

## The Beacon looks back 2009

Jan Feb March April May June July Aug Sept Oct

### SPOTLIGHT

#### AT THE BAY PAGE 4

SGC-BBC meets for the last time this semester to discuss achievements and future goals.

#### AT THE BAY PAGE 4



Children learn to cook and eat healthy food in the kitchens of the School of Hospitality Management.

#### OPINION PAGE 6

*Cabalitics*: SGA Senate vote a travesty for transparency.

#### OPINION PAGE 6



Switzerland makes preposterous move on Muslim minarets.

#### LIFE! PAGE 7

Moment of Clarity: The top ten hip hop albums of the decade get their due, from the Beacon's resident hip-hop expert.

#### LIFE! PAGE 7



Best of the Decade: The Best albums and songs of the past ten years.

#### SPORTS PAGE 12

The Beacon looks back at the Decade's best Golden Panthers.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Art Basel Miami Beach, Dec. 4, 12 p.m.**  
Check out art exhibitions at this year's Art Basel!

**Primary Flight, Dec. 5, 8:30 p.m.**  
More than 100 of the world's most influential street artists install their work!

**Breakfast in the Park, Dec. 6, 9:30 a.m.**  
Have a free breakfast at the FIU Frost Museum for Art Basel.

—More events can be found in our Monday and Friday issues of Life!.

### WEATHER



**FRIDAY**  
Scattered T-Storms  
LOW: 73 HIGH: 82



**SATURDAY**  
T-Showers  
LOW: 64 HIGH: 77



**SUNDAY**  
Scattered Showers  
LOW: 67 HIGH: 76

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### SGC-MMC VENTURES

## Recapping the senate's efforts, leadership

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA  
Staff Writer

As 2009 comes to a close, so does a vocal and busy semester in the senate of the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus.

Acting as the representative for the student body, the SGC-MMC senate took it on themselves to voice concerns on issues through resolutions, bills and non-binding statements.

The most controversial of resolutions was one that asked student leaders to restructure the government in order to unify it.

The text of the resolution gave examples of what the University-wide Student Government, which includes both Biscayne Bay Campus and MMC representatives, could look like under a different structure.

Such examples included totally separate campus governments, or a structure that would have one central president for both campuses.

The resolution passed with a veto-proof majority and caused an uproar at SGC-BBC, where the majority of the leadership saw the resolution as a veiled attempt by MMC to take away the governmental authority of the BBC campus.

BBC leadership also cited the Oxendine report, funded by the previous MMC administration, which concluded that there was a need for both campuses' presidencies.

The analysis was conducted by W. H. "Butch" Oxendine, Jr. at the time a managing partner at The Student Government Consulting Group, and executive director of the American Student Government Association. It was based on interviews with members of the Student Government Association, Student Affairs and Campus Life.

Temper at BBC also ran high when it was reported that the MMC comptroller, Christina "Raven" Morales, suggested, "We should just burn them down," at a MMC Finance Committee meeting.

Under that fallout, SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda vetoed the resolution, citing he would not sign

RECAP, page 3

### ADMINISTRATION SHIFT

## IN RETROSPECT ...

## Highlighting Rosenberg's feats

JULIO MENACHE  
Staff Writer

Following an expedient, yet exhausting search for a new leader, Mark Rosenberg prepared to succeed his long-time colleague Modesto Maidique as the University's newest president.

From the onset, President-designate Rosenberg spent a good amount of time reminding students and faculty that he would continue on with Maidique's legacy, but noted that he would also leave his mark on the University.

"Because the times have changed, I will focus a little differently than Maidique did," Rosenberg told *The Miami Herald*.

"Maidique spent a lot of his time building up the University. I'm going to spend a lot of my time sustaining the University."

Rosenberg would be faced with the difficult task of succeeding the second longest sitting research university president in the U.S. Rosenberg would receive even bigger reminders of the shoes he would have to fill later on that summer.

On June 12, the FIU Board of Trustees voted unanimously to name its main campus after Maidique. On Aug. 3, the College of Medicine opened its doors, largely thanks to Maidique's efforts.

Rosenberg laid out his plans for the University during his installa-

tion ceremony on Aug. 27. His speech, titled "Hit the Ground Running," focused on three key issues: access, quality and sustainability.

"It's very important we enhance our private fundraising; it's very important that we improve our student graduation rates; it's very important we link out student activities to local interests; and it's very important to engage our local community," he added.

Yet Rosenberg realized there were challenges ahead.

"The difficulty in the short term is that we are trying to run a year-2009 university on a year-2000

ROSENBERG, page 2

### NEW ON CAMPUS



PHOTOS BY ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

**EXPANDING:** (Left) Parking Garage 5, scheduled to open next Fall, will add 1,800 student spaces and feature retail and food services. (Right) The Ambulatory Care Center's ground breaking ceremony was held last summer.

## University continues to grow

GABRIEL ARRARÁS  
Staff Writer

Throughout the years at FIU, students and faculty have been able to experience University expansion; 2009 was no different.

This year, FIU began construction on a number of projects at the Modesto Maidique Campus, such as the Ambulatory Care Center and the yet-to-be named Parking Garage 5.

The College of Medicine's 18,000 square-foot Ambulatory

Care Center will include both surgery and outpatient centers.

The Miami-Dade County Commission supported a decision in 2007 to give \$10 million to fund the center, according to *The Miami Herald*. The money will come from the Building Better Communities General Obligation Bonds, which seeks to build and improve health care facilities.

At the ground breaking of the care center, speaker Albert Dotson, chairman of the University's Board of Trustees and a long-time FIU supporter, said, "[The

college] comes at a time when we're at the height of glory."

"Dade county and Florida will be better for having [the Ambulatory Care Center] on campus," he added

Across from the Chemistry and Physics building and the Red Garage lies the construction site for PG5. According to Bill Foster, executive director of the Department of Parking and Transportation, there will be approximately 2,000 parking spaces, of which

CONSTRUCTION, page 2

# New president fulfills promises, meets goals

## ROSENBERG, page 1

budget,” Rosenberg told Student Media back in August.

In June, the Board of Trustees approved a 15 percent increase in tuition, with the aim to reach the national average of \$3,735 per semester. In addition, Florida Bright Futures will not cover the increase in tuition; it will pay only a fixed amount. A portion of the money collected will go toward funding more financial aid for students.

Rosenberg has tried to follow through with his promise to engage students. On Aug. 3, he announced to the University community that he would be answering questions sent to him by video. The answers would be broadcast on Aug. 24.

When he addressed the Student Government Association, he told members he would work toward getting students more classes, and tell faculty to be more sensitive to the high costs of books.

Rosenberg has also worked toward becoming more involved in the local community. On Sept. 30, he co-hosted a town-hall meeting titled “Education in South Florida: Challenges and Solutions,” alongside Miami-Dade College President Eduardo

Padron and Miami-Dade Public Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvalho.

“The fate of our three institutions is linked to the fate of this community,” Rosenberg said. “We can address just about every community challenge by strengthening our educational

institutions.”

CNN even paid a visit to FIU on Oct. 21 to feature FIU in preparation for its “Latino in America” special, giving the University national recognition.

However, Rosenberg’s presidency has had its share of problems.

In early September, the University fired a senior faculty member for misusing a University-issued procurement card, a credit card given to specific faculty members for business-related use.

In November, it was revealed that there were two more cases of improper use of the cards by staff

members. According to Rosenberg, the two staff members have already “separated” from the University.

“Policies and procedures are in place to ensure the public’s continuing trust in our University and the safeguarding of financial resources,” Rosenberg said.

## Maidique steps down, Rosenberg sweeps in

**JULIO MENACHE**  
Staff Writer

The University’s longest sitting president, Modesto Maidique, announced on Nov. 14, 2008 to members at a Board of Trustees meeting that he would be stepping down after 22 years of service, and requested the Board of Trustees begin searching for his replacement.

Two committees were born out of Maidique’s request: The BOT Presidential Search Committee and the Presidential Search and Advisory Committee. The first was in charge of hiring an executive search firm, which would look for potential candidates.

The Presidential Search and Advisory Committee was comprised

of faculty, students, administrators, alumni, donors and other members of the University community and was in charge of creating a shortlist of candidates.

“This is an opportunity for the committee to hear from different constituencies and see what they really want from FIU,” Committee Chairperson Joyce Elam told Student Media back in January.

The search committee hired Greenwood/Asher & Associates, a consulting firm which had helped the University of Florida find its new president.

The firm announced that it would have a candidate as early as May 1. The reason for the quick search, according to a Greenwood/Asher & Associates representative,

was because of anonymity as many candidates who were still working for other institutions would not want their names made public for long.

In March, the advisory committee announced a shortlist of 15 candidates interested in being the next FIU president. The list included FIU’s Provost Ronald Berkman, who had brushed off rumors that he would be considering the job for months.

It wasn’t until April that another in-house candidate decided to toss his name in the race: former chancellor of the State University System, Mark B. Rosenberg.

Rosenberg had already acted as the University’s provost and acting president. He publicly expressed interest in the position shortly after Maidique announced his retirement.

Many in the University community voiced their support for Rosenberg’s candidacy even before he applied. Even a Facebook group was created, it reached 400 members by the beginning of April.

