

TALLAHASSEE

# Rosenberg supports raise in tuition over next 3 years

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University President Mark Rosenberg appeared before the State House Education Committee on Jan. 19 where he affirmed his support for raising university tuition.

“Cheaper isn’t always better,” Rosenberg said. “I’m enthusiastic about raising tuition up to the national average over the next three years.”

For hours, a group of state legislators sat transfixed last week, as presidents from the 11 state-funded universities pitched their future needs in higher education.

The one hallmark subject: tuition.

Early last week, presidents of both the University of Florida and Florida State University appeared before to push for higher tuition.

Rosenberg said he supports their efforts. State university tuition is currently a little over \$5,000 per semester, while the national average hangs around \$8,244 for in-state public four-year universities, according to the College Board committee.

But raising tuition, remains a puzzling, but salient question for the State Legislature and the universities, while cuts to Pell Grants loom in Washington D.C.

Higher education saw major changes from a bill passed during the 2011 legislative session. The most far-reaching was the required submission of a Free Application for Federal Student Aid to be eligible for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship.

The matching grant program was also suspended, a three-decade old measure that matched certain types of fundraising for state schools. The exchanges between Rosenberg and Vice Chairwoman, Rep. Janet Adkins, got uneasy after the benefits some students receive under both Bright Futures and the Florida Prepaid College Plan were called the “Lexus award.”

Rep. William Proctor the chairman of the House Education Committee made the “Lexus award” statement, suggesting that given Florida’s low tuition rate, students who receive both awards are free to spend thousands of government dollars on a Lexus car.

Adkins later asked Rosenberg whether he also considered the combination of need-based Pell Grants and Bright Futures as the “Lexus-buying plan?”

Almost 50 percent of students at FIU receive the federally funded Pell grants and 25 percent receive the maximum \$5,550, Rosenberg said.

“There is an overlap—the ‘Lexus model’ isn’t necessarily my example. I know it does occur,” Rosenberg said. “That problem may go away as we’re forced to drive up tuition to stay competitive.”

In a released statement, Rep. Proctor said the committee is beginning to sift through the information each university submitted.

“Any future reforms must strike the right balance between moving Florida’s entire university system forward and allowing each institution to fulfill its individual mission,” Proctor said.

## DEFYNG GRAVITY



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

Adrian Aguirre, a non-University student and freerunner from Miami Freerunning and Parkour Academy, trains in freerunning at the Modesto Maidique Campus on Jan. 18. Members of the academy will be back on campus on Jan. 28.

OCCUPY FIU

# Members waiting for response

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Occupy FIU members were planted in the Graham Center lawn on Jan. 19 with a sign reading, “Students await response from Rosenberg.”

The group was gathered from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. to await the arrival of President Mark Rosenberg, who had been given a letter two days prior requesting his presence.

The letter asked Rosenberg to publicly condemn the arrest of the group of Occupy members now known as the “FIU 7.”

“We told him we would

be waiting for him at the GC lawn,” said political science major, William Sanchez.

Midway through the event, Occupy member

Sanchez asserted that Rosenberg “should address students directly, not through emails.”

However, President

also to warn about raising tuition exponentially for STEM majors. According to Andrea Nunez, an FIU alumna, Occupy “wanted to speak about how students feel about the free speech zones.”

“FIU should respect our constitutional rights,” she said. The free speech zones are designated to a select few locations on campus; Occupy is seeking to change that.

“We may be starting a new campaign for free speech,” Sanchez explained.

Nunez explained that Occupy was also “simultaneously campaigning

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“We are addressing FIU suppressing our rights and confining us to areas where we have to follow certain rules, like the 9 p.m. curfew.”

Andrea Nunez,  
 member  
 Occupy FIU

Jimmy Jimenez, a University alumnus said, “I wish that he at least said why he is not here,” in response to his absence.

Rosenberg did not attend the event as he was testifying in Tallahassee for the importance of raising tuition to national levels, and

SCHOLARSHIPS

# First Generation hits \$1 million

**KEVIN CRUZ**  
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The First Generation Scholarship is becoming a bigger source of hope for incoming students at the University.

