6.8). He was named to the All-NBA Second Team as well as the All-NBA Defensive Second Team.

So much for that sophomore slump.

Wade wasn't a popular draft pick at first, but fans who questioned the Heat's selection of him instead of moving up to draft Chris Bosh are suddenly quiet as he begins to gain fame.

Charles Barkley even mentioned in an interview that high school kids should try and model themselves after Wade, emphasizing that there are benefits to playing college basketball before heading to the NBA.

Given all these factors, it should come as no surprise to sports fans that the NBA's plan for the future is to market more guys like Dwyane Wade. He goes about his business quietly and is a good father and husband.

Wade may not be as flashy as Allen Iverson and he isn't as hyped as LeBron James. Instead, he's respectful and demonstrates great maturity for his age. It surely doesn't hurt that he was named one of *People Magazine's* 50 Most Beautiful People. How's that for marketability?

When Wade put on the number three jersey for the Heat, you'd be surprised to learn that he chose the number out of respect for the Christian belief in the Trinity.

At the age of 23, with plenty more to offer us, we should be thanking the basketball gods that this is the type of player that will lead the NBA into the 21st century.

## ON THE SIDELINES

JUNE 11

Sheri-Ann Brooks (pictured below) won the NCAA title in the 200 meters. Finishing with a time of 22.85 seconds, 0.1 seconds ahead of the runner-up, Brooks becomes the first Golden Panther to win an individual title in Track & Field. Brooks also earned her second All-America honors.



JUNE 13

Four FIU baseball standouts – Yahmed Yema, Dennis Diaz, David Asher and Luis Rivera – signed contracts with MLB teams (see more on page 12).

JUNE 15

Former soccer standout Bobby Boswell scored his first MLS goal in D.C. United's 4-3 win over the Chicago Fire. His goal, which came in the 86th minute, turned out to be the deciding goal of the match. Boswell, who was picked up by D.C. United in March, is also the only player to have started every game this season.

JUNE 22

Bill Wuczynski, former assistant of Loyola of Chicago and UNLV, was hired to the FIU men's basketball staff. Wuczynski will replace Joe O'Brien, who departed the Golden Panthers staff following the 2004-05 season. Wuczynski will take on multiple responsibilities, involving himself with recruiting, game-day and practice coaching and assisting with the Sergio Rouco Worldwide Basketball Camps.

# SPORTS

12 - June 27, 2005

THE BEACON

www.beaconnewspaper.com

## Gone Pro



**Yahmed Yerra**

OF

- Bats/Throws: Left/Left
- Seventh-round selection of the Boston Red Sox.
- Named 2005 Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year.
- Selected to the 2005 ABCA/Rawlings NCAA Division I All-America Second Team.
- Currently playing for the Red Sox's short-season Class A affiliate - Lowell (Mass.) Spinners



**Dennis Diaz**

OF/INF

- Bats/Throws: Right/Right
- 24th-round selection of the Philadelphia Phillies.
- Sun Belt Conference and FIU all-time career stolen base leader (141).
- FIU's all-time leader in at bats (807), runs scored (84) and hit (250).
- Currently playing for the Phillies' short-season Class A affiliate - Batavia (N.Y.) Muckdogs.



**David Asher**

P

- Bats/Throws: Right/Left
- Eighth-round selection of the Seattle Mariners.
- Selected to the 2005 All-Sun Belt Conference Second Team.
- Posted a 9-1 record and struck out 88 batters in 113 and one-third innings of work in 2005.
- Currently playing for the Mariner's short-season Class A affiliate - Everett (Wash.) Aqua Sox.



**Luis Rivera**

INF

- Bats/Throws: Right/Right
- Signed a free agent contract with the Chicago Cubs.
- Batted .304 with 10 doubles and 25 RBI in 2005.
- Currently playing for the Cubs' short-season Class A affiliate - Mesa (Ariz.) Cubs.

## Football program placed on probation

By **XAVIER VILLARMARZO**  
Sports Editor

The NCAA placed FIU's football team on a three-year probationary period after the school's own internal investigation discovered that a former assistant coach committed off-season workout violations that occurred between 2002 and 2004.

"It is my sense that the NCAA's decision was to give us one year of probation for every season in which the violations occurred. Even though the violations were a total of 85 hours," said Athletic Director Rick Mello.

The probation does not include any loss of scholarships, bans on post-season



**Rick Mello**, Athletic Director

We're going to run a clean program ... When things get out of line, action must be taken strongly and quickly.

play or television appearances and will not affect the three-year-old football program's move to Division I-A.

"We are relieved to have all of this behind us and that no student athletes will be negatively impacted," Mello said.

The violation occurred when a former assistant coach knowingly violated NCAA rules when he conducted and supervised off-season workouts - when coach-supervised workouts aren't allowed - before spring practice and during July in 2002, 2003 and 2004, according to FIU's report to the NCAA.

According to an article in the *Miami Herald*, the coach named in FIU's report to the NCAA was former offensive line coach Steve Smith.

Smith was fired last summer, two days after FIU discovered the violations.

Mello would not confirm the coach's name.

"We're going to run a clean program here," Mello said. "This is our first violation, so when things get out of line, action must be taken strongly and quickly."

Mello and his staff took some self-imposed measures of corrective action which included some of the following:

- Hiring A.C. Tellison, assistant athletic director for student-athlete development.
- Increasing the frequency of compliance meetings for all coaches and athletics administrators, which will be videotaped for review purposes.

• Adding a dedicated educational period specific to NCAA rules compliance for the monthly Student Athlete Advisory Committee, which consists of athlete-representatives from each of FIU's 17 intercollegiate sports teams.

• Hiring an administrative assistant dedicated solely to athletics compliance.

In addition, Mello and all the football coaches will receive an official letter of reprimand from President Modesto Maidique at the beginning of the Fall semester.

The Golden Panthers are in their second year of a transition period to Division I-A and will join the Sun Belt Conference this fall.

The team will open its 2005 season on the road against a pair of Big 12 teams: Kansas State on Sept. 3 and Texas Tech on Sept. 10.

Their first game in Miami is scheduled for Oct. 1, the 69th annual Orange Blossom Classic against FAMU.



MELLO

