

**PULLING THE SEAT**  
P.R. Department gets new chair

**THE RACE IS ON!**  
Huckabee, Obama take Iowa

**APPLY YOURSELF**  
Facebook applications useful, fun

**STARTING SLOW**  
Basketball teams suffering

AT THE BAY PAGE 5

OPINION PAGE 7

LIFE! PAGE 8

SPORTS PAGE 16

## ART FROM THE SKY



COURTESY PHOTOS

**PAINT JOB:** The Antonov-2 Colt biplane was painted on one side by Xavier Cortada in memory of Cubans who suffered under military rule.

## Plane used to flee from Cuba donated as part of art exhibit

**EVELYN DIAZ**  
Staff Writer

In 1999, a Cuban family fled to the United States on a vintage Antonov-2 Colt biplane, landing safely in Key West.

Cuban American artist Xavier Cortada donated that Antonov-2 Colt biplane to FIU.

Cortada painted a representation of freedom on half of the biplane and purposely left the other half in the same condition as when it arrived in Miami. One of the main reasons Cortada donated the plane is because of the large number of Cuban students and faculty at FIU.

Cortada hopes that Cuban students look at the plane and reflect on their history and non Cuban students look at the plane and learn something.

"I created this exhibit in order for my parents, grandparents and all other Cuban exiles to not fade from memory," Cortada said on his Web site.

A painting of a key represents the unlocking of freedom, while a painting of a white dove represents a sign of hope. A painting of a lightened candle represents the meaning of truth, according to Cortada.

"Art and conception are the same thing, it's not about making

things pretty, its about making them real," Cortada said.

Part of the plane's exhibit are 46 pieces of luggage that surround the plane. Each piece is numbered in sequence from 1959 to 2004, which are the years that the Cuban community had been under rule by Fidel Castro.

"The individual accounts of a peoples' journey to freedom can never be forgotten. Carrying their voices to future generations may prevent this tragedy from ever happening again," Cortada said on his Web site.

**CORTADA, page 4**

### FIU STUDENT MEDIA

## Radiate FM, *The Beacon* launch new Web site for FIU community

**CHRIS TOWERS**  
Asst. News Director

Beginning Jan. 14, *The Beacon* newspaper, in cooperation with the Radiate FM student radio station, will launch *FIUSM.com*, a Web site dedicated to the two branches of

FIU's student media.

The launch will coincide with a translator station being raised at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

"The tower will have a radius of about 10 to 15 miles, which increases our audience into North Miami

and South Broward," said Pablo Penton, the station's general manager.

*FIUSM.com* will also allow Radiate FM listeners to track what the station is playing.

"We'd like to have plalists available so that listeners can go

online and see what we played at any time during the day. It is something that listeners have really wanted and always asked us about," Penton said.

For *The Beacon*, the new Web site will allow

**WEB SITE, page 4**

### EMERGENCY PHONES

## First phase of emergency phone system completed

**BEN F. BADGER JR.**  
Asst. News Director

The University began installing emergency phones in December during a three-phase initiative to help increase security on campus.

"We're still on target," said Charles Cyrille, FIU's emergency management coordinator. "Phase two will be completed by the end of the Spring 2008 semester."

Phase two of the safety initiative will include the installation of 80 additional phones in the Engineering Center, Green Library, the Chemistry and Physics building, the Deuxieme Maison building, Paul L. Cejas School of Architecture building, the BBC library, the Marine Biology building and Hospitality Management complex.

The phones can be used to simultaneously broadcast an emergency message to nearby people of imminent danger in

the surrounding area as well as dial emergency services like 9-1-1 or Public Safety.

Phase one involved the installation of phones in 77 classrooms in the Primera Casa, Graham Center, Academic I and Academic II buildings. All of the Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phones were installed in December on schedule.

"The ultimate goal is to have phones in all classrooms and labs," Cyrille said back in the Nov. 29, 2007 issue of *The Beacon*.

Funding for the initial two phases of the safety initiative comes from a \$250,000 grant from the state. Cyrille said that Phase-two's budget is still operating from the grant.

"Florida International University takes the security of its students, faculty and staff seriously and is continually finding ways to improve its response

**EMERGENCY, page 4**



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON

**PHASE ONE COMPLETE:** Just one of the many new emergency phones installed in the Primera Casa building.

## NEWSFLASH

**College of medicine announces affiliation with Miami Children's Hospital**

The College of Medicine at FIU announced an affiliation agreement with Miami Children's Hospital on Dec. 17.

Dr. J. Patrick O'Leary, executive associate dean for clinical affairs at the FIU College of Medicine, said in a press release that the agreement with Miami Children's Hospital is part of an overall strategy to create a rich learning environment for medical students.

Miami Children's Hospital has the largest pediatric teaching program in the southeastern United States and trains 69 pediatric residents and 17 subspecialty fellows.

The College of Medicine has also announced operating agreements with Jackson Health Systems, which allows FIU medical students and faculty to work at Jackson North Medical Center, and with Mount Sinai Medical Center.

**Doctoral student receives Fulbright Scholarship**

Doctoral student Erika Denise Edwards will spend a year in Argentina studying the history of Argentinians of African descent as the eighth FIU student to receive the Fulbright award since 1999.

Edwards' research will focus on how slaves and free people of color used the legal process in Córdoba, Argentina as the country gained its independence at the end of the 18th century and beginning of the 19th century.

"I hope my work will allow me to serve as an advocate for marginalized people whose contributions to the nation may be neglected or minimized," Edwards said in a press release.

The Fulbright Program, is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and has helped finance the education of approximately 279,500 people since the program was established in 1946.

**Architecture professor invited to propose installation**

Eric Goldemberg, an assistant professor in the School of Architecture, and his partner at MONAD Architects, Veronica Zalberg, are among a few emerging architects who have been invited to propose an installation for the courtyard of P.S.1 in Long Island City, Queens.

The team has been invited to design the courtyard by early February as part of the ninth annual Young Architects Program presented by The Museum of Modern Art and P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center in New York.

Goldemberg's work includes designs for a performing arts center in Norway, an urban bridge park in Marco Island, Florida, and a tsunami memorial in Thailand.

**Parking and Transportation director gives tips for new semester**

It is the beginning of the semester, and that means students will be frantically searching and fighting for parking spots.

Parking and Transportation Director Bill Foster has some tips for students looking for the right places to park this semester.

First off, there are 750 parking spots available at the Panther Garage next to Pharmed Arena for students to use. This gives students easy access to Ziff Education Building, College of Law, and Ryder Business Building.

An additional 150 spaces are available next to the Wertheim Performing Arts Center and another 150 at the Graduate School of Business. There also 400 spaces available in the gravel lots on the northeast corner of UP.

As far as the Biscayne Bay Campus goes, there is plenty of available parking in lots 3 and 4.

Foster encourages students to allow a few minutes of extra time for walking to class, and stresses that instead of driving around trying to find closer spots, students should just walk from the spots that are a little bit farther.

Compiled by Christina Veiga and Chris Towers  
/ Beacon Staff

# BALANCING RESPONSIBILITIES

## Parenting still comes first for students with double duties

**CHARLIE GRAU**  
Editor in Chief

A typical day for Simone Bailey, 26, starts at 6:30 a.m. and doesn't end 'till midnight or later.

The senior, majoring in anthropology, wakes up to prepare breakfast for her two children Abijah, 6, and Ani-Halla, 4, before dropping them off at school.

Then it's off to Young Women's Christian Association, where Bailey works as a massage therapist for a few hours before heading to class.

In the late afternoon Bailey picks up her children before heading home.

Once home, Bailey prepares dinner and helps her children with any homework they have before tending to her own studies.

"Between [switching to the three day class schedule] and the kids, I became a little overwhelmed at the end of last semester and felt like I needed to take this semester off," Bailey said.

For parents enrolled in college with children, the difficulty of balancing responsibilities as a parent and student can be overwhelming.

With education becoming more available and flexible with universities offering more online classes, weekend and evening classes, more parents



**FAMILY TIME:** Simone Bailey, a senior majoring in anthropology, (left) works on her classwork while her children Abijah (right) and Ani-Halla (center) look on.

have attempted to tackle the dual roles as a mother or father and student.

A recent study by the U.S. Department of Education showed that parents with children attending postsecondary institutions increased by 21 percent over the past three years.

Bailey, who raised her two children alone since divorcing her husband, will take it a easy this semester.

"I decided I'm going to go part time ... I'm, probably, going to take two to three classes this semester. I need to get the hours under my belt," said Bailey, who is just a few credits short of graduating.

Despite all of the challenges of life as a single parent and student,

Bailey's job as massage therapist gives her the flexibility she needs to juggle the many tasks.

"It's my line of work that allows me to make my own hours," Bailey said. "I can work a couple of hours in the morning, then go to classes, pick up the kids and then work a some more in the afternoon. It's really flexible [and] allows me to pay the bills."

For other parents taking classes at FIU, like Michael Gonzalez, 33, getting a degree isn't always a priority.

"It's really tough especially when the kids are small. They don't really understand why you're gone all the time," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez, who works as a day manager at a Barnes

and Noble, said that after 15 years of working in retail he was tired of the race. It was time for him to go back to school and get his degree in information technology.

