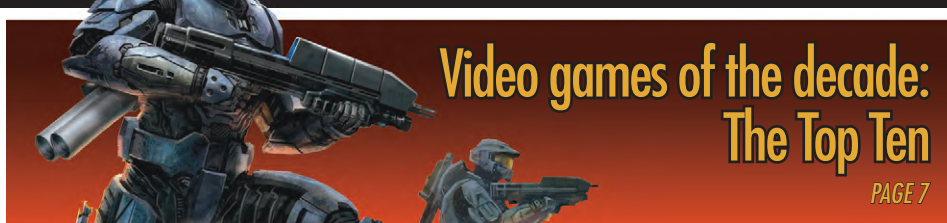




**The Origin of Species carries a questionable introduction**

PAGE 6

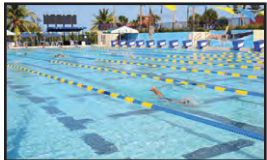


**Video games of the decade: The Top Ten**

PAGE 7

## SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 4



After extensive renovations to the pools at the Biscayne Bay Campus, student use increased – and so did the community use – bringing extra money to the Recreation Center.

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

The South Beach Wine and Food Festival is almost here, and students can sign up to participate and cook with celebrity chefs.

EDITORIAL PAGE 6

Board of Trustees vote to give former FIU President Maidique an extra \$50,000 – a terrible mistake.

OPINION PAGE 6

The GOP is making a move to prevent net neutrality.

LIFE! PAGE 8



Facial hair that changed our lives: Mustaches of the decade.

SPORTS PAGE 12



Volleyball looks to look past loss and makes noise in NCAA Tournament.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Miss Relay, Nov. 30, 7:00 p.m.  
Relay for Life pageant to promote cancer awareness. Event costs \$5 pre sale and \$7 at the door. Event will be held in GC Ballrooms.

The Reach of Realism, Dec. 1, 7 p.m.  
Vanity Fair International Party & exhibition opening. It will cost \$25 and will be held at Moca, 770 NE 125th St.

"The Sugar Babies" Film Screening, Dec. 2, 8 p.m.  
This free film screening will be held in GC 100.

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

## WEATHER



**MONDAY**  
Partly Cloudy  
LOW: 70 HIGH: 81



**TUESDAY**  
Partly Cloudy  
LOW: 71 HIGH: 82



**WEDNESDAY**  
Scattered T-Storms  
LOW: 69 HIGH: 80

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# Making a Difference

## NY Times editor discusses foreign relations

**GABRIEL ARRARÁS**  
Staff Writer

The *New York Times* foreign affairs editor, Carol Giacomo, visited FIU to discuss foreign policy issues that the nation currently faces, such as relations with Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and the threat of nuclear proliferation.

Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus sponsored Giacomo's visit to the University "in order to build a culture of reading and global awareness on campus," said Nick Autiello, SGC-

MMC chief of staff in his opening remarks.

Hilary Landorf, the director of the Office of Global Learning Initiatives, introduced Giacomo, noting her esteemed journalism career.

"It's hard to imagine a more timely moment for the topic of her presentation, nor a journalist more qualified to discuss it," Landorf said. "Whether the story was the escalating violence in Iraq, piracy from Somalia's failed state, or the nuclear ambitions of Iran and North Korea, Ms. Giacomo was and is discussing it."



GIACOMO

Since the age of 12, Giacomo said she knew she wanted to spend her life as a journalist.

"I loved politics and I loved to write and I thought this was a great way to combine them both," Giacomo said. "I was always the editor of the paper in high school, the editor of the paper in college. I graduated when the Vietnam War was still going on and I couldn't wait to go out and get a job in a paper."

Giacomo worked as a diplomatic correspondent for Reuters in Washington, covering foreign policy for more than 20 years before joining *The New York Times*' edito-

rial board in August 2007. She has traveled more than a million miles to more than a hundred countries while following seven secretaries of state and other senior U.S. officials, reporting on every important international event during that period.

Throughout that time, Giacomo believed that some of the most challenging stories she covered were the Middle East peace process and the threat of nuclear proliferation.

"I've done a lot of work over the years on nuclear proliferation, every aspect of it, and that has been a very challenging story because it

GIACOMO, page 2

## BITTERSWEET ENDING



PHOTOS BY CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

**ABOVE:** Members of FIU's volleyball team celebrate after their last home game victory over FAMU on Senior Day, Nov. 28.

**RIGHT:** Player Isadora Rangel, one of the four seniors on the team, is given a bouquet in honor of her last home game. The other seniors recognized were Gaby Jaimes, Yarimar Rosa and Olga Vergun.



## Professor named for Grammy

**BLANCA MORALES**  
Staff Writer

A small wind trio in Baltimore might have not predicted that some 20 years later, one of the students they visited at a public school would go on to make a name for himself in classical music.

Orlando Jacinto Garcia, music professor at FIU, recently had his work "Cuatro

Asimetrías," (Four Asymmetries) nominated for a 2009 Latin Grammy in the Best Classical Contemporary Composition category.

The work was written for and recorded by EntreQuatre, a Spain-based guitar quartet.

"I am extremely honored to know that the voting members of the Latin American Grammy Awards think so positively of

my work," Garcia said in a press release.

Born in Cuba in 1954, Garcia came to the U.S. at age 7. His family settled in Baltimore, MD where he lived until he was in his 20s.

It was in Baltimore where Garcia realized his vocation.

When a trio of wind players came to perform at his public school, they left such an impact on him that he said he fell in



GARCIA

GARCIA, page 3

## Law program lets students graduate in three years

**MELISSA CACERES**  
Staff Writer

A new program at the University will facilitate and expedite the learning process for aspiring attorneys.

Through a partnership between the College of Law and the Honors College, the Honors Accelerated Law Program will give Honors students the opportunity to begin law school a year early, thus obtaining both their undergraduate degree and J.D., a professional doctorate in law, in about six years. This marks the first accelerated degree program between the Honors College and another college within FIU.

"There are two main advantages to it," Honors College Dean Lesley Northup told Student Media. "The first is that a student who is really committed to going to law school would save the cost of their fourth year of undergraduate classes and also move more quickly into their chosen career in law. The requirements are high so we would expect this to be something that only the top students will be involved in."

Also called the 3+3 Program, the requirements for applicants include a minimum 3.5 GPA, a score of 155 on the LSAT and completion of all requirements for their respective majors, excluding electives.

The first-year courses within the law program will then satisfy the remaining elective credits needed for completion of a bachelor's degree.

3+3, page 2

# Giacomo urges stricter sanctions

GIACOMO, page 1

is a difficult subject, and it is also a hugely important one,” she said.

Iran has been the focus point of the nuclear proliferation debate during the past couple of months, with President Obama looking to the United Nations to impose stricter sanctions on Iran.

Giacomo said she believes that the next sanction resolution will not be as tough as it needs to be.

“I think the idea of graduated pressure on Iran has lost its impact. I think we need to do something serious to show them that: ‘Look, the international community really doesn’t want you to do this, and we will take steps to try and make life hard for you.’”