In an announcement by President Mark Rosenberg, the scholarship reached its fund raising goal at \$516,328, which will be matched 100 percent by the state to make a total of over \$1 million in funds.

“The First Generation fund is the best way to assist students in need. It has support from president, student government and state of Florida,” said Patrick O’Keefe, president of the Student Government Council at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

Since its inception in 2006, the scholarship awarded more than \$3 million in financial support to more than 5,000 students.

Given to students on a first come first serve basis, funds for the scholarship are provided by the FIU Board of Trustees, Foun-

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COMING UP | Life!

Check out the Jan. 25 issue for a preview of the 29th annual Miami International Film Festival.

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## CELEBRATION



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

The FIU chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority commemorates its 99th anniversary in the Graham Center pit. The greek organization has around 200,000 members in over 900 chapters around the world.

## FACULTY

## Observation of professors turns into larger issue

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Regular observations may be the key to evaluating instructors and their teaching methods and prove to be successful for students in the long run.

Ratings given as a product of observation are the most successful form of evaluation, according to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

At FIU, professors are evaluated at the end of term by students. Evaluations are anonymous and ask students to rank their professors on a number of characteristics based on their experience in the classroom, but professor observations are not regularly conducted.

“Legislators were not able to pass this legislation two years ago, but are now finally seeing their efforts pay off,” said Brian Peterson, a professor of history.

Teacher observations have been occurring for years as a way to obtain reassurance that instructors are teaching properly, students are learning efficiently and that they are receiving the proper education to help them excel not only in standardized tests, but later in life.

In the past years, evaluation methods seemed to be lacking effectiveness as rating and observing instructors was rare. Few schools had yearly teacher evaluations.

Adding to the cause of ineffectiveness was that the evaluators, which were at often times, principals, tended to be inexperienced in this area and unsure of what exactly they were

looking to rate.

Consequently, the methods for watching and rating instructors have begun to come across several changes, essentially evaluations. Beginning two years ago, legislators have been working to enforce the need for school and teacher evaluations.

Many changes are being implemented and monetarily supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, including more frequent observations - about six per year, and certified evaluators.

According to Peterson, heavy reliance is put on students' standardized tests scores, i.e. the FCAT.

A report by Gates foundation provides further information on the reason for this. It explains that the scores provide evidence of how much or how little students are learning in their classrooms. Senior and international relations major, Jorge Mendez, feels somewhat different on the issue.

“While I agree that teacher observations are vital in evaluating an instructor, I would not like to have so much reliance fall on standardized test scores since in some cases, it can cause an instructor to focus the most attention on test taking methods which can deprive students of many other learning experiences,” said Mendez.

However, the report concludes that the best way to rate professors is to rely on these scores, which is also referred to as a value-added formula, and to observe instructors several times throughout the year by the aforementioned certified

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## OBITUARY

## In memoriam: Ramon Sanchez



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MIAMI HERALD  
Ramon Sanchez

Ramon Sanchez was the victim of a car accident wherein the other driver was driving under the influence of alcohol on New Year's Eve.

He had been leaving a family gathering at 2

a.m. when the collision occurred two blocks from his home.

He was admitted to Kendall Regional Hospital on Bird Road.

Due to the injuries he sustained from the crash, Sanchez passed away January 4, 2012.

Sanchez had been a professor for the University since January 1998.

Born on October 1, 1963, Sanchez was an instructor in the Department of Public Administration.

He taught public sector budgeting. He was also a budget analyst for the City of Hialeah.

He had a bachelor's in

psychology and a master's in public administration.

He leaves behind his parents: Olga and Jesus Sanchez, his brother, Jesus Sanchez, Jr., and his wife, Paula.

His brother, Jesus Sanchez, Jr. asked the university to relay his message of appreciation to the FIU community for the compassion and support that the family has since received from students, faculty and staff, according to University's The Tender Love and Care Brigade.