Still, Gonzalez regrets not going to college right after high school.

"I feel really torn especially when the kids want you to be home to play with them, but you got to do what's best for the family in the long run," Gonzalez said. "The natural inclination is to go home after work and play with the young ones. It's not easy. It's not easy at all."

Gonzalez often misses out on family functions, and family time in general, to catch up on his readings and homework.

"Putting in a full days work and then going to school at night, it's tough. On the weekends, instead of spending time with the family, like you would like to, you have to spend time on school assignments," Gonzalez said.

The Children's Creative Learning Center (CCLC) at FIU offers parents the option to keep their younger children close while they attend classes.

Located adjacent to the Graham Center Gallery, the CCLC serves children ages three to six who are toilet trained. The cost of using the center varies due to amount in grants awarded from year-to-year, but priority for registration is given to full-time degree seeking students with children followed by part time degree seeking students children.

For more information on the CCLC and its registration fee, visit the CCLC Web site at [www.fiu.edu/~children](http://www.fiu.edu/~children).

## THE BEACON

### EDITORIAL BOARD

CHARLIE GRAU EDITOR IN CHIEF  
CHRISTOPHER NECUZE PRODUCTION MANAGER

CHRISTINA VEIGA NEWS DIRECTOR  
EDDITH SEVILLA BBC MANAGING EDITOR  
GEOFFREY ANDERSON JR. LIFE! EDITOR  
SERGIO BONILLA SPORTS EDITOR  
FERNANDO GARCIA PHOTO EDITOR

BEN F. BADGER JR. ASST. NEWS DIRECTOR  
CHRIS TOWERS ASST. NEWS DIRECTOR  
COREY ANDERSON ASST. NEWS DIRECTOR  
SUSANA RODRIGUEZ BBC LIFE! EDITOR  
CHRIS MARTINEZ ASST. SPORTS EDITOR  
CHRIS CABRAL ASST. LIFE EDITOR

KEVIN SMITH NEWS PAGE DESIGNER  
JESSICA MAYA SPORTS PAGE DESIGNER  
ANGELINA ESPOSITO OPINION PAGE DESIGNER

LEONCIO ALVAREZ COPY CHIEF  
XAVIER VILLARMARZO COPY EDITOR  
RON MATHEW COPY EDITOR  
ASHLYN TOLEDO COPY EDITOR  
PETER M.T. AGBEYEGBE COPY EDITOR  
IRIS AMELIA FEBRES COPY EDITOR

ANA DAVIS AD REPRESENTATIVE  
GABY MORALES RECRUITMENT EDITOR

TATIANA CANTILLO BUSINESS MANAGER  
ROBERT JAROSS DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA  
ALFRED SOTO ASST. STUDENT MEDIA DIRECTOR



### INFORMATION

The Beacon office is located in the Graham Center, room 210, at the University Park campus. 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](mailto:Beacon@fiu.edu). Visit us online at [www.beaconnewspaper.com](http://www.beaconnewspaper.com)

The Beacon is published on Mondays and Thursdays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. 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.

# THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

• **MONDAY** •  
**JANUARY 7**

Ask Me Tables,  
8 a.m. -7 p.m. GC

Peer Advisor  
Announcements  
12 p.m. GC Pit

SPC Comedy  
Show Spring Kick  
Off! 8 p.m. GC  
Ballrooms

• **TUESDAY** •  
**JANUARY 8**

Ask Me Tables,  
8 a.m. -7 p.m. GC

UP MPAS Open  
House 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
GC 216

BBC MPAS Open

House 9a.m.-5p.m.  
WUC 253

Center for  
Leadership and Service  
Volunteer Fair 11a.m.-  
1 p.m. GC

Dance Marathon  
"So You think you can  
dance" auditions  
Noon -2 p.m.  
GC Pit

SOC General  
Meeting 5:30 p.m.  
GC 150

• **WEDNESDAY** •  
**JANUARY 9**

Ask Me Tables,  
8 a.m. -7 p.m. GC

SGC-UP General  
Meeting 4 p.m.  
GC 150  
SGC-BBC-

General Meeting  
3:30 p.m. WUC 155

CSU Holy Mast  
Noon - 1 p.m.  
GC 150

CSU Faith Jam  
1 p.m. - 3 p.m.  
GC 2215

FIU Women's  
Basketball vs Troy  
5:15 p.m.

FIU Men's  
Basketball vs Troy  
5:15 p.m.

• **THURSDAY** •  
**JANUARY 10**

Ask Me Tables,  
8 a.m. -7 p.m. GC

Week of Welcome  
Involvement Fair  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
GC

GSA Grads Keller  
6 p.m. Gracies  
Grill

Anything Goes  
Anime General  
Meeting 8 p.m. -  
Midnight GC 140

• **FRIDAY** •  
**JANUARY 11**

Ask Me Tables,  
8a.m. -7p.m. GC

Engage Leadership  
Workshop 12:30  
p.m. -1:30 p.m. GC  
305

SPC Movie  
"Across the  
Universe" 7p.m. &  
10 p.m. GC 140

• **SATURDAY** •  
**JANUARY 12**

FIU Men's  
Basketball vs  
Western Kentucky  
7 p.m.

• **SUNDAY** •  
**JANUARY 13**

FIU Women's  
Basketball vs.  
Western Kentucky  
3 p.m.

• **MONDAY** •  
**JANUARY 14**

Last Day to  
complete Late  
Registration

Last Day to Drop  
Courses or Withdraw  
from the University  
Without Incurring a  
Financial Liability

- Compiled by Beacon Staff

**WANTED: DELIVERY PERSONS**  
JOIN THE BEACON TODAY!  
APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE IN GC 210  
305.348.6993  
BEACON@FIU.EDU  
WORK STUDY STUDENTS WELCOME!

**BRINGING INDEPENDENT AND UNDERGROUND MUSIC TO YOU**  
**RADIATE FM**  
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
88.1 WRQP.ORG 95.3  
OLD HIP-HOP MONDAYS  
ELECTRONIC TUESDAYS  
METAL AND 80S WEDNESDAYS  
CLASSIC ALTERNATIVE ROCK THURSDAYS  
DANCE FRIDAYS  
STREET HIP-HOP SATURDAYS  
WORLD SUNDAYS  
COMING SOON TO NORTH MIAMI & SOUTH BROWARD 96.9 FM

CONFUSED ABOUT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEMESTER?  
LOOKING FOR ANSWERS?  
RADIATE FM'S COREY ANDERSON WILL BE ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS ON JAN. 8 AND 10 BETWEEN 11A.M. AND NOON.  
SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO CBACH1988@AOL.COM FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING ANY DEPARTMENT.

# InformaCast improves University communication



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON

**TESTING:** Installer Frank Zambrana tests one of the new emergency phones located in Primera Casa.

## EMERGENCY, page 1

and ensure the safety of everyone on campus specifically during emergencies," said Vice President of Student Affairs and Undergraduate Education Rosa Jones in a December press release from Media Relations.

Cyrille said that the University Technology Services department, which installed the emergency phones, is performing field surveys on the installed phones.

"We are always looking to improve safety,"

Cyrille said.

Phase three of the safety initiative will begin as soon as additional funds are available, but Cyrille said that the time frame of the final phase's completion is to be announced.

The final phase is the installation of large indoor speakers that can be used to alert people of possible danger.

In December, three large outdoor emergency speakers were installed outside GC, DM and PC.

But Cyrille said that those speakers were

funded by a previous grant and safety initiative not directly involved with the current plan.

The University currently uses the InformaCast system which allows the university to send audio streams or text messages to Internet phones, speakers and other paging systems.

It alerts students, faculty and staff during emergencies through e-mail, electronic signs at the entrances of the University Park and Biscayne Bay campuses, and local news outlets.

# Students get their news faster with new Web site

## WEB SITE, page 1

reporters and readers to respond to breaking news quicker.

"The new Web site is a way of following the direction the world is taking when it comes to getting info. It isn't 100 percent about the information, but also interacting with it. Whether it is discussing it with your peers or just getting it faster. It is making it our newspaper more interactive," said Rick Martinez, an online editor for *FIU Student Media*.

The new site will also allow readers to view back issues of the paper.

"More people get their news online than from the print edition, and especially at a commuter school where students are going in for class and leaving for work," said Joel Marino, an online reporter for *The South Florida Sun Sentinel's* online edition and former editor-in-chief of *The Beacon* from 2006-2007. "They

might not have time to sit around and read the campus newspaper."

While *The Beacon* and Radiate FM already had their own Web sites, *FIUSM.com* represents a fusion of both outlets.

In time, students will be

at FIU."

In the future, both parts of student media will be looking to grow.

As this semester progresses, *The Beacon* looks forward to publishing three times a week, and in the next few years the radio sta-

**Joel Marino, Former Beacon Editor in Chief**

This is a frontier, and it is the cutting edge. Other college newspapers are doing this, it is about time FIU did it as well.

able to listen to live streams of the station and sign up for the online edition of *The Beacon* to be sent to their e-mail inbox.