On April 21, it was announced there were three finalists for the job: Rosenberg, Berkman and Carlos Santiago, chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Days after the announcement, both Santiago and Berkman dropped out of contention, opening way for Rosenberg to become the University’s fifth president.

“We are going to build on the strong legacy that ‘Mitch’ Maidique has graced us with ... that this university move to its next level of excellence,” Rosenberg said.

## THE BEACON

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## Care center, PG5 part of year’s goals

### CONSTRUCTION, page 1

1,500 will be for students.

“This garage will have five bays, where our current garages have four. This means the building will be one row of parking wider than the other four,” Foster said.

In addition to the parking spaces, PG5 will also feature 30,000 square

feet of retail and food service space as well as the new offices of the University Police Department.

Foster said that although the final price of the garage will be ascertained post-construction, the estimated final cost is \$32.5 million. Business Services will be contributing \$2.45 million for their planned 30,000 square feet of retail space that will be located in the garage.

The University Police Department’s contribution of \$2.6 million comes from Public Education Capital Outlay funds.

PG5 is currently slated to open for parking on Aug. 10, 2010.

Jorge Valens, Christopher Lazaga and Diana Jordan contributed to this report.

## The Job Market Is Kind Of Tough Right Now, Isn't It? Why Have A Job When You Can Start Your Own Business?

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# New LCD screens for GC among executive's efforts

**FRANCISCO MARADIAGA**  
Staff Writer

The executive branch of the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus has felt some shifts in the semester and ended the year with a new make up.

Since the summer, SGC-MMC President Rionda has wagged a stick at his cabinet, promising firings if a set standard was not met.

In the name of proficiency, the inner structure of the cabinet was modified from a structure where all office dealings would go up to the chief of staff, to one where the cabinet was fractured into different sections that all had a section head.

Those heads would in turn

report to the chief of staff, a position that also changed: Chief of Staff Drew Sanchez switched roles with his Deputy Chief of Staff Nick Autiello, due to scheduling problems.

At the Nov. 23 senate meeting, Rionda announced that around 10 members of the cabinet were to be fired. As of printing, the administration has not confirmed who has been fired nor given an explanation as to why.

Despite the shifts, the cabinet has been able to point to successes. Homecoming week had events every day, and the lecture series brought CNN Special Correspondent Soledad O'Brien to a very receptive crowd.

SGC-MMC Vice President Mykaelle "Myka" Figueiredo and Community Relations and

Outreach Director Kingsley Nwamah have been racking up the pieces to fund a Scholarship Gala scheduled for this coming Spring, and Rionda spearheaded the renovations to the Graham Center.

GC will get new LCD television sets that will come out of funds reserved for Panther TV.

Panther TV was an initiative started in previous administrations to give the University a student-run network. Currently, \$40,000 are on retention for Panther TV.

Of that money, \$30,000 will now go toward bringing TVs to GC. The ballrooms will also get a change of carpet. To replace carpets in the ballrooms, GC received \$115,971 of Activities and Services fees.

Despite the accomplishments, some initiatives from the start of the semester have yet to bloom.

Since the July University-wide Council meeting, where both MMC and BBC governments get together, there has been a call to create a committee that will look into special elections.

In the September UWC meeting, it was motioned to "force" both campuses' senates to create these committees. By the end of November, however, there still was no such committee created.

The committee in question would look into whether special elections are cost-efficient enough to run when so little students vote during these elections. There is support from both campus governments to do away with the democratic process in special elections to save student money. The alternative would be to have the senates appoint vacancies.

On Nov. 30, senators introduced a bill that would create that committee. According to the sponsors, it was never intended to pass in that meeting, but to get the bill in front of the senate for review. The bill was postponed until Spring.

Another initiative that has not quite panned out is the interactive Web site SGA envisioned at the start of the semester. Though their current Web site has improved since the start of summer, the "face lift" alluded to at the start of the Fall semester is not visible. The interactive blog Rionda spoke to Student Media about is still absent. On the Facebook front, the MMC account was called on this semester for its constant postings of Farmville and Vampire Wars instead of University happenings. It has since been cleared of the game spam.

# Senate accomplishes funding student projects

**RECAP, page 1**

anything that would be divisive among the student body. When the resolution came back to the senate, the veto-proof majority waned and the senate was unable to override Rionda's veto.

The senate also issued a resolution opposing a smoke-free campus initiative, which the University's Health Task Force proposed.

The initiative calls for a total ban on smoking anywhere on campus, even in housing.

After hearing complaints in a townhall meeting, the senate drafted a non-binding resolution that opposed the total ban and suggested that the current policies of designated areas for smoking be enforced.

The senate also came out against Mandatory Health Insurance for University students. This was in reaction to a bill titled "Student Health Insurance Protection Act," proposed in the Florida legislature.

The state bill would have allowed public universities to require their students

to buy health insurance as a condition for registration.

In the SGC-MMC senate, sponsors of the resolution said that the main reason for the opposition was due to the extra financial burden to students that a mandatory health insurance would cause.

The resolution originally passed with two votes against. Rionda then vetoed the resolution, saying it needed more debate and research. He also admonished the senate for haphazardly making waves with the Florida legislature.

Support for the resolution effectually crumbled when it came back to the senate for the override vote. In the end, it was recommended to the sponsoring senators.

The senate also took steps to improve its efficiency by updating the campus bylaws, which was a goal Senate Speaker Helena Ramirez had set for the legislative branch since the summer.

Although the updates did not meet the deadline she had previously set, the main anchor of adding the missing committees' descriptions to the bylaws were met. When

the current constitution was ratified during the last administration, four committees were created but they had no job descriptions assigned to them. The task of defining the functions was given to the committees themselves.

- The Operational Review Committee will audit any student organization directly funded by SGA through Activities and Services fees.

- The Student Advocacy Committee will deal with student concerns and make recommendations.

- The Internal Affairs Committee will be the body that keeps track of legislative records and senatorial day-to-day procedures like attendance and office hours.

- The Rules, Legislation and Judiciary Committee will review all legislation prior to its presentation to the senate. The review will only focus on grammar, spelling, proper format and syntax.

The fifth was the Finance Committee, which remained untouched by the constitutional change. The task of this committee is to manage a chest of \$25,000 made up of Activities and Services fees paid by every student

through tuition.

They money should be used to fund events that will benefit the student body in general. This semester, the Finance Committee and the senate approved \$3,000 to finance the Hijabi Monologues, a spoken-word performance on what it is like to be a Muslim woman in America.

The committee and the senate also funded a handful of convention trips to FIU honor societies; \$300 were allocated to Beta Alpha Psi and \$1,840 were allocated to The FIU Sports and Entertainment Law Society to attend national conventions.

The senate and the Finance Committee also allocated \$2,000 to fund a Spanish-American War simulation run by the Jack D. Gordon Institutes for Public Policy and Citizenship Studies aimed at high school students.

The senate voted to appoint three new members of the senatorial body as well: Senators Sandra Perez of the College of Arts and Sciences, Hector Mujica of the School of Business, and Graduate Senator Muhammad Saleem.

## CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated Nov. 30, 2009, in the article titled "Aquatic Center gets extra revenue from community members," it's stated that students pay a \$10 dollar athletic fee every semester to have full access to the Recreation Center. The center is actually paid for by students' Activities and Services fees.

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

## FARMVILLE



BURKE HILL/THE BEACON

**ORGANIC:** Farmers from south Miami-Dade supply produce during the weekly FIU Organic Farmer's Market Consortium. The farmer's market is held every Wednesday from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. between GL and the GC fountain.

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## WORLD AIDS DAY



**ABOVE:** Daniel Anzeto, (left), senior psychology major and president of Stonewall 2, a student club for gay-straight alliance, gives students information about the club in Panther Square on Dec. 1 during "World Aids Day."



**LEFT:** Juan "JC" Remedios, a junior public relations major, volunteers during the "World Aids Day."

ALL PHOTOS BY TOMAS LOPEZ-MELIS/THE BEACON

## Little chefs cook smart foods in campus kitchens

LATOYA BURGESS  
Staff Writer

In the kitchens of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, a group of students were learning how to slice and dice obesity with healthy, homemade foods, like rice and broiled fish. But the cooks were about four-feet tall and no more than 12 years old.

The children in the HTM kitchens were taking part in "Cooking Skills and World Cuisine," a program that is part of "Common Threads," a national concept created by chef and author Art Smith of Chicago, to offer after-school programs for underprivileged kids ages 8 to 12.

This year, the program is hosted in the HTM kitchens at the Biscayne Bay Campus. It takes place every Monday and

Tuesday from 3.30 p.m to 6 p.m.

Chef Michelle Bernstein and Instructor Mimi Chacin teach 32 students to embrace cultural differences while learning to cook affordable, healthy meals.

"It's not just a local program," said Dianne Newman, director of Student Services for hospitality management. "[Common Threads] has funded to provide transportation and to find underprivileged kids, so they can have a great time learning how to cook and feel comfortable in the kitchen."

On Nov. 30, the children were in the HTM kitchens learning about healthy foods. Before the kids started cooking, they did a few quick stretching exercises to warm up. Then they were given chef

KIDS, page 5

SGC-BBC

## Members recap semester

### Meeting focuses on past success, future goals

MAUREEN NINO  
Staff Writer

Wearing their uniformed blue buttoned-down shirts, the Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council members held their final meeting of the year to discuss current accomplishments and future goals.

