

ELECTIONS

Allegations filed contesting 2012 elections

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Following the announcement of the winning Student Government presidential ticket as Laura Farinas and Alex Castro, four grievances were filed to the Student Government Supreme Court questioning the legitimacy of the 2012 SGA presidential election.

Claiming evidence of voter fraud and failure to comply with the Student Body Elections Code, presidential candidate Sanjeev Udhani and his running mate Connor Mautner filed two of the four court orders last Friday to the Court against the Farinas-Castro campaign.

"Throughout the campaign, we received copies of text messages from several sources in which they were asked to submit, or submitted, their panther ID's and passwords so that members of the Farinas 2012 campaign can vote on their behalf," said Gracie Agüero, the Udhani-Mautner campaign's compliance manager, in a press release.

The campaign's manage-

ment team claims to have evidence to demonstrate that the Farinas and Castro campaign "violated several regulations as laid forth by the Student Body Elections Code, including issues regarding conflict of interest, non-compliance with the elections code, failure to adhere to a private censure issued by Campus Life, and most importantly, voter fraud."

If found guilty by the Elections Commission, the president-elect and vice president-elect would be subject to disqualification from their positions.

"We ran an honest campaign. With every single vote that we got we made sure that that person had information on what was going to be done," said Farinas in an interview with Student Media last week. "If an appeal were to be sent in, I have no idea what grounds it would be on."

The next day, April 7, another two court orders were sent by Anthony Maneiro, a petitioner, to the Court. The first was requesting the disqualification of both the Farinas-Castro and Udhani-Mautner

REMEMBERING JAPAN



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Luis Garcia, a sophomore majoring in psychology, observes the photo exhibition at the Green Library on April 9, showcasing photographs from the recent earthquake in Japan.

tickets and name the remaining candidates, Samir Patel and Andres Wu, the winners of the election.

According to the appeal, the Udhani ticket and Farinas ticket were campaigning in non-campaign zones.

"By not following the Elections Code, these two tickets have compromised the 2012

SGA Elections, obtaining votes through methods specifically prohibited in our Statutes," Maneiro said in the writ. "The nature, and multiple instances of these violations, show two presidential tickets that did not follow the rules, placing those that did at an inherent disadvantage that significantly impaired their ability to compete in the

election."

During the April 9 Senate meeting, Chief Justice Octavio Mella announced that the Court would not be hearing Maneiro's court order on the grounds that they did have enough supporting material.

The second grievance by Maneiro was filed against the neutrality of the Elections

Board and will be heard today at 9:30am, while Udhani's is to be held today at 8 a.m.

"We see the opportunity for another election, with one or two days of election at two central polling stations," said Udhani. "At the end of the day, the 4101 students who voted for me, voted into an illegitimate system."

ORGANIZATIONS

Catholics on campus strive to create a presence

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Catholic clergy and parishioners wearing white shirts with the Archdiocese of Miami logo have become a new sight amid the more than 40,000 students registered at the University.

They are part of the archdiocese's "revival of faith" campaign to reach out to the nearly 30,000 Catholics in the University community.

It's an effort raising some eyebrows on a booming, secular, tax-supported institution with students from diverse ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds.

"Those are people who you can say are baptized Catholics," said the Rev. Rigoberto Vega, who is leading the FIU

campaign. "But it is very probable that a large number of these people aren't necessarily people who follow Catholicism in their daily lives."

The increased Catholic presence at FIU can be understood as part of a larger project of the archdiocese, which oversees and serves a population of more than 1.3 million Catholics, 60 elementary and middle schools, 13 high schools and two universities in a territory including Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

"Right now, we are in the phase of reinventing the ministry," Vega said of the FIU effort. "We had to get our student organization re-registered. Structurally, we had to start from step one. But we are reaching out to the campus and we are seeing an immediate response, although gradual."

Vega said the archdiocese plans to reach out to all students – practicing and non-practicing Catholics as well as those of other faiths or no faith at all.

"One of my big keys or one of the things that is being asked of me is to do more outreach," Vega said. "Since it's a very large university, we are trying to meet students where they are. This means going to sports events, football games, organizing barbecues. We already have a weekly routine where we have an information table to sign up students who show interest."

The reactions from students vary greatly.

After more than two months on campus, the project has attracted the interest of about 100 students, but just a little more than 20 are currently attending campus mass.

"I don't mind these campaigns," Ami Nakagana said. "I love to hear

"In any institution, the larger it grows, the larger a portion of that group that is less and less identified with the core beliefs of that particular... institution."

Rev. Rigoberto Vega

opinions even if I disagree with them."

Although the numbers are still modest, Vega speaks very excitedly

about his new job.

"A lot of students don't know we exist yet," Vega said. "And a lot just need to be reached out [to] and invited. When they are, more often than not they will accept to become more active in their faith. We have had a good response on the part of students that desire spirituality."

Some students, however, worry about the conflicting nature and purposes of the Catholic teachings inside a public university that claims to be gaining more and more recognition as a top-notch research facility.

"It's not progressive. I really wish they would allow something else to come to the school," Karina Tellez, 19, said.

SEE CATHOLICS, PAGE 2

COMING UP | Sports

Check out Friday's issue for a preview of the men's baseball game against Louisiana.

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LECTURE

Farsakh lectures about ‘de facto’ apartheid in Israel

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Israel, unlike south Africa, never intentionally meant to create an apartheid reality; yet, Leila Farsakh, middle eastern scholar at University of Massachusetts Boston, asserts that that is precisely what has happened.

At an event coordinated by Students for Justice in Palestine on April 4, Farsakh gave a lecture titled,

“**[The] reality of apartheid is something that Palestinians live daily but that Israelis are sheltered from.**”

Leila Farsakh,
Political Science Professor
University of Massachusetts Boston

“Is Israel an Apartheid State? Implications for the Two State Solution.”