To move forward, Giacomo said

she thinks that the decision to impose stricter sanctions lies in the hands of two key U.N. Security Council members from Russia and China.

“This is a desperately serious issue and the only way we can have a peaceful resolution is by standing together firmly and being willing to put whatever pressure is necessary on Iran, so that they know we are serious,” Giacomo said. “Without Russian or Chinese support, it will be very hard.”

Giacomo’s presentation was part of the Student Government Association’s New York Times Readership Program, which provides FIU with 400 *The New York Times* copies to be distributed in both campuses.

“I think it is a great thing,” Giacomo said. “Not only do I think that *The New*

*York Times* is a great paper – you’d expect me to say that – but I still said that before I joined the paper. I think that it delivers a kind of journalism that is exceptional in the world. Like anything, people find fault, sometimes they disagree, but that is part of our public debate in this country, and you can do that.”

The open forums provided by the Tuesday Times Talks, which are also part of the NYTRP, are dedicated to furthering public debate among students.

“Whatever way we can try to encourage a new generation of readers and a new generation of young people who are going to be involved in the world, it’s all for the good,” Giacomo said.

# H1N1 vaccine offered on campus

JORGE VALENS  
Asst. News Director

H1N1 vaccines will be made available to the University community, according to a press release from University Health Services.

The vaccines will be available starting Nov. 30 on both Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay campuses.

UHS suggested that those interested should make appointments and bring their informed consent forms filled out.

Forms can be found on the department’s Web site, [studenthealth.fiu.edu](http://studenthealth.fiu.edu).

# Partnership facilitates law degree

3+3, page 1

According to Northup, students should demonstrate interest in community service and student leadership.

The idea behind the project was nothing new for the Honors College dean as institutions like Columbia University already offer a similar program. However, the idea was never picked up at FIU until R. Alexander Acosta, College of Law dean who began his tenure five months ago, showed interest in making the accelerated law program a reality.

“There are a lot of really talented students here in FIU who are interested in

attending law school. And if they’re talented and they’re ready, why not let them attend a year in advance?” Acosta said.

According to the Florida Bar Association, the College of Law has gained significant standing as one of the schools with the highest percentage of students to pass the bar exam.

The program will allow juniors in the Honors College to apply to the College of Law, however, it does not necessarily guarantee admission into the school.

“I know that the Honors College has a great product in its students, so I’m not the least bit worried about them being

able to compete successfully with other students for admission,” Northup said.

F. Scott Fingerhut, a professor at the College of Law, will serve as the liaison between both colleges as the Honors College director of pre-law programs.

A new pre-law community among the Honors students will be established with the commencement of the 3+3 Program. It will expose students to internship opportunities, mock trials, guidance from law school admission counselors and a discount on their LSAT preparation tools.

Through this community, students will also have the opportunity to work with

the City of Sweetwater in conducting legal research for the office of the mayor.

“I think it’s really great for students who know that FIU law is where they want to be,” said freshman Nataly Suarez, an economics major who plans on applying to law school after graduation. “And what makes it better is that it’s only three years of undergrad, especially since a lot of the Honors students already come in with AP credits so it makes it easier.”

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# Rosenberg: 'Garcia makes us proud'

GARCIA, page 1

love with the oboe.

From that moment, he knew that playing music was what he wanted to do in life. He was 8 years old at the time.

He signed up for music lessons at the school in hopes of receiving the anticipated oboe. They gave him a clarinet instead. From there, he learned to play a variety of different instruments.

"I would improvise on the instruments I had at hand," Garcia told Student Media.

It was not his first encounter with music, however. His grandmother, who was a concert pianist in Cuba, relinquished her career upon marrying.

Garcia remembered her playing traditional Cuban music, like *son cubano*, for the family.

"I didn't know what it was back then. It wasn't until I was older that I learned that she was playing traditional Cuban music," Garcia said.

After studying music philosophy and Spanish literature at a Maryland college, Garcia moved to Miami in the 1970s to complete his studies at the newly founded FIU.

He completed his composition credits and received his doctoral academic degree in music composition from the University of Miami in 1985.

His big break was in 1988 at the New Music America Festival, where he was commissioned to write a piece for New World Symphony.

Being one of respected composer Morton Feldman's last students and

## Lucky for me, there are always new works in progress. Everything I do is either commissioned or requested.

Orlando Jacinto Garcia, professor  
School of Music

having worked with reputable musicians put his name on the map. Before long, he was in demand as a guest composer and lecturer at national and international festivals, and had his music performed by distinguished soloists, orchestras and ensembles.

According to his Web site, his music has a distinctive style, being described as "time suspended – haunting sonic explorations" with "a certain tightness and rigor infrequently found in music of this type," qualities he developed from his studies with Morton Feldman among others.

"Lucky for me, there are always new works in progress. Everything I do is either commissioned or requested," he said.

Garcia is also the recipient of numerous honors and awards from organizations and cultural institutions as well as the founder and director of several international festivals including the New Music Miami Festival and the Music of the Americas Festival.

He said it takes a lot of hard work and luck to make it in the industry. Despite various prestigious job offers, Garcia has chosen to remain at FIU teaching music and directing the Composition

Program for the School of Music.

When he began at FIU, Garcia saw the School of Music evolve from six faculty members to more than 20.

In 1987, Garcia founded the FIU New Music Ensemble that specializes in the performance of contemporary chamber, experimental and electronic music.

He is also the founder and artistic director of the NODUS Ensemble, which debuted in 1998 and is the contemporary professional chamber music ensemble specializing in the cutting edge art music.

This year, he released *Sonidos Cubanos*, a CD featuring the NODUS Ensemble performing music by Cuban composers with works by Tania Leon, Sergio Barroso, Ileana Perez Velazquez and Garcia's "Silencios Imaginados" and "Viento Nocturno."

"Professor Garcia makes us all proud," said University President Mark Rosenberg in a press release. "This nomination affirms what we already know about professor Garcia and FIU's arts program: Our students are learning from internationally renowned artists who routinely make an impact on the global stage."

## NEWS FLASH

FIU

**Bookstore will sell leftover graduation tickets for \$5**

The University will be selling leftover tickets to this semester's commencement ceremony.

According to the University, students who are graduating will be allowed to purchase two additional tickets for \$5 each.

Tickets will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis in the FIU Bookstore and can only be purchased using a PantherCard.

Information can be found on the University's commencement Web site, [commencement.fiu.edu/CommencementDay](http://commencement.fiu.edu/CommencementDay).

NATIONAL

**Google apologizes for Michelle Obama's image search**

Google apologized on Nov. 25 for an incident involving Michelle Obama's Google image search.

According to CNN, a racially charged image of the first lady made its way to the top of the Google image search. The image was of Obama and was altered to make her look like a monkey.

Google has since removed the image and banned the Web site that posted it from its search results.

