

Our View:
Enrollment cap for freshmen should be upheld
Page 4.

TALKING POINTS

Univision covers debate from BBC

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

RIGHT TO READ

Challenged books must stay on shelves

OPINION PAGE 4

SLAM POETRY

Open mic night opens up

LIFE! PAGE 5

TEXAS TAKE DOWN

FIU corralls Mean Grean

SPORTS PAGE 8

A DEGREE'S WORTH

What reaccreditation means for students

DAVID BARRIOS
Staff Writer

For the first time in 10 years, the University is applying for reaccreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

SACS reviews institutions seeking reaccreditation in an area encompassing 11 southern states.

Becoming reaccredited boosts the credibility of student degrees from an academic institution, according to Belle S. Wheelan, president of SACS.

"SACS exists to ensure a process of quality control is in place so that the general public is secure in their belief that an institution that successfully documents compliance with the principles [of accreditation] is providing quality programs and

services to students who enroll and earn a degree," Wheelan said.

A university maintaining its status as an accredited institution makes students eligible to receive federal grants and loans. Reaffirming accreditation evaluates the University's progression and setting goals for the future, according to Wheelan.

"Reaffirmation of accreditation gives an institution the opportunity to assess where it has been for the past 10 years and where it wants to go for the next 10 [years]," Wheelan said. "The process entails a detailed look at every aspect of the institution: the academic program offerings, finances, governance and administration, support services and faculty and staff. All of the things that impact the institution."

Preparations for the 2010 reaffirmation began as early as mid-winter 2007.

Reaccreditation Benefits

- Allows students to become eligible to receive federal grants and loans.
- President of SACS said reaccreditation increases the quality of a University's degree programs.

The process of securing reaccreditation for the University involves adhering to several requirements that the SACS implements for all schools

ACCREDITATION, page 2

FBLA trains students to defy gravity

NATALEE GIL-DEL RIO
Contributing Writer

With a top tier program and a diverse graduating class, FIU's Business School has been able to attain recognition on a national scale.

Now the University is looking toward preparing the next generation of business students.

Yanyan SanLuis, national southern region vice president for the Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda, hosted a leadership skills workshop for middle and high school students on Oct. 3.

The workshop consisted of 45-minute training sessions on teaching students how to fundraise, conduct a meeting and organize special events.

This year's theme for the workshop was defying gravity.

"I think this was the perfect theme this year. We want our students to defy limits, get the edge," SanLuis said.

Abdel Perera, founding president of the PBL chapter, began the organization last year in August.

"We're here to train future leaders and we're here to develop them and guide them through competitions and co-curricular programs," Perera said.

The main objective of the organization is to develop leadership training for middle and high school students across the district to compete at the local, state and national levels of FBFA.

The event brought nearly 700 middle school and high school students.

"FBFA thrives on membership, a bigger membership means a bigger chance to win first place," said former PBL state president Chris Cuan.

The organization was honored as "Best Business Organization of the Year" by the Council of Student Organizations the first year the club was established.

"That alone says a lot about this organization," Perera said.

While the organization is known to train students, the advisors from the different middle and high schools also attended their own workshops.

They were taught methods that allow them to better train their students to win these rigorous and strenuous competitions.

"Training is a must," said Tonya Alvarez, FBFA director of Mater Academy Charter School. "By participating in these training sessions we all grow as leaders and have the opportunity to interact with other schools and learn from them as well."

The FBFA-PBL organization meets twice a month in room CBC 154.

University's Blackboard upgraded

EDDITH SEVILLA
Staff Writer

After a year of asking for additional nodes that would allow Blackboard Campus Edition 6 to run more effectively, the University finally got them at no additional cost.

According to Debra Sheridan, director of media and technology support at FIU, the delay may have been the result of a money issue.

At the time the University was planning its migration to Blackboard's CE 6 from WebCT 4.1 last summer. Blackboard technicians assessed the University's technological environment and determined that it could run with two nodes. A node is a piece of hardware that provides load balancing or traffic management on servers.

When the University began having balancing problems that caused Blackboard to completely shut down during peak hours, Blackboard suggested that the University upgrade to Vista, their enterprise version.

"But our argument against that was that we were originally told that the two nodes were fine for our environment and now we were being told it's not and we were being forced to move to Vista," Sheridan said. "We didn't want to move to Vista. We wanted the additional nodes without the additional costs because that's what we needed to function."

The last time Sheridan checked the cost for Vista, it was valued at \$100,000.

Two weeks ago, two additional nodes were installed at no additional cost to the University. "That was critical for us especially in this

HAVANA COOK



JESSE MEADOWS/THE BEACON

TASTES LIKE CUBA: Melissa Hubicsak (left) Ryan Rodriguez (right) star in Eduardo Machado's "The Cook." The last show was on Oct. 5.

budget year," Sheridan said.

The nodes have provided a better handle on the traffic load, according to Sheridan, who said the University is now fully working with CE 6. Yet there are still some who are running into bumps.