He requested that FIU First Lady and TLC Brigade Co-Chair, Rosalie Rosenberg,

Founding Professor and TLC Brigade Co-Chair, Raul Moncarz, and University Human Resources Relations convey a direct quote from the late professor:

“Whatever your dream is...go for it! Tomorrow is guaranteed to no one.”

Students of the public administration professor expressed their grief through social media and sent their condolences to Sanchez's family.

The viewing and funeral for Sanchez was held at Memorial Plan of Kendall on Jan. 8.

Written and compiled by Lauren Rovira.

## Occupy FIU hopes to work with SGC-MMC

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against tuition hikes.”

“We should be out at the Board of Governors meeting today, but this derailed us,” Nunez said, “We are addressing FIU suppressing our rights and confining us to areas where we have to follow certain rules, like the 9 p.m. curfew.”

Alex Castro, chief of staff at the Student Government Council at the Modesto Maidique Campus showed up to the event to extend acknowledgement to the group.

“From my personal stance,” Castro said, “I want to understand what the message is.”

“SGA is trying to work with Occupy,” he explained, “Patrick [O’Keefe, SGC-MMC president] has been working with the leaders of the

movement.”

“We would like to work hand in hand,” he concluded, “I think Rosenberg should show. This is grabbing a lot of attention.”

A “mic-check” later, Sanchez explained that the group would likely re-invite President Rosenberg to speak to them in the upcoming week.

Rosenberg may or may not show for the meetings, but the group plans on continuing to organize demonstrations and to work for the public.

“We may arrange another one of these next Thursday,” Sanchez explained, donning the cream colored “FIU 7” shirt the group had made in honor of the members arrested last week.

“We gave our concerns to Rosenberg,” Jimenez said, “We are here talking for the entire student body.”



PHOTO COURTESY KENNETH FUENTES

Several members of Occupy FIU set up a tent on the Graham Center Lawn to wait for President Rosenberg.

## NEWS FLASH

## LOCAL

**Former lawmaker seeking state attorney job**

Former state Sen. Dave Aronberg is running for office again.

The 40-year-old Democratic lawmaker is running to become state attorney for the 15th Judicial Circuit which includes all of Palm Beach County.

Aronberg served in the Florida Senate between 2002 and 2010. He made an unsuccessful run for his party's nomination for attorney general in 2010 when he was defeated by former Senate colleague Dan Gelber of Miami.

Republican Pam Bondi won the attorney general's race and shortly afterward chose Aronberg as a special counsel to lead an anti-pill mill initiative. Aronberg advocated for a prescription drug database to regulate the ownership and operation of pain clinics during his days in the state Senate.

Democrat Michael MacAuliffe is not seeking re-election after serving a single four-year term.

## NATIONAL

**Power outages in Northwest could continue for days**

A Pacific Northwest storm that brought snow, ice and powerful winds left a mess of fallen trees and power lines Friday as tens of thousands of residents already without power faced the prospect of a cold, dark weekend and flooding became a top region-wide concern.

While temperatures warmed and the icy, snowy conditions abated in western Washington and Oregon, slick roads and fast-melting snow brought challenges for road workers, city officials and rescue crews. The region also faces more rain as swelling rivers lead to the worst flooding some Oregon counties have seen in more than a decade.

Meanwhile, the storm system continued its plod east, where it was expected to move into the Plains and Great Lakes regions by Saturday evening.

– Compiled by Lauren Rovira

## CORRECTIONS

In Vol 23, Issue 54 of *The Beacon* in the Sports section, the bios under the article titled "Defending champs start season against No. 14 Clemson" listed Christine Sredni as a freshman. She is a senior who went 18-9 in singles play. Also, Rita Maisak was listed as a freshman; she is a junior who went 16-14 in singles play.

## 'Observer must know teaching'

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evaluators.

Certification is only granted if the evaluators go through and pass a program in which they must analyze lessons in order to gain experience and better understand what he or she must be looking for when evaluating another instructor.