**Toyota recalls 3.8 million cars due to malfunction caused by floor mats**

Toyota is recalling 3.8 million cars and trucks as a result of a poorly designed gas pedal.

According to *Autoblog.com*, loose floor mats can catch the accelerator pedal and cause the car to continue accelerating.

Models affected include the Avalon, the Prius, and the Lexus ES 350 and IS 250/350. Owners with cars that fall into the recall will be notified by letter.

INTERNATIONAL

**Brazil bans coconut sale on beaches in preparation for 2014 World Cup**

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil will ban the sale of coconuts on its beaches starting Dec. 1.

The city, in preparation for the 2014 World Cup soccer tournament, will ban the sale of the fruit, citing the fruits' husks as an "eye sore" on the beaches.

According to *Slashfood.com*, 30 tons of coconut husks are collected in Rio each day.

- Compiled by Jorge Valens

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## Aquatic Center gets extra revenue from community members

MAUREEN NINO  
Staff Writer

After more than \$1 million were spent on the remodeling of the Biscayne Bay Campus Aquatic Center, the new pools have piqued interest from students – and the community.

In October, 5,083 students entered the Recreation Center, according to said Elie “Elias” Bardawil, BBC director of Campus Recreation. It cannot be determined whether these students entered the Aquatic Center or the gym, but Bardawil said student usage of the pools has increased and is greater than that of the community and non-students, who also have access to the pools.

“The community membership is very small in comparison to student usage. We are a student center first,” Bardawil said.

Students pay a \$10 athletic fee per semester to have full access to the Recreation Center, which includes the gym, the pools, exercise classes, and special events.

Non-students, who include the outside community, faculty, staff and alumni, pay a fee ranging from \$150 for a basic membership plan, to \$340 for a platinum annual membership. With these plans, members have access to the same amenities as the students.

According to Bardawil, there are 89 members including outside community.

Although the community has several aquatic and recreational centers around the area, such as the Victory Park pool in North Miami and the Miami Shores Aquatic Center, Bardawil believes the BBC Aquatic Center offers members “a world class facility.”

“We offer a fitness and aquatic center, group exercises and special events like paintball, kayaking and whitewater rafting,” Bardawil said.

The increase of non-students using the Aquatic Center has been noticed by both students and members of the Student Government Association.

“I don’t think they should use our center if there are other pools available around the community,” said Giovanna Maselli, a junior journalism major. “As a student, I don’t want to pay for someone else. This is a commuter school. We should be able to fully enjoy what we have, and paid for.”

On the Oct. 23 University-wide SGA meeting, SGC-Modesto Mardique Campus President Anthony Rionda questioned why SGA spends almost \$450,000 annually to operate the Aquatic Center after \$1 million was spent from the accumulated cash balance to renovate it last semester.

Since there was an increase in community usage of the pool, Rionda recommended that the revenue accumulated from community membership fees be used and distributed into funding pool operation.

“Should we be completely funding the entire operation of a pool that’s used for athletic events? Should we be funding the entire operation of a pool that is used by the community? No,” Rionda said at the meeting. “The students pay for everything. If the students don’t use it, we shouldn’t fund it.”

SGA allocated \$350,588, from Activities

and Services fees to the Aquatic Center. But according to Bardawil, the Aquatic Center’s annual fixed expenses are \$447,819, including utilities, chemicals, salaries and other fees.

Along with growing stronger ties with the community, membership also provides an increase in revenue, Bardawil said. He hopes to annually receive about \$140,000, which includes membership fees, summer camp and \$18,000 from the swim teams, who use the pool for training.

“One of the things we have found is that the expenses have gone up. Chlorine has gone up from 92 cents a gallon up to an approximate \$1.82, while funding levels have decreased,” Bardawil said.

Due to the underfunding, Bardawil wrote a request to SGA in April of this year stating that the 2010 costs for the Recreation Center would be a total of \$871,280.

He requested SGA allocate more funds to the Recreation Center, and that if any additional funding would be needed, “the department would have to go before the annual University-wide SGA Funding Committee to make the request.”

He wrote that the reason for the need of extra funds was a “rise in student population and to keep up with incremental and inflationary costs,” according to his letter request.

SGC-BBC President Sholom Neistein believes the revenue generated from non-students is benefiting to the Aquatic Center, but that it could affect students.

“There are both positives and negatives with this specific issue. While on the one hand we are generating revenue, we will be impeding FIU students from using the swimming pool,” Neistein said.

According to Bardawil, University students can use the pool during its regular operation hours, even when non-students and community swimming teams are using it.

The 50-meter by 25-yard swimming pool is open Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The diving well can be used Monday through Saturday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

At the UWC meeting, Rionda suggested the Aquatic Center save money by hiring student lifeguards.

Lifeguard payroll amounts to \$80,463 annually, with three lifeguards on duty at all times for safety.

Each lifeguard has a base salary of \$11.10 per hour, except for the two head lifeguards, who get \$12.50 per hour. According to Daniel Lopez, BBC aquatic supervisor, there are currently nine lifeguards, three of which are students enrolled at the University.

“This is where we can save money. Let’s give our students jobs,” said Rionda during the UWC meeting.

Although the main pool is busy with the community members, swim team and kids’ summer camp, students can still enjoy their solitude and relax at the diving well located on the top deck, which has less use.

“A lot of students don’t seem to know about the pool on the top deck. It’s very quiet, and students can enjoy it even when the main pool is busy,” Lopez said.

## ENGAGING ISLAM



TOMAS LOPEZ-MELIS/THE BEACON

**REACHING OUT:** Hashim Alauddeen, advisor to the Muslim Student Association, speaks to students about Muslims living in America on Nov. 24 in Panther Square for an MSA event.

## South Beach Food and Wine Festival seeks volunteers

SERGIO MONTEALEGRE  
Staff Writer

In February, University students can attend a festival where they can taste wines from around the world and the foods of celebrity chefs, who will be cooking in front of their guests.

But the best part is that those same students can also be part of the action.

The South Beach Wine and Food Festival, a student-ran food and wine festival organized by the School of Hospitality Management, will take place Feb. 25 through Feb. 28, and students wanting to experience cooking with celebrity chefs can start signing up now.

Personalities and celebrity chefs scheduled to appear in the 2010 festival include Bobby Flay, Rachel Ray and Ming Tsai, in addition to hundreds of other chefs and spirits experts.

Students can register to volunteer at the event, where they will be assigned different positions, ranging from sous-chefs to the celebrity chefs, to event managers and team leaders.

According to Michael Moran, HTM chef instructor, student participation is always very strong.

“Last year, we had over 500 student volunteers to work in the event,” Moran said. “Some of them weren’t even hospi-

tality students, so it’s not just limited to students in the school.”

Students who participate in the festival are compensated both with experience in the field, and those who qualify receive scholarship money.

The amount of scholarship money each student participant gets varies according to the amount of hours they work and the funds raised by the school, according to Caroline Karlberg, a student associate coordinator for the festival.

“They’ll have the experience of the festival, networking with lots of people and chefs from around the country,” said Karlberg. “It’s a large chance for exposure.”