Just recently Professor Michael Sheerin, assistant dean for the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, submitted course requests in Blackboard, but didn't get them online until the morning of the course itself.

"It kind of puts you as a professor in a bind as to when you're going to get it," said Sheerin, who no longer uses paper syllabi and depends on Blackboard to present his syllabus to his

students.

Blackboard said it would fix the issue within 72 hours from when a request is submitted. For Sheerin, the wait was longer. He said he waited more than one week to get the problem solved.

Although the system is now running much smoother, Sheridan said the University is still looking at other products.

"As a university we're always looking at new technology. We're always looking at more cost effective ways in which to provide support to faculty and students -- and that's a natural part of what we do on a daily basis," she said.

New PantherSoft system builds upon predecessor

RONALD M. BERKMAN
Special to the Beacon

As an FIU student, you have joined us at an exciting time in our history.

Compared to many other universities, we are young and with youth comes a great deal of change and many opportunities to create history and tradition.

You are aware that we've had significant budget cuts this fiscal year, which have resulted in some academic programs being discontinued.

We feel confident that the concerns of all the students involved with the discontinued programs have been addressed and everyone is being given an opportunity to complete the degree program they have already started.

The strategy has been, and will continue to be, to preserve the quality of the education we offer you above all else.

In future editions of *The Beacon* I will be sharing with you my perspective on a number of issues that affect us here at FIU and in higher education in general.

I hope this will open a dialog among us for the betterment of the institution and your experience here.

One of the topics we will explore in future columns, is the next stage of our development as an institution – a plan President Modesto A. Maidique has dubbed FIU 3.0. One of the areas of focus of FIU 3.0 is to pay special attention to the entire student experience, including the quality of the undergraduate classroom experience and the customer service we provide.

One important step in improving a range of student services will be taken on Oct. 27, when we unveil an upgraded version of PantherSoft: Student-Campus Solutions 9.0.

You will find this new system is easy to use and offers features that will help you make steady, efficient and predict-

able progress toward completing your degree.

For example:

- Schedule planner allows you to check for time conflicts, prerequisites and repeats before submitting your registration request.

- The class enrollment process has been redesigned to allow for faster location of a class and all its available sections.

- When a course is cancelled the system will generate an automatic email message to students registered for that course.

- Students will be automatically notified any time a class session is cancelled or the class location is changed.

- PantherSoft 9.0 includes a new user-friendly online admissions application interface for both graduate and undergraduate students.

We expect this new system will help reduce the number of issues that arise during the registration process and will assist faculty members, advisors and everyone in Enrollment Services in being more responsive and efficient.

Please note that PantherSoft will be frozen (available for view only), starting on Oct. 18 through the launch date of Oct. 27.

Please be patient during this time, when it will be impossible to change or enter new information.

To take advantage of 9.0's new capabilities, it is imperative that you learn how to use the system.

Please visit the official project Web site at <http://panthersoft.fiu.edu/cs> for orientation and training.

Send your comments to Provost Berkman at provoff@fiu.edu.

Ronald M. Berkman is FIU's Provost and Executive Vice President. Read his column every other Monday.



COMMENTARY
RONALD BERKMAN

Process brings more prestige

ACCREDITATION, page 1

within its jurisdiction, including submitting a compliance certification report and establishing a Quality Enhancement Plan.

The University is also subject to off-site and on-site reviews by members of SACS, in November 2009 and March 2010 respectively.

The compliance certification is a self-assessment made by the University and submitted to SACS 15 months in advance of the on-site visits.

The document is a statement by the institutions on its compliance with the core requirements, comprehensive standards and federal requirements involved in reaccreditation.

"This report draws heavily on what faculty does in the classroom and their qualifications. The CCR will determine our compliance on each of more than 90 principles based on documentation we submit," said Provost Ronald Berkman in a memo circulated to the faculty.

The QEP "is the University's carefully de-

signed strategy for implementing a well-defined, focused program to enhance student learning," according to a QEP fact sheet.

"While the compliance certification section of SACS reaffirmation looks to the past and present, the QEP focuses on the fu-

The membership felt the old criteria were too rigid and prescriptive and more flexibility needed to be built into the system.

Belle S. Wheelan, *President*
SACS

ture, and its clear emphasis on student learning," said Hilary Landorf, director of the Office of Global Learning Initiatives, who oversees the implementation of the QEP.

Wheelan believes an update was needed.

"The membership felt the old criteria were too rigid and prescriptive and more flexibility needed to

be built into the system," Wheelan said.

According to Wheelan, prior to the implementation of the QEP, a major drawback to the reaccreditation process is that it would only ask the University to assess its standing for the last 10 years, not asking it to look forward to the next 10 years.

The direction the QEP is following is the implementation of a more internationally oriented curriculum that will be incorporated into all undergraduate courses.

Individual schools such as the School of Journalism and Mass Communications and the College of Medicine will seek accreditation from other institutions that correspond to them.

Wheelan said the University has been in compliance with SACS and accredited since 1974.