"The biggest difference is that the old Web site was just a place to dump the articles that were written. The new Web site will contain a lot more news. It will contain photo galleries, archives, exclusive stories and have audio and video," Martinez said. "It will be your one-stop shop to find out what's going on

tion is going to try to install a station for the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Along with publishing three days a week, *Beacon* readers can expect online only stories that go more in depth in ways that the print edition does not allow.

"This will help make *The Beacon* more professional," said Marino. "This is a frontier, and it is the cutting edge. Other college newspapers are doing this; it is about time FIU did it as well."

# Flying art will hang from roof of Deuxieme Maison

## CORTADA, page 1

The vessel arrived disassembled to FIU on Dec. 22. The plane will be stored at the Campus Support Complex.

Madaline Baro, an assistant director from Media Relations, commented that

the plane will eventually be hung for everyone's viewing pleasure from the roof of the Deuxieme Maison building.

Cortada is known for his philanthropic endeavors involving the Cuban community.

He received the prestigious Millennium Interna-

tional Volunteer Award from the U.S. Department of State and *USA Today* in 2000. In February of 2000 Cortada was invited to meet Pope John Paul II in Rome.

For more information visit Cortada's Web site at [www.cubanmonumentoffreedom.com](http://www.cubanmonumentoffreedom.com).

## Great Careers Begin at Victoria & Associates.



**Victoria & Associates Career Services** will help you put your career on a fast track. Having placed over 17,000 people in the 15 years that we have been in business, we know a thing or two about placing top talent. Call us today at 305.477.2233 or 954.441.4677 and let us help you find your dream job.



**Victoria & Associates Career Services**

[www.victoriaassociates.com](http://www.victoriaassociates.com)

## Alternate & Affordable International Medical Insurance for Students & Scholars

*Insuring Today's Need for Tomorrow's Future Since 1976*



### HIGHLIGHTS:

- ACCIDENT & SICKNESS BENEFITS
- PHYSICIAN'S VISITS
- INPATIENT/OUTPATIENT HOSPITAL COVERAGE
- EMERGENCY ROOM BENEFITS
- MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS
- X-RAY/LAB
- PRESCRIPTION DRUGS
- MEDICAL EVACUATION/REPATRIATION
- TRAVEL ASSISTANCE



Please contact our office to discuss your needs:

**Insurance for Students, Inc.**  
[www.insuranceforstudents.com](http://www.insuranceforstudents.com)

600 Corporate Drive, Ste. 101 | Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33334 | 954-771-5883 | 800-356-1235

## Public Relations department hires chair from within

### Ahles' family firm comes first, Figueredo steps in as chair

**SUSANA RODRIGUEZ**  
Asst. News Director

Catherine Ahles, the Advertising and Public Relations department chair, is flying high.

"Four years ago my husband and I started a family business, an aircraft dealership with four people and it's grown to 45 [employees]," said Ahles in a telephone interview. "Now we need full time advertising and public relations so I'm going back to what I've been trained to do."

Ahles joins Premier Aircraft Sales' Fort Lauderdale branch, helping the dealership represent Mooney and Diamond airplane manufacturers.

Ahles led the School of Journalism and Mass Communication's branding, becoming involved with its Web site's design. She also affected enrollment in the Integrated Communications: Advertising and Public Relations program.

"She really helped diversify the Advertising and Public Relations department by bringing in people from different experiences, from health care to marketing," said David Berry, SJMC's marketing coordinator.

Ahles handpicked some professors to join FIU, including Fernando Figueredo, Elizabeth Marsh and Lynn Farber. Ahles worked with the SJMC dean in placing an employee recognition program that honors faculty and worked to

increase graduate assistant enrollment to help faculty with their research.

"One of the accomplishments I'm most proud of is the full time faculty we have now," said Ahles. "I say that because a successful ad program depends on the quality of faculty and students makes it work. I have no doubt we have the highest qualified faculty in the U.S."

Ahles also helped implement new certificate programs in tourism and marketing communications for undergraduates and public relations management for graduates. This fall, Ahles worked with Kimberly Harrison in the English Department in developing an undergraduate certificate in writing.

Despite her dedication as department chair, it's the classroom that Ahles will miss most.

"It's just sad to not be in the classroom everyday. I worked at a community college in Michigan, and have also consulted with numerous colleges in the field so I've had a chance to look at various student bodies out there. Our students are very unique, they're more motivated than typical college students, they're more serious. Many have full time and part time jobs to pay for school," Ahles said.

In Ahles' stead, Figueredo, associate professor for the SJMC, will ascend as interim department chair as of Jan. 2.

"I'm going to hopefully serve the needs of our faculty, at the

## PLANNING THE FUTURE



SUSANA RODRIGUEZ/THE BEACON

**A POETIC MEETING:** On Point Poetry Club members Nakeia Calvert, Odarris D'Haiti and Kertus M Toussaint work on the club's Web site and discuss upcoming events while Adam Dogole practices his recital.

same time serve the needs of our students," Figueredo said. "If I do that, our department and school will benefit."

Figueredo has held positions such as vice-president of corporate communications for both AOL Latin America and Lucent Technologies as well as consulting work for AOL Latin America, Hewlett-Packard, Microsoft and the City of Miami International Council.

Figueredo recently served as a managing partner for the Latin American division at Porter-Novelli, an international public relations firm whose clients include the center for disease control and Procter & Gamble.

"I believe it's important to provide an element of the international to the department of Advertising and Public Relations," Figueredo said. "Part of my interest is to find ways to increase the international focus of our curriculum and course offerings."

Figueredo hopes to increase student internship opportunities,

expand the Berlin study abroad program and create new programs in Spain and Argentina. An SJMC Hispanic institute is also on Figueredo's agenda.

"We live in a global community. Our students need to be able to function in a multinational, multicultural

environment," Figueredo said.

Ahles is confident Figueredo's tenure will enhance the APR department.

"I have no doubt he'll bring great things to the department. I'm very excited for the future under his leadership," Ahles said.

## Class brings new life to a 1950s New York

**JESSICA SENORIN**  
Staff Writer

To many students, James Baldwin and Allen Ginsberg are names on a page. To Dan Wakefield they were his friends, and subjects of continued inspiration.

This semester students will have the opportunity to learn about Baldwin and Ginsberg, among other figures of New York intellectual life in the 1950s.

"New York in the Fifties: Beats of a New Culture" is a three-credit course taught by FIU creative writing professor and Writer-in-Residence Dan Wakefield.

"Students will benefit by learning how the seeds of change that were planted in New York in the 1950s ushered in the creativity and tumult of the 1960s and shaped the course of our culture in literature, music,

**NEW YORK, page 6**

## Science of natural disasters taught during new class

**MONIQUE MATTIACE**  
Contributing Writer

FIU is offering a new course to help students understand the science and reporting behind natural disasters throughout the world, such as hurricanes that ripped through parts of Central America in 2007.

Journalists need to understand the science behind these disasters and why they occur, according to Hugh Gladwin, associate professor in the department of sociology and anthropology. Gladwin is teaching a special topics course during the spring of 2008 to help FIU journalism students understand the causes behind natural disasters.

A contributor to and co-editor of the 1997 book *Hurricane Andrew: Ethnicity, Gender and the Sociol-*

ogy of Disasters, Gladwin has also researched the perceptions of Gulf Coast residents in evacuations for hurricanes Ivan and Katrina.

"I thought it would be good to teach a course on hurricanes in the media. The students will learn a fair amount of science and weather, but the focus is going to be on reporting," Gladwin said.

"Climate Change, Hurricanes, and the Media" is designed to show students the science behind the changes of the environment due to global warming, Gladwin said.

"The real goal of this course isn't to teach everything there is to know about hurricanes or climate change, but to teach someone how you, as a reporter, would understand the scientific issues and report on it," Gladwin said.

The first half of the course will be dedicated to research, science and some reporting; the reporting section of the course will take place after the midterm, when students will receive given short writing assignments, said Gladwin. The course is open to all majors.

One of the required texts for the class, *Storm World: Hurricanes, Politics, and the Battle Over Global Warming*, written by journalist Chris Mooney, is set to take the conflict among scientists concerning global warming and hurricanes head on. Mooney may also be a guest speaker in the class.

Another required book, Mike Davis' *Planet and Slums* focuses on how city populations continue to grow. The book suggests that the majority of the world's population

will soon live in cities. However, most of these people will suffer from poverty. In order to understand the consequences of global warming, Davis takes a look at where human populations are most vulnerable and most explosive, according to Gladwin.

"We have to look at the most horrible [but] conceivable things that can happen, then look at how climate change affects that," Gladwin said. "These people are moving into cities where they can't support themselves except through industry that is going to require energy. These huge cities in the slums are the biggest problem."

"If China or India decided, well, all we can do is burn tons of coal, it's going to exhilarate the global warming process."

WSVN-7 Web Producer and

former FIU student Hans Morgenstern believes this class can give journalism students the tools they need to ask the right questions and distinguish between propaganda and the facts as they report on such issues.

"Those training to become journalists need to understand the differences between myths, propaganda and scientific theories and research," Morgenstern said in an e-mail interview with *The Beacon*. "There's plenty of that mixing it up under the umbrella theory of global warming."