Using an explanation of apartheid- a system of laws and policy initiatives implemented by the National Party beginning in 1948 in South Africa-Farsakh argued that the system that institutionalized total segregation based on race is analogous to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Like modern day Palestine, apartheid policies in South Africa resulted in a deeply fragmented region

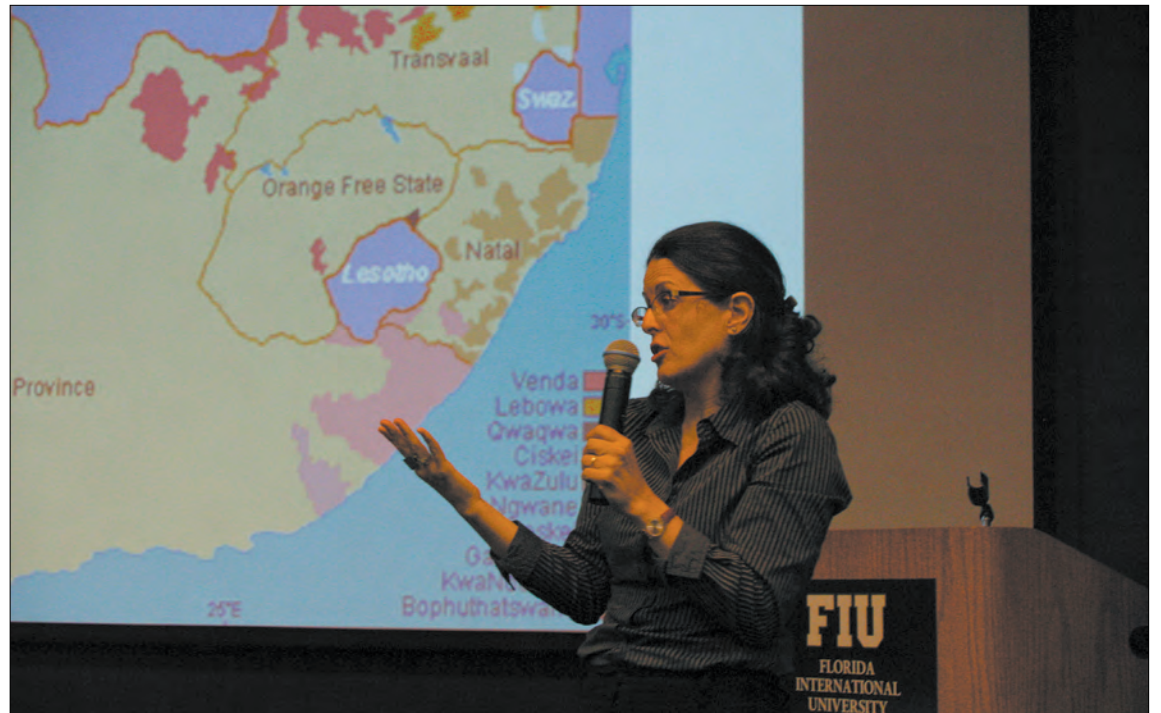
racially, politically and economically. Farsakh clarified that despite the fact that South Africa’s apartheid policies were indeed conscious and intentional, Israel’s were not. And yet, she stated, Israel is indeed an apartheid reality created “de facto.”

Walking into the conference room, several students handed out literature that was antithetical to the lecture, “Apartheid?” the flyer asked. “You decide.” Students rejecting the lecture’s central points were in minority; when they walked out after expressing that they fundamentally disagreed with the lecturer, there were only four or so empty chairs.

The lengthy list of signatures on a circulating Amnesty International pro Palestine petition was evidence that the majority of attendees supported Palestine.

Minar Muhareb, former president of SJP described the poignant reality of everyday life for Palestinians as perceived by her trip to Palestine in 2010. Farsakh immediately addressed the notion that it was offensive to compare Israel’s current reality with that of apartheid South Africa.

She argued that it is useful to compare the Israel-Palestine conflict to apartheid South African because it provides an analogous framework for both beginning to understand the conflict and also for imagining solutions. Rejecting that it was offensive to South African History, Farsakh stated, “Demond Tutu came to the West Bank and said it was worse than apartheid South Africa.”



BROOKLYN MIDDLETON/THE BEACON

Leila Farsakh, professor at the University of Massachusetts Boston, spoke to students on April 4, on whether Israel is an apartheid state. Her area of expertise is Middle East politics, comparative politics and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Describing the created apartheid reality based upon three pillars-economic, political and geographic, Farsakh described present day Palestine as being deeply fragmented, divided and nearly impossible to navigate for Palestinians.

Saying it is easier for Palestinians to travel to the United States then it is for them to travel a distance of around 15 miles to Jerusalem, she referred to the “bantustanization” of Palestinian Territory. Bantustans were specific territories set aside solely for Black Africans as a central component of

apartheid policy and Farsakh drew parallels of this to Palestine’s current fragmentation.

Because of a pass system requiring all Palestinians to constantly show identification and checkpoints scattered all throughout the West Bank and Gaza that are mandatory for Palestinians to go thorough, an often lengthy process, Farsakh argued Palestine has ultimately been bantustanized.

Injustice, she ultimately argued, is as unsustainable as the current everyday Palestinian’s predicament.

“Reality of apartheid are something that Palestinians live daily but that Israelis are sheltered from,” said Faraksh, in response. With her hands up in the air, she asked the crowd, “does force give you justice? Is it sustainable?”

Faraksh’s closing remarks centered on the possibility of restoring civility between Israel and Palestine. The focus, she argued, must be resistance to the Israeli occupation but also to “the humanity of your enemy.”

Religious group aims to enlighten student population

CATHOLICS, PAGE 1

With an official presence at both campuses, the archdiocese is quickly moving to promote Catholic views on matters that go beyond the fulfillment of students “desire to grow in their Christian faith and knowledge about the rich traditions behind the Catholic teachings on faith,”

as stated on the FIU Catholic Campus Ministry BBC Facebook page.

In January, Vega traveled with a small group of FIU students to Washington D.C. to participate in the March for Life events.

After the trip, it was announced that there were plans to bring to FIU the Silent No

More Campaign, an anti-abortion campaign sponsored and administered by Christians of different denominations.

The Silent No More Campaign, Vega said, is “exposing the secrecy and silence surrounding the emotional and physical pain of abortion” by bringing speakers who have lived the experience of abortion and “registered their regret” through the campaign’s offices or website.

This is one of many issues

in which religious belief strikes at the roots of secular, tax-supported institutions, which, by nature, support a view of man based on scientific knowledge and principles of acceptance of truths apart from divine revelation.