"If FIU was not accredited, students would not be eligible for federal financial aid and they would have difficulty getting their college credits transferred to other institutions for graduate or undergraduate studies," Wheelan said.

POLICE NOTES

Sept. 24 – Sept. 29

Sept. 24: An FIU student reported to police that while leaving his vehicle parked in the President's Lot, unknown suspect(s) damaged the driver's door handle. Suspect(s) also stole his baseball glove that was inside the car. The interior electrical power control of the same door was damaged.

Sept. 28: A small fire erupted in the Recreational Center's laundry room. A staff member smelled something burning in the room, to discover sparks coming from a large, industrial dryer. Smoke filled the room when the staff member opened the dryer, triggering the fire alarm. Police responded to the scene but by the time of arrival, the fire had been extinguished.

Sept. 29: An FIU student said that when coming home after class in Primera Casa 241, he noticed a small pocket in his backpack opened. Upon inspection, he realized that unknown person(s) removed his wallet that was placed inside the pocket. No witnesses were available.

-Compiled by David Barrios

THE BEACON

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CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated Oct. 3, 2008, Lauren Christos was misprinted as Laura Cristos. Reference library Beatriz Fernandez was misprinted as supervisor Violeta Fernandez

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

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Election insight at SJMC debate

ANDREA CRUZ
Contributing Writer

Students will have the opportunity to learn more about current political issues at the presidential debate on Oct. 6.

The debate, which took two months of planning by the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, will be broadcast in Spanish on Univision Radio.

According to its organizers, the event aims at educating students about the presidential candidates and their platforms.

“When the students get to the voting booth, they will have a better understanding of the issues and the candidates,” said Teresa Ponte, interim chair and associate professor of journalism and broadcasting. “It’s a clarification of visions, a conversation more than a debate.”

The event will feature speakers from both the Democratic and Republican Parties.

Democrats will be represented by Maurice Ferre, former mayor of the city of Miami, and Luis Lauredo, nominated ambassador to the Organization of American States by President Clinton.

On the Republican side will be Marco Rubio, former speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, and Helen Aguirre Ferre, the first woman to chair the Board of Trustees of Miami Dade College and Opinion Page editor of “*Diario Las Americas*,” a Spanish newspaper in Miami.

“Students will be able to understand that there are different positions that the Republican and Democratic Parties take on how to govern the country,” said Fernando Figueredo, chair and associate professor of advertising and public relations.

According to Figueredo, one of the main organizers of the event, a Univision talk show host will be moderating the discussion.

The panelists will express their views during the first hour, in which participants should write down any inquiries or comments on the topics that interested them. The second hour of the debate will be open to audience questions.

“[The audience] will get to see how important the Hispanic community is to the results of the election,” Figueredo said.

According to the Univision Web site, Univision Radio is the

ALL AROUND FAIR



JOB SEARCHING: Students (above) participate in a part-time job, volunteer and internship fair, sponsored by Career Services and Center for Leadership and Service.

Sergio Bendana (bottom) and Solomia Khavko interview for J.C. Penney job openings at the fair, Oct. 5.



PHOTOS BY NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

first ranked Spanish-language radio group in the USA, reaching over 10 million listeners every week.

Univision operates four radio stations in the Miami area, which it considers to be their Hispanic

market.

Those stations can be tuned in at 107.5 FM, 98.3 FM, 710 AM and 1140 AM.

The debate will take place at the BBC Mary Ann Wolfe Theater from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. It will be

open to students and guests and does not require attendees to register or R.S.V.P. prior to that date.

“We would like to highlight FIU students,” Figueredo said. “Since most only get to see one election during their time here.”

Spanish drama club dedicated to theater, culture

ADA ALVAREZ
Contributing Writer

There is a new drama club at the Biscayne Bay Campus, and it’s called Arketipo. The difference between this and other drama clubs is that it will focus on Spanish language theater.

The name *arketipo* comes from the word archetype, which in theater terms means a character, motive or symbol that is frequent in different literary genres, and that becomes a recognized element or universal symbol.

The initiative to open a new club came from Rafael Mejia, a first-year student in the Spanish Journalism and Mass Communication master’s program, and now Arketipo’s president. Mejia, who also came up with the club’s name after researching drama vocabulary, suggested the idea for a new club to those who are now part of the directive.

“Arketipo is a group emphasized and dedicated to promote, discuss and experiment with theater arts in the Spanish language,” Mejia said. “We want also to embrace the importance of theater in culture and create activities that involve the university community.”

Mejia has experience in theater production. He worked in New York and his native Puerto Rico, and wanted to produce and practice theater at FIU. He didn’t find a group at BBC that met his needs, aside from the Dramatics, a theater club that performs in English.

On Sept. 30, he submitted all the pa-

pers required by the Student Organizations Council to form an official club. This process included several forms describing the club’s constitution and objectives. The club also had to present a directive, composed of at least five members and an academic adviser.

This adviser, who becomes the club’s mentor, needs to be a faculty member to help ensure that the club meets its goals. This person has to be someone who listens to the club’s activity ideas and helps its members complete their objectives.