It should take an entire course to help students of journalism discern what's propaganda coming out of an agenda-interested politician and the fruits of scientific fact and research, including that which has yet to be proven."

# Memoirs evolve into curriculum

NEW YORK, page 5

politics, journalism, theater and art," Wakefield said in an e-mail interview with *The Beacon*.

First offered in 2002, Wakefield recalled the course's discussion roots with Les Standiford, director of the Department of English's creative writing program.

"[Les Standiford] knew I had written the memoir, *New York in the Fifties*, and thought a good and unique course might be built around the subject," Wakefield said.

Wakefield's memoir and a documentary film based on it will be part of the course. Wakefield plans to show period films and play jazz music of the era at the beginning of each class to supplement discussion.

Standiford advises anyone interested in modern cultural periods to take this course because it gives them the chance to hear about a part of American cultural history from a man who lived it on the inside and was a friend to many of the writers, artists and social activists.

"There's a lot of credibility behind him. There's no one else with that kind of experience ... and no other course like it," Standiford said.

Some of the personalities Wakefield knew and whose work will be studied include Jack Kerouac, J. D. Salinger, David Amram and Joan Didion.

Students can also look forward to hearing from a guest artist visiting in April — Ameri-

So you know...

## CULTURE FOR EVERYONE

New York in the Fifties is cross-listed for undergrads as AML 4930, class no. 19022; HUM 3939, class no. 19560; and SYD 4610, class no. 18922. For graduate students: CRW 5934, class no. 13780, with a permit from the English department. Call (305) 919-5857 for information. This course needs no pre-requisites.

can composer, conductor, musician and writer, David Amram, who collaborated with such notables as Dizzy Gillespie and Thelonious Monk.

Former student Mary Jo Francis took the course four years ago and still appreciates what she learned.

"The '50s in New York City illustrates the beginning of the questioning that led to the Civil Rights Movement, the Women's Liberation Movement and the Antiwar Movement of the 1960s," Francis said in an e-mail interview with *The Beacon*.

Melanie Neale, one of Wakefield's former graduate assistants, agrees.

"Students will come away with a truly authentic idea of what it was like to live in New York City during the 1950s, from the point of view of someone who not only was there, but who surrounded himself with all types of people," Neale said in an e-mail interview with *The Beacon*.

Francis also emphasized Wakefield's ability to give students a genuine glimpse into the era in which he lived.

"This is the kind of class that is so enjoyable and enlightening that you look forward to it every week and hate to see it end. He makes everyone so comfortable [that] by the end of the course, I don't think there was a student left who wasn't calling him 'Dan,'" Francis said.

# Health Center highlights dangers of cervical cancer

CATHERINE KAIMAN  
BBC Life! Editor

With the recent introduction of a vaccine to protect against the human papillomavirus, this year's Cervical Cancer Awareness Month holds special meaning for the Biscayne Bay Campus' Health Center and Wellness Center.

The event will take place on Jan. 10 in Panther Square at the Wolfe University Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"This will be mostly a table event with free giveaways and information pertaining to cervical cancer," said Dona Walcott, senior health educator of University Health Services, in a telephone interview with *The Beacon*.

The Health Center will also sponsor a limited number of free pap smears, a procedure which examines cells collected from the cervix and the lower and narrow end of the uterus.

Students must make an appointment to receive one of the 20 free vouchers.

"It is very important for [women] to know that human papillomavirus and genital warts can be screened for, and that it is critical to follow up because severe changes in the cervix can spread to other parts and can lead to cancers," said Elvira Velez, director of Health Administration for University Health Services, in a telephone interview with *The Beacon*.

Besides services such as pap smears and screenings for genital warts and viruses, the Health Center also offers the

HPV vaccine, Gardasil.

Gardasil is the only vaccine that may guard against diseases caused by HPV Types 6, 11, 16 and 18.

There are about 15 types of HPV that can cause cervical cancer; the HPV vaccine protects against 70 percent of them, according to Web site [www.gardasil.com](http://www.gardasil.com).

Velez says that one out of five FIU student pap smears are abnormal, which can be indicative of genital viruses, cervical cancer and severe changes, such as HPV, in the cervix that can spread to the uterus.

"If we look at the national number of 3,700 women who die a year from cervical cancer, women should have an awareness about the vaccine and pap smears," said Yolanda Santisteban, a nurse practitioner for the BBC Health Center for the last 10 years.

The event will also feature free makeup consultations and hand massages.

"[Students] can expect information, hands-on tools and displays of the tests that are used for HPV screenings," said Velez. "We also want to nurture women, talk to them and have complimentary hand massages and possibly a Henna artist."

Walcott emphasized the importance of awareness.

"Cervical cancer can affect anyone, mom, sister, cousin, anyone. That is why we are promoting the HPV vaccine heavily at this year's event," she said.

# YOU SPOKE...WE LISTENED

College Student Bus Pass is for students who are currently enrolled in a college, university, vocational, trade or technical school



New, reduced fare College Student Bus Pass

**Only \$20**  
a 50% savings!

## Students wanted a new pass to get to school, and now they can buy one!

- ▶ Pass is good for 31 consecutive days of unlimited rides starting the first day it is used.
- ▶ Sold at Broward County Libraries and the Central Bus Terminal in downtown Fort Lauderdale.
- ▶ Must show current student identification card when purchasing pass.

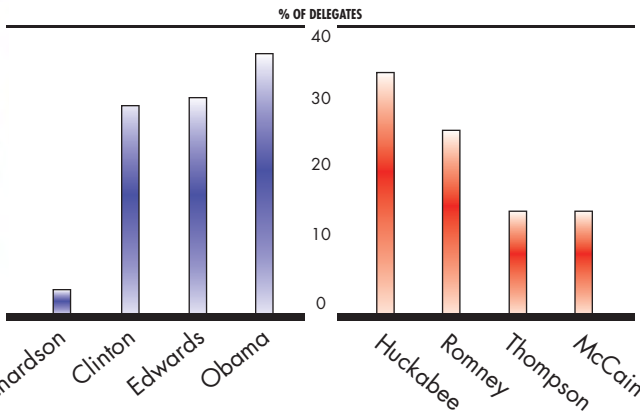


We want to hear from you. Visit our web site at [broward.org/bct](http://broward.org/bct) and fill out the student transit survey to register for a special promotion!



A service of the Broward County Commission  
For more information or assistance with route planning, go to [www.broward.org/bct](http://www.broward.org/bct), or call 954-357-8400; 954-357-8302 (hearing-speech impaired/TTY)

## ELECTION '08 IOWA CAUCUS



### Big numbers mean big changes for Dems

**CHRIS CABRAL**  
 Asst. Life! Editor

As Barack Obama claims victory in the nation's first presidential caucus and the candidates soldier on to New Hampshire for the next contest, it may be easy to forget what happened in Iowa.

Before we move on to the next state, let's take a moment to reflect on the events of Jan. 3. Something historic happened in Iowa that cannot be overlooked: over 230,000 voters turned out to vote for Democratic candidates. That is more than 100,000 more participants on the Democratic side than in 2004 and double the Republican turnout of this year. Nearly six in 10 Democratic caucus-goers were first timers.

Why did the Democrats draw twice as many voters to the polls than the Republicans? Clearly, there is greater excitement surrounding the Democratic field, with three very qualified candidates claiming 97 percent of the vote in Iowa. Though Obama won, all three of the Democratic forerunners were able to draw tens of thousands of voters, each with messages that echo a different strength of the Democratic party.

In third place was Sen. Hillary Clinton, who won roughly 29 percent of the vote, running not only on her own accomplishments within the U.S. Senate but also on the strength of the Clinton legacy.

While she may have lost Iowa, her stature as a strong candidate reflects an indisputable truth: this country was more prosperous when a Democrat was in the White House. Her campaign's relative success draws in large part from memories of a better time when our nation was at peace, its economy boomed and America had a president who was able to speak articulately.

Second place finisher and former Senator John Edwards, who also won about 30 percent, campaigned on a different but

equally powerful message. Invoking the spirit of great Democrats Franklin Roosevelt and Robert Kennedy, Edwards promised to take on big business on behalf of the middle class and the poor.

Though he lost, it is such compassion and courage to stand up against the powerful that has historically distinguished the Democratic Party and resulted in some of its greatest accomplishments, from Pell Grants to Social Security.

The winner with 38 percent of the vote, Sen. Barack Obama, was able to draw first time caucus-goers in record numbers. Forty-one percent of first timers voted for him, as did 57 percent of people under 30, who came out in bigger numbers than in 2004. Obama called upon voters to believe that they could change the country and help end the petty politics of fear and division dominating Washington.

Democrats know the consequences of letting the politics of division triumph. When people focus on divisive issues like gay marriage rather than looking at the big picture, Democrats lose.

It was such petty divisions and fear-mongering that sank John Kerry in 2004, and if Democrats are to win in 2008, they must unite the country around the more important issues like healthcare and the economy.

Regardless of who goes on to win the nomination, be it Obama, Clinton or Edwards, the people of Iowa sent a powerful message to the rest of America. With a record turnout of over 230,000, people are excited about the choices presented by the Democratic Party.