Christian Poole, an HTM graduate student, hopes to network at next year’s event.

“I am looking forward to working this event because of the networking opportunities that will be made available to me,” Poole said. “The hospitality business is built upon making connections with various people.”

To this date, more than 50 events are scheduled for the festival, though plans aren’t fully finalized yet.

These events include the BubbleQ, Best of the Best, and the Whole Foods Grand Tasting Village.

# Students encouraged to participate for experience, scholarships

SOBE, page 4

Run entirely by FIU students, the BubbleQ lets students work alongside celebrity chefs to prepare various dishes for attendees. This year's BubbleQ will be hosted by celebrity chef Emeril Lagasse.

"The BubbleQ is in a tent behind the Delano Hotel," Moran said, who is also in charge of the BubbleQ. "The students don't have any support staff, not even from the hotel. It's to show that we got a great school and team."

The tent where the event will take place is right by the beach. Different stations will be set up, where the chefs and their student assistants will showcase their featured menus – all barbecue dishes.

These dishes are accompanied by champagne, which is where the Bubble part of the event comes in.

"From attending, you gain an understanding about the nuances between barbecue styles, like North Carolinian compared to Texan or St. Louis styles," Moran said.

The event is one among many others that also explores various wines from around the world, so guests must be 21 years or older to attend.

The event started in 1996 at the Biscayne Bay Campus. It was



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

**STUDENTS ON FIRE:** Janiece Sarduy and Jouvens Jean grilled beef short ribs for celebrity chef Al Roker's station during the 2009 SoBe Wine and Food Festival's BubbleQ.

a one-day festival known as the Florida Extravaganza.

For six years, the Florida Extravaganza showcased wines from national and international wineries, paired with food from local restaurants and chefs working with HTM students.

But when the event gained popularity and its guests went from hundreds to thousands, its organizers had to look for

a different, bigger location. In 2002, Lee Brian Schringer, director of special events and media relations at Southern Wine & Spirits of America, relocated the event to South Beach and renamed it the Wine and Food Festival.

From 2002 to 2006, attendance rose sharply from 7,000 to 20,000, requiring the addition of more days to the festival

and sponsorship from the Food Network in 2006.

Now in its ninth year, the event is a combined venture from the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Southern Wine & Spirits of Florida, and it is sponsored by the Food Network and more than 100 other local, national and international sponsors, including Whole Foods, Amstel Light, Evian and Miami-

Dade County.

According to the festival's official Web site, the event has raised more than \$8 million since its first year, with all proceeds benefitting HTM's Teaching Restaurant and the Southern Wine & Spirits Beverage Management Center.

In 2009, the festival's proceeds decreased when sponsors began to break away from the event due to the downturn of the economy.

Sponsors like Publix Supermarkets and Macy's withdrew from the event.

Despite initial woes, last year's event garnered more than 50,000 guests, according to the Web site.

For students, it's an experience that can lead to greater opportunities in culinary fields.

"SoBe Fest gives numerous individuals the opportunities to show off their culinary and professional skills," said Poole. "I am very excited to be working with Chef Moran and the other instructors to make SoBe Fest a huge success."

*To purchase tickets to the event as well as more information on the Wine and Food Festival, visit <http://www.sobewineandfoodfest.com>. Students interested in participating in the event can go to <http://sobefest.fiu.edu/2010>.*

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## BEACON | Editorial With programs suffering, Board's vote awarding Maidique bonus appalling

In the spirit of giving that comes with the holiday season, FIU's Board of Trustees is digging deep. In the face of a recession and mounting education cutbacks, the BOT has decided to give former FIU President Modesto Maidique the greatest gift of all: a \$100,000 bonus.

Sadly, they do not have all the money right now, so they've decided to give it to him in installments. Maidique's contract stated that he was eligible for a bonus of "at least \$50,000." By a vote of 10 to 3, the BOT decided to give him twice as much.

While *The Beacon* appreciates former President Maidique's many years of loyal service on behalf of the University and the FIU Foundation (from which the funds from the bonus will be culled), we question the wisdom of such a decision. *The Beacon* sides with the members of the board who opted to vote against the bonus in this time of low budgets and high anxiety.

SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda voted no, citing a lack of money from the foundation for student scholarships.

Rionda, Faculty Senate Chairman Thomas Breslin and Trustee Jorge Arrizurieta, who also voted against the measure, were right to balk at this decision. Although President Maidique has done much to deserve recognition and even some additional monetary benefit, a \$100,000 bonus could not conceivably come at a more inappropriate time.

The state legislature has cut back drastically on education the past few years. Despite a temporary cash infusion from the stimulus propping up Florida's education system, schools like FIU are in serious financial trouble.

The very nature of how the bonus is being given to the former president is a perfect example of this.

The BOT should not have committed money the FIU Foundation doesn't even have; rewarding a past employee's performance is certainly a nice gesture, but such a large bonus was hardly necessary.

After all, it's not as if Maidique hasn't been publicly acknowledged for his achievements. Rather than deciding to name a building after him like past University presidents, the BOT decided to rename the entire University Park campus in his honor. How much more recognition does he need?

BOT chairman Albert Dotson, who voted for the decision said: "Dr. Maidique earned every penny." Maybe so. But haven't FIU students earned the right to have their school's foundation spend its money on scholarships and vital services instead of bonuses for former administrators?

FIU's religious studies program was almost shut down recently for lack of funds. It took a \$100,000 gift from the Dalai Lama to save the school, after a professor wrote him a letter.

FIU faculty shouldn't have to plead for charity from religious leaders halfway around the world to keep academic programs afloat. They should be able to depend on the BOT to spend money on education instead of on bonuses for a man who, even on sabbatical, will make \$479,000 this year.

*The Beacon* opposes this decision, and calls upon former President Maidique to donate this bonus to the FIU Foundation or to underfunded educational programs.

It would only be right for him to ensure that this money goes toward easing the financial suffering of the University, whose largest campus bears his name.

## Don't put words in Darwin's mouth

KELSEA JONES  
Contributing Writer

Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species* has come under scrutiny, yet again, by Christian-creationists. Not all Christians - specifically, The Church of Mike Sever from TV's "Growing Pains" also known as Living Water Ministries.

Darwin's most famous published work, *The Origin of Species* was a landmark scientific breakthrough that shed light on the issues of evolution and natural selection. Though most of the scientific world embraces evolutionary theory, creationists (those that believe in intelligent design) find it a hard and blasphemous pill to swallow.

With courts overruling whether creationism should be taught alongside evolutionary theory, Kirk Cameron's Living Water Ministry has published 70,000 copies of Darwin's *The Origin of Species* and distributed them to college campuses nationwide. While this may seem like Christianity is offering science the proverbial olive branch, there's a small caveat.

The text includes an introduction that depicts Darwin as a misogynistic, racist neo-Nazi in hopes of diluting the scientific credibility. By saying that evolutionary theory provides the reasoning behind such horrific events as the Holocaust, Living Water Minis-



tries hopes to "enlighten" college students.