For these reasons, according to Mejia, Arketipo picked Mario Diamant, a playwright and journalism professor. He was also a pioneer of the master’s in Journalism in Spanish program that was created by the University 14 years ago.

Professor Diamant, born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, is the author of several award-winning plays, including “Smithereens,” “Lost Tango” and “The Book of Ruth.”

In 2003, his play “Blind Date” was included in the top 10 choices for the best play of the year by both *The Miami Herald* and *Sun-Sentinel*.

According to *Diverse’s* most recent Top 100 Undergraduate Degree Producer report, FIU graduates the most Hispanics undergraduates in the country. This was also confirmed by a survey conducted by the *Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education Magazine* in 2008.

“A Spanish-speaking theater group will reaffirm the University’s compromise with this population, and will provide a space for multicultural integration among the Spanish-speaking community,” said Jennifer Marcial,

a first-year student in the Spanish Journalism and Mass Communication master’s program, and secretary of Arketipo.

Mejia said that anyone interested in joining the club is welcome to do so. Students don’t need to be drama majors in order to join. In fact, Mejia is the only Arketipo member who is a drama major.

The club’s membership is \$10 per semester. According to Mejia, this fee is applied to lectures, guest speakers, plays, school involvement and community service.

“I believe the idea is excellent, and that it will give a space so that Hispanic culture is shared. I believe many people will like it, and that there is a need for this type of activity at the University,” said Rafael Lama, a junior finance major.

Lama heard about the group and showed interest in participating in their activities, not

as a member but as a viewer.

The club also welcomes anyone who wants to learn Spanish while enjoying theater, according to Mejia.

“It’s good because you can get to practice the Spanish language, and since it’s through education, it is a great idea”, said Vinesh Punwasee, a senior business management major.

The group meetings are every Thursday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.. Mejia said the club is currently looking for permits to hold the meetings at the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater. One of the first activities in the fall semester will be a series of “drama excursions,” where members will meet, and watch plays on campus and its surrounding areas.

For more information, e-mail Rafael Mejia at rmeji008@fiu.edu or Tanya Alves at alve001@fiu.edu.

INTERESTED IN WRITING?

The Beacon is looking for dedicated and committed students to work as beat writers for the At the Bay section.

If you are interested, please e-mail julia.cardenuto@fiusm.com or come by *The Beacon* office in WUC-124, in front of the Bookstore.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Enrollment cap would ensure stronger academic pool, better student-faculty ratios

Talks about removing the three-year cap on freshmen enrollment were discussed at a Florida Board of Governors meeting in Tampa on Sept. 25. The cap currently allows 38,500 freshmen to enroll at Florida's 11 public universities.

The BOG should keep its cap on freshmen enrollment. Should the BOG fail to limit the amount of freshmen entering the State University System, Florida public universities may find themselves even more underfunded.

Although the motion was withdrawn and discussion about the issue was put on hold until the BOG's next meeting in November, the BOG must remember its responsibility to improve the quality of higher education.

According to the Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness, the University admitted 4,404 freshmen last year. The mean GPA of the incoming Fall 2007 class was a 3.66, with a mean SAT score of 1143.

As a result of the cap, the mean GPA and SAT score of incoming freshmen has increased when compared to past student pools, an indication that the University is being more selective with the students it admits.

The admission cut would certainly assist the University, as its student-faculty ratio is among the lowest in the state and country.

The University also suffers from a severe shortage of advisers. According to a newsletter provided by the BOG last year, the University has a student-adviser ratio of 30 to 1.

The parking situation, al-

ready a problem for students, would only be exacerbated should the University admit an additional 1,000 students. The overall student experience would suffer as a result of the expiration of the cap.

Class size, student services and university aid would be negatively affected. The cap allows the University to focus on students currently enrolled. It also raises the academic fortitude of the institution. With higher admission standards, a degree from the University would increase in value, certainly making FIU graduates more marketable in the work industry.

In years past, universities would open their doors and flood their institutions with freshmen, the idea being that admitting more instead of less students would lead to an increase in funding.

This is not the long term fix for this problem as the Legislature has shown it cannot fund every single student enrolled at a public university.

Public universities can no longer rely on the Legislature as a primary source of funding. Doing so will inevitably lead to an uphill battle with the Legislature for operating funds. The cap does indeed put a limit on access to higher education in Florida, but there is no point in offering higher education to everyone if its quality will be subpar.

Before the BOG decides to offer access to higher education to all Florida residents, it must first allow universities the support and infrastructure to take care of the students they already have.

LITERARY LIBERTY

Readers must defend printed word

IRIS FEBRES
Asst. Opinion Editor

The vision of Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451" – to burn what you read – is still seen today through the present challenges to censor and ban "questionable" literature. FIU recently celebrated Banned Books Week, which ran from Sept. 27 to Oct. 4. Major University officials, including President Modesto Maidique and Provost Ronald Berkman read excerpts from challenged books in a "Read-Out" on Sept. 30.