Also by nature, Catholicism and Silent No More Campaign can only have one view of abortion and other relevant cultural and political issues, including marriage and the use of contraceptives.

“I don’t support it,” Benazhir Maratuech, 22, said. “I think women should have the freedom to do what’s best for them. In fact, if there is something we can do to prevent [the Catholic group] from coming, I would do it.”

Vega recognizes that the Church faces challenges even amongst Catholics in regards to issues ranging from contraceptives to abortion.

“In America and in most western countries you will find

that a large number of Catholics are very nominally Catholics,” Vega said. “And like in any institution, the larger it grows, the larger a portion of that group that is less and less identified with the core beliefs of that particular organization or institution.”

This story was researched and written for JOU 3300 Advanced News Writing taught by Dr. Fred Blevens in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

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Mentoring ‘spotty across FIU’

NSF, PAGE 8

Aside from these and similar issues, mentorship programs are also being introduced to various departments.

“Mentoring has been spotty across FIU,” said Rose, who developed the mentoring program for College of Arts and Sciences which currently sports 35 mentor-mentee pairs, the largest program at FIU currently.

“We haven’t assessed the first year, but the reports and workshop evaluations have been good so far.”

According to Rose, although FIU lacks a central office which would oversee these mentorship programs,

there are ongoing plans to formalize the process and improve faculty mentorship programs and eventually, graduate student programs.

Provided these changes go through well and FIU improves its faculty diversity and hiring process, the university would be eligible for further funding.

“NSF gives you a starter grant, and if you do well with it, and you can show that you’ve had an impact, then you’re very competitive for the larger grant,” said Rose, referring to the \$1-\$3 million grant for which FIU may be eligible to apply in around a year.

According to Rose, the

money for that grant would be used for university-wide changes which would poten-

tially turn FIU into a model for other institutions’ hiring processes.

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CLEAN SWEEP



ALONSO YEC/THE BEACON

The Panthers have scored 50 runs during their six game winning streak.



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Mariah Dawson (above) extended her record to 15-8 after three wins over ULM.

BASEBALL

Winning streak up to six after sweep of Trojans

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It must be nice to be Jabari Henry nowadays.

Henry was an afterthought three weeks ago when he was hitting for a dismal .176 average. He would swing really hard at pitches and force something to happen, but would just be rewarded with an out.

But in the month of April, Henry transformed. In just six games, he is hitting for a .333 average, with 11 hits, five homeruns and a whopping 17 RBIs.

"There's a little more pep in my step when I come to the ballpark," said Henry with a cheek-to-cheek grin.

More importantly, his recent power surge just gave the Panthers (19-13, 7-5 SBC) a sweep over Troy (13-18, 3-9) in the April 6-8 weekend home series.

FIU has won 11 of their last 13 games thanks in part to their six-game winning streak. The hot streak also vaulted the Panthers into fourth place in the

conference.

FIU 11, TROY 7

If the Panthers wanted to win game one, they had to beat Tyler Ray, the reigning Sun Belt Player of the Year.

"I respect Tyler Ray," said head coach Turtle Thomas. "He's a really good pitcher."

For the second start in a row, senior left-hander Mason McVay could not find a rhythm early in the game, constantly falling behind hitters and struggling to locate his pitches.

The tall lefty allowed the entire Trojan lineup to bat in the first inning after allowing five hits, all singles, and a walk to give Troy a 4-0 lead.

Ray dominated the Panthers the first time through the lineup, with the only blemish being a single to freshman Oscar Aguirre.

Ray was not as fortunate the second time around.

SEE BASEBALL, PAGE 4

SOFTBALL

Dawson pitches Panthers to three wins over ULM

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FIU scored a total of 20 runs in a span of two days as the Panthers completed a three-game sweep of Troy on April 7-8.

One familiar face was absent from the Panthers lineup, that player being Peller. When asked Coach Schumann neglected to comment on Peller's absence.

"No comment," head coach Jake Schumann said.

FIU 8, ULM 0 (F/5)

Thanks to the mercy rule, the Panthers took the first game of a doubleheader against Troy on April 7. It only took five innings for the Panthers to shutout the Trojans 8-0 at home.

FIU was able to get on the scoreboard early and often. After a walk to Erika Arcuri opened the doors for Kayla Burri to come up and double to center scoring FIU's first run in the opening inning.

The Panthers offense would continue

to muster up more runs from the point on as they scored in four of the five innings played.

In the second inning after two back-to-back singles by Jessy Alfonso and Rachel Slowik, Arcuri doubled driving in both runs to push FIU's lead to 3-0. In the fourth inning, FIU scored once more this time off the bat of Slowik, who tripled, scoring Alfonso.

FIU's sealed their victory in the fifth inning as the Panthers put up four runs. The Panthers got things going quick loading up the bases with two back-to-back singles from Burri and Ashley McClain which was then followed by Rojas getting hit by a pitch.

After a wild pitch, FIU notched scored their fifth run and loaded the bases up again when A.J. Woodward got a walk. Alex Casals then grounded into a fielder's choice that was mishandled by ULM's third baseman allowing the Panthers to score twice again extending their lead to 7-0.

The game then was finished when Kelsey

SEE SOFTBALL PAGE 4

Fresno State spoils two seniors final match at FIU

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Stemming from a Jan. 27, 4-2 loss, the Fresno State Bulldogs (11-6) finally attained their revenge on the Panthers (5-14), as they defeated the Panthers 4-3 at home in their regular season finale.

After a season that highlighted contests against 12

ranked opponents, the Panthers ended their 2012 campaign with one of the worst records in program history. Despite the rough regular season, Coach Applebaum-Dallau remains optimistic about their future in the Sun Belt Tournament.

"I gave them an ambitious schedule...It was definitely a rude awakening in a sense that we have a lot of work to do," Coach Applebaum-Dallau

commented. "Overall, I'm not disappointed with the season. I think this is a great group of girls that I want to progress with. We have the Sun Belt Tournament coming up so were all really pumped for that."

The 49th-ranked Bulldogs spoiled FIU's senior day for Lisa Johnson and Christine Seredni, as they played their final home match in the confines of FIU Tennis Center.