It is the Democratic Party, with the strength of all its powerful voices, that will deliver that change.

*Chris Cabral currently serves as the president of the FIU College Democrats*

### GOP nominee still unclear after caucus

**JUAN CARLOS ROBAINA**  
 Special to the Beacon

The people of the Hawkeye state left their homes Thursday night for their latest turn to shine in front of the nation. Braving the cold weather for the 7 p.m. central starting time, about 116,000 Iowan caucus-goers arrived at schools, living rooms and meeting halls all across the state to cast their ballot for their Republican candidate of choice.

Mike Huckabee rode a wave of new-found support to secure a victory in Iowa, nine percentage points higher than his nearest rival. His victory in the state not only propelled his campaign to legitimate contender status but also delivered an upset to Mitt Romney's campaign, a blow believed to be fatal.

Governor Romney's campaign was hinged on a dangerous assumption. Victories in Iowa and New Hampshire, the first two states to hold presidential caucuses, meant important momentum needed before arriving in South Carolina. Winning these first two states could have secured a knockout blow on Super Tuesday, Feb. 5.

Huckabee's wide victory over Romney in Iowa, especially considering that he was outspent there 15 to one, puts a huge damper on Romney's plans. The biggest strike to his campaign may actually come from someone who finished below him.

Despite spending little money in Iowa and focusing more on New Hampshire, John McCain turned in a 13 percent showing - a statistical dead heat with Fred Thompson for third place. While most would say 13 percent is nothing to be proud of, this should be considered an amazing feat when regarding McCain's limited effort there. He even performed better than Rudy Giuliani, who clocked in at four percent after limited campaigning.

New Hampshire now sits on deck waiting for the calendar to hit Jan. 8. Polls as of Jan. 4 show McCain leading New Hampshire, though they also show Giuliani making a late charge up the ranks. If the polls still hold for McCain, his comeback into national player status would be complete as he would likely take New Hampshire and the momentum going into key state races toward the end of January.

What is also troubling for Huckabee is the number of evangelicals that supported him in Iowa. Eight in ten Huckabee voters identified themselves as born again or evangelical Christians, while two thirds of those same supporters stated that a candidate sharing their religious beliefs was very important. While six in ten Iowa voters identified themselves as evangelicals, that percentage simply will not hold in the rest of the nation. Huckabee must connect to voters outside of his base in order to keep his momentum.

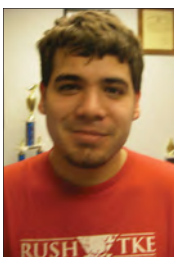
Overall, the night held no big surprises. Giuliani's dangerous bet of Florida or bust led to his lackluster showing in Iowa, but his campaign was prepared for this result. Huckabee and McCain seem to be the only candidates willing to try and ride momentum through January. South Carolina will be an extremely important state for Republican hopefuls (again), as voters in Michigan and Florida will be paying attention to how viable the candidacies of Huckabee and McCain appear there. Two big wins in the early three states should prove for a lead for either of the two if they can manage it.

Time will tell who the winner is. All that can be said with certainty now is that it is a tough race and everything can change on any given Tuesday.

*Juan C. Robaina currently serves as the president of the FIU College Republicans*

### CAMPUS TALK

What is your reaction to the results of the Iowa caucus?



**Alex Ruiz**

"It was very surprising since those two [Obama and Huckabee] weren't really the leaders in the caucus, or at any point and time."



**David Bush**

"It was extraordinarily unexpected and excitingly scintillating. It made me want to go buy a T-shirt."



**Regine Azemard**

"I hope the people will chose the right person, and I think [Obama's] the right person for the job."

# The Many



# of Facebook

## Site offers users 12,000 new ways to interact

**CHRIS CABRAL**  
Asst. Life! Editor

Do you have an acquaintance who annoys the hell out of you, and you'd tell them so if only you could do this anonymously? Have you wondered if you were a "Sex bomb...or da bomb"? Are you a devout Christian fluent in Cantonese? If so, odds are, Facebook has an application for you.

Ranging from fun computer games to absurd personality tests, Facebook offers its users more than 12,000 different types of amusements to help people waste their valuable time.

Of course, these applications should not be mistaken as anything more than forgettable distractions. Some of the applications perform invaluable services that bring people together and help them know themselves.

Take, for example, applications with personality tests. Among the great questions facing every man, woman and child on the face of the planet, is not one of faith or politics, but rather, something far more mysterious and important. "Are you a Gangsta or a Wanksta"? Only the brilliant creator of the Facebook personality test, who goes by the name M.O.E.,

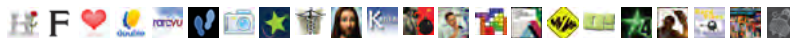
is sagacious enough to answer this question once and for all.

Yet, the social utility of the site's applications does not end there. Thanks to Facebook, you can answer all those questions you secretly have about yourself. Like, "Are you stupid?", "How fat are you?", "Are YOU sexy?", and even "Are you a dancing

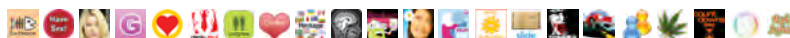
superlatives your friends can bestow upon you in recognition of all your accomplishments.

Your friends can bestow the title "most likely to" become a ninja or burn in hell. And are there any better accolades to add to your resume?

The more shy or duplicitous users on Facebook may wish to send a



Your friends can bestow the title "most likely to" become a ninja or burn in hell. And are there any better accolades to add to your resume?



star or a Karaoke idol?" Facebook will let you know the answer to these questions, and more. And if you are a stupid, sexy, fat, dancing machine wouldn't you want to know?

In addition to tests, Facebook features multiple applications that allow Facebook users to award their friends and enemies on Facebook with "superlatives". If you failed to be named most likely to succeed in high school, there are numerous other

message to a friend or enemy without revealing their identity. For this purpose, a Facebook user can add the "honesty box" application to their Facebook profile.

Through this gimmick, people can finally shed their pleasant facades and tell the truth to other people, for once in their life. The messages are color coded by gender, so if you get a crush message you would at least know if the person is the right sex for you.

There is an application for almost everybody on Facebook. Religious people from Asia can add an application that posts scriptural verses in Mandarin on their profile, while lonely people can add the "hold me" application, which will allow their friends to "virtually" hold them, so they can "virtually" feel better.

Finally, if achieving a heightened level of self-awareness, or being voted "most likely to" burn in hell aren't enough entertainment for you, then the more demanding Facebook enthusiast can add one of more than 1,300 game applications to their profile. A Facebook user can play classic games such as Tetris, Snake, and Pac-Man, or user generated games such as "Zombies," where a Facebook user can become a "zombie" and "infect" their friends. Sounds like fun!

In the end, the purpose of Facebook is to help people interact with others online, and that's what these applications are about. Whether you're a "stupid karaoke idol" or a "fat and sexy gangsta," Facebook has the power to bring all of us together at the table of brotherhood.

As flesh eating zombies, and in this crazy world, brotherhood is truly a beautiful thing.



# Engineer your life.

The College of Engineering and Computing at Florida International University is South Florida's premier engineering education resource. FIU is ranked as a Research University in the High Research Activity category of the Carnegie Foundation's prestigious classification system. Located in Miami, a world-class city and global marketplace thriving in its cultural diversity, the College offers a full range of baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degree programs. On-line programs are also offered.



## Florida International University

### DEGREES IN ENGINEERING, COMPUTING, CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

- Biomedical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Science
- Computer Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Environmental and Urban Systems
- Environmental Engineering
- Industrial and Systems Engineering
- Materials Science and Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Telecommunications and Networking
- Construction Management
- Engineering / Technology Management

### Contact us today!

#### Undergraduate Students:

Stephanie.Strange@fiu.edu, or 305-348-1635

#### Graduate Students:

Grad\_eng@fiu.edu, or 305-348-3526

[www.eng.fiu.edu](http://www.eng.fiu.edu)



# FIU

College of  
ENGINEERING  
and COMPUTING



**CHRIS TOWERS**  
Asst. News Director

If you look through the upcoming movie listings, you might find yourself disappointed at the lack of quality movies this month. Historically, January has been a slow month for movies as studios try to push their blockbusters and award hopefuls into the end of the year.

However, that doesn't mean there won't be some diamonds in the rough this month. These are a few of the most anticipated films of the month.

#### **IN THE NAME OF THE KING (JAN. 11)**

Already well known in the action movie genre for his

work in films such as "The Transporter" and "Crank," Jason Statham is hoping to continue his string of action heavy hits with the video game adaptation "In The Name Of The King: A Dungeon Siege Tale" based on the computer game *Dungeon Siege*. Statham plays the role of a farmer whose life is turned upside down when his son is killed and his wife is kidnapped. Also starring Ray Liotta, Burt Reynolds, and Ron Perlman, this fantasy film looks to offer much of the same features of Statham's previous films: cheap thrills and lots of action and fight scenes.

#### **27 DRESSES (JAN. 18)**

In direct contrast to the

action of "In The Name Of The King," "27 Dresses" is a romantic comedy from the writer of "The Devil Wears Prada." The film stars Katherine Heigl as a woman who has been a bridesmaid 27 times, but who has never considered the prospect of marriage herself. Things change when her younger sister becomes engaged to the man of her dreams and asks her to be a bridesmaid once again.