Sponsored by the American Library Association, the week long event aims to inform individuals about censorship and freedom of expression.

Banned Books Week "celebrates the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one's opinion even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular," according to the ALA Web site, www.ala.org/bbooks. The Web site noted that the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom received a total of 420 challenges toward books in 2007. These challenges were "formal, written complaints filed with a library or school requesting that materials be removed because of content or appropriateness."

And everything under the sun has been challenged: from J.K. Rowling's widely read "Harry Potter" series, whose books currently hold slot num-



JAVIER DE LA VEGA/THE BEACON

A "NOVEL" IDEA: University Provost Ronald Berkman discusses banned literature during University Park's "Read-Out" on Sept. 30.

ber one for "Most Challenged Books of the 21st Century," to horror writer R.L. Stine of "Goosebumps" fame.

People have had problems with children's books, including "Captain Underpants," Aesop's fables and even the story of Little Red Riding Hood. But why bother going that far?

I believe people take the time to challenge a certain book or piece of literature because they simply feel threatened; some printed words pose a sort of moral danger that could perhaps rupture the fabric of their religious values, or possibly mar the growth and well being of their own children.

Parents have every right to express concern over what their kids read. But why do they have to drag the rest of us into their personal battles?

If a parent is unhappy with what their kid is reading, then they should make it their imperative to make sure their kid isn't looking at what they shouldn't see – and that includes holding a school accountable for what they offer students to peruse. They should do as much as they can to make sure

their child is "safe," without impeding on what others possibly want to read.

"Stop your child, not everyone else from reading," said University Archivist Vicki Silvera, head of the Special Collections Department at the Green Library.

I'm perfectly happy reading my books on wizards and skeletons,

thanks. I'll respect your wishes for not wanting to read a certain book, but at least let me read to the next chapter.

Parents and other watchful groups view books to be threatening sometimes out of religious concerns, but other motivations can crop up.

"For some it's religious; others have political reasons," Silvera said. "And banned books have resulted in law cases."

Take for instance the children's book "Vamos a Cuba" (translated as "A Visit to Cuba"), which was banned by Miami-Dade County Public Schools in 2006, along with 24 other books in the series. The book was criticized for having a too-positive view of the country.

However, U.S. District Judge Alan S. Gold ruled in favor of the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida and ordered the district to replace all the removed books.

"By totally banning the Cuba books and the rest of the series, the school board is in fact prohibiting even the voluntary consideration of the themes contained in the books by

students at their leisure," Gold said in a statement. "This goes to the heart of the First Amendment issue."

Groups and individuals who make the effort to remove books from shelves – books considered classics, like "Fahrenheit 451," "Huckleberry Finn" and "To Kill a Mockingbird" – must take into account the contexts in which they were written as well as their intended purposes.

You know how someone said, "Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar?" Well, sometimes a story is just a story. We should be able to enjoy stories for their own merits, despite their apparent shock values and gasp factors. The fact a "shocking" novel was written in the first place should be appreciated simply because of its novelty.

Yes, there may be a couple of books out there that may try to push an agenda (books by Ayn Rand certainly come to mind), but it is up to us as readers to understand these agendas and educate others – including youth – the pros and cons of each.

We must remember, though, that this struggle for censorship is in fact a good thing. Even though we are frustrated (and sometimes amused) at efforts made to block children's books or literature that contain sex scenes or profanity, we have to recall our own rights and liberties.

When we are pushed to respond to a threat, we have every right to respond to such a threat so long as it does not infringe upon the rights of others.

I believe we have a right to write and a right to read; to speak what we constantly ponder and question, even if they may linger in darker places many don't want us to venture within. But we have to keep fighting for the printed word, whether we agree with it or not.

For if we do not fight, we may as well burn everything down.

"We should be able to enjoy stories for their own merits, despite their apparent shock values and gasp factors."



If you don't have a voter registration card, then act fast; today is the **last** day to register to vote in the Florida general election.

For information on registering to vote in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties, please visit

<http://miami-dade.gov/elections>
or
<http://browardsoe.org>

For continuing coverage of the presidential and vice presidential debates, visit www.fiusm.com/opinion.

Open mic event met with warm reception

PAULO O'SWATH
Staff Writer

William Shakespeare once said: "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players." For students, the Starbucks on Graham Center's second floor was their stage and for one night, they were the players.

Poetry Slam and Open Mic Night opened up to a receptive crowd of students sitting and drinking coffee while they listened to original poems presented to them by their peers.

"I wasn't expecting this when I came to get coffee," said Nicolas Ospina, a junior. "Watching this was very interesting and it is also new for me."

Approximately 20 students attended the event, presented

by StudentsWRITE, an organization that is dedicated to helping students at FIU with writing and editing skills.

"We wanted to create a culture of literature here at FIU," said Carlos Sucre-Parra, president of the StudentsWRITE organization. "We want to spread the word around and show that FIU has great authors and writers and we want to share that with the world."

According to Sucre-Parra, there are 40 to 50 members that consist of students and faculty.