"In order for an observer to properly evaluate a professor, that observer must have a solid knowledge of what constitutes good teaching," said psychology professor, Stephen Charman. He explained that due to the fact that different instructors have different teaching methods and beliefs on what 'good teaching' really is, rating one another without having some sort general

training or guideline would be ineffective.

"I can certainly understand teachers' hesitance with being evaluated by a professor/administrator since the very knowledge of being evaluated can change the way the professor teaches. Consequently, what is being evaluated is not the teacher's normal teaching style, but their teaching style when they know they are being evaluated," Chapman said.

While some teachers might feel uncomfortable, self-conscious, or perhaps judged by being watched, rated and evaluated, others including both feel that the evaluations are quite beneficial.

"I think it's good. A lot of students who feel their classes are being taught poorly won't go to administration to explain their

experience," said junior and international relations major Darcy Rachel Ruiz.

She agreed with the necessity and benefits of teacher evaluations. Also, in response to the possible discomfort that can be caused by observing a teacher perform his or her job, Peterson said, "Teachers themselves, maybe retired teachers, could evaluate peers."

Peterson feels that there is no one better to evaluate teachers but teachers themselves who are aware of the methods of teaching and what they must look for in a good instructor. This could also ease the evaluated teacher's nerves and perhaps add a sense of comfort. He said that as of now, the evaluations will continue to be more strenuous particularly as we near 2014.

## SGA behind scholarship funding

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dation Board of Directors and President's Council.

The donors were contacted by the Student Government Association.

According to SGA, 40 percent of students entering the University are first generation students.

Sanjeev Udhvani, vice president of SGC-MMC, was instrumental in providing hope for the project.

In addition to contacting board members and active donors to receive funds for the scholarship, he made it a point to remind his fellow students to contribute to the cause.

"I've taken it personal to fund as much as I can so first-generation students like me can receive the same benefits," said Udhvani.

Students who qualify for the scholarship must be Florida residents. While they need to be enrolled at the University with a minimum of 6 credit hours, the students must demonstrate financial

need.

In addition to the donors providing a large sum of money, SGA also hosted several events throughout the fall semester in order to support the First Generation Scholarship.

Due to the fact that the scholarship is limited to students that display financial need, they have tried to raise as much money as possible.

The SGA interns of 2011 also raised money for the event.

"We have been given the task to help contribute to the future," said Nyobee McCall,

an SGA intern.

"It was a challenge at first to stay focused but we are doing our best: working toward our goal and it feels good to know we are helping future students attend our beautiful campus."

The SGA First Generation Benefit Event serves the purpose of acquiring funding for the scholarship.

This event takes place every year and it is what brings in most of the donors.

The contact list for the donors was acquired from the Advancement department of FIU.

Their assistance has

allowed for the event to run successfully the past two years.

"What we see is that this scholarship program is a partnership between the entire community, the legislature, the public and private sectors, and large and small donors," said U.S. House Representative Anitere Flores who has been a longtime supporter of the scholarship program, on the First Generation Scholarship website. "This program is working, it's going directly to the students, and it's good to know it is not on the chopping block."

**FIU** Student Government Association

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## Occupy FIU response improper, shows lack of cooperation

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As an opinion writer for *The Beacon*, it is more than obvious that I am an advocate of free speech. Still, the events that occurred on Jan. 12 involving the Occupy FIU movement and the FIU Police Department that eventually led to the arrest of the FIU 7 left me somewhat uncertain as to how I should conclude my thoughts on this situation.

After an initial judgment of the circumstance, however, I believe that neither party involved acted appropriately. Both participating parties must treat this as a precedent for future events. It is through this precedent that there is a window of opportunity that presents an interesting future for both the protesters and the school administration.

The error of both parties was that they acted how they believed they were entitled to act, which only seems reasonable considering they

“  
**The error of both parties was that they acted how they believed they were entitled to act.**  
”

were both just doing their jobs, so to speak.

FIU Police acted as the extension of school administration that they are while the Occupy FIU members did what they do best when opposed: hold their ground and demonstrate.