#### **CLOVERFIELD (JAN.. 18)**

Continuing in the grand tradition of films like "Godzilla," "King Kong" and "Jurassic Park," writer/director J.J. Abrams – the creator of the television show "Lost" – gives us "Cloverfield," a movie about a large creature

of mysterious origin wreaking havoc on New York City.

While not much is known about the exact details of the film, it is known that the film takes place in New York City as five friends are throwing another friend a going away party.

During the party, which they are filming with a handheld camcorder, the monster suddenly attacks the city, throwing it into chaos.

Fans of Abrams' "Lost" will find many of the surprise twists and unexpected endings that his show has become popular for. This, plus the secrecy surrounding its production, has led to "Cloverfield" being one of the most anticipated films of 2008.

#### **FANBOYS (JAN. 18)**

One part "Road Trip" and one part Kevin Smith movie, "Fanboys" is the story of a group of Star Wars obsessed friends who plot to break into director George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch in order to allow their sick friend the opportunity to watch "Star Wars: The Phantom Menace" prior to its release.

Featuring a cast that looks as though they could be straight out of a "Star Wars" convention and a story that is every bit as ridiculous as its premise entails, "Fanboys" looks to be one of the funniest movies of the month.

#### **RAMBO (JAN. 25)**

After improbably resurrecting his career and franchise character in "Rocky Balboa," Sylvester Stallone is looking to do the same for his

Rambo character. Famous for over the top action and explosions, the Rambo series has become a cultural milestone, much like Rocky.

Twenty years after helping Muslim rebels fend off Soviet invaders in Afghanistan, Rambo finds himself living a simple life in Thailand, until a group of aid workers bringing relief to a tribe in Burma is kidnapped by rebels.

Rambo decides to pick up his gun again and come to the rescue.

If he can revive the Rambo series like he did with Rocky, Stallone will have pulled off two improbable feats.

With promises of big action and the return of a classic character, it wouldn't be a surprise to see "Rambo" make a big impact at the box office.

# UM MBA

**Robert B. Newman** Vice President, Financial Consultant — **National Planning Corporation**

Receive world-class education from internationally-renowned faculty at the **University of Miami School of Business Administration**. Our selective admission standards and innovative curriculum create a challenging learning environment where students gain the skills and insights that exceptional leadership demands. Call or visit us today to find out why the University of Miami's MBA is the right choice for you.

## **APPLY NOW**

TWO-YEAR PROGRAM BEGINS AUGUST 2008.  
ONE-YEAR PROGRAM BEGINS JANUARY 2009.

800.531.7137 MBA@MIAMI.EDU  
WWW.BUS.MIAMI.EDU/GRAD

### **Two-Year MBA Program Application Deadlines**

Round 1: 2/15/08  
Round 2: 3/19/08  
Round 3: 6/17/08

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Miami**  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



## **JOIN OUR STAFF!**

The **BEACON** is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don't be shy. Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.

# Brother's death inspires new outlook



My Life Experience

Luis Garcia  
Staff Writer

The day after Christmas has always had some kind of significance for me. It's the birthday of one of my closest friends.

It's a gift return and shopping nightmare for retail workers, a day that is just as crazy as Black Friday.

It's also Boxing Day, celebrated by the United Kingdom and Canada as well as St. Stephen's Day, commemorating Christianity's first martyr.

This year, however, December 26 became something even more to me: The morning I learned my older brother was dead.

It was 9 a.m. when I woke up to a call from one of my brother's closest friends. He told me that my brother was in a terrible accident.

I rushed over to my father's house to see friends and family standing out in the lawn. My dad broke the news. In the back of my head I already knew.

My brother was driving back up to Naples with his Belgian Shepherd, Queen, on Alligator Alley after having dinner with us on

Christmas Day.

He was trying to make a stop when an oncoming car following close behind rammed him from behind, flipping his vehicle over to the side of the road.

Deniel Luis Garcia and Queen were both dead.

video games in the car. No more scolding his hyperactive dog as it nearly bites me.

It's a shame that few of my friends ever actually met him and wondered how we turned out so different despite growing up

him again.

Death is always hard. Whether it's sudden or not, we feel the effects on an almost daily basis.

A news headline, a phone call, a disaster taking many lives or an isolated incident taking only one.

“ It's hard to think about my life in the same way now that my brother is gone... No more discussions about topics such as poker or the decline of video games in the car. No more scolding his hyperactive dog as it nearly bites me. ”

He was 32-years-old.

I can never count how many times my father always told me and my brother to always wear a seatbelt in the car.

All the late nights I spent picking him up after playing poker, I found myself stressing to him the same thing. I thought he had finally taken it to heart. I was wrong.

It's hard to think about my life in the same way now that my brother is gone.

No more requests for money. No more discussions about topics such as poker or the decline of

as brothers and seeing the similarities.

Denny wasn't always the greatest brother in the world. He and my parents were never on the best of terms, but we still managed.

He never finished high school but lived for the moment, going through many different jobs and staying with friends. Months would go by without him, but he would always appear, somehow, without fail.

He was doing well with life and was having ideas of playing professional poker. That can't happen anymore. Christmas Day was the last day anyone would ever see

Death is a very real part of life that many of us still take for granted, even in this day and age of heightened alert in the face of terror.

For most of us, we never truly realize it until we brush near it, or a loved one faces it. I've had to relearn that lesson twice this year.

With 2008 just starting, we should look back on what has passed and who has left us and, at the same time, we should look forward to who we will meet and what will happen in our lives.

Good or bad, memorable or not, each day is a gift that reminds us how precious life is.

## The Beacon needs YOU!

The Beacon is currently expanding and is now more than ever looking for talented individuals to help us in all areas!

We are currently looking to fill the following positions:

- Page Designers
- News Assistants
- Writers
- Beat Reporters

All positions are paid, so apply NOW in GC 210 or WUC 124.

# http://parking.fiu.edu

*Why stand in line?*  
**Order your decal online!**

Pay tickets, process appeals, and order student decals online.

The Parking & Transportation online system enables 24 hour service at your convenience.

The Panther Safety Aid Program provides escorts around campus at night. Transportation will arrive within 10 minutes from your call.



## REVIEWS (YOU CAN USE)

**GAME** *Alien Hominid*

## Little alien has big sights



F.R.E.E  
For Ridiculously Exciting  
Entertainment  
ASHLYN TOLEDO

Many people may have already heard of *Alien Hominid*, the two dimensional side-scrolling action/adventure game by developer The Behemoth. Since its 2004 release on the Nintendo GameCube and Sony's Playstation 2, it has received many awards including the Innovation In Visual Arts and Audience Awards at the Independent Games Festival.

But what many may not know is that *Alien Hominid* started as a free flash game on the Adobe flash Web site *Newgrounds.com*. The original flash version can still be found online for free at many popular flash game Web sites.

The game focuses on a nameless little yellow alien whose spaceship is shot down to Earth by FBI agents. In order to escape, he must fight his way back

to his ship. Playing as the alien character, you can run, jump, duck and shoot your way through the mobs of agents. If you get hit just once, however, it will cost you a life.

Occasionally you will run into helicopters and vans full of agents or a robot mini-boss set out to destroy you.

Though the controls are very simple and revolve mostly around the arrow pad, most of the controls are intuitive; you'll find the challenge in the game comes mostly from the level of dexterity needed to keep up with the scores of angry agents.

Although you can find *Alien Hominid* online at most flash game Web sites, Newgrounds, its original home, also has a few spin-off games and short films inspired by the game such as *Alien Hominid Christmas* and *Alien Hominid At My House*. There's also an *Alien Hominid* tribute by the original creators behind Newgrounds and

The Behemoth.

The free flash version of the game has only one level but getting through it will provide enough of a challenge to even the seasoned gamer.

Although versions of *Alien Hominid* have since been released on Microsoft's Xbox, mobile phones, Nintendo's Game Boy Advance and the Xbox Live Arcade, most are just lengthened segments of the original flash game with better graphics and additional bosses.

*Alien Hominid* received a lot of attention in the gaming world upon its full-length release for its unique art style and sense of humor, both of which support the game's very simplistic gameplay in a way that is both innovative and refreshing.

The Behemoth is currently working on a second title which is set to release later this year. Until then, we can keep ourselves occupied with *Alien Hominid* for free, online.

**GAME** *Geometry Wars: Galaxies*

## DS game packs a punch

LUIS H. GARCIA  
Staff Writer

It started out as a small mini game hidden within *Project Gotham Racing 2* on the now defunct Xbox.

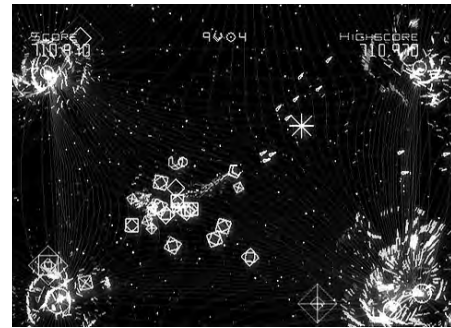
Years later, *Geometry Wars* would become an online phenomenon offered through Xbox Live on Microsoft's second console, the Xbox 360. The latest reincarnation of this game, *Geometry Wars: Galaxies*, extends its addicting reach to the portable realm on the Nintendo DS.