"Everyone [on campus] is welcome to join our organization," Sucre-Parra said. "Faculty members are more than welcome to join us." StudentsWRITE, which was founded at the University, organizes writing projects that

both undergraduates and graduate students can participate in. Each year, they receive hundreds of submissions from writers that can be published by the StudentsWRITE Press.

"We are currently planning at least two more events here and also one more event around the time of the book fair," Sucre-Parra said.

Students who witnessed this type of event for the first time were surprised and satisfied.

"I was very surprised to see this happen when I walked in," junior Stefi Mecozzi said. "They caught me by total surprise when I saw them setting up the microphone and speakers. It was a wonderful experience and I had a lot of fun listening to students express themselves creatively the way they did."



CHARI ADAMES-SMITH/THE BEACON

LETTING IT OUT: Jacquelyn Nectow recites an original poem on Oct. 2 at the Open Mic Night at the Starbucks on the second floor of Graham Center. It was the first Open Mic night by StudentsWRITE.

According to Sucre-Parra, the turnout was very good and he was "happy with the

results."

"What they did was great," Mecozzi said. "I love this type

of event, I am very happy I was able to see it. I hope they do this again soon."

Banned books illustrate cultural impact of words

CLAUDIA SANTANA
Staff Writer

"What would it mean to you as an individual, or to us as a community, to not have access to those words, if they were not

available in the library, if they were not accessible anywhere in the country? What would that do to our culture?"

That was the question Laura Probst, dean of libraries, asked on Tuesday, Sept. 30, when uni-

versity administration, employees, faculty, students and alumni met to discuss banned books. The books in question were displayed along the walls of the Special Collections room in University Park's Green Library.

The books' subject matter ranged from being almost justifiably banned, like Vladimir Nabokov's "Lolita," to books that were prohibited for more trivial reasons, such as Roald Dahl's "Matilda" and Dav Pilkey's

"Captain Underpants" series. Along with the display, members of the University community were invited to read excerpts from the book of their choice.

BANNED BOOKS, page 6

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UNIVERSITY OF
Miami
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Students, faculty meet to discuss banned books

BANNED BOOKS, page 5

President Modesto A. Maidique chose Cuban writer Heberto Padilla's book of poems, "Fuera del Juego," which was banned in Cuba. Before his reading, Maidique said, "Poets, authors, members of the

intelligentsia ... were marginalized by the Cuban regime."

Padilla's book was banned because of his unwillingness to conform to the Cuban regime.

"I think having an open mind about everything is

very important and the more information you have, the better able you are to make a wise decision about anything. What scares me is that people even want to ban books," said junior psychology major Carrie Cavanaugh.

Other excerpts were read from books like Isabel Allende's "Paula," which was written about her daughter while she was in a coma, and Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451," which deals with the burning of all books.

"I think that censorship in art, in any context, is very bad because art is meant to be an expression of those deep parts of ourselves that we can't really just express in a very tangible way on a day-to-day basis. The part that I found really interesting was [from "Fahrenheit 451"] when it says that by reading the books, we sort of become

the books," said Chris De Varona, a 2003 finance and real estate graduate.

Another discussion took place at BBC on Thursday, Oct. 2.

Lauren Christos, reference librarian at BBC's library and chair-elect of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table, organized the event.

That morning, students gathered around in the gazebo and listened to professors of journalism and English, while library employees read more passages from banned books, including Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" and "The Song of Solomon"

from the Bible.

Although this year's turnout was better than the previous four years, Christos hopes that next year's will be even bigger.

"It's an enjoyable thing to do, and it is so important to have the freedom to read," said Christos.

De Varona agreed.

"Every time that you read a book, you add your own experiences and factor them in, so when you really read a book, it's not that you take someone else's ideas in, you're an example of why that book makes sense and you bring it into your own life and you keep the story alive."

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • OCTOBER 6

WHAT: ExxonMobil Information Session
WHERE: CBC 233
WHEN: 6 p.m.

WHAT: FIU Panther Promotions Giveaways
WHERE: GC Pit
WHEN: 11 a.m.

WHAT: Haitian Student Organization
WHERE: GC 343
WHEN: 6 p.m.

WHAT: Panther Rage General Meeting
WHERE: GC 140
WHEN: 4 p.m.

WHAT: College Democrats General Meeting
WHERE: GC 140
WHEN: 7 p.m.

WHAT: Asian Movie Club "Movie Night"
WHERE: GC 150
WHEN: 7 p.m.

WHAT: Future Business Leaders of America
WHERE: GC 343
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: Yoga Club
WHERE: GC 283
WHEN: 8 p.m.

TUESDAY • OCTOBER 7

WHAT: "The Entrepreneur's How to" Webinar Series "Create and Maintain Your Unique Selling Proposition"
WHERE: Online cbc.fiu.edu
WHEN: 11 a.m.

WHAT: FIU MUSIC PRESENTS: Concert Choir & University Chorale
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: Golden Idol Audition 2
WHERE: GC Pit
WHEN: 12 pm

WHAT: CSO General Meeting
WHERE: CBC 150
WHEN: 5:30 p.m.