"An entire generation is being brainwashed by atheistic evolution without hearing the alternative," Cameron said of the book in a CNN video.

What if Americans complied and agreed to teach creationism in schools alongside evolutionary theory and added their own caveat? What if the creationist perspective they chose was not one of Christianity but in fact from The Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster or from the ancient Greek origin myth?

"All I wanted to do is confront young people to think about what they believe ... we believe in the free exchange of ideas and those that are open hearted will appreciate what we've done," said Pastor Ray Comfort of Living Water Ministries.

It is difficult to be open-hearted to censorship. The edition that Living Waters Ministries published is an abridged, convenient 280-page version from the over 600-page original. Editing out the laborious details of *The Origin of the Species* is, arguably, debasing what made the book such a compelling addition to science in the first

place. What's more, the 50-page introduction is nothing more than a Charles Darwin smear-campaign that purports the "undeniable connection to Hitler."

In addition to the alleged Holocaust connection, Darwin is made out to be sexist and racist. Racism and sexism has, presumably, little to do with the finches on the Galapagos Islands that Darwin observed.

Personally attacking the scientist behind evolutionary theory does not add to the credibility of creationism. And while you may be likening such an introduction to putting a loincloth on Michelangelo's "David," or adding your own saxophone solo to Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, it should be noted that *The Origin of Species* was published 150 years ago, and now exists in the public domain for groups like Cameron's Living Water Ministries to insert their propaganda into.

Hopefully creationists, including the congregation of Living Water Ministries will stop getting hung up on the minor details of their faith, and instead focus on the major tenants of Christianity: love, faith and tolerance.

## GOP should stay out of net neutrality rules

ANDREW ZAMORA  
Contributing Writer

Imagine certain Web sites running slowly or being inaccessible to you just because your Internet service provider was in control of the Web sites you visit, the videos you watch and the files you download.

What you get is the inhibition of new investment and innovation into the Internet, a system which the world has come to depend on in one way or the other. The Internet should not be about companies profiteering at the expense of the benefit of Web surfers, although my sentiments are not shared at Capitol Hill.

The Communications Act of 1934 established the Federal Communications Commission and charged it with the responsibility of regulating non-federal

use of the radio spectrum, telecommunications and international communications beginning or terminating within the states.

Among these duties is regulation of the Internet and Internet neutrality.

The implementation of net neutrality regulations were aimed at making sure Internet service providers do not control what Web surfers are shown, leaving the Internet open to all to search for anything and everything.

The FCC voted on Oct. 22 to begin taking the first steps toward adopting new Internet neutrality rules. Under the draft rules, Internet access may not prevent users from the lawful searching of content on, using or connecting to the network in safe, unlawful ways and would not deprive users from the enti-

tlement of competition among service providers and other entities on the Net.

However, on the same day, Sen. John McCain introduced the Internet Freedom Act that would effectively bar the FCC from enacting net neutrality rules. Sen. McCain's actions reflect the GOP's general attitude toward net neutrality, a standpoint which I believe is based on the personal gain of party members and their constituents rather than an overall benefit to society.

According to an article on *ChannelWebNews.com*, the GOP argues that net neutrality rules would ultimately "harm consumers, reduce competition and discourage new investment and innovation at a time of tremendous technological growth."

This argument has some

logical foundations; however it does not truly capture the impact of not having net neutrality rules in place.

Consumers would potentially be unable to access the sites or products they want unless they went through a route created and approved by their ISP.

Competition would be virtually nonexistent since some Web sites would get more exposure than others.

So if you enjoy being able to Google anything and everything, buy anything and create your own sites to try and build your own net fame and fortune, I suggest you keep tabs on those individuals in the GOP that are trying to take the Internet out of the hands of the Web surfer and into the hands of companies such as Comcast, AT&T, NetZero, AOL and Verizon.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials, send them to [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com)

### 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.

### OPINIONPIECE

# 14

The number of firefighters who will receive promotions after being involved in a discrimination suit that reached the Supreme Court.

### QUOTATIONATION

"I want to engage in a meaningful and constructive dialogue, and work with those who will work toward real solutions."

Lou Dobbs  
Former CNN anchorman



(NOT) F.R.E.E.

## Video games of the decade: The top 10

The last decade has seen the rise of two console generations. Video games have truly come of age over the last ten years and narrowing down the list of the best games to just ten has been incredibly difficult, to say the least. In the end, these are the games that pushed boundaries and redefined their genres.

### 10) THE SIMS (2000)

Will Wright forever changed the world of PC gaming with this twist on the ever-popular *Sim City* franchise. Published by EA games in 2000, the franchise has spawned countless expansions, spin-offs and sequels with over 100 million units sold in total.

Aside from the endlessly addictive gameplay, *The Sims* was also one of the first games to be incredibly popular among female audiences, finally reuniting the sexes in a world vastly dominated by men.

### 9) COUNTER-STRIKE (2000)

What began as a simple mod for Valve's *Half Life* game, *Counter-Strike* became so popular that it was made into an entirely new and separate game.

*Counter-Strike* really started the idea of a team-based, tactical shooter and is mostly responsible for defining a sub culture that exists among gamers who dedicate countless hours a week to online play.

### 8) STAR WARS: KNIGHTS OF THE OLD REPUBLIC (2003)

Bioware's break-out title on consoles introduced the conversation and decision-making elements of their later success with

2007's *Mass Effect*. Aside from being one of the best games of the decade, KOTOR is easily the best Star Wars game of all time. Halo superfans will disagree, but this game was the biggest reason to own an Xbox.

### 7) SUPER MARIO GALAXY (2007)

Mario is probably the most easily recognizable figure in gaming. With dozens of games in the franchise, it's difficult to imagine that Nintendo has anything new to bring to the table. *Super Mario Galaxy* reimagined the platforming genre and implemented the Wii's motion controls perfectly.

It was graphically the most beautiful game on the Wii at the time of its release and its influence in gaming has already been seen in other platforming franchises such as Insomniac's latest installment in the *Ratchet and Clank* series.

### 6) SHADOW OF THE COLOSSUS (2005)

Released as a follow up to Team Ico's namesake game, *Shadow of the Colossus* maintains the breathtaking visuals that made *Ico* such a stand-out title upon its release.

This game takes an incredibly innovative approach to puzzle solving, all the while immersing gamers in a sprawling, beautifully rendered world in which 16 towering colossi await their demise at the hands of our hero. Few development teams are capable of creating a world so full of wonder, suspense and awe-inspiring beauty.

### 5) PORTAL (2007)

Never has a game made me laugh out loud so much. From the very first moments of *Portal*, it felt like something completely new and different. This game seamlessly blends

thought-provoking story with interesting puzzle solving and an incredibly refreshing sense of humor.

Easily the best game released with *The Orange Box* and definitely one of the most interesting titles on the Xbox 360.