Among the topics addressed at the Dec. 2 meeting, the council discussed former University President Modesto Maidique's \$50,000 bonus, which was approved after only two opposed votes were cast. The \$50,000 is a bonus on top of an additional \$50,000 paid sabbatical and \$2.8 million for retirement.

"I voted against it along with another faculty member," said SGC-BBC President Sholom Neistein. "I am not trying to deter or impede what the outgoing president did, but at this time, I think \$50,000 is excessive."

According to Neistein, the \$50,000 could have been used for scholarships and additional classes.

"That money could be enough to hire 20 adjuncts, which get paid about \$2,500 per class that they teach," he said. "Plus, anybody that registers for the classes would pay about \$300. That brings actually extra revenue for the University from the state. That's around \$10,050 that we benefit by having those \$50,000 instituted into those classes and programs."

Neistein also spoke with the council about the First Generation Scholarship, which awards money to students of first generation families in the U.S. It is funded dollar per dollar through the state, but the University needs to match the amount given by the state to get the scholarship.

"There are \$650,000 reserved for FIU, but it needs to be matched by the University. But as of right now, we have not met that potential," said Neistein. "So we're stressing on increasing the contributions and getting more funding for that scholarship."

If that amount is not met, the money reserved by the state will be given to another institution.

The council also discussed

goals met throughout the semester. Within the first month, SGC-BBC created three resolutions acknowledging the new interim BBC Vice Provost Steven Moll, former President Maidique and current President Mark Rosenberg.

The council also focused on the students and wrote a resolution to change MAC 1105, College Algebra, from being an elective to becoming part of the Undergraduate Core Curriculum.

To increase communication with SGC at the Modesto Maidique Campus, the council created a resolution to have University-Wide senate meetings and create unity within both campuses.

"I am very pleased with this year's council. You have all exceeded my expecta-

ness within the student community, SGC-BBC has promoted more one-on-one interaction with students through special events, where SGC-BBC members have come to speak about their goals and tasks.

"The lower-division senators held a town hall meeting, and they interacted with a lot of students. The students became aware," said Neistein. "If you asked the average student at BBC last year what SGA did, I would say one of 10 students would know. Now, I would say two out of five would have some sort of idea of what SGA does."

SGC-BBC also managed an internship program, where students could work directly with SGC-BBC members in the office. Neistein hopes to continue a strong intern program next year.

"Intern interaction has been phenomenal. I wanted this year to have perpetuity, and that is what the intern program is. So then the next

**This council has been able to get people into the positions and start making them successful. We had the cabinet filled since the beginning, and we've kept it that way.**

Rafael Zapata, Advisor  
SGC-BBC

tions, but I think like always there is room for improvement, and we have yet to reach our potential," said Neistein. "I want to hit the ground running come Spring semester."

Among SGC-BBC's accomplishments, the council has also been able to have a full council for the entire semester, having full attendance during every meeting. This used to be an issue in previous semesters.

"This council has been able to get people into the positions and start making them successful," said Rafael Zapata, SGC-BBC advisor. "This year on this campus, we've had very little openings. We had the cabinet filled since the beginning, and we've kept it that way."

The full council has also increased SGC-BBC's notoriety among students.

"Unlike other years, students know who I am," said Maria Pacheco, SGC-BBC lower-division senator.

According to Neistein, to help increase aware-

batch will come in and take over and know what they are doing," he said.

Looking ahead, Neistein plans to work with SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda to consolidate the Student Alumni Association. This way, he said, students will come to the University on a positive note, and as alumni, they will feel attached.

"We want to make every single member of FIU an alumni."

To continue with their current goal of solidarity with MMC, Neistein will be speaking to students during commencement ceremonies for schools at both campuses.

"This will show we both have interest in schools that may not be on our respective campus. That is how we show SGA completely. Both councils complement one another and we don't compete. We may have different visions, but our goals are the same, which is improving the student body experience and well-being," he said.

# Culinary classes show kids how to eat healthy

KIDS, page 4

hats, aprons with the colorful heart-shaped “Common Threads” logo, and their own name tags. Chacin then went over the kitchen rules and techniques used by real-life chefs.

She reminded the kids to use the “Bear Claw,” a way of shaping your hands to prevent accidents when cutting fruits or vegetables, to yell the word “behind” when they were passing behind someone while carrying anything in their hands, and to yell “hot” when they were carrying a hot pot.

The program’s curriculum implements the cooking of international foods from a different country every week.

Puerto Rico was the country of choice that day, and the menu consisted of broiled Tilapia in mojo, a garlic-based Spanish marinade, baked plantains and *arroz con gran- dules*, which is rice with pigeon peas.

To make the special mojo, students chopped and minced cilantro, garlic, onions and bell peppers with large knives using a technique called the “rock-n-chop,” a swift rocking of the knife back and forth across food to get tiny even pieces.

“I don’t usually cook at home, and I was scared to use the knives at first, but now my favorite thing is the ‘rock-n-chop,’” said 10-year-old Sochin Debnata.

Fourth grader Marsha Tropnas is part of the program, and said she enjoys the weekly classes because

she learned how to “use a knife, make sauces and learn how to cook ‘new stuff’ from different countries.”

According to Newman, Bernstein brought the program to Miami and asked if the University’s kitchen could be used to host the event.

Once Newman got the green light from Joan Remington, interim dean of HTM, she said she was happy the school’s facility would be used to make a positive difference.

Newman said she wants to target the young children to help them turn into healthy adults.

The program is a hands-on cooking class that teaches kids how to make quick meals while having fun, she said.

“It is important for kids to eat properly. Kids eat a lot of packaged foods, and they don’t see where that food comes from,” Chacin said.

In a 2007 study by Johnson and Johnson, researchers found that of more than 170 top-rated television programs watched by children ages 2 to 17, nearly all food advertisements were for products high in sugar, fat or sodium.

“Our culture gives a message of eating junk. People start dipping into over-eating and then have to deal with self-esteem issues and primarily health issues,” said Newman. “We can prevent this early on by introducing this generation to healthy cooking and eating.”

To learn more about “Common Threads,” visit [www.commonthreads.org](http://www.commonthreads.org).

## SLIP AND SLIDE



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

**UPSIDE DOWN:** Joe Mintz, supervisor at the Information Desk, flips backwards onto a sticky wall outside Panther Square on Nov. 30 during the “Liberating the Warrior Within” event, as part of Campus Life’s Release Week.

START LOOKING AHEAD.

START WITH CONFIDENCE.

START OUT ON TOP.

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START YOUR FUTURE AS A LEADER.

START INSPIRING OTHERS.

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CABRALITICS

## Senators save SGA from the woes of checks, balances

### Rejected bill demanded too much accountability

After a group of five SGA cabinet members were approved en masse at an SGC-MMC meeting without explaining what specific responsibilities they would have, a small group of senators decided to make a number of unreasonable demands in the form of a terrifying bill.

The bill would require all new potential cabinet members seeking Senate approval to explain what the purpose of their position would be and what they would be responsible for before being approved.

The bill would also require them to say what their exact title would be.

The nerve of those people.

These incredibly strict demands, the bill's supporters claimed, were perfectly reasonable.

After all, these positions could potentially be paid.

"We want clarification, that is all we want," said Senator William Velez, one of the sponsors of the bill.

Thankfully, SGC-MMC Pres-

ident Anthony Rionda provided all the clarification needed. They don't really need to know any of this.



COLUMNIST

CHRIS CABRAL

"I can create any position I would like ... I can create the salary of the position. I think someone forgot to read [the constitution] when they wrote this," said President Anthony Rionda.

It certainly seems so. The constitution clearly states that the president can create cabinet positions at will, and pay them as he pleases (with student fee money).

Of course, the supporters of the bill pointed out that the constitution also states that the positions require Senate approval.

Yet nowhere in the constitution does it say that these senators are required to know about something before they vote on it.

In fact, as a former SGA senator I can tell you it has long been a tradition for some of our representatives to just vote to approve things unless they get a text message saying otherwise.

Many of our senators are shining examples of this great principle. And a few other senators even stood up to fight this madness.

"We are overstepping our boundaries," said an alarmed Senator Alejandro Garcia.

"This looks like a self righteous power grab," said Senator Adam Johnson.

So true.

All these demands that senators be provided with relevant information before approving the appointment of government officials is a terrifying violation of the sovereignty of the executive branch.

It acts as a check if you will, on executive power. That's just downright un-American.

If there is one thing this country stands for, it's for a pliable legislative branch that cedes all responsibilities of oversight and critical thinking to an all powerful executive.

And if someone is appointed to a position of power, they don't really need to know what their specific responsibilities are.

I'm sure they'll figure it out, and once they do, maybe they can explain it to the Senate.

Sometimes, you just have to throw caution and accountability away and just govern on the fly.