WHAT: National Organization for Women (NOW) Meeting
WHERE: GC 241
WHEN: 6 p.m.

WHAT: SPC Presents :Latina College Tour
WHERE: GC Ballrooms
WHEN: 10 a.m.

-Rosalyn Delgado



JAVIER DE LA VEGAT/THE BEACON

NO LONGER TABOO: University President Modesto Maidique reads previously banned poetry on the fourth floor of University Park's Green Library.

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OUCH!



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

GALINDO GONE: FIU's leading scorer and rebounder from the 2007-08 campaign will be sidelined with a dislocated ankle to start the season. The coaching staff expects the senior forward to miss 8-10 weeks.

McCall throws four TD passes in win over N. Texas

FOOTBALL, page 8

their job and that makes it a lot easier on T.Y.," McCall said.

Defensively, the Golden Panthers contained the Mean Green but relied mainly on turnovers as North Texas committed four.

Sophomore quarterback Giovanni Vizza (32-of-46, 274 yards) was intercepted three times while running back Lance Dunbar fumbled on a 24-yard run. Sophomore cornerback Anthony Gaitor, who also recorded an interception in the game, recovered the fumble.

"As long as we play our style of defense we're going to be good," Gaitor said of the unit which yielded its lowest point total of the season, just

10 points, and has carried the team over the past several weeks.

The unit (ranked 82nd in the FBS before the contest) allowed 428 yards of total offense but only allowed a field goal in the third quarter (28 yards) and a 1-yard touchdown run by running back Micah Mosley, after the Golden Panthers chose to rest their starters late in the game, with the outcome all but decided.

With the victory, the Golden Panthers not only defeated the Mean Green for the second consecutive season, but guaranteed themselves an improved record from last year in which the team finished 1-11; it took just five games to accomplish that for the Golden Panthers.

University President Modesto A. Maidique, who was in attendance for the road game, mentioned the early progress and positive results that Cristobal has shown in just his second season at the helm.

"[Coach Cristobal] had told me that it was going to take years to get this program to really move because he needed at least four or five recruitment classes and I think he's outdoing himself," Maidique said.

The Golden Panthers (2-3) return home to host the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders (2-3) in their second game at FIU stadium on Oct. 11th at 7 p.m.

Luca Messina can be reached at luca.messina@fusm.com

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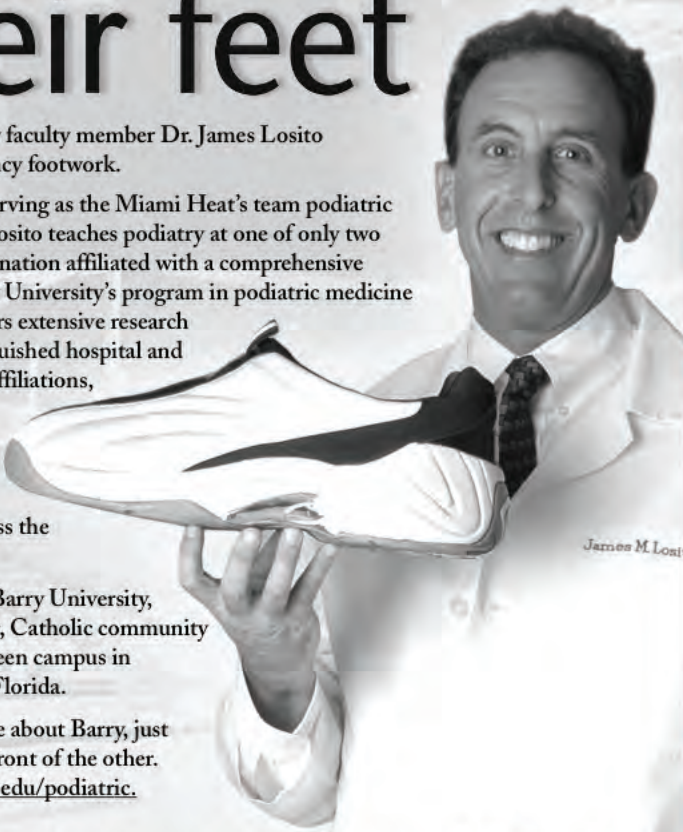
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FORTUNE
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TWO FOR THE SHOW

Golden Panthers pound Mean Green for second straight win

LUCA MESSINA

Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers won their first road game in the Football Bowl Subdivision 35-16 last week against Toledo and were able to carry their success by clubbing North Texas 42-10 in Denton, Texas.

The Golden Panthers jumped out to an early lead that they would not come near to relinquishing in what turned out to be a successful evening for both the offense and the defense.

"We made big plays; we really, really did. A lot of them were one or two play drives and you always want to make those plays because it makes life easier and really sparks an entire team," said head coach Mario Cristobal who not only is 2-0 against the Mean Green, but is on his first multi-game winning streak in his young career as a head coach.