Prior to the match, a 15-minute ceremony was arranged for both student-athletes. Seredni and Johnson each were given a picture frame that featured a collage of photos taken throughout their years at FIU.

"It felt really good, I definitely enjoyed it," Johnson stated. "I was a bit spacy today being that it was my last home match, but I still had a lot of fun,

it was a great day."

Seredni and Johnson struggled with their serve, resulting in a 8-3 loss to Bianca Modoc and Aishwarya Agrawal in doubles play.

"I think we were a bit nervous. We did not play our best in doubles and I know we've definitely played better," Seredni said. "That's one thing I would have liked to change about today's match, because if me

Guttersmen stays hot, wins ninth straight singles match

TENNIS, PAGE 3

and Lisa would have played better in our doubles it would have changed the match.”

Controversy arose in the senior's match as the umpires made a few questionable calls on two points in the final set that were made in favor of the Bulldogs.

“[The Umpire] was being very conservative. He did not want to overrule anything,” Seredni said. “He was giving them the benefit of the doubt, but he eventually did overrule one that was clearly a bad call.”

Rita Maisak and Sarah McLean added to the Panther's woes in doubles play with a 8-2 loss to Laura Pola and 47th nationally ranked, Marianne Jodoin. Karyn Guttersmen and Gioletta Boha, gave FIU the sole point in doubles, beating Melissa McQueen

and Tanya Murtagh, 8-7 (1) tiebreaker.

Seredni, McLean and Boha all had their cardio put to the test in singles play. Johnson came out with a commanding lead going up 3-0, but couldn't finish her opponent off and was beaten by Melissa McQueen 3-6, 2-6 in her final singles home match.

Guttersmen added to her team leading ninth singles victory with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Laura Pola.

Germany native, Boha nearly capped a dramatic turnaround for the Panthers, but coughed up the opportunity by losing to Anne Susdorf 7-5, 3-6, 6-3.

Seredni, notorious for having extended matches, capped her final home singles with a 6-1, 5-7, 6-1 victory against Tanya Martagh in a tenuous, back and forth match.



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Lisa Johnson and Christine Seredni (above) lost in their final doubles match at FIU 8-3 on senior day.

Henry homers twice as Panther bats continue to stay hot

BASEBALL, PAGE 3

After T.J Shantz and Mike Martinez hit singles to get on base in the fourth inning, junior Jabari Henry turned on a pitch and crushed it over the left-field wall for a three-run home run as the crowd roared while he rounded the bases.

“We hit throughout the lineup and that's so big for us in games like this,” Shantz said. “We have a lot of faith in our teammates that by the end of the game we'll figure it out.”

Two consecutive hits and an error by Troy's third baseman made it 4-4. The Panthers scored their fifth run of the inning on a sacrifice fly to take their first lead of the game, 5-4.

Thomas later said that the key to hitting Ray was simple.

“I told them to swing the bat,” Thomas said. “They weren't doing that the first three innings.”

FIU added another run in the bottom of the sixth inning on a sacrifice fly to centerfield to score Garcia and make it 6-4.

Troy retaliated in the next inning, hitting a leadoff home run and a single to knot the score but FIU quickly regained the lead on another explosive round.

Henry notched a two-run double for his fourth and fifth RBIs, followed by a two-run double from Garcia to make it 10-6.

The teams traded blows one final time in the eighth inning to make it 11-7 and eventually win the game.

FIU 5, TROY 3

After beating Ray the previous night, the Panthers were riding a wave of momentum into the second game.

The Jabari Henry Show waited until only until the second inning to make its debut on Saturday evening.

The junior slugger hit his second home run in as many nights, driving in Martinez to give his team a 2-0 lead.

“What a big shot in the arm Jabari's been for us,” Martinez said after the game.

The team's starter, Mike Ellis, struggled in the third inning allowing two runs

on three hits as he screamed in frustration after allowing each hit.

FIU's bats, much like the previous night's game, were silent through the first three innings.

The Trojans took the lead in the fourth inning on a bloop single to right field that gave them a 3-2 lead.

FIU struggled to figure out Trojan pitching over the next few innings. The team could only muster an infield single between the fourth and the seventh innings, squandering multiple opportunities to score.

“I was not a happy camper,” said Thomas of the failed opportunities. “Bottom line is we didn't play well.”

Once the eighth inning rolled around, however, déjà vu struck. Just like in the second inning, Martinez hit a single to get on base.

Henry then followed it with his second two-run homer of the night, breathing life into the crowd that had been lulled by the unusual cold wind sweeping the stadium.

“I don't know if you noticed but I was going nuts around the bases. I was

freaking excited,” said Martinez. “I was even doing the Kirk Gibson fist pump.”

Aguirre followed with a double to left field to make it 5-3, with closer Michael Gomez notching the save.

FIU 4, TROY 2

With senior left-hander R.J Fondon (4-3) taking the mound on Sunday, the Panthers were poised for the sweep.

FIU struck first in the third inning on a sacrifice fly and a single by Pablo Bermudez to make it 2-0.

Errors and a wild pitch cost FIU a run, as they allowed Troy to chip away at the lead and make it 2-1 in the fourth inning.

The Panthers added two more runs on a sacrifice fly and a fielder's choice to eventually hand it over to Gomez for his conference-leading eight save of the season.

“When you play a team like Troy, any win is big, especially to win the series. A sweep in conference, you can't describe just how big it is,” Martinez said. “It feels like no matter what we're going to win the game.”

FIU completes first sweep of season against Warhawks

SOFTBALL, PAGE 3

Gabiak singled home the eighth run, clinching FIU their mercy rule victory.

While FIU's offense took control of the game, Mariah Dawson was stifling as she pitched 5 innings giving up just one hit and striking out 5 giving her 126 on the year. Dawson still leads the Sun Belt in strikeouts.

FIU 8, ULM 5

The Panthers got the best out of the Warhawks in the second game of the April 7 doubleheader, defeating ULM 8-5 in a back and forth affair.

Right out of the gate the Warhawks got their first run of the series on the opening pitch from Jen Gniadek, as Miyuki Navarrete blasted a

solo home run to left field giving ULM a quick 1-0 lead.