In agreement with *The Beacon's* editorial on this situation, published on Jan. 18, it must be stated that those members of Occupy FIU should have been more aware of their limitations and restrictions. Of course, this does not excuse the unnecessary way FIU Police decided to handle this situation.

While the members of Occupy FIU definitely need to be smarter about their assemblies in order to be successful, the University as an administration also needs to be careful with how it interacts with them because a repeat situation may produce a worse outcome.

Due to this situation, the future of the relationship between the University and the protesters can turn out in two ways: either the University continues to irrationally take action through its extensions, or an effective relationship between both parties could thrive from this in terms of a better understanding of each

other and cooperation.

As an institution, the University's initial concern might be to maintain its reputation, given a case like this. This means the latter of those two possibilities might happen simply because the University has already drawn attention to itself, so it might do whatever it takes to avoid another conflict like this. This does not necessarily mean complete compliance with what the protesters want, but it could very well mean the beginning of an interesting future.

It might be a shaky start, but only a drastic event like this could have given that push needed to set everything in motion.

As previously mentioned, both Occupy FIU and the University need to be careful with how they interact with each other. Hopefully, they see this as the opportunity that it is and take it to better collaborate with one another.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Medical student association seeks to uplift minorities

Racial Inequality in the United States Healthcare system and the disproportionality within the U.S. Medical education system is alarming. The disparities within the health care system warrant concern, but it commences with the medical education system.

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans together make up 25 percent of the U.S. population; however, only 6 percent of practicing doctors come from these groups. There is no reason African Americans account for over 13 percent of the United States population but less than 4 percent practicing within the medical system.

Being mindful of this and many other statistics on minority affairs and healthcare, we are able to identify the reason that groups such as

Student National Medical Association was created; to diversify medicine by trying to increase the minority populous matriculation to medical school.

Research done with the 2010 U.S. census projects indicates that by the year 2050, the minority population will become the majority. This may be of concern, since the minority population in comparison to its white counterparts is expected to have not only higher cases of comorbid diseases, but more likely to have less access to health care. This will not only put a strain on the population as a whole medically, but may be a financial burden to the economy. This is reason for concern.

Due to this, Student National Medical Association has made it a priority to help increase more minority physicians in the medical community. They essentially do this

by providing pipeline programs such as Minority Association of Premedical Students (MAPS) and opportunities for minorities which will allow them to have a more competitive edge in hopes of matriculating to medical school.

At FIU MAPS chapter, the main objective is to increase the rate of minority students matriculating to medical school. This objective is expected to be achieved through study groups to support academic enrichment, educational discussions with dialogue to provide critical thinking skills, and MCAT preparation. With the assistance of local SNMA chapters like UM Miller School of Medicine and Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine, we attain mentoring opportunities from pioneers in an effort to accomplishing this goal.

But that is not the only thing that

they do. MAPS is deeply vested in community work, whether it is through aiding medical students in local health fairs in medically under-served areas in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties, or volunteering their time and services to local orphanages. As future physicians, we believe in instilling the value of service to our fellow man. With that said, we host many forums to educate the FIU community on health issues such as smoking cessation, violence prevention, HIV/AIDS, diabetes prevention, and mental health awareness to name a few.

The President of the MAPS Chapter of FIU, Jonathan Ryan Batson, with the help of his Vice President Natacha Rivera and the rest of the executive board, has also made certain that many of MAPS protocols are partnered with other on-

campus organizations such as Latino Student Medical Association, the French Club, Black Student Union, and Premed AMSA to establish camaraderie and unity throughout FIU. Also, a key component to this chapter is that we have created a pipeline to assist and motivate more minority students to pursue the sciences in hopes of matriculating to medical school one day.

In essence FIU MAPS is not just a group whose sole purpose is just getting students into medical school, but, we are a family that instills values of leadership, good ethics, and community building which will hopefully transcend and help everyone in our communities; especially those that are medically and financially disenfranchised or underserved.