Those quick drives that Cristobal alluded to began after the Golden Panther offense failed on a fourth-and-two attempt at the Mean Green 11-yard line. After the North Texas went three and out on the next possession, it took just one play for the Golden Panthers to strike first.

Junior quarterback Paul McCall, making his fifth consecutive start of the season, found receiver T.Y. Hilton after the freshman beat his defender

and took the skinny post route for a 65-yard touchdown.

"As soon as the ball hit my hands I just worked my magic," Hilton said.

The lead would be extended several minutes later to 14-0 on a blocked punt by senior defensive back O'Darris D'Haiti that led to senior receiver Alonzo Phillips recovering and running 11 yards for his first touchdown of the season and his career.

After the early scoring to conclude the first quarter, the McCall-to-Hilton connection would strike one more time as the freshman found the end zone, this time on a 73-yard catch and run that gave the Golden Panthers a 21-0 lead on just a two-play drive. It was the third touchdown reception of Hilton's young career, and his fourth overall, and the touchdown pass was the second longest in school history, ranking only behind Samuel Smith's 89-yard touchdown grab against Maryland in September of 2006.

"His two biggest attributes are his pride and his courage. He is a guy that is really not afraid and he's only going to better," Cristobal said of the freshman who finished the night with three receptions for 145 yards and two touchdowns.

Toward the end of the first half, the Mean Green had an opportunity to avoid the shut out but were denied after kick-



GARY PAYNE/AP PHOTO

JUKED: Wide receiver T. Y. Hilton (4) breaks a tackle by North Texas defensive back Darien Williams on his way to scoring a 73-yard touchdown. It was second of the day. Hilton finished with 145 receiving yards

er Jeremy Knott missed on a line drive shot that was wide left.

Senior A'mod Ned tallied his second touchdown run of the season on a 26-yard run with 17 seconds remaining to give FIU a 28-0 halftime lead.

The second half saw McCall reach out to several other receivers not named Hilton as he found senior tight end Eric Kirchenberg on an 8-yard pass in the third quarter and sophomore Greg Ellingson on a 28-yard pass in

the fourth quarter.

The touchdown receptions were the first of the season for both.

McCall finished 11-of-19 for 234 yards with four touchdown passes tying him for the school record set by Jamie

Burke in the program's first year of college football (vs. Albany, Nov. 11, 2002). The productivity from the group of receivers pleased the junior quarterback.

"Everyone else is doing

FOOTBALL, page 7

It's the small things that matter, just ask N. Texas

ANDREW JULIAN
Sports Director

It's not that the Golden Panthers have become some sort of offensive juggernaut, although they have shown an affinity for the big play, and an ability to capitalize on the mistakes of others, it's still been tough for FIU to sustain drives, but make no mistake, the offense is improving.

It's not that the FIU defense has become completely impregnable, after all it did allow 428 yards to what, in all likelihood, may turn out to be a last place team in the Sun Belt Conference, but has shown an ability to make life hard

for opposing offenses, yielding just over 14 points per game in its last three contests.

It's not even that FIU has taken momentum from wins this year to put together a two-game string of wins, although it did put together a nice performance at home against a Top-25 opponent in South Florida, and dating back to last season, won three of its past six games.

It is however, a first culmination of sorts and one that speaks directly to the personality of this team, and how it draws that personality from its head coach, who, could, if coach Mario Cristobal could find some eligibility, probably still offer a lift to his young offensive line, at 38.

Passionate, focused and intense practices create passionate, focused and intense football players.

Any coach knows that, but it's being able to connect with the players so well that has coach

Cristobal in his players helmets during the games.

It's easy to ask questions like, "how can a team get outgained by an average of 22 yards per game in two straight contests on the road, and win both games, by a combined score of 77-26?"

The answers are so simple; it almost becomes elementary, literally.

Over the past two-game stretch FIU is +7 in turnover ratio, without ever having committing one turnover.

T.Y. Hilton is averaging 30 yards per kick off return, 20 yards per punt return, and 36 yards per catch and three of his five receptions have gone for touchdowns of 37, 65 and 73 yards and Carlos Munera is averaging almost 41 yards per punt.

Translation: limited offensive mistakes, excellent special teams, big play ability, and opportunistic

Limited offensive mistakes, excellent special teams, big play ability and opportunistic defense. Those are the marks of well coached football teams

defense.

Those are the marks of well coached football teams, the ability to focus on the details, when you may not have the continuity the team across the field has, having had such a high coaching turnover on your own sideline, and put the little things into practice.

They are the things that peewee coaches preach, and the Golden Panthers are buying in.

Coach Cristobal will be the

first to tell you that FIU has a long way to go, as a program, and as a team from a focus standpoint, 17 penalties for 128 yards over the past two games, but as long as he stays in the players helmets with them, those numbers will be sure to dwindle, and when they do, look out Sun Belt, because if this team can average nearly 40 points per game, on the road with penalty issues, I can only imagine what'll happen in a clean game at home.

COMMENTARY



ANDREW JULIAN