Thankfully, the majority of SGC-MMC senators understood

#### BILL VOTING RESULTS SGA SENATE

- |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Adam Johnson (N)      | 14. Hector Mujica (Y)         |
| 2. Alejandro Garcia (N)  | 15. Helena Ramirez (Y)        |
| 3. Alex Alonso (N)       | 16. Loren Fraute (N)          |
| 4. Alex Lastra (N)       | 17. Katrina Fumagali (N)      |
| 5. Altanese Phenelus (Y) | 18. Marcos Oyola (N)          |
| 6. Angela Parra (Y)      | 19. Muhammad Saleem (Y)       |
| 7. Angeline Gonzalez (N) | 20. Sandra Perez (N)          |
| 8. Christina Mellon (N)  | 21. Stephanie Jimenez (N)     |
| 9. Cristina Loreto (Y)   | 22. Taylor Prochnow (N)       |
| 10. Daniela Gonzalez (N) | 23. Vignesh Doraiswamy (Y)    |
| 11. Edward Proenza (N)   | 24. William Velez (Y)         |
| 12. Erica Lovett (Y)     | 25. Yuniel Molina (N)         |
| 13. Haidar Hachem (Y)    | Total votes: 10 yeas, 15 nays |

this. By a vote of 15-10, the SGC Senate voted against the bill, and SGA was saved from a pair of terrible threats: checks and balances.

The views expressed in this column solely represent those

of the author and should not be construed as representing the beliefs of The Beacon.

All angry letters, threats and expletive-laden tirades should be addressed to the author at [chris.cabral@fiusm.com](mailto:chris.cabral@fiusm.com).

## Swiss take their anti-Islamic beliefs to the polls

DAVID A. BARRIOS  
Staff Writer

An overwhelming number of Swiss voters went to the polls last Sunday, passing a law banning the construction of minarets throughout the country in what may be the most charmingly anti-Islamic statement since the heyday of racial profiling in America following the Sept. 11 attacks.

According to the BBC, over 57 percent of Swiss voters and 22 out of 26 provinces voted in favor of the ban.

Now let's put this into perspective: for those who may not know Islamic culture, a minaret is essentially a tall structure built at mosques that serves as a symbol for Muslims in the community and is where the call to prayer is made from.

This move is the equivalent of banning a church steeple and bells.

The right-wing Swiss People's Party launched the proposal, claiming that the structures represented "Islamization" of the country, according to the BBC.

This follows a major move by Swiss Muslim

leaders to open up their mosques to the general public in early November to counter the obvious prejudices and fears that are being pushed by the SVP. In the 200 mosques currently in the country, only four have minarets.

The BBC reports that 400,000 Swiss citizens are Muslim. If my numbers are right, that's about 5 percent of the population. If you ask me, this stinks of good old fashioned xenophobia.

For centuries, the Swiss have prided themselves on neutrality and cultivated the image of understanding and peace. Remember the Geneva Convention? Following World War II, the move toward secularism and away from traditional nationalism was taken from the Swiss handbook.

Outcry against the decision has come from both home and abroad. Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey stated that the government was concerned by the vote, which it did not endorse.

French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner spoke on French radio following the vote.

"I am a bit shocked by this decision. It is an expression of intolerance and I detest intolerance," he said.

In the days following the decision, there has also been ardent support of the decision.

In the Netherlands, Geert Wilders, head of the Freedom Party said, "What can be done in Switzerland, can be done here."

It's almost as if the push toward secularization has back-fired in Europe. This brings back memories of the Paris riots in 2005 when members of the Muslim population of France went to the streets. Most of them lived in slums and were the victims of intolerance by the Caucasian population.

According to an article in *The Independent*, Swiss Justice Minister Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf said the bill contradicts the European

Convention on Human Rights.

If this episode in Switzerland has shown me anything, it is the power that right-wing organizations are beginning to get throughout Europe. The ban was passed after 100,000 signatures were collected by the SVP in a petition.

Sadly, this is a mandate from the people.

What I find more frightening is not just the ardent intolerance that this vote signifies; it is the larger implications that this vote brings.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that the vote "has irked not only the Islamic world, but also those who fear a clash of civilizations," in an article by the AFP.

This brings to mind an article written by scholar Samuel Huntington in 1996. In it, Huntington predicted the world fragmenting into regions: Islamist, Sino, Anglo, based on people's national and religious ideals. According to him, it would dictate military conflict and international affairs following the Cold War.

Events such as these lead me to believe that the greatest conflict of this first decade of the 21st century has not been the ground war in Iraq, but the war of understanding and communication between the west and the east.

**What I find more frightening is not just the ardent intolerance this vote signifies; it is the larger implications that this vote brings.**

#### DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

#### QUOTATION

*"I have let my family down and I regret those transgressions with all of my heart. I have not been true to my values and the behavior my family deserves."*

Tiger Woods, professional golfer, in a public apology following his accident

#### OPINIONPIECE

# 20

The Muslim population, in millions, of Europe in 2007, excluding Turkey.

#### SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Got a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts in to [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com) or drop by our offices at either GC 240 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

#### DAILYQUERY

The SGA Senate rejected a bill that would have had new potential cabinet members explicate on their position and duties. Do you think the Senate was justified in voting down the bill? Send responses to [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com)

## THE TOP TEN

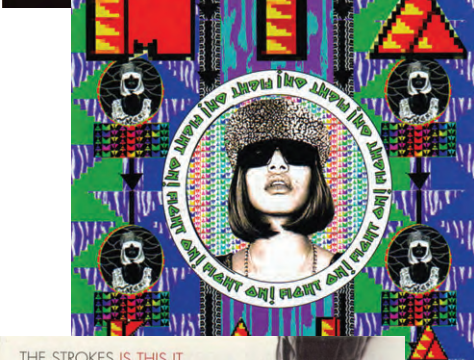
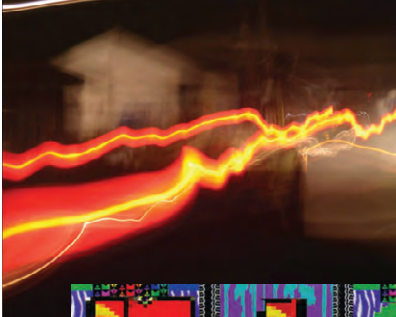
### Ten great albums from the first decade of the millennium

RYAN MOREJON  
Staff Writer

I've been following the flow of decade-end top albums lists and find myself disagreeing with about half of their selections. Now I've been given the arduous endeavor to sum the whole decade up. In other words, I'm summing up my entire music catalogue and tastes into one list. It took me two weeks to come up with it but here it is.

#### 10. THE AVALANCHES - SINCE I LEFT YOU

An album pieced together by samples taken from television shows, old records and field recordings, *Since I Left You* by The Avalanches is a giant jigsaw puzzle with a picture of animals, cartoons and friends dancing at a beach party. The whole frustration with sample-clearing I talked about on Person Pitch is multiplied by 100



record. Strangely enough, The Avalanches haven't released a sophomore album to accompany this gem, yet, *Since I Left You* had a glee about it that's hard to recreate.

#### 9. THE SHINS - CHUTES TOO NARROW

Despite their appearance on the *Garden State* soundtrack, there are a lot of people who still don't know who The Shins are. *Chutes Too Narrow* is The Shins' sophomore LP and it is exemplary indie-pop leaning more toward the pop. James Mercer is a master at writing traditional pop records but *Chutes* stands out next to their first record, *Oh, Inverted World*, which relied on atmosphere rather than song structure. *Chutes* moves with a precise hand and each song never fails.

#### 8. KANYE WEST - LATE REGISTRATION

Jon Brion multi-instrumental production? Check. A plethora of guest spots including Cam'ron, Lupe Fiasco, Jay-Z, Nas and Paul Wall? Check. A seven-minute long, progressive rap song about retrospection and success? Check.

Seriously, Kanye West's *Late Registration* is the best hip-hop album of the decade. West hasn't really shown any sign of slowing down, minus the whole Taylor Swift thing. He's constantly growing, and whether that means he is evolving into an egotistical narcissist or a maniacal genius, you can't really deny his importance in the '00s.

#### 7. ARCADE FIRE - FUNERAL

I feel like all the music released this decade was a response to Sept. 11. *Funeral* by Arcade Fire definitely felt like an album you can mourn to. With it, the band introduced the most original sound this decade: a blend of baroque pop, chamber orchestrations and shout-out punk.

At the time, I didn't think much of the album because I hadn't really dealt with any deaths. But soon after a relative of mine died, *Funeral* made perfect sense.

#### 6. GHOSTFACE KILLAH - SUPREME CLIENTELE

I had trouble deciding which Ghostface album was superior this decade: *Supreme Clientele* or *Fishscale*? *Fishscale* was a nice little album that had Tony Starks at his most nonsensical via stream-of-consciousness. But *Supreme Clientele* had Ghost at his most confident. It was truly Ghostface Killah's album and he had fun with it, complete with Iron Man cartoon clips and a sharp tongue.

#### 5. THE STROKES - IS THIS IT?

It seems like New York City, in general, was a source of inspiration for many indie-rock bands in the '00s and the pivotal one that comes to mind was the Strokes. Their debut *Is This It?* sat as some kind of weird landmark for rock. Watching them live, you'll be fooled as to how bored they actually are with their music: a group of NY lads standing around strumming and drumming their instruments with little to no showmanship.

But that's the type of attitude they resurrected with their brand of hipster, '60s and '70s resurgent rock. A reckless abandon that kick-started indie-rock back to fruition when it was down.

#### 4. M.I.A. - KALA

M.I.A. is a really strange person. I feel she used to be some kind of political blogger who was given a Casio drum machine and a microphone. Her lyrics aren't really too complex, yet they're said with such ferocity and anger that it resonates. *Kala* marked a transition from the simple electro-bass aesthetic used on *Arular*, to a more a global African/Caribbean perspective.