### 4) WORLD OF WARCRAFT (2004)

Few understand addiction as well as those who have succumbed to the lure of *World of Warcraft*. With an incredible amount of quests unique to each combination of race, class and profession, WoW has kept it's over 11 million subscribers busy throughout the years with several huge patches and two game-changing expansions. It is currently the most-played massively multiplayer online role-playing game.

### 3) RESIDENT EVIL 4 (2005)

Originally released for the Nintendo GameCube, *Resident Evil 4* proved that Nintendo's purple box was capable of amazing feats. Vastly improved controls and a new over-the-shoulder perspective helped revive the tired survival-horror genre and produced one of the most satisfying and suspenseful gaming experiences of all time.

### 2) GRAND THEFT AUTO III (2001)

Rockstar Games really stepped into the spotlight with the third chronological installment in the GTA series. It gave gamers their first real taste of sandbox games - a concept now hugely popular - and implemented flawless controls both on-foot and in-car.

The GTA series has been surrounded by a lot of controversy over the years and, let's face it, it's all well deserved. But, at the end of the day, stealing cars, blowing up tanks and running away from the FBI is really what

## Best Video Games of the Decade (Other Views)

Jorge Valens  
*Fistfuls of Tech*

10. Metal Gear Solid 2: Sons of Liberty
9. Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2
8. World of Warcraft
7. Mass Effect
6. Gears of War 2
5. Rock Band/Guitar Hero
4. BioShock
3. Portal
2. Halo
1. Fallout 3

Kevin Castro  
*Staff Writer*

10. Guitar Hero/Rock Band
9. Metal Gear Solid, 2,3,4
8. Halo, Halo 2, and Modern Warfare 2
7. Bethesda's The Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion and Fallout 3.
6. BioShock
5. Mass Effect
4. World of Warcraft
3. Deus Ex.
2. Grand Theft Auto 3, 4
1. Portal

kept us coming back time and time again.

### 1) CALL OF DUTY 4: MODERN WARFARE (2007)

This game is No. 1 for one simple reason: there isn't a single negative thing that can be said about it. Developer Infinity Ward broke free of the World War II model and revolutionized online multiplayer by incorporating RPG elements in the endlessly rewarding perks system.

In a decade with no shortage of first-person shooters, *Modern Warfare* stands apart from the rest with stunning visuals and first-person, interactive cinematic sections that deliver some of the most poignant moments in gaming history.

*Beacon reviewers receive no free food or services in exchange for positive reviews.*



FISTFULS OF TECH

# Top tech of the decade: the Internet (2.0)

If you have noticed, every single entry in my list requires one thing: the Internet.

The reason I made the Internet No. 1 is because it has really become not only the driving force behind most of the technological advancements in this decade, but also the most notable advancement all on its own.

Though the Internet has been around in some form for decades, it has really evolved in the last 10 years.

In the late '90s and early '00s, the Internet was a muted, dry and text-heavy experience. It was a bit chaotic as tools to access and interpret it were slowly being developed.

However, with the development of search engine technology and the creation of Open Source development, a development mind-set free of restrictions, the Internet began to come together, bringing order to the chaos.

However, in 2003 the Internet began to dramatically evolve into an ecosystem that, for the first time, could sustain massive amounts of traffic and integration in everything that we do.



JORGE VALENS

The movement, which was dubbed "Web 2.0," made people realize that the Internet could be so much more than text, and that virtually anyone could harness its potential.

With the development of YouTube and the rise of sites such as Yahoo and Google to name a few, the Internet was slowly being integrated into our lives.

These companies began expanding the Internet's purpose and redefined the way it interacted with our hardware. A perfect example of that is its integration with mobile technology.

Back in the day – and by "the day" I mean 2004 – the only thing my phone did was make phone calls, send text messages and play Foreigner's "Urgent" when it rang. This integration really put the Internet in people's pockets and led to a new generation of devices that made the Internet front and center.

Now, my phone, along with most phones these days, is a 24/7 portal to the Web. I can check my e-mail, surf full Web pages and utilize thousands of unique applications that use the Internet to make

TECH, page 9

# Decade of change grounded in revival of an American tradition: the 'stache

CHRIS GREEN  
Staff Writer

Over the past decade, a great many memorable things have happened. However, it is the resurgence of the mustache that tops them all.

When looking at the past 10 years, there have been many memorable appearances of the mighty 'stache. From Jason Giambi's retro mustache, to the continuing legacy of Tom Selleck's legendary facial hair, many mustaches have helped define this decade.

The following 10 examples stand out above the rest.

### 10. ROBERT GOULET

One of the pioneers of the mustache in modern American culture, the late Goulet's stache was so impressive that the American Mustache Institute dedicated its annual award for the best mustache in America to him.



GOULET

### 9. FIU BASEBALL HEAD COACH TURTLE THOMAS

Arriving on the scene in 2007,

FIU baseball head coach Turtle Thomas' mustache inspired his men and turned a sub-par team (26-29 in 2007) into a conference contender (34-22 in 2009). A bright future likely awaits the Golden Panthers so long as Thomas and his stache stick around.



THOMAS

### 8. DALE EARNHARDT

NASCAR's "Intimidator" nearly captured what would have been a record eighth Sprint Cup championship in 2000, but fell short to Bobby Labonte. His life was cut short in 2001 in a crash at the Daytona 500, but his legacy and iconic mustache will live on for many years to come.



EARNHART

### 7. NEW YORK CITY DETECTIVE EDDIE ALVAREZ

Detective Alvarez stole the show in the short running ABC comedy drama, "The Unusuals." Alvarez sported a classic stache that commanded the attention of his

peers as well as its owner. It was not uncommon to see Alvarez conversing with his facial hair. His stache was a uniting force for all who sported hair below the nose. As he once stated to an inmate: "We mustaches gotta stick together."



ALVAREZ

### 6. BILL GEIST

Bringing a comedic view of life to CBS's "Sunday Morning," Geist recently covered the American Mustache Institute's annual convention in 2009. Showing poise and professionalism in all his journalistic endeavors, Geist's signature stache proves that hard news is delivered best with proper facial hair.



GEIST

### 5. ALEX TREBEK

At the beginning of the decade, legendary "Jeopardy" host Alex Trebek could be seen sporting a salt

MUSTACHE, page 9

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  - »» Waxy O'Connors (2 Stages) ««
  - »» Gordon Biersch ««
  - »» Red Bar ««
  - »» Havana Dreams ««
  - »» Japengo at the Hyatt ««
  - »» Ecco Lounge ««
  - »» Finnegan's River ««
  - »» Mekka (3 Stages) ««
  - »» La Guaracha ««
- »» Artoconecto...pug in at Macy's ««
  - »» Wallflower Gallery ««
  - »» Blue Martini ««

Additional venues and performance schedules can be found at [miamimusicfestival.org](http://miamimusicfestival.org)



### ADMISSION

- \* **Three-day** wristbands: **\$50**  
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- \* **One-day** wristbands: **\$25**  
(**\$20** with valid Student ID)
- \* **Single venue** admission: **\$10**  
(as space is available)

## Wristbands on Sale at All Venues During the Festival

Must be 18 to enter some venues, 21 to enter others. Venue policies listed on [miamimusicfestival.org](http://miamimusicfestival.org)



# Internet tops list of the decade's tech progress

TECH, page 8

life easier.