ULM's lead would remain intact up until the third inning when Burri singled home Arcuri who doubled earlier in the inning.

FIU would then snatch the lead in the following inning thanks to a Slowik double that scored two runs for the Panthers handing them a 3-1 lead.

The Panthers starter Gniadek was able keep the Warhawks bats silenced after the early hiccup in the first inning and pitched five innings, giving up four hits and one run while striking out four.

But in the sixth inning, things drastically turned sour for FIU as the Warhawks bats lit up four runs on the board.

Those four runs were highlighted by Katie Girardi's three-run shot off Dawson who came in relief.

FIU fought back though and countered with five runs in the bottom half of the sixth.

After Burri tied things up with her double it opened the doors for McClain who came in and hit the game-winning home run, her fifth of the year and 30th of her career. Thathome run puts McClain one home run away from tying the school record held by Kim Rodriguez and Monique White.

“I really didn't know...it feels good [being one home run away from the record] but it felt even better to bring my team back and win the game” McClain said.

Dawson who came in

relief ended up winning both games of the doubleheader giving her an overall 13-8 record. She also notched two strikeouts in game two extending her Sun Belt-leading strikeout total to 128.

With every conference game growing in importance, the Panthers know how valuable each game is from this point forward.

FIU 4, ULM 0

After winning the doubleheader on April 7, the Panthers looked to get their first sweep of the year against a conference team. FIU did just that beating the Warhawks 4-0 in a tight contest on April 8.

“It couldn't have come at a better time for us as we set up to face Lafayette,”

Schumann said.

With the offense being a catalyst for FIU through the first two games of the series against ULM, pitching clearly became the vocal point for the Panthers in the third game of the series.

Starter Dawson once again dominated pitching her 12th complete game, this time allowing up just three hits and striking out eight. Those eight strikeouts set a new career-high in strikeouts with 136 for Dawson.

The Panthers backed up Dawson's stellar pitching by scoring the first run of the game in the first inning when Rojas singled home Burri. FIU tacked on another run in the third inning when Alex Casals drove home McClain thanks to an error by the Warhawks third baseman.

ULM threatened in the fifth inning when they loaded up the bases with one out, but Dawson was able to get a strikeout and fly ball to end the threat and end the Warhawks hope of winning the ball game.

FIU then put up the final two runs of the ballgame on Abigail Tewey's pinch-hit two-run home run.

“That was the key for us as they have three girls there that have double-digit steals and we were able to keep them off the base paths” Schumann said.

The Panthers will now host No. 8 Louisiana on April 10 for a three game set that can very well dictate the remainder of the season. FIU is only two games behind Louisiana in the Sun Belt standings.

MONEY

Working hard or hardly working for cash

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By accessing the MyFIU portal, curious students can click on the Financial Aid tab and find out how much it really costs to live as a college student at the University.

Tuition is currently at an average of \$2,500 a semester, and with planned state increases for the 2012-2013 year, students can expect the price to hike up an additional \$250. Then, there are books and supplies for \$1,200, the daily commute accumulating up to \$2,000 by the end of the semester, meals for \$3,540, and personal expenses that are sure to break the bank.

In a 2008 poll by the U.S. Department

of Education, 31.5 percent of undergraduate students across the country live at home. Yet with only seven percent of the University population living on campus, it can be assumed that the majority lives in the comfort of their own home or a parent's home.

If financial aid is not enough, students must seek other means of paying for their expenses—perhaps even an adult allowance.

“My parents are helping to put me through college, but I also work and sometimes help pay utilities. They give me about \$200 a month for food,” said Valerie Regis, a sophomore majoring in marketing. “I don't think there is anything wrong with getting help from your family while you get yourself set up.”

Other students argue, from a moral and sometimes prideful standpoint, that it is perhaps too childish to depend on their claimant for their cost of living.

Tracy Ortega, a junior majoring in Asian studies, said, “I wouldn't dream of asking my parents for money unless I was on the verge of being homeless.”

“So, if I prefer to buy me some Steve Madden pumps instead of eating, well, that's my prerogative and not my dad's fault. They did their part. Now it's time for me to be a self-sustaining adult,” she said.

The housing bubble of 2006 and the nationwide recession in 2008 have also forced many current University students to become familiar with terms like second mortgage, foreclosure, eviction and budget cuts.

“I send my mom and dad money,” said



PHOTO COURTESY OF SXC.HU

Students need cash. Where it comes from can vary, whether its from their parents, a job, or extra scholarship money, they will find a way to have that extra cash for their things.

Jessica Pintado, a sophomore majoring in biology. “I've been working since I was 16 so they don't have to worry about minor things like my own clothes or spending the night out with friends.”

Necessity aside, some students that live at home have given thought to moving out.

“I have my own room and bathroom, and I get treated to my mother's amazing meals. Why live on campus?” said Regis.

“I guess it all depends on the type of

relationship you have with your parents. If you depend on them for money, I'm sure you ought to have a good one. I know for a fact that living with them at this time has done wonders for me, both personally and fiscally,” said Pintado.

Thomas Sebastian, a senior majoring in biology and resident of University Park Apartments, said: “My parents live in Coral

SEE CASH, PAGE 6

“My parents are helping to put me through college, but I also work and sometimes help pay utilities.”

Valerie Regis
Sophomore, Marketing major

GLOW JAM

SPC Glow Jam sets up for UPRoar



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANUM MALICK

Students gathered by housing quad to party with a lot of bright colors, finger foods, and loud booming music on campus.

SANA ULLAH
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As the sun began to set, students started gathering by the housing quad, surrounded by booming music, finger food and night-friendly glow objects. DJs stationed themselves by their equipment,

on their toes, ready to battle each other for a position at the upcoming UPRoar concert. The tension from competition could be felt in the atmosphere.

On the night of April 5, the University's Student Programming Council hosted a glow jam party by the dorms. A mock paintball course was laid out on the fields for students to play laser tag.

Students would pair into teams, position themselves behind “barricades” and shoot at the opposing team; blue on red, red on blue. No money was needed, so bad sportsmanship was not an issue. Over 25 students were laughing and mingling with one another.

SEE GLOW, PAGE 6

Jump from BB C goes here

DINNER, PAGE 8

of flavor, the dark and heavy taste of the beer blended together with a creamy and soft texture of the ice cream followed by the hot fudge brownie.