With the help of Diplo, Switch and Timbaland on the production tip, M.I.A. made a rough and abrasive dance record with tons of genre variety including dub-step, reggaeton, dancehall, grime and house.

#### 3. TV ON THE RADIO - DESPERATE YOUTH, BLOOD THIRSTY BABES

Brooklyn will always serve as a beacon for indie-rock creativity and experiments. If you want to find inspiration and live in a community of musicians, just walk down the Williamsburg neighborhood. TV on the Radio evolved from this NY neighborhood and their album, *Desperate Youth, Blood Thirsty Babes*, recalls Brooklyn better than most bands.

Many argue that the *Young Liars* EP is their strongest effort, but it seems *Desperate Youth* is their most misunderstood. It's the harshest they'll ever sound without coming off too abrasive or melancholic. It was a mid-2000s triumph.

#### 2. PANDA BEAR - PERSON PITCH

Panda Bear never really did anything new. It's not like sampling old songs was some newfound innovation. It's a beautiful artifact that, from afar, seems pretty frustrating to me: keeping up a tempo and having to deal with copyright and permits.

But, what made *Person Pitch* a distinct jam was how it exerted a feeling of sunshine and joy that's forgotten in our post-9/11 world. The Animal Collective member used the samples, not as the primary, but as background for his voice. The Brian Wilson comparison is tired but makes sense. A record that plays with Beach Boys arrangements of old and techno sensibilities of new.

#### 1. BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE - YOU FORGOT IT IN PEOPLE

No band did more for indie-rock in the '00s than Canada's own Broken Social Scene. Bold? Yes. Before *You Forgot It In People*, BSS dabbled with post-rock and ambient song textures. The songs were beautiful little nuggets, better for indie-film soundtracks than your stereo player.

They were tame and very modest instrumental songs working with electro-acoustic tendencies and minimalism. They were playing with the same type of soundscapes Godspeed You! Black Emperor and Sigur Ros were playing with.

But *You Forgot It In People* marked a growth. It was a move from introverted long songs to anthemic tunes for a generation. It gave BSS a voice - actually, more than one. Kevin Drew, Brendan Canning, Leslie Feist, Emily Haines, Amy Millan, etc.

They are indie-rock personified: a rag-tag collective of musicians willing to experiment and produce something different with each others' help.

#### MOMENT OF CLARITY

### Hip-hop albums of the century (so far)

This decade has seen a group of veteran emcees continue to blaze microphones, in addition to a fair share of phenoms who have arrived to the sound waves.

COLUMNIST



JONATHAN RAMOS

But that success has been mixed with controversy, as hip-hop legend Nas recently pronounced the genre dead. That statement can be viewed as a ploy to sell his record at the time, but the sentiment has been shared by some.

With sales down and redundant songs getting pushed on local radio stations, the reasonable consumer can easily forget that the art form is very much alive and intact. In fact, hip-hop music is as good as it has ever been and there are more than enough jewels of albums that have been released in the last decade to prove it.

#### 10. THA CARTER, 2004 - LIL' WAYNE:

Barely of legal age at the time, Wayne made his biggest leap in lyrical ability between his second album and his third, *Tha Carter*.

The subject matter is limited to women, the drug trade and money, but Wayne more than compensates for that with lyricism that nobody saw coming.

Wayne has become one of the most popular names in the game today and this record started his ascent into iconic territory.

#### 9. STANKONIA, 2000 - OUTKAST:

What would a list of the decade's top albums be without a mention of Outkast? One of the best groups to ever create rap music put together its best effort here. A nice contrast to the gangster rhymes that dominate hip-hop, Andre 3000 and Big Boi made creative hits behind a diverse slew of beats.

#### 8. SUPREME CLIENTELE, 2000 - GHOSTFACE KILLAH:

At the very beginning of the decade, Ghostface released this East Coast classic. The dark subject matter was met with the complementary production of RZA, Mathematics and Carlos Broady.

#### 7. AMERICAN GANGSTER, 2007- JAY-Z:

After coming out of retirement with the above average - but still disappointing - *Kingdom Come*, Jay took inspiration from the movie with the same title to create another masterpiece. A more mature artist at this stage in his career, Jay created a modern-day version of his first album, *Reasonable Doubt*. A story told in stages about the life of a gangster keeps

NEON LIGHTS

# The guest list at the greatest party of all time

It's tempting to look back as we approach the end of our first decade of the new millennium. For others, there is a concern with the future and whatever Mayan calendars and Hollywood have to say about it.

I'm concerned with celebrating that transient space between the past and the future that we call the "now." The best way to celebrate the decade we live in is to throw a party with 10 of your closest friends – or throw an imaginary party in your head with 10 of your favorite party animals:

**JESUS H. CHRIST**

This is the first and the last guy you invite to any New Year's party. His powers of providing red wine on tap make him an obvious favorite on any guest list, but it's Christ's role as a mediator that makes him an invaluable addition to any social event.

**GEORGE W. BUSH**

Every party needs that one guy with the alcohol problem to pass out while we all doodle on him with a black Sharpie.

**MADONNA**

Our lady of pop music gets an invite because of her entertainment value. David Letterman learned first hand the kinds of rowdy things that come in and out of Madonna's mouth when her sobriety becomes questionable.

**ELMO**

Elmo is such a nice guy. Elmo loves parties! He'll help count heads, collect plastic cups and give anyone a ride home. Who else is going to

actually eat some cake at this party?

**MARIE ANTOINETTE**

Although she was hated in her time, Marie Antoinette does know how to throw a lush party. She embodies the kind of extravagance and vanity that makes your party cooler than your neighbors.

**MISSY ELLIOT**

I love hearing Missy Elliot talk. She's funny, charismatic and wonderfully outspoken.

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**

I have a lot of respect for this man and his great observations: "below the Girdle, it is impossible of two Women to know an old from a young one." He's my favorite of the founding fathers, or as I like to call them, "da real OG's."

**MEATWAD OF AQUA TEEN HUNGER FORCE**

Meatwad would be great at karaoke, and I'd love to hear our little buddy throw down raps with Missy Elliot.

**PRESIDENT OBAMA**

The most powerful man alive today is certainly welcome at my party. If he comes, I'd do everything I can to get him to do the Soulja Boy dance with us.

**LADY GAGA**

I initially resisted putting Lady GaGa on the list because it felt too easy. After conducting my own non-scientific poll, Lady GaGa is just about the hottest thing among people I surveyed. She'll show up fashionably late, set my furniture on fire and spaz around the house in haute couture over the course of the night, but...she's popular.



**BOBBY JOE BRACY**

COLUMNIST

The Frost Art Museum | Florida International University  
10975 SW 17th Street, Miami, FL 33199  
thefrost.fiu.edu | 305.348.2890

Salustiano  
Reincarnation, 2005  
Pigments and acrylic resins on canvas  
54 x 120 inches

## Fall Exhibition Opening Night

**Oct. 9, 2009 at 6 p.m.**

Featuring 3 exhibitions in search of peace and serenity. *The Missing Peace: Artists Consider the Dalai Lama* is the result of a collaboration between the Committee of 100 for Tibet and the Dalai Lama Foundation. The exhibition is a unique opportunity to explore the idea of art as an interpretation of, and a catalyst for, peace. Also on view, *En Vista* by the Cuban-born husband and wife team of Eduardo del Valle and Mirta Gómez who have worked collaboratively for thirty years, receiving international acclaim for their photographs of subjects in a state of flux and *lacuna in testimony* by celebrated Indian artist Navjot Altaf, who uses photography and videos in an attempt to listen to the testimonies of those affected in communal riots in India's Gujarat State in 2002. Altaf's video clearly translates cross culturally, as it speaks not only of Gujarat, but of global conflict.

---

## Target Wednesday After Hours

**Oct. 14, 2009 at 6 p.m.**

Meet the Artists  
Eduardo del Valle and Mirta Gómez, *En Vista*  
Navjot Altaf, *lacuna in testimony*  
The evening will include traditional Indian dance by Rashmi Venkat of the Shiva Reddy Association of Performing Arts of India.

Eduardo del Valle and Mirta Gómez, the Cuban-born husband and wife team, have worked collaboratively for more than thirty years, receiving international acclaim for their photographs of subjects in a state of flux. Navjot Altaf's video installations reflect her interest in a broad range of art media, societal issues and social unrest. She lives and works in Mumbai, India.

---

## Target Wednesday After Hours

**November 4, 2009 6 p.m.**

The Mystical Arts of Tibet and Dr. Nathan Katz lecture. Mandala sand paintings are painstakingly created grain-by-grain by Drepung Loseling monks. This artistic tradition of Tantric Buddhism ranks among the most unique and exquisite forms of asian arts. In Tibet this art is called *dul-tson-kyil-khor*, which literally means "mandala of colored powders." Formed of traditional iconography that includes geometric shapes and a multitude of ancient spiritual symbols, the sand-painted mandala is used as a tool for re-consecrating the earth and its inhabitants. Nathan Katz was selected as a delegate to the 1990 Tibetan-Jewish dialogue hosted by H. H. the Dalai Lama and reported in the best-selling *The Jew in the Lotus*. He reciprocated the hospitality in 1999 when the Dalai Lama first visited FIU for an honorary doctorate, as well as his 2004 visit. Inspired by the Dalai Lama's vision of educating both the "warm heart" and the "good brain," Katz founded FIU's innovative Center for the Study of Spirituality.