These days, I barely use my phone to have an actual conversation.

I find myself frequently settling inane arguments with my friends by taking out my phone and using my Wikipedia app. At the grocery store I can use my phone to access an online shopping list, or stream Pandora to keep me entertained.

Another important step taken by the Internet this decade is the speed and the openness with which information is shared.

Social media pages, such as Twitter and Facebook, empowered the Internet with the ability to access, obtain and display limitless amounts of information that is constantly updating itself.

Not only does it give us, the user, an omnipresence when it comes to news and world events, but it really changes the way we communicate. The Iran elections serves as a prime example of this, and though it was the first, it definitely won't be the last.

The future of the Internet, however, is going to be more interesting than its rise and it is all going to be Google's fault.

Google's attempt to compete with big software makers such as Microsoft and Apple involves transferring the majority of the computing from the hardware side, such as processors and hard drives, to the Internet.

This is a big step that the Internet would logically take given the recent advancements.

In the next 10 years, the Internet will go from accompanying our computers to becoming one itself. With the rise of cloud computing and our growing dependence on streaming media we will be storing less and less on our physical hard drives.

The Internet's growth in the past 10 years is a forceful statement for what the next decade will have in store for us. Our lives are nowhere near as integrated with the Internet as they will be beyond 2010. I'm definitely cutting out this column and slipping it in to the nearest time capsule.

## FISTFULS OF TECH TOP TEN OF THE DECADE RECAP

10. THE XBOX, THE PLAYSTATION, AND THE WII
9. GPS TECHNOLOGY
8. HD AND BLU-RAY TECHNOLOGY
7. SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES
6. APPLE IPHONE
5. ONLINE VIDEO: YOUTUBE
4. MP3 MUSIC TECHNOLOGY
3. GOOGLE
2. APPLE IPOD

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# Great mustaches triumph in sports and on TV

MUSTACHE, page 8

and pepper stache, but shaved it off in favor of a clean-cut look. Fans of the stache can still see it in action, however, at Disney's EPCOT attraction, Ellen's Energy Adventure.



TREBEK

### 4. RON BURGUNDY

Taking the world by storm for

the first time since the 1970s, the professionalism and trustworthiness of news anchor Ron Burgundy and his magnificent mustache was highlighted in the 2004 inspiring documentary *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy*. His stache, like his legend, defines greatness.

### 3. DANIEL PLAINVIEW

This oil prospector raised the ire of the residents of little Boston, but his mustache stole their hearts. Whether they were drilling for oil, or viciously

beating clergymen, he and his stache always stuck together.

And that's what a man-mustache relationship is all about.

### 2. CLAY ZAVADA

The Arizona Diamondbacks pitcher earned the 2009 American Mustache Institute's Robert Goulet award.

Zavada instantly proved valuable to the Diamondbacks as he threw a perfect seventh inning in his MLB debut. His mustache finished seventh

in voting for the Cy Young trophy this year.

### 1. 1ST LIEUTENANT ALDO RAINE

Hunting Nazis is not an easy task, but doing so with a mustache for the ages makes it much more fun.

Breaking onto the scene in 2009, 1st Lieutenant Aldo Raine rose to prominence after heroically defending the United States and its interests in World War II by "doin' two things and two things only; killin' Nazis and rocking a sweet lookin' stache."



BURGUNDY



ZAVADA



PLAINVIEW



RAINE

## THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2009

#### PREKSHA MEDITATION CLUB



General Meeting  
WHEN: 4 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 314

#### BAHAMIAN STUDENT ORGANIZATION

General Meeting  
WHEN: 3 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 305

#### COLLEGE DEMOCRATS



Chapter Meeting  
WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 314

#### CAMPUS BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Meeting  
WHEN: 11 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 314

#### MISS RELAY



Relay for Life pageant to promote cancer awareness  
WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$5 pre sale, \$7 at the door  
WHERE: GC Ballrooms

#### SISTERS IN SPIRIT

General Meeting  
WHEN: 4 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 340

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2009

#### CATHOLIC STUDENT UNION

WHEN: 2 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 340

#### UNICEF @ FIU



General Meeting  
WHEN: 3:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 305

#### CAMPUS BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Meeting  
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 1235

#### TRUTH FOR LIFE

General Meeting  
WHEN: 1 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 343

#### INVISIBLE CHILDREN



General Meeting  
WHEN: 3:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 1235

#### CHOSEN GENERATION

General Meeting  
WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC Annex

#### THE REACH OF REALISM



Vanity Fair International Party & exhibition opening  
WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$25  
WHERE: MOCA, 770 NE 125 ST

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2009

#### BLACK STUDENT UNION

General Meeting  
WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 150

#### FRENCH CLUB



Meeting  
WHEN: 3 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 343

#### EUROPE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Student Orientation  
WHEN: 8:30 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC Ballroom

#### MUSIC SAVES LIVES



General Meeting  
WHEN: 12:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 314

#### "THE SUGAR BABIES" FILM SCREENING



Film Screening  
WHEN: 8 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 100

#### STONEWALL PRIDE ALLIANCE

WHEN: 5 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
CONTACT: GC 305

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2009

#### STUDENTS FOR A FREE TIBET



General Meeting  
WHEN: 1 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 343

#### CARIBBEAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

General Meeting  
WHEN: 5 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 314

#### SERVICE FOR PEACE



Lecture/Film  
WHEN: 4 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC Panther Suite

#### FRENCH CLUB

Meeting  
WHEN: 3:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 340

#### TRUTH FOR LIFE

General Meeting  
WHEN: 1 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 241

#### ITALIAN CLUB



General Meeting  
WHEN: 3 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 343

Compiled by Mariana Ochoa.  
Got an event you want featured? Send an e-mail to [mariana.ochoa@fiusm.com](mailto:mariana.ochoa@fiusm.com).

# Thomas shakes up lineup with Roberts slowed by injury

**JOEY CRUZ**  
Staff Writer

Playing through an injury when his team needed him the most did not end well for forward Marvin Roberts.

The Golden Panthers' leading scorer went 0-for-10 with three turnovers in the 84-71 loss against Murray State on Nov. 23.

Coach Isiah Thomas stated in the post-game conference that Roberts played the game with an injured Achilles' tendon as well as turf toe on the same foot.

"Marvin was pretty banged up," Coach Thomas said. "He played as hard as he could, but with the injuries he's just not the same."

## POOR FIRST HALF

The Golden Panthers opened the game on fire hitting five consecutive baskets, four of them being 3-pointers. After that, not much could be said about their ice-cold first half performance. The Golden Panthers shot 26 percent from the floor hitting only nine of 34 shots, compared to Murray State's 60 percent first half performance.