“The highlight of the night had to be the warm brownie with the Guinness ice cream. Can't get better than that,” said Manuel Cedeno, a junior in public relations.

After dinner we moved to the living room for some Frank Sinatra on Pandora and a few glasses of white wine.

By 12:30 a.m., we were still active and the energy from the food was running high, so we

decided to go visit Churchill's Pub, the locally famous pub in Little Haiti which never fails to be the host for live music and a good time.

We had a good time running into old friends, but the heavy metal roar of Hawg Jaw was not what we were expecting.

By 3 a.m. we were going to go to News Lounge but before we knew it we were home again.

The driver passed out on the couch and the rest of us who were still alive resorted back to where the night began: the kitchen.

Here, we danced and ate all the left over steak milanesa until there was no more.

RADIATE REVIEWS

Lockett Pundt takes a meticulous approach to rock

Lockett Pundt's multiple album trajectory might have gone unnoticed to the general public; to the casual listener, he's one of the driving forces in "Deerhunter," the seminal shoegaze ensemble from Athens Georgia, yet, his solo work under the name of Lotus Plaza presents an early look at his influences and the direction "Deerhunter" will go in the future, but his musical evolution on a personal level.

"Spooky Action at Distance," his second solo album, presents a further refinement of Pundt's work with white noise, spaces and reverb, creating a lush pop driven album that strikes a perfect balance between guitar driven rock and carefully crafted love songs.

"Lotus Plaza," as well as all other related projects such as "Deerhunter" and "Atlas Sound," has undergone meticulous refinements from their earlier sounds.

Fans of the bands earlier work might have preferred their approaches to sound landscapes and "art rock" approaches to their music such as "Cryptogram's White Ink," to more melody driven tunes like "Desire Lines" (one of Pundt's individual contributions to Halcyon Digest and easily a highlight of an already great record), yet this in turn is a logical change considering Pundt's and Bradford

Cox's continuous move towards experimental pop and rock and roll.

"Spooky Action" in turn sounds much like an extension on the themes and structures presented in "Desire Lines," presenting more traditional structures and his own take on a lot of elements already present in his main project.

And it is in this "extended" nature of the album, where perhaps the general audience might not be as attracted to the album, while this in part is quite tragic in this writer's opinion, it's understandable.

It's not an easy listen, much to the detriment of the Pundt's efforts, as the early bootlegs of his live shows demonstrate a certain added element that makes the songs come alive.

Yet the beauty still remains; tracks such as "Strangers," "Out of Touch" and "White Galactic One" ooze a certain *ja ne se qua* that ultimately makes the listener utterly happy.

The bouncing guitars riffs, drowned under reverb and echoing vocals, often create a certain dream like quality to the tunes.

"Strangers," in particular, maintains a very similar chord pattern reminiscent of tracks found in "Microcastles," and "Weird Era Continued," which provide an interesting twist to a previously known formula, giving the sensation of these song being an alternate, much more light-hearted version of songs such as "Backspace Century" and "VHS Dream."

The simple love song melody of "Out



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.VINYLSPINS.NET

Deerhunter member Lockett Pundt expressed himself differently through his ensemble Lotus Plaza.

of Touch," heavily pushed by a simple yet effective tambourine and bass syncopation, demonstrate a much simpler approach to lyrics in Cox's "Deerhunter" penmanship, yet this becomes secondary to the already lush already taking place.

While it is certain that Lockett Pundt's efforts are often compared to that of his main project, "Spooky Action at a Distance" feels anything but a side effort; his personal approaches and influences are greatly displayed, and shows a fantastic breadth of talent and ability

that will surely leave its mark not only as Lotus Plaza, but also any other venture he decides to undertake.

This album, while great in itself also serves as a gauge on his current ideas about music, much like Cox's "Parallax," released late last year. It's exciting to see such great music come about, and look forward to what comes next from him.

Radiate Reviews is a weekly music review column. Michael Hernandez is DJ Mike Manchild on Radiate FM.

Students work for spending cash

CASH, PAGE 5

Springs, but I love living on campus. It gives you a sense of independence without feeling completely cut off."

Whether a student works to pay off their expenses or whether he or

she completes chores in exchange for coverage, a system that lives by "give and you shall receive" remains at hand.

"I think it works well both ways," said Regis. "If you have your mom fork over some funds

in exchange for keeping the house neat and clean, you're maintaining a balanced, positive bond with your family. But if you work hard to make your own ends meet, you're claiming your own success. That's the ultimate aim."

SPC pre-party a glowing success

GLOW, PAGE 5

Black lights were set up on trees, creating a glowing miniature golf course. SPC's main goal in creating the glow jam party was to get a unanimous vote on a DJ for the UPRoar concert on April 11 featuring Big Sean and Gym Class Heroes.

"My friend is DJing—if he wins this battle, the concert will be a huge opportunity for him," said Sibgha Gilani, a freshman majoring in biology.

"He will most likely get a lot of offers or requests after the concert."

Each DJ had 15 minutes to woo their audience. Music from the '80s, '90s and present was played along

with culturally diverse music from the islands, South and Central America.

Aside from the DJ battle, eggs were also hidden for a chance to win an extra ticket to the UPRoar concert. Students searched with excitement in hopes of retrieving an extra ticket.

"I love SPC. They always host great events with awesome prizes. If I had the ticket, I would have to either give it to one of my close friends or sell it to them," said senior Giancarlo Angulo.

The music played all night while students enjoyed their free time, looking forward to the concert at 8 p.m. tonight in the Modesto Maidique Campus.