Frost Art Museum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

FAN

## THIS WEEKEND

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2009

**THE HANGOVER**



WHEN: 5 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 140

**JUSTICE**

French electrohouse duo



WHEN: 11 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$30  
WHERE: Mansion, 1235 Washington Ave

**BREAKFAST AT THE BAKEHOUSE**

Breakfast & tour of this 33,000-square-foot facility & two exhibition galleries.

WHEN: 10 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Bakehouse Art Complex, 561 NW 32nd St

**SIGMA IOTA RHO CONCERT**

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center

**ENDLESS BOOGIE**



WHEN: 6 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Max Fish pop-up bar, 28 NE 14th St., Miami

**ART BASEL MIAMI BEACH**  
Art galleries, Art Nova, Art Positions and Art Kabinett



WHEN: 12 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$35  
WHERE: Miami Beach Convention Center

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2009

**PHOTO MIAMI**

Photo-based art, video, and new media  
WHEN: 11 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$15  
WHERE: Photo Miami Venue, 3401 N Miami Ave

**PRIMARY FLIGHT**



More than 100 of the world's most influential street artists install their work  
WHEN: 8:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Wynwood Art District

**DESIGN MIAMI**



Global forum for influential dealers, collectors, designers and curators  
WHEN: 11 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: Call (305) 572 0866  
WHERE: Design Miami Venue, NE 39th St & 1st Court

**DISCO MONKEYS PERFORM LIVE**



New York's original progressive art band plays.

WHEN: 6 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Center for Visual Communication, 541 NW 27th St

**KID SISTER**



Svedka Vodka Sessions  
WHEN: 5 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free w/ RSVP  
WHERE: Delano Hotel, 1685 Collins Ave

**ART BASEL: OCEANFRONT NIGHTS**

WHEN: 6 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Collins Park, between 21 & 22 streets

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2009

**BREAKFAST IN THE PARK**

WHEN: 9:30 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: FIU Frost Art Museum

**ART BASEL CONVERSATIONS**



Panel about future models for exhibition-making  
WHEN: 10 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Collins Park, between 21st & 22 streets

**ART BASEL: PULSE**



High-caliber contemporary art  
WHEN: 10 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$10  
WHERE: The Ice Palace, 1400 N Miami Ave

**DITA VON TEESE**



WHEN: 4 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Books & Books, 927 Lincoln Road

**ART BASEL: THE OMNIBOT SHIRT WALL**

Make your own art with this event!  
WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: The omnibot, 2411 Biscayne Blvd #2

**ART BASEL: INK MIAMI**



Exhibit  
WHEN: 10 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Dorchester Hotel, 1850 Collins Ave

-Compiled by Mariana Ochoa.  
Got an event you want featured?  
Send an email to mariana.ochoa@fiusm.com



# The greatest albums of the 2000s: Radiate FM's top 20

**PETER CASTILLO**  
Contributing Writer

In conjunction with Student Media's effort to encapsulate the best of entertainment over the past 10 years, Radiate FM compiled its own top 100. The many DJs at FIU's student radio station (88.1, 95.3, 96.9). Below is a list of their top 20 as well as a few capsule reviews of three of their favorite albums of this decade. For more reviews of their top 100 albums, visit [fiusm.com](http://fiusm.com).

## RADIOHEAD - AMNESIAC (2001)

The second of two comeback releases for Radiohead proved to be their most inaccessible record to date. It stayed in the vein of Kid A, with guitars and traditional drums largely absent and diving further into the dirty word, "experimentation." From the opening, "Packt Like Sardines in a Crushd Tin Box" Radiohead revels in their abandonment of the confines of conventional rock structure. If only based on the spirit of bravery, diversity and risk this album would still top our list but it also matches the paranoia, uncertainty, distance, spontaneity of the times we would endure for the next ten years.

## ARCADE FIRE - NEON BIBLE (2007)

Seemingly out of nowhere Arcade Fire's *Funeral* won the hearts of millions, drove the masses to a tearful, euphoric hysteria with their raw tales of the loss of family, childhood and innocence, cementing them in rock history by gaining the critical acclaim and peer respect that bands spend their entire careers. In short, the world's biggest band had

a lot to follow up on. *Neon Bible* proved to be anything but a sophomore slump, it only justified their stardom. The decade in music was theirs and we were lucky enough to not have had them go unnoticed.

## PORTISHEAD - THIRD (2008)

90s comeback bands/artists we're a dime a dozen this decade but only Portishead's was void of suspicion, welcomed and swimming in tastefulness. Trip Hop was popularized by Portishead. Back then they were marred by futuristic intentions but *Third*, their first album in over 11 years sounds timeless. Such a gap

in musical exploration and recording should result in a step in the previous direction, a glimpse of past glory, not the painfully relevant and contemporary masterpiece it is. "Silence" is the champion of abrupt endings which symbolically seems to signal the complete departure of the sample and loop laden sound of trip hop past.

The emotional core is easily Beth Gibbon's reliably heartbroken vocal delivery, that doesn't struggle against the distant, algid instrumentation. The greatness of this album seems almost as impossible as the notion of a Portishead comeback from the perspective of a fan a year before its release.

## Radiate FM's Top 20 Albums of the Decade

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 20. <b>FEELS</b><br>ANIMAL COLLECTIVE                           | 10. <b>FEVER TO TELL</b><br>YEAH YEAH YEAHS              |
| 19. <b>HISSING FAUNA, ARE YOU THE DESTROYER?</b><br>OF MONTREAL | 9. <b>FUNERAL</b><br>ARCADE FIRE                         |
| 18. <b>SOVIET KITSCH</b><br>REGINA SPEKTOR                      | 8. <b>IS THIS IT?</b><br>THE STROKES                     |
| 17. <b>FRANZ FERDINAND</b><br>FRANZ FERDINAND                   | 7. <b>TURN ON THE BRIGHT LIGHTS</b><br>INTERPOL          |
| 16. <b>ANALORD</b><br>AFX                                       | 6. <b>CRYSTAL CASTLES</b><br>CRYSTAL CASTLES             |
| 15. <b>MADVILLAINY</b><br>MADVILLAIN                            | 5. <b>RETURN TO COOKIE MOUNTAIN</b><br>TV ON THE RADIO   |
| 14. <b>ILLINOISE</b><br>SUFJAN STEVENS                          | 4. <b>NEON BIBLE</b><br>ARCADE FIRE                      |
| 13. <b>ARULAR</b><br>M.I.A.                                     | 3. <b>THIRD</b><br>PORTISHEAD                            |
| 12. <b>PERSON PITCH</b><br>PANDA BEAR                           | 2. <b>YOU FORGOT IT IN PEOPLE</b><br>BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE |
| 11. <b>VAMPIRE WEEKEND</b><br>VAMPIRE WEEKEND                   | 1. <b>AMNESIAC</b><br>RADIOHEAD                          |

## POP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

# Top songs of the past ten years

You always hear people decry the state of modern music, and while yes, the radio might be a vast wasteland, when has it ever been any different?

This has, on the whole, been a pretty great decade for music, and I dare anyone to say otherwise. The 2000s have provided some brilliant music encompassing all genres, and here are my choices for the top 10 songs of the past 10 years.

COLUMNIST



CHRIS TOWERS

## 10. BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN - THE RISING

Reuniting with the E Street Band invigorated the legend, and helped turn this song into a powerful anthem for overcoming tragedy. Written in the wake of the attacks on 9/11, what could have been a dirge turns into a celebration of life in the face of death.

## 9. CONOR OBERST- DANNY CALLAHAN

With the story of a young child dying of cancer, Oberst shows his emotional maturation on this track from his solo debut. Heartbreaking without ever being exploitative, the final verse where the mother says goodbye to Danny is simply devastating in its understatement.

## 8. FLAMING LIPS - YOSHIMI BATTLES THE PINK ROBOTS PT. 1

Taking the sensibilities of the Soft Bulletin to their logical conclusion, Wayne Coyne's ode to a Japanese karate master tasked with saving the world from evil robots is a dance pop gem.

## 7. HOLD STEADY- HOW A RESURRECTION REALLY FEELS

The conclusion of the story of Holly, the drugged-out protagonist of the Hold Steady's second album, features Craig Finn's best lyrics and Tad Kubler's best guitar work, with a slippery riff that even Angus Young would have to tip his cap to.

## 6. LUPE FIASCO - DUMB IT DOWN

Responding to critics who argue his music is too smart for hip-hop, Lupe drops the most verbally dexterous verses of his career while unknown voices urge him to "Dumb it Down" because "That s--t ain't poppin' in the streets." That very well may

be, but Lupe has proven himself to be one of the most respectable artists to come out of hip-hop in the decade.

## 5. DRIVE BY TRUCKERS - ZIP CITY

One of the great "Screw you" songs of all time. Mike Cooley's "90 percent true" tale of the frustrations of small town southern life is to Alabama what "Born To Run" is to New Jersey, if Bruce had been a lot more bitter.

## 4. UGK FEAT. OUTKAST- INTL. PLAYER'S ANTHEM

As a newly married man, nothing I've ever heard comes close to matching the nervous ecstasy a man feels as he watches his bride walk down the aisle like Andre 3000's unconventional verse that opens UGK's final single before Pimp C passed away.