-Jonathan Ryan Batson  
FIU MAPS Chapter President

## Student of Occupy FIU eager to speak to Rosenberg

Dear President Rosenberg,  
We members of the student body as represented via Occupy FIU are greatly disappointed that you were unable to meet with us last Thursday, Jan. 20, 2012.

We had hoped at the meeting we could put a face on the man who is president of our university. We formally wanted to discuss recent events on campus and off-campus which have affected conditions at the university.

These events include the recent Board

of Governors meetings in Tallahassee. Disconnected from the FIU community, these meetings have immense implications for the future of our educational directives.

A direct dialogue would allow you, the president, and us, the students, to engage in the discussion and exchange of ideas that we feel need to be addressed, investigated, and reevaluated.

We sadly discovered after visiting your office that you were in Tallahassee

attending the Board of Governors meeting; we respect and support the importance of your presence as president of FIU at such meetings. We continue to expect that you can share your presence and ideas openly with us, your students as you did with the Board of Governors.

In fulfilling the university's objectives as defined in our Mission Statement, we hope in the future you may be able to engage the surrounding local community as well. However, we the students do not

believe that we must wait for you to be comfortable to engage us directly.

So again we would like you to meet with us students next Thursday, Jan. 26, 2012 at the GC lawn to have an open and respectful discussion about the state of the university.

We are very eager to meet and discuss issues, objectives and solutions affecting the quality of education here at Florida International University.

-Students of Occupy FIU



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### SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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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BLOCKING DRAWING MODEL PHOTOGRAPH STAGE

CURTAIN THEATER BALANCE DYNAMIC  
PRACTICE FORTE ACT

SURFACE DETAIL SCALE VOLUME FOCUS  
INSPIRATION  
CREATIVITY PAINT VISUAL STRENGTH

GALLERY EXPOSITION FRAME ALLEGRO MUSIC  
BUILDING SHAPE STRUCTURE

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INTENSITY

COLOR DIAGRAM MARKER MICROPHONE  
STYLE UNIQUE SOUND STIMULATE TALENT  
THOUGHTS INNOVATION CONTROL DISPLAY

SPRING ARTS  
PREVIEW



## Music

### A unique sound for the new year

**KATHY PAZ**  
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It is almost impossible to walk the corridors of the University's Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center at the School of Music without hearing the sounds of various instruments seeping through the building. With the spring semester now underway, the School of Music is ready to share its upcoming season with the rest of the student body. Strike up the orchestra and the ensemble because it's almost show time, and all students are invited.

In the coming months, the School of Music will present multiple events as part of the New Music Miami Festival that runs throughout the spring. The NMMF is known for diverse instrumentations and bringing together esteemed composers and performers. The first of these events takes place on Jan. 21 with Wil Smith, composer and organist. He will be joined by the University NODUS Ensemble.

The next NMMF event at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center is on Feb. 10 with composer Tania Leon, the University's Symphony Orchestra, the NODUS Ensemble and the University's New Music Ensemble.

On March 9, Madrid-based Spanish composer Sebastian Marine and the NODUS Ensemble will perform at the Spanish Cultural Center in Coral Gables.

On March 22, virtuoso clarinetist Esther Lamneck and the FIU Laptop and Electronic Arts Ensemble take the stage at the Miami Beach Botanical Gardens. The first two events listed above are \$5 to students and the last two events are free and open to the public.

At the beginning of March, the University's Opera Theater will be presenting a special two-night performance of Benjamin Britten's ghost opera "The Turn of the Screw." This

psychological drama is based on the horror novel by Henry James of the same name.

The story depicts the struggles of a young governess trying to protect the children in her charge from two, marauding ghosts at the country manor.

"This opera is one of the masterpieces of the 20th century and a great challenge for our FIU singers," explained Robert B. Dundas, director of the Opera Theater. "However, the unique vocal requirements of the cast fit the specific talents of our present group of students; it was an irresistible choice for all of us."

The role of the governess will be played by Evelyn Saavedra and Sarah Payne, both sophomore voice performance majors. The rest of the cast will be comprised of other School of Music students and the production will be designed in collaboration with the University's Theater Department.