The premise of the game is a simple throwback to arcade classics like *Asteroids* and *Robotron*. You pilot a small ship in a confined space and shoot down seemingly never-ending waves of enemies.

As your score and point multiplier increase so do your firepower and enemy's attacks. A crowded screen illustrates the chaos created by numerous assaults, and because of this, your vessel is left confined with little maneuverability and only limited use of screen-clearing bombs is allowed.

Although the premise is reminiscent of older classics, *Galaxies* adds a few new elements to the mix.

Now divided up into different solar systems with each planet serving as a stage, the game's playing fields host a variety of hazards along with new enemy types and medal rankings.



Also, currency can be collected as you destroy enemies for purchasing new AI drone types to assist your ship and unlock more stages.

The DS manages to handle the dual-stick controls of the original well, keeping the game's pick-up-and-play feel intact. In terms of visuals, *Geometry Wars'* graphics are similar to the vector line-drawn games of old such as Atari's *Tempest*.

While not as vivid and smooth as the 360's *Geometry Wars* – slight slowdown may occur amidst the chaos on screen – the DS handles the style and performance of the original with good results. The music is fitting to the old school look, with tracks sounding out of a club mix CD.

With its ancient yet familiar visual flair of yesteryear coupled with addictive gameplay and maddening challenge, *Geometry Wars: Galaxies* is a perfect fit for Nintendo's portable avenue to appeal to gamers of any kind.

## CATCH THE I.T. WAVE



### Introducing Our New M.S. in Information Technology Degree Program

Information Technology is the wave of the future. Now you can increase your earning potential by obtaining a master's degree in information technology at Nova Southeastern University's Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences.

#### Choose one of five concentrations:

- Software Development
- Information System Security
- Educational Technology
- Information Security Management
- Information Technology Management

#### About Us:

- Convenient online and on-campus formats
- Cutting-edge faculty and curriculum
- Designated a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance by the U.S. government
- M.S. and Ph.D. programs offered in computer science, educational technology, information security, information systems, and information technology



Graduate School of **Computer and Information Sciences**

[scisinfo@nova.edu](mailto:scisinfo@nova.edu) ■ 800-986-2247 ■ [www.scis.nova.edu/msit](http://www.scis.nova.edu/msit)

**SUN BELT MEN'S BASKETBALL STANDING**

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
South Alabama	11-3	3-0	.786
Western Kentucky	10-4	2-0	.714
Troy	7-6	1-2	.538
Middle Tennessee	4-9	1-2	.308
Florida Atlantic	4-10	0-3	.286
Florida International	3-9	0-2	.250

\*All records up to date as of Jan. 4

**SUN BELT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL STANDING**

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Western Kentucky	9-5	2-0	.643
Middle Tennessee	7-7	2-1	.500
South Alabama	11-3	2-1	.786
Troy	1-2	8-6	.571
Florida Atlantic	4-7	0-2	.364
Florida International	4-9	0-2	.308

\*All records up to date as of Jan. 4

**CLASSIFIEDS****FOR RENT**

Movie Extras. New opportunities for upcoming productions. All looks needed no experience required for cast calls. Call 877- 218- 6224

Undercover Shoppers Earn up to \$150 per day. Under cover Shoppers needed to judge retail and dining establishments. Exp. Not RE. Call 800-722-4791

Sitters Wanted. \$10+ per hour. Register free for jobs near campus or home. www.student-sitters.com

**Road to national title one less traveled**

**RALPH D. RUSSO**  
AP WIRE

Remember back when South Florida was the talk of college football?

Yeah, that didn't last very long.

Boston College was a nice story...for a couple of weeks.

Kansas was everybody's favorite underdog until Missouri took that title from the Jayhawks. The Tigers were a big deal for about a week.

In the end, despite all the yapping about parity and upsets and level playing fields, the national title game will feature two regular visitors to the BCS VIP room: Ohio State and LSU.

Like any good trip, the best part of the 2007 season was the journey itself. From the beginning, we should've known this was going to be a wild ride.

How could Appalachian State beating Michigan 34-32 in the Big House not be a sign the college football gods were planning to have some fun at the expense of the sports' upper class?

By the time the season was over, Appalachian State over Michigan on the first Saturday of September wasn't even the clear-cut

winner of upset of the year.

Not after October began with 41-point underdog Stanford beating superpower Southern California, 24-23.

Suddenly, USF was ranked higher than USC.

USF, a program born in a trailer park during the Clinton administration, reached No. 2 in the rankings. But soon the Bulls went bust. By then the No. 2 ranking was getting passed around like the spout at a kegger.

When the regular season was over, eight teams had been ranked second in The Associated Press Top 25. Seven of those teams lost as No. 2.

The one team that escaped the curse of No. 2? LSU, which started the season with national championship expectations and ranked behind only No. 1 USC.

Problems for the Tigers came when they got to No. 1. LSU hadn't been No. 1 in the AP poll since 1959 when it moved from No. 2 to the top spot in the final week of September.

Those good times lasted two weeks in Baton Rouge, La.

On Oct. 13, Kentucky and star quarterback Andre Woodson beat the Tigers 43-37 in triple overtime. It

was the first time since the 2003 season the No. 1 team lost before the bowls.

A few hours after the Tigers were taken out by the Wildcats in Lexington, Ky., No. 2 California lost 31-28 at home to Oregon State and for the first time in 11 seasons the top two teams had lost in the same weekend.

That uncommon occurrence would become a trend. It happened two more times. The new No. 1 almost by default was Ohio State.

Having said goodbye to November rolled around, though, and the Buckeyes had a second consecutive BCS national championship game appearance in their sights. All they needed to do was beat Illinois at home. This time it was Illinois spoiling the best laid plans.

So, with three weeks left in the regular season and only one more chance to impress poll voters, the Buckeyes chances of earning a spot in the national championship game were bleak. At least they could still go to the Rose Bowl.

With Ohio State seemingly out of the picture, LSU got a second chance at being No. 1. The Tigers had started the season play-

ing scary good, blowing out opponents, most notably a 48-7 thumping of Virginia Tech.

Other contenders would fall first. Oregon and Oklahoma couldn't overcome injuries to their quarterbacks and lost games to unranked foes. That set up a huge game in a longtime rivalry between two schools.

On the day before the third-ranked Tigers faced the second-ranked Jayhawks in the 116th and most important game in the heated rivalry, LSU lost again as No. 1, again in triple-overtime.

This time Darren McFadden and Arkansas topped the Tigers, 50-48. LSU became the first team to lose twice in the same season as No. 1 since Notre Dame in 1990.

The final BCS computations favored Ohio State and ... welcome back from the dead, LSU. Perhaps we'll never know for sure which is the best college football team in the country this season.

The wacky road trip that was the 2007 college football season has reached its final destination and all those unlikely contenders that made it so much fun are nowhere to be found.

**Are you unable to fall asleep before midnight?  
Do you have difficulty waking up in the morning?**

**You may suffer from Delayed Phase Sleep Syndrome**

**If you have had this problem for more than 3 months, you may be eligible to participate in a research study.**

**You may qualify if you:**

1. are 18 years or older
2. are in good general health

**Study participants will receive study-related examinations & investigational medications at no cost. Study participants will also be compensated up to \$2,000 for time and travel.**

**For more information contact: 1-877-455-5757**



**MD CLINICAL**





# Abercrombie & Fitch

**BRANDS**

We're looking for part-time Associates, and Full-Time Managers in Training to make their mark in our fast paced, high energy store environment. Come join the coolest people from all different backgrounds in a business that gives just as much as it asks for.

*[www.abercrombie.com/diversity](http://www.abercrombie.com/diversity)*

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK

# Golden Panthers face Troy with injured players

## Rebounding duo absent against undersized conference opponent

**DARREN COLLETTE**  
Staff Writer

Early in the season, the Golden Panthers lost two of their best players: junior forward Marquita Adley and 6-foot-2 sophomore forward Elisa Carey.

Not only were they two of the team's best scorers, but they were arguably the best rebounders on the roster.

Now The Golden Panthers (4-9) will take on the University of Troy (8-6) on Jan. 9 at the Pharmed Arena with their two key hustle players missing. It will be the Golden Panthers third conference game this season and the first at home.

The only good news concerning their injuries is that they happened early in the season, and they should both be allowed to red-shirt this year. With the absence of Adley and Carey, the team has looked to 6-foot-2 senior Jasmine Jenkins, who up until this season had seen minimal playing time.

So far Jenkins has done an admirable job stepping into the starting line-up for the first

time in her career and already recorded a double-double and new career highs in both scoring and rebounding.

FIU does have more size it can play thanks to 6-foot-4 freshmen Maja Krajacic and 6-foot-1 Liene Jekabsons. Depending on the match-ups either could see significant playing time, despite being somewhat inexperienced.

In glimpses early this season good things have been seen from both players as Jekabsons had 9 rebounds against UM and Krajacic nearly had a double-double against the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) with 10 points and 8 rebounds.