That the other three emcees on the track drop brilliant verses is almost overshadowed by Andre's initial one.

## 3. KANYE WEST- GONE

Kanye has a way of getting the most out of guest vocalists, and that has never been more true than on this track, getting great turns from the otherwise pedestrian Camron and Consequence. However, the real star of this track is Jon Brion and West's chamber pop arrangement, going from celebratory to menacing as West threatens to quit the rap game and move to Oklahoma.

## 2. LCD SOUNDSYSTEM- ALL MY FRIENDS

I hadn't heard this song until about a month ago, but for about the first week afterward, I'm not sure I listened to anything else. The repetitive piano line anchors a swirling cacophony of electronics that builds as the narrator details the process of aging, going from the youthful abandon of adolescence to the trials of middle age until death. At 7 plus minutes, it's still too short.

## 1. OUTKAST- HEY YA

This was kind of a shock for fans of Outkast when it came out. Andre 3000 had always toyed with pop leanings in their songs, but with this song he threw his hat firmly into the pop realm and immediately crafted one of the most perfect pop songs of all time. He also established himself as one of the handful of artists that you absolutely have to listen to everything he releases because you might be in store for moments of pure transcendence, like this.

# Jay-Z, Eminem among notable hip-hop artists of the decade

## BEST HIP HOP, page 7

the listener engaged, and Jay touches on current social topics as well. A must-listen for consumers of any genre.

## 6. THE MARSHALL MATHERS L.P., 2000- EMINEM:

A personal record, the album is the gem of Eminem's career. The Detroit wordsmith doesn't hold back anything when he addresses his past and his current struggles with his family. Dr. Dre produces a few songs on this project as well, continuing to bring out the best in the witty lyricist.

## 5. BE, 2005- COMMON:

The resurrection of one of the best of all time was aided by the soulful production of West, which allowed the veteran to do what he does best. Common brought perspective and conscious words to the airwaves again and rebounded from a bout with obscurity. Only 11

tracks long, *Be* is short and sweet.

## 4. COLLEGE DROPOUT, 2004- KANYE WEST:

Before West was an icon who made controversial headlines and jumped on every pop hit, he was a hungry emcee who put his heart and soul into an album after a life-threatening car accident. West produced every track on the album, and guest appearances by Jay-Z, Mos Def, Common, Ludacris and Talib Kweli

only added to a great project.

## 3. STILLMATIC, 2001- NAS:

Nas got himself out of a tight headlock after Jay-Z's "Takeover" memorably insulted the Queens, N.Y. native. Nas also dragged himself back into the limelight with this 2001 release after a couple of sub-par albums. He retaliated and finished the Jay-Z battle with the successful "Ether," and the album as a whole had no glaring

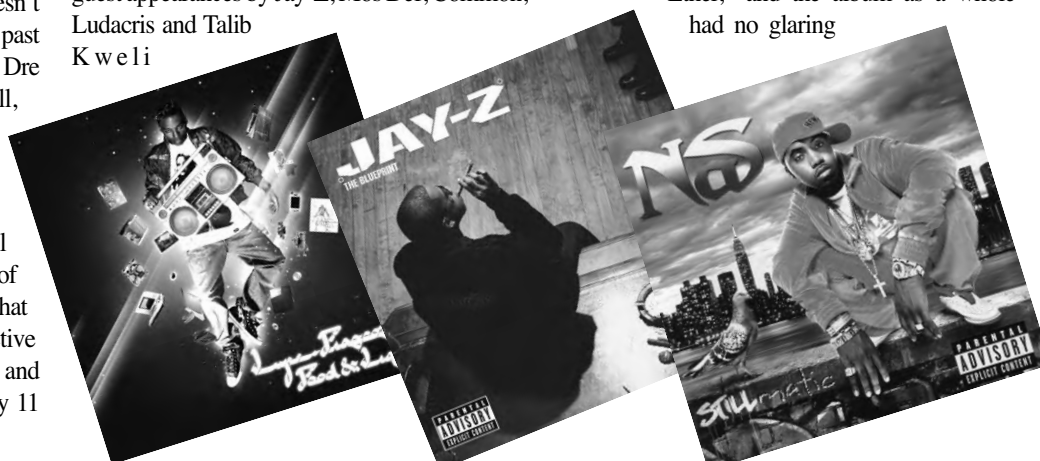
holes in it.

## 2. THE BLUEPRINT, 2001- JAY-Z:

One of the main highlights of the storied career of Shawn Carter. Up-and-coming producers Just Blaze and Kanye West were outstanding, and Jay created a balanced album that had a legendary diss track in "Takeover," personal records such as "Song Cry" and "Blueprint," and a huge hit single in "Izzo."

## 1. LUPE FIASCO'S FOOD AND LIQUOR, 2006- LUPE FIASCO:

This Chicago native built a fan base and a mountain of hype with a collection of refreshing mix tapes where he brought some of the best story-telling ability any rapper has ever processed, as well as a flow that can barely be touched. He met all the hype with this record, and put together a 16-track masterpiece that displayed his lyrical brilliance over production from Kanye West, Pharell and in-house producers Soundtrakk and Prolyfic.



# Football renews rivalry against FAU on senior night

**JONATHAN RAMOS**

Asst. Sports Director

In an old fashioned shootout last December, the Golden Panthers could not hold on to a lead in a late season loss to FAU. The 57-50 result continued a trend in the young rivalry: victory for the Owls. But it was also undoubtedly the most exciting game the two teams have played in their seven meetings.

For seniors like Paul McCall and Scott Bryant, a win this time around would go a long way in sweetening an otherwise sour season.

"The way they won that game last year, it leaves a bad taste in your mouth," McCall said. "That was true pain after that game to have bowl game and shot at a winning season ripped from you. They deserved it, but we have a chance to get that back this year and that means a lot."

The Owls have won three straight contests in the "Shula Bowl," but the Golden Panthers pushed FAU (4-7, 4-3 Sun Belt) to the brink last season, and Rusty Smith, who passed for 389 yards and five touchdowns in the meeting, is out tomorrow with a shoulder injury.

"It's a rivalry game, no other way to look at it," Bryant said. "Were trying to bring the Shula Bowl back to FIU. They took it from us, and I remember the feeling when they rushed the field at Dolphins Stadium."

The cross-town contest was dubbed the Shula Bowl after legendary Miami Dolphins coach Don Shula, but the game will only grow as large as the neighboring schools allow.

Is the rivalry legit?

"Well, it's become a big-time rivalry," Golden Panthers coach Mario Cristobal said. "This is a game that every year is going to grow more and more into a national type rivalry. What you have is a lot of guys that know each other. A lot of pride on both sides. Both programs are building."

The Owls defeated Western Kentucky last

weekend while the Golden Panthers had a bye week. The time off the field gave FIU a chance to get a head start on preparation for the Owls.

The injury riddled Golden Panthers will play a team that is also missing key pieces, with Smith being the biggest absence.

FIU (3-8, 3-4) will be able to count on a fully healthy T.Y. Hilton, who Cristobal said won't be limited by a knee brace against the Owls.

The 2nd year wideout has battled a knee sprain for half the season that has slowed, but not stopped, his production.

The biggest question mark for FIU coming into the game is punter Carlos Munera, who is questionable with a foot issue. The senior is second in the SBC in with an average of 43.2 yards per punt.

Whether FIU wins or loses, it will be the last collegiate game for 22 Golden Panthers, including Bryant.

"Playing for FIU has just done so much for me," he said. "I just thank God for putting me in position to be around great players like Paul who keep you up anytime you're down. You look back at it and you can smile because you've done so much. Our senior class came in and did what we had to do. We passed on all of our knowledge of the game to the younger guys."

Cristobal will look to help the departing players last game be a memorable one.

"You're going to miss guys like that," Cristobal said. "You watch guys who hobble out of the training room on a Sunday with all kinds of tape and bandages sometimes rubber bands and paper clips to hold their bodies together. Yet they find a way to get through the week and practice and fight through pain, fight through injury. And yet still be there on Saturdays and show up in full force. That's why you coach college football. It's not like in the NFL where the horn sounds at 5 p.m., guys get in their Mercedes Benz and their BMWs and screech out to their homes. There's not that bond, that tightness."



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**LAST MCALL:** Quarterback Paul McCall will play his final game as a Golden Panther vs. the Florida Atlantic Owls. The team is looking to redeem the 57-50 overtime loss last season.

## Volleyball builds future with three new recruits

**JOEL DELGADO**

Staff Writer

The fans who attended the last home volleyball game said farewell to seniors who helped propel the team into the national spotlight.

Most fans did not realize the new recruits expected to continue to build on the foundation left by the departing seniors, were on hand for the festivities from the stands. Coach Danijela Tomic expects that these three incoming freshmen will make a significant impact by the time they leave FIU.

Middle blocker Nadja Ninkovic was a member of the junior national team in Serbia and was voted Best Middle Blocker in the European League, and received offers from some of the top programs

in the country.

"For us to get a player that was recruited by Nebraska, by Tennessee, these some major schools and it's a sign of where this program is right now, that we are competing for some of the best players," Tomic said of Ninkovic. "Nadja is going to be dominant, not just in the conference but in the nation. She's going to help take this program to the next level."