Britten's accompanying musical score will be conducted by Professor Grzegorz Nowak. "The Turn of the Screw" takes place on March 2 and 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the concert hall of the Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

The "Jazz at the Wertheim Series" takes place on March 11 and features a night of music with the FIU Studio Jazz Big Band, directed by Jim Hacker and guest trombonist and composer Tom Garling. Rounding things up on March 13 is the "FIU School of Music at the Wolfsonian Series: FIU Jazz Combos." This special event at the Wolfsonian Museum in Miami Beach promises an evening of jazz with original compositions by group and unique interpretations of standard jazz repertoire.

These are just a few of the many events the School of Music will be putting together this season. The programming is diverse this year and most events on campus are \$5 and many off campus are free.

# SPRING INTO THE ARTS

## Architecture Building a new reputation

**VANESSA PAREDES**  
Asst. Life Editor  
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The Architecture school — comprised of the department of architecture, interior architecture and landscape architecture — is expected to host conferences, participate in competitions and produce award-winning projects like those of previous years.

Roberto Rovira, professor and chair for the landscape architecture department, confirmed that his department is expecting two occasions this spring.

LABASH, a national student conference that the landscape architecture department will hold, is one of the most anticipated upcoming events this semester in mid-March. It serves as an opportunity for the University to promote the Landscape Architecture program.

LABASH 2012 will include an array of guest speakers, dinners, showings, tours and events relevant to landscape architecture.

Another upcoming spring event is the National Competition for National Parks. Rovira announced that the "FIU landscape architecture and architecture [departments] advanced in national competition to reimagine the future of America's national parks."

"Nine winning design studios have been selected from an extraordinary field of submissions from schools across the United States.

Kicking off in January, student and faculty teams will collaborate with seven park sites in each region of the country to creatively rethink the national park experience," explained Rovira.

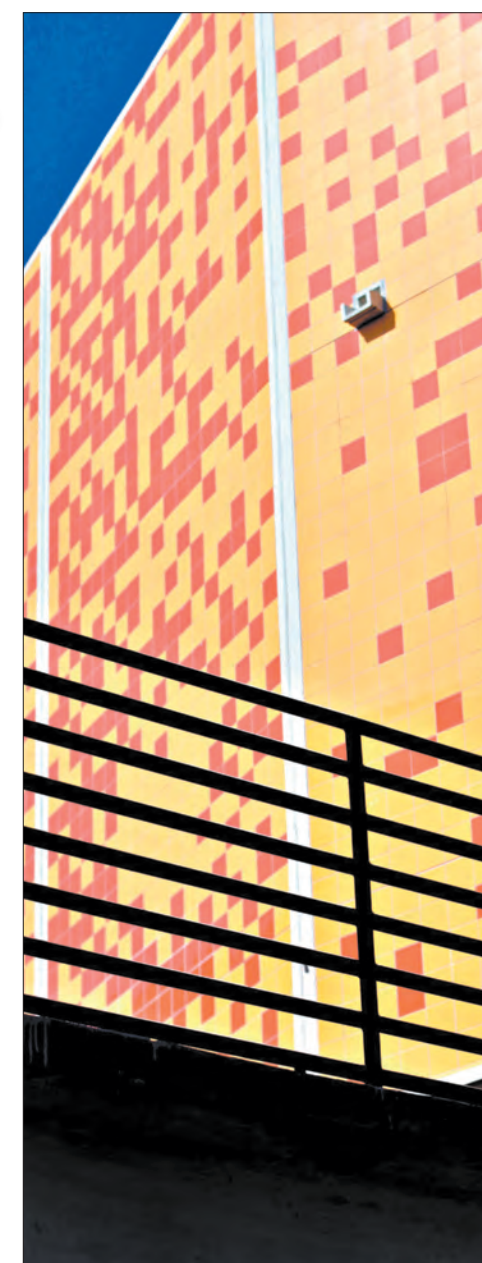
The University's spring 2012 team will focus on a park in Biscayne. Composed of 25 landscape architecture students, the team will be led by some:

Roberto Rovira, landscape architecture chair; John Stuart, architecture chair; Elyse Newman, architecture professor; Campbell McGrath, Frost professor; Xavier Cortada, director of the Office of Engaged Teaching, Scholarship and Creative Studies and Mike Heithaus, director of the School of Environment, Arts and Society.