UPCOMING EVENTS

11 WEDNESDAY

JAZZ AT THE WERTHEIM SERIES: FIU STUDIO JAZZ BIG BAND AND GUEST TROMBONIST/COMPOSER, TOM GARLING

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15.00 General Admission, \$10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, \$5.00 FIU Students and Alumni Association Members
WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall

SGC-MMC SUPREME COURT HEARING ON ELECTION VIOLATIONS
WHEN: 8-9:30 a.m.
WHERE: BBC BVH Room
Location to be posted outside RDB 1000

COMMENCEMENT FAIR/GRADUATION SEND-OFF
WHEN: 12 p.m.
WHERE: FIU Bookstore, 2nd Floor, GC Building

12 THURSDAY

KEYBOARD ARTS SERIES: MUSIC FOR PIANO
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15.00 General Admission, \$10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, \$5.00 FIU Students and Alumni Association Members
WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall

GLOBAL LEARNING CONFERENCE: "DOES ENGAGING WITH DIFFERENCE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?"
WHEN: 11:45 a.m.- 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
WHERE: MMC MARC Pavillion

TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED
EMAIL:
CALENDAR@FIUSM.COM

SPC UP-ROAR CONCERT

TICKETS AVAILABLE BEGINNING
MARCH 8TH IN CAMPUS
LIFE, GC 2240
FREE TO FIU STUDENTS.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Election climate unpleasant

It is important, even though we did not pledge our support to the Farinas/Castro ticket or the uncontested Biscayne Bay Campus candidates, that we give credit where credit is due — Congratulations Alpha Xi Delta and Phi Gamma Delta.

Thus, we congratulate Laura Farinas and Alex Castro at the Modesto Maidique Campus and Pablo Haspel and Oluwatobi Adekoya at BBC, and hope to cultivate relationships for the good of the student body.

With that in mind, we'd also like to address concerns that *The Beacon* has noticed since election season.

An uncontested campaign at BBC and a Greek-dominated one at MMC is indicative of an overall student disinterest. However, 9,000 people voted.

The aggressiveness of supporters — mostly fraternity and sorority members — decked out in campaign paraphernalia, and armed with a laptops in one hand and iPads in the other, needs to be discussed since it played a large role in this year's election.

Aside from being obnoxious, it sets up two problems:

First, accosting students who probably have no knowledge of Student Government candidates, while as a supporter, you are wearing a shirt with a candidate's name on it, does not promote involvement in school politics: it just gets quick votes.

Secondly, it completely depletes the library's reserve of iPads and laptops for the entire day, leaving a disadvantage for the students who might actually need them for school-

work—the University's purpose for providing these resources.

Perhaps more so than in any other year, social media played a huge role in this year's election.

Certainly, there was some not so private mudslinging, one noted racist comment, and too many default photos changed to candidates' photographs; but mostly, social media should have been capitalized to discuss actual platforms.

The Beacon hopes the Farinas/Castro team continues to utilize social media to reach out to the student body and address campus issues.

Having surely made note of last fall's controversy regarding the lack of transparency and up-keep with the SGA's website, Farinas and Castro would start off on a high note, and demonstrate a quick contrast from the previous administration, by keeping closer tabs on Twitter and Facebook, keeping students posted on upcoming events, SGA activity, and whatever University information students might benefit from knowing. Transparency is an issue that Farinas and Castro promised during their campaigning, and we will hold them to it.

With every new administration comes a new set of problems: grievances and quarrels within the government, complaints from certain colleges, students, professors; we can't count on perfect harmony.

What we can hope for is constant communication among government, press, faculty and students, an appreciation for the importance SGA's decisions, and the influence of the students they govern.

CLASS DISMISSED

Education on loans crucial

With so many students racking up college debt, it is imperative that, when it comes to the stark differences between federal and private student loans, we “know before we owe.” Well, at least two Democratic senators think so.

Senators Dick Durbin of Illinois and Tom Harkin of Iowa composed the Know Before You Owe Act of 2012, which would require all institutions to educate their students on the difference between federal and student loans so students can make an informed decision when it comes time to borrow money for school.

Furthermore, the bill would require the school to assess the borrower's enrollment status, cost of attendance and federal aid package, if any, before their private student loans are approved.

Durbin and Harkin hope that the passage of this bill will free students from unnecessary high-interest debt while making a way for college affordability.

I cannot see how one can argue against signing this bill into law. As of 2011, student debt reached an all-time high of \$913 million, which surpasses credit card debt, according to an [DATE] article in the Sun Sentinel.

On a local level, Florida's student debt is at 8.5 percent, surpassing the national average of seven percent.

Unlike credit card debt, which can be purged via bankruptcy, student debt is a permanent fixture on one's credit report until it is paid off or, the more morbid option, the debtor passes away.

At our University, though, we are ahead of the curve. When I took out my first student loan, I had to go through a virtual presentation that educated me on my borrowing options.

It clearly stated the benefits and disadvan-

“
By making it mandatory for students to undergo loan counseling before they borrow money to pay their tuition, students will be better equipped to make wiser borrowing choices.”

tages of each option; with this knowledge, I have since been able to borrow wisely.

However, other states do not have this luxury, leaving students vulnerable to the pressure from private lenders to borrow from their establishment.

Ultimately, this results in high-interest debt that takes a small miracle to pay off, especially in such a broken economy where jobs are sparse.

By making it mandatory for students to undergo loan counseling before they borrow money to pay their tuition, students will be better equipped to make wiser borrowing choices by choosing low-interest options, choosing plans that allow for deferred payment, reducing the temptation to over-borrow and become more aggressive in applying for grants and scholarships, which students are not obligated to repay.

Students have a right to know before they owe. Signing this bill into law will allow them to exercise this right and relax their wallets.

“Class Dismissed” is a weekly column critiquing education in America. Email jasmyn.elliott@fiusm.com



JASMYN ELLIOTT

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Additional campaign-free zones necessary, critical

While I ultimately agree with *The Beacon* writer who calls the incessant campaigning by Greeks a nuisance [Alex Sorondo's article published on April 9, 2012 — read it online at www.fiusm.com], let me first start by giving some credit where it is due.

From personal experience, Greeks actually do care about the real issues at hand in an election.

As some of the most involved students on campus, Greeks lead or are involved with many of the entities that receive the A&S fees that SGA controls, and have real opinions and concerns about how the fees should be used.

The problem is that all of this real passion is

diluted from detailed campaign platforms down to the absolutely annoying “hey do you have a minute to vote on my iPad while I watch you” campus canvassing that everyone hates.

This won't stop as long as it is allowed, because it is easiest way to get votes, and as long as one campaign does it, the other campaigns have to, or else they will face inevitable defeat.

Instead of gloating about our increase in voter turnout, SGA's advisors should be looking critically at how those votes are being obtained, and how to instill integrity into the election process.