Size has been an issue in some of Golden Panthers' losses to bigger teams like Eastern Michigan and Georgia. However, Troy is a smaller team with few 6-footers and their tallest player is 6-foot-2.

In match-ups against smaller opponents such as Lynn University, Hofstra and The University of Miami, the Golden Panthers have taken advantage of the height discrepancy and won.

Due to their lack of a strong

inside presents, FIU has turned to outside shooting as a source of offense. The good news for the Golden Panthers is that they have quite a few effective shooters like freshman guard Fanni Hutlassa, senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson, sophomore guard Monika Bosilj, senior guard Asha Neal and junior guard Iva Ciglar.

Troy is led by senior guard Amy Lewis. She leads the team in scoring with almost 20 points per game. Lewis ranks number one in 3-pointers made in the Sun Belt conference (Ferguson ranks number two) and is second to Ciglar for the lead in minutes played. Junior Kylie Morris is the team's second leading scorer with 14 points per game and leads Troy in rebounding with 5 rebounds a game.

Troy will be coming in following a 73-62 win over Sun Belt rival North Texas.

The match-up should be manageable for the Golden Panthers thanks to the fact that they will not have a height disadvantage and should be able to win the rebounding battle.

FIU will need to focus on stopping Lewis from putting up big numbers because in earlier games this season the defense has given up high points totals to the opponents leading scorer.



FERNANDO GARCIA/BEACON FILE PHOTO

**LOSING CONTROL:** Junior guard Iva Ciglar attempts to set up the offense against Lynn University.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL NOTEBOOK

# Center and perimeter play crucial against Troy at home



FERNANDO GARCIA/BEACON FILE PHOTO

**SINKING:** Junior guard Kenneth White drives to the basket in a 88-61 loss at home. White is one of the new players expected to provide significant offense throughout the season.

**SERGIO BONILLA**  
Sports Editor

As the Golden Panthers set to face University of Troy Trojans (6-6) Jan. 9 at the Pharmed Arena, the presence of center Russell Hicks coupled with the team's perimeter defense and offense will dictate whether the team snaps its losing spell.

After beginning the season 2-0, the Golden Panthers have gone 1-9 including six losses by more than double digits.

The most notable of those losses was the 92-49 stomping at the hands of Kentucky on Dec. 31.

The Golden Panthers began to struggle when Hicks' offensive production dropped off, and he was barely attempting any shots.

Hicks got back on track scoring 20 points twice; however, now the team's defense is not stopping anyone.

Opponents have lit up the Golden Panthers defense from three-point range. Kentucky shot 11-of-22 from three-point range, and Robert Morris shot 12-of-17 from behind the arc.

Troy sports a small speedy lineup with none of the starting five stand-

ing more than 6-foot-8. They do not have a true center and play three forwards and two guards every game.

The Trojans main scoring threats are three guards including sophomore Brandon Hazard. He is shooting 44 percent from three-point range including a 7-of-10 performance against Jacksonville.

Hazard will most likely pose the most problems for the Golden Panthers from the outside, but O'Darien Basset and Justin Jonus are the best overall scorers.

Basset is leading the team in scoring with 18.7 points per game. He causes havoc on the offensive side, but is a defensive liability. Jonus is second on the team with 13.6 points per game.

The Golden Panthers' guards will need to bully the smaller lighter Troy guards in order to slow them down and keep them from shooting well from the outside.

Hicks is a seven-footer but his defense is not his strongest suit.

His height does not make up for his lack of lateral speed. He will need his teammates to keep their opponents in front of them and not force him to try to block them.

Conversely, the Golden Panthers' guards will need to produce offensively in order to compliment Hicks.

He is facing one of the smaller lineups this season. It is imperative that he establishes his offensive game early in order to set up the FIU guards.

If Hicks does not have an impressive game, then the rest of the team's shooting will falter.

Junior forward Alex Galindo has not performed consistently thus far this season and that has contributed to Hicks' lack of productivity.

Galindo should be able to drive to the basket as he is almost as tall as Troy's tallest player.

Having two players controlling the paint on offense will pose a huge problem for Troy's defense. This is the same defense that allowed 131 points to Paul Quinn College, but the Trojans still won that game.

Therefore, it would not be wise for the Golden Panthers get involved in a shootout.

The team's best chance to win is to dominate the paint against the smaller Troy roster while playing a decent perimeter defense.

# FADING AWAY

## *Men's and women's basketball seasons sucking away early*



Commentary  
Chris Martinez  
Asst. Sports Editor

Throughout the swirling coaching climate in the FIU athletic department, basketball has been able to maintain consistent leadership despite drastic changes elsewhere.

Men's basketball coach Sergio Rouco has now been at the helm of the men's program for five years while women's basketball coach Cindy Russo has been guiding the women for 29 years.

With new coaches in football, baseball and both soccer teams, great expectations were leveled upon the two basketball squads to stand at the forefront of what FIU Athletics have to offer.

It should suffice to say that those expectations haven't quite been met.

The men's team, despite terrific output from newcomer junior center Russell Hicks, has gone dormant for a month, undergoing a six-game losing streak and dropping the first two Sun Belt conference games in a conference in which it was supposed to be contenders.

Meanwhile, the women's team stands at 4-9. Although the women can claim a big win with their 60-58 triumph over the University of Miami, they too have dropped two conference games and have fallen behind early in the race.

For the men's team, the problem has not stemmed from the newcomers but rather from the veterans. Hicks has been making a case for All-Conference this season, averaging nearly 14 points and seven rebounds a game and cashing in a double-double against powerhouse Kentucky.

Teams have begun to respect Hicks by

sometimes sending double teams and other defensive schemes to interrupt his touch around the basket.

When this happens and he is forced to pass it out is where the problems begin.

Junior forward Alex Galindo, last years leading scorer, is second with 11.8 points per game this season, but is doing this shooting barely over 40 percent from the field and 29 percent from three point range. Compare this to Hick's efficient 63 percent from the field and the scoring struggles begin to make sense.

Kenneth White is the other new arrival from Texas, and while his talent is clearly evident, much work still needs to be done. White is averaging 10 points per game but on 35 percent shooting, drawing his accuracy into question.

Erick Nsangou started off the season firing away, getting promoted to the starting line-up, but has since cooled down.

“ With new coaches in football, baseball and both soccer teams, great expectations were leveled upon the two basketball squads to stand at the forefront of what FIU Athletics have to offer. ”

Nonetheless, he is still shooting 48 percent from the field and will need to continue to attack the basket to reverse the team's recent misfortunes. On the women's side of the court, senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson is putting up a strong 18.1 points per game, but just like the men's team, efficiency is the problem as it is being done on 37 percent shooting.

Nobody with over ten shots on the season is shooting over 50 percent, and the team desperately needs Jasmine Jenkins to be a force down low on the defensive end.

Junior guard Iva Ciglar should also be



FERNANDO GARCIA/BEACON FILE PHOTO

**TOUGH TIMES:** Freshman guard Russell Tremayne looks down in frustration as the Golden Panthers have not won a game in nearly a month. The men's record is 3-9 while the women's squad has started 4-9.

senior guard Chris Fuller is not only veteran leadership but an excellent lock-down defender who can hit the open 3-pointer.

The key to turning everything around, though, is Kenneth White. The team needs him to emerge from his shooting slump and become the all-around scorer he is capable of being.

For the women, Ferguson is capable of taking over a game when necessary, which is something the men's team hasn't been able to find.

She is very skilled and never afraid to take an important shot. This may be a bit of a joke sometimes, as the term ball-hog often gets slapped onto a player, but at the end of close games it is comforting to know there is someone you can trust with the ball.

Conference play is in full effect throughout January, and the first set of games can effectively be disregarded as this is a chance for a clean slate.

Both teams have the ability to make a run in the Sun Belt and, if college basketball has taught us anything, it's never to discount a hungry underdog.

mentioned, putting up double digits in scoring at 10.1 points per game and adding four rebounds per game.

Both teams are in trouble, there is no disputing that. FIU fans can take solace in the fact that both teams have a strong amount of potential and can absolutely turn things around and revive the team's tournament hopes and fan's hope.

The men's team has what is becoming an established force down low in Hicks and Galindo's talent has not left him.

Nsangou is extremely athletic and is as good a scorer as anyone when he is on his game and

## WINTER BREAK SCOREBOARD

### MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

MIAMI 67, FIU 54  
UALR 75 FIU 67  
MTSU 72 FIU 63  
GEORGE MASON 86 FIU 68  
PURDUE 59, FIU 44  
KENTUKY 92, FIU 49

DECEMBER 8  
DECEMBER 15  
DECEMBER 18  
DECEMBER 21  
DECMEBER 29  
DECEMBER 31

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

EASTERN MICHIGAN 77, FIU 58  
UTSA 68 FIU 57  
MTSU 77 FIU 64  
UALR 65 FIU 45  
HOFSTRA 62, FIU 56  
GEORGIA 70 FIU 56

DECEMBER 8  
DECEMBER 14  
DECEMBER 19  
DECMEBER 22  
DECEMBER 29  
DECEMBER 30