The Murray State racers ended the first half on a 34-10 run leaving the score after the half 44-26, mainly due to Murray State guard Isacc Miles, who led the Racers with

16 points in the game.

Thomas tried to make a statement in the middle of the half by substituting the whole starting lineup for a complete line change.

"I was mad at my team," Thomas said. "The only way we're going to compete is by playing with energy and effort."

## STORMING SECOND HALF

FIU bounced back from their 18-point deficit in the first half and brought the game within five points late in the second. Starting guard Stephon Weaver was the main contributor to the run with 14 points in the second half and 23 points in the game.

"We keep getting better every game," Weaver said. "We just have to keep asking Coach questions and the leaders like Marlon [Bright] and I have to keep everybody focused."

The Golden Panthers outscored the Racers 45-40 in the second half, but it still wasn't enough to close the deal against the bigger opponent. Murray State outscored FIU in the paint 54-24, as well as outscored the Golden Panthers weaker bench 25-6.

"We're still trying to find our offensive identity," Thomas said. "If we can start hitting our 3-point shots; it'll be our saving grace."



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**TOUGH SHOT:** FIU shot just 26 percent in the first half in following to a 44-26 deficit at half time in the 84-71 loss.

## SWIMMING & DIVING

# Personal bests set at Georgia Tech match

**CHRIS GREEN**  
Staff Writer

The FIU swimming and diving team set school and personal records at the Georgia Tech Invitational on Nov. 20-22.

Freshman Kayla Derr swam a personal best time of 1:54.05 in the 200-meter freestyle finals on her way to a 26th place finish.

The 200-meter relay team finished in eighth place with a time of 1:50.19 for juniors Yesica Rojas and Danielle Sneir and freshman Kelly Grace.

Freshman Jamie Stinson finished in 16th on the 3-meter diving board on the second day of the match. On the third day, juniors Elly James and Sneir posted qualifying times in the 200-meter backstroke preliminary competition. James went on to finish in 30th in the final, with Sneir ending up in 26th.

Freshmen Vicnan Torress and

Derr both turned in more personal bests with times of 18:36.90 and 18:09.30 respectively in the 1650-meter freestyle competition.

FIU then went on to finish a highly lauded eighth in the 400-meter freestyle with freshman Kelly Grace, sophomores Kariann Stevens and Caroline Foster, and junior Mariangela Macchiavello turning in a time of 3:37.74 in the final.

"I am very happy with the performance of the team at this very difficult and high-level competition where we swim against the best swimmers in the country," Coach Noemi Lung-Zaharia told *fiusports.com*. "The girls are swimming fast against a very fast field of top national swimmers. It is great experience that will help their performances at the conference championships in February."

FIU's next meet is on Dec. 18 in the FAU Invitational in Boca Raton, Fla.

## CAT FIGHT



KEITH SRAKOCIC/AP IMAGES

**PANTHER FACEOFF:** On Nov. 24, Pete Garcia announced the signing of a contract to play a two game series against the University of Pittsburgh Panthers in football, beginning at Heinz Field in 2010.



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## ABRUPT DEPARTURE



23

Games won in a row before the loss in the finals.

71

Days since the Golden Panthers' last loss to Florida State on Sept. 12.

6-2

Golden Panthers record against MTSU in two matches this season.

3

Seniors on the team for FIU.

VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

**PANTHERS MUST FORGET:** After cruising through the regular season with an undefeated conference record, the Golden Panthers fell to MTSU in the final of the Sun Belt tournament.

### *Team must forget in order to continue memorable season*

Perfection is nearly impossible to maintain.

But the Golden Panthers volleyball team managed to be perfect from late September up to the Sun Belt Conference championship game.

Then the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders ruined the Golden Panthers' perfect conference record.

For the second consecutive second season, the Golden Panthers were upset by an inferior team, but this time it was against a team they defeated twice during the regular season.

Now, the only thing that can salvage the team's season from being another disappointment is a deep NCAA tournament run. With soon-to-be four-time All-American Yarimar Rosa in her final season, this is the last chance for the Golden Panthers to garner national attention.

#### **FORGIVE AND FORGET**

If the Golden Panthers are going to make the 2009 season memorable, they must first do something teams with strong mental fortitudes often do.

Forget. Forget. Forget.

The Middle Tennessee game is over and dwelling over the season's worst loss is not going to change anything. They should use the loss as a dose of reality, something strong squads often overlook: anybody could have an off night.

And that's the best explanation for a pretty healthy team to lose while on a 23-game winning streak. Coach Danijela Tomic put it best in an interview with Student Media following the loss, "I said to them after the second set 'Where is my team?' This wasn't the team that won 30 games this year. Our serving wasn't very good, the tempo of our offense wasn't fast, our hitters weren't playing smart. Everything went wrong."

They played completely out of character, but they still have one of the top 10 players in the country in Rosa, which gives them a chance to win nearly every time they play.

They have three senior outside hitters and a junior setter who orchestrates the offense with ease. Unlike last season's upset, this season the squad has a stronger

bench. Rosa was shut out in last season's upset loss to New Orleans and no one could carry the offense. Olga Vergun and Jovana Bjelica complement Rosa's offensive prowess.

More importantly, the team now understands how to deal with failure and being upset earlier than expected.

Tomic's guidance will have to lead the Golden Panthers as they face ranked competition in the NCAA tournament.

#### **SENIOR PANTHERS**

Besides redemption, the Golden Panthers have another reason to advance far in the NCAA tournament: the seniors. Yarimar Rosa, Olga Vergun and Isadora Rangel have one last opportunity to win against top competition. Most notably, every game Rosa plays may be her last as a Golden Panther.

She is arguably the best athlete at FIU of the last five years and will be remembered as one of the school's best overall athletes ever. When Rosa arrived to the University, she was one of the pieces that turned the program's misfortunes. In 2004, the volleyball team

*“With soon-to-be four-time All-American Yarimar Rosa in her final season, this is the last chance for the Golden Panthers to garner national attention.”*

was one of the worst teams in the country with a 3-23 record.

Since she arrived at FIU, the team has won at least 19 games each season and won two Sun Belt Conference titles.

The last two seasons have not yielded conference championships, but Rosa's career elevated as did the program's national recognition.

Meanwhile, Olga Vergun who did not play a game all of last season due to an injury, played alongside Rosa as a freshman during those SBC championships.

If there was ever a time for these two players to relive their first two seasons of winning postseason games, it is the next few weeks during the NCAA tournament.

#### **WHAT'S AHEAD**

The NCAA championship

game is now a dream. The Golden Panthers will not reach the finals unless they return the favor and upset several teams in the tournament.

However, there is one team that every squad in the nation is dreading to face and that is Penn State University.

Penn State currently has a 94-game winning streak, which overpowers the Golden Panthers' 23-game streak that spanned nearly two months. The Golden Panthers missed their chance to win an easy championship. The perfect Sun Belt season is over as well and from now on they will have a daunting task.

No team is perfect, but the Golden Panthers will have to surpass a near perfect team to gain the ultimate redemption.