There should be more campaign-free zones like

the one outside the GC computer labs, and while campaigns should certainly be free to have tables around campus to provide information about their platforms and to allow people to vote, they should not be allowed to wander around with laptops and iPad harassing students for votes.

It would be nice if the Greek community would come together and make this happen voluntarily, but with millions of dollars on the line, it just may be too much to ask.

-Eric Feldman, Graduate Student, Master of Science in Higher Education Administration



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Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (500 words maximum) to neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year. *The Beacon* reserves the right to edit for space, content and clarity.

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GRANT MONEY

University uses national grant to employ more women

FILIP PANOVSKI
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Near the start of the 2011 Fall semester, FIU was awarded the National Science Foundation ADVANCE grant, a \$573,000 grant aimed at making institutional changes within the framework of FIU and its hiring process.

The grant is being overseen by the School of Integrated Science and Humanity and four principal investigators, spearheaded by Dr. Suzanna Rose, Director of SISH. The grant is aimed at reducing the unconscious bias present in the hiring process at FIU and nationwide in order to recruit and retain more female faculty in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics fields.

The grant will be utilized as

planned through the ACE partnership which pertains to the Awareness of, Commitment to and Empowerment of Women Scientists at the university.

In 2010, a climate survey was conducted at FIU to establish an accurate picture of the activities, interests and priorities of faculty which showed that while both men and women were dissatisfied with salaries, women are underrepresented and have less influence than their male counterparts in most departments.

While there are many variables that affect the number of women in STEM fields, Rose noted that “There’s 20 to 30 years of research that shows that there is a difference in the salaries women get [in comparison with men].”

In addition, according to a recent study from 2010, four to 30 percent of female PhDs in various STEM fields

“There’s 20 to 30 years of research that shows that there is a difference in the salaries women get [in comparison with men].”

Dr. Suzanna Rose
SISH, Director

are not considered for tenure track positions.

“FIU is definitely missing some good candidates,” Rose said.

Gender issues are not tied to any specific institution or country. A study in Sweden showed that women had to be at least 2.5 times more productive as men to be seen as similarly

competent, which in turn meant that men were twice as successful with no additional qualifications.

Rose noted past research where identical resumes were given as pertaining to individuals of different gender: unsurprisingly to some, the resume with a man’s name received higher evaluations.

To facilitate institutional changes to combat this, departments are being encouraged to use innovative and objective grading schemes during the hiring process to weed out subjective bias as part of the Commitment phase.

Other initiatives include workshops and theater skits, the latter being performed by the nationally acclaimed Center for Research on Learning and Teaching theatre group from the University of Michigan, which is working closely with the University through the grant’s duration.

The performances have garnered extremely positive feedback from faculty and students alike, portraying issues which are often difficult to bring up in conversation.

SEE NSF, PAGE 2

DELICIOUSNESS

It’s time for a cake-off with the Perfect Paw competition

SHANNON COPELAND
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Get ready for a cake baking face-off.

The Perfect Paw Dessert Challenge will be tomorrow at the Wolfe University Center Panther Square from 12-2 p.m.

Now in its second year, the PPDC along with the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management came up with the concept of ‘FIU spirit incorporated with Cakes.’

“This challenge was established to show-

case the talented students of CSHTM,” Student Alumni Association president Zahra Arbabi said.

The aim of the challenge is not just to showcase the students’ baking skill but also to strengthen their leadership ability.

Students will be placed in groups of three, with each group having a manager. That student will be judged on his/her managerial skills.

“I decided to join the challenge because I love to get involved in campus activities,” said Maria Reynaga, a junior Hospitality Management major. “I love to bake and

cook. Even though I’m no professional baker, I enjoy baking.”

In order to participate in the dessert challenge, students must be registered with the University. There are no restrictions to students who are not a part of the CSHTM.

The CSHTM and the SAA will provide the ingredients for each group; the teams will prepare their cake beforehand, which will be videotaped for judging as well.

The students will be judged on the following: preparation, presentation and the cake has to be delicious and captures the lively spirit of FIU.

The winner will be selected by the judges; and each participant of the winning team will receive a \$125 scholarship. For 2nd place, each participant will receive a \$75 scholarship.

“[This is a] perfect opportunity for students to win a scholarship and enjoy themselves while showcasing their talent,” Arbabi said.

Guests get to partake in this feast as there will be treats for everyone.

“This is a great opportunity to meet new people and get noticed also,” Reynaga said. “You never know, you might actually win.”

BEAT STREET

I was going to go out, but hey, the night chose otherwise

The idea for Saturday night was to go out and experience a music show in the city.

But as I entered my house after a day of shenanigans, I found myself in the kitchen with FIU Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management graduate student Rafaela Dulanto as she was seasoning some thin-cut steaks and asked if I was staying for dinner.

How could I refuse the offer? I went upstairs to freshen up while waiting for the food to be ready and the guests to arrive.

An hour later, I was in the kitchen again alongside my roommate and Rafaela, who were just putting the finishing touches on the meal, all while talking about Asia, watching the trailer for the movie Ted, and drinking red wine.

The four other guests arrived and one by one we moved the party to the dining room. The

meal was simple: steak milanesa, butter-nut squash with a cream parmesan-sage sauce, and a garlic tahini kale salad.

“My inspiration is to make sure people get pleasure out of the food I make,” Dulanto said.

It was a pleasure that everyone at the table felt with every bite.

The sweet creamy squash was soft, juicy and a perfect complement to the sour and bitter taste of the kale. The milanesa was tender and full of flavor; some of the guests could not have enough of it and asked for more.

Dulanto was a true professional, standing up in the middle of her meal to cook more milanesa while we continued to dig in for seconds and thirds.

For dessert, Dulanto made hot-fudge brownies with a Guinness flavor ice cream. The brownies were nothing out of the ordinary, but the ice cream was a sweet surprise. As a fan of Guinness already, the ice cream was a success.

It was again a great match

SEE DINNER, PAGE 5



ANDRES BEDOYA



PHOTOS BY ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Manuel Cedeno, junior public relations major, and Rafaela Dulanto, a graduate hospitality student, toast to a successful night of food and good company.