Iowa native Jessica Gehrke is also expected to compete for a starting job in her first season as a Golden Panther. She helped lead her high school team to a runner-up finish in the Class 4A State finals.

"Jessica is just a great athlete," Tomic said. "She had an amazing senior year in high school. She's a very natural athlete playing coming from a

very competitive program and she will develop into a very good player for us."

Briana Spruill, a middle/right side, also comes from a winning background as part of a two-time state championship team in Georgia. She was an All-Star senior and received all-state team honors during her time at Westwood Academy, choosing FIU over Miami, Wake Forest, and Clemson among others.

"We're very excited about this incoming class and we're not finished yet," Tomic said. "We'll probably add one or two more players, but the level of talent that we are bringing in now is something that we need and we're beating out programs for recruits that three or four years ago would not have been possible."

## Men's basketball drops fourth consecutive game

**JOEY CRUZ**

Staff Writer

The height disparity was too much for the Golden Panthers men's basketball team to overcome. The Golden Panthers (2-7) did all they could against the much bigger Bowling Green State Falcons, but it was not enough to close out the 67-62 loss on Nov. 30.

The Falcons out rebounded the Golden Panthers 39-28 in the game, 6-foot-9 center Otis Polk dominated with 11 rebounds in the game. There is only one player on the Falcon's current roster that is under 6-foot-2, compared to FIU whose average height on the team is 6-foot-2. Bowling Green State also outscored FIU in the paint 24-6 in the first half.

FIU head Coach Isiah Thomas told fuisports.com that they faced a difficult challenge against the Falcons because of their size.

"Tonight we faced a difficult challenge in terms of size, but my guys fought hard," Thomas said. "They were scrappy and they found ways to get themselves back into the basketball game. I

was proud of the way they competed."

### TIGHT UNTIL THE END

The first half included a 56 percent shooting percentage by the Falcons who kept the lead mainly through the first half, while the Panthers kept their inconsistent streak of three-point shooting alive shooting 36 percent for the half and 35 percent for the game.

Falcon guard Dee Brown was the game's highest scorer with 20 points, while forward Scott Thomas chipped in 10 points, three blocks, and two steals for the game.

The second half included an array of scoring from Marvin Roberts, Antoine Watson, and Phil Gary who all had 13 points in the game. Phil Gary scored all his points in the second half.

The second half showed great promise while FIU brought the lead down only to three points with 40 seconds remaining in the game, limiting Bowling Green State to 40 percent shooting cooling their streak down in the second half. The loss is the team's fourth consecutive loss.

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    - » Finnegan's Rlver «
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policies listed on [miamimusicfestival.org](http://miamimusicfestival.org).

**MMF**

## TOP 10 ATHLETES OF THE DECADE

### CHRIS TOWERS SERGIO BONILLA Beacon Staff

Student Media's current sports department and past sports director/editors each compiled their own top ten athletes of the decade. The No. 1 spot was worth ten points with each lower ranking being worth one less point. The No. 10 spot was worth just one point. The voters considered the athletes' careers while competing at FIU, after FIU and impact on their individual sport.

#### #1 CARLOS ARROYO

He's been the most recognizable FIU athlete of the decade that has played at FIU since 2001. During his men's basketball career at FIU, Arroyo became the second player in school history to score at least 1,600 career points. He finished his FIU career setting school records with 459 assists and 177 steals. Arroyo also ranked second in school history in three-point field goals made (174), third in field goals made (562) and third in free throws made (302). Arroyo has been in the NBA for eight seasons, and he's made lots of noise in international play, headlined by 24-point 7-assist performance in Puerto Rico's shocking 2004 Olympic victory over the United States, and winning an Israeli league championship with Maccabi Tel Aviv where he was the MVP of the league finals.



PAUL SANCYO/AP IMAGES

#### #2 YARIMAR ROSA

She's the most decorated individual athlete in FIU history, and it's not close. The only player of this decade to be selected to multiple All-America teams. She's been the volleyball conference Player of the Year twice, and she received the 2009 award, because of her dominant reputation as she missed almost half the conference season. She's led her team to back-to-back Sun Belt East Division Championships, and had been the conference's most dominant player on the only FIU team to post back-to-back NCAA tournament bids since Cindy Russo was putting up banners in the '90s.

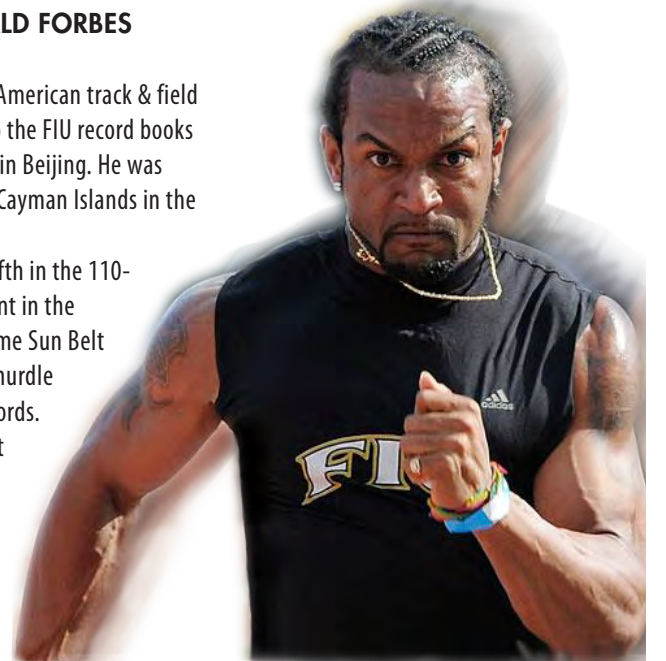


CHRIS GREEN/BEACON FILE PHOTO

#### #3 RONALD FORBES

The 2008 NCAA All-American track & field athlete ran his way into the FIU record books and the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. He was the flag-bearer for the Cayman Islands in the opening ceremony.

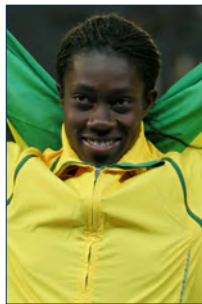
Forbes finished in fifth in the 110-meter high hurdles event in the Olympics. He's a two-time Sun Belt champion in the 55-m hurdle and holds three FIU records. Making the All-Sun Belt team three times and becoming the third male in FIU history to become an NCAA All-American helped him crack the top 3.



FILE PHOTO/FIUSPORTS.COM

#### #4 SHERI ANN BROOKS

FIU has one national championship and Sheri Ann Brooks earned it. She won the NCAA title in the women's 200-meter dash in 22.85 seconds, and also won the gold medal at the 2007 Pan American Games in Brazil in the 4 x 400m relay. She also won the silver medal for the Jamaica team in the 4 x 100m relay.



ALASTAIR GRANT/AP IMAGES

#### #5 ANTWAN BARNES

The University's first player drafted to the NFL was linebacker Antwan Barnes. The Baltimore Ravens drafted Barnes in the fourth round of the 2007 NFL draft. In his senior year his defense was No. 28 in the nation. He holds the FIU record for sacks with 23., and was also part First team Sun Belt Conference selection as a junior and a senior.

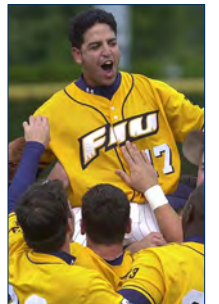


BEACON FILE PHOTO

#### #6 WILLIE COLLAZO

Anchored the FIU pitching staff with his 20 wins over his junior and senior campaigns. His senior season remains one of the best pitching seasons in FIU history with 13 wins and a 2.94 ERA, earning a 3rd team All-American choice.

In the 2001 NCAA regional, Collazo defeated Notre Dame in South Bend in one of the biggest wins in program history.



JOE RAYMOND/AP IMAGES

#### #7 T.Y. HILTON

T.Y. is only two years into his FIU career, but he already ranks in the top five in career receptions, receiving yards, and receiving touchdowns. But his impact goes beyond his play on the field. In selecting FIU over offers from BCS schools like Florida and West Virginia, he gives an air of legitimacy to Mario Cristobal's tenure. With two years left to go, he well may make next decade's list too.

#### #8 JOSH BANKS

Banks' three seasons at FIU featured ERAs under 3.50, including a 3.50 ERA over 105 innings as a junior that led to his selection in the 2nd round of the Major League draft by the Toronto Blue Jays, the highest draft choice for any FIU athlete ever. He's pitched 115 innings at the major league level including a 4.75 ERA with the San Diego Padres in 2008 over 85 innings.

#### #9 TYLER TOWNSEND

Townsend holds the FIU career record for RBI, and his 77 RBI and 182 total bases in 2009 were also FIU records. Townsend improved in each of his three seasons at FIU, going from 5-14-24 home runs each season while also hitting at least .320 each year. Was selected in the 3rd round of the Major League draft by the Baltimore Orioles and skipped his senior year to sign.

#### #10 GERGANA SLAVTCHEVA

Slavtcheva averaged 15.2 points per game over her career and holds school records for three pointers made and attempted, while setting the record for triples made in a season as a junior. Contributed each season, going from 6.1 points per game as a freshman to at least 16 each year after. Was a three-time All Sun Belt choice and lead the conference in assists as a sophomore.