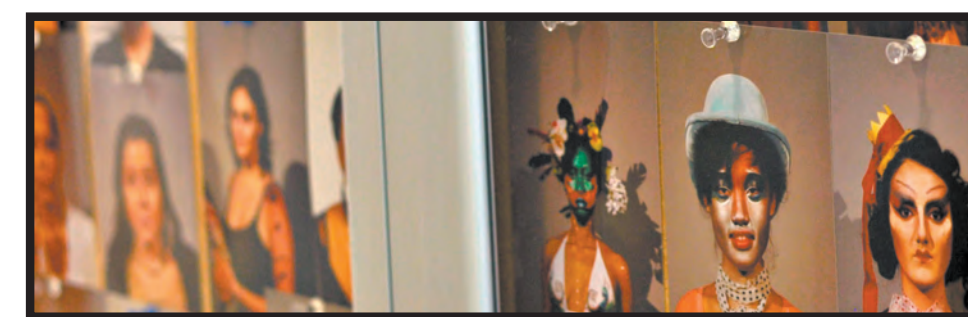
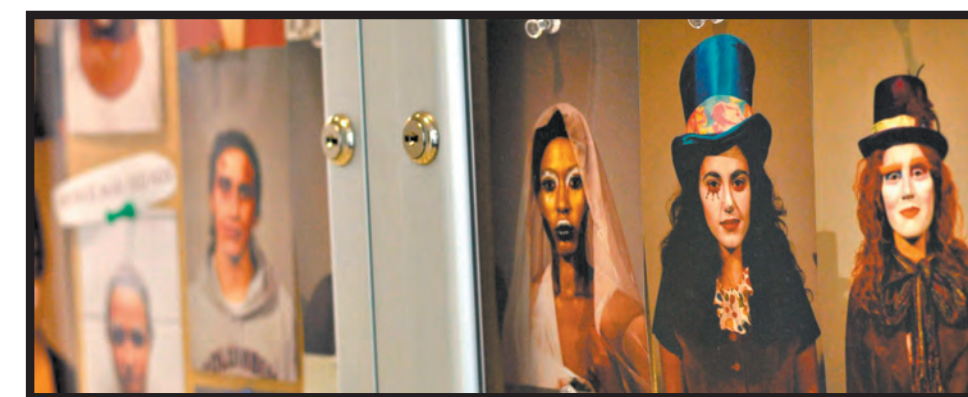
Olympia Kazi, executive director of the Van Alen Institute, is in charge of the competition. She stated, "We've challenged the most ambitious design studios in America to show us the park of the 21 century. We're urging these terrific teams to think boldly through deeply researched design about how parks can respond to their communities at a time of cultural and ecological change. We look forward to visions that will help us sustain and celebrate these national treasures."

John Stuart, professor and department head of the architecture department, explained that SOA plans to "integrate students" this year from all three departments more than ever.

"I'm really excited for this semester," Stuart said. "It will be a great opportunity for engagement with the community."



## Theatre



### Audiences get behind the scenes look

**ALFREDO APARICIO**  
Staff Writer  
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The early history of the vibrator will come to light in the first production of the spring semester, "In the Next Room (The Vibrator Play)." Set in the 1880's, this production details the first uses of this new technology to treat hysteria in women, boldly explores the sexual desire and role of women in a changing world and combines historical facts with powerful emotions and playful humor.

Marilyn Skow, chair and artistic director of the theater department, said, "We look for plays that are marketable and entice the people that come to see them while looking for modern realistic plays that will help our students actors gain the experience needed to be cast when they leave the University. It's a balance between plays that have higher production content against simpler plays."

Written by Sarah Ruhl, this production marks the first play of the season to be directed by guest director Jesus Quintero.

"Since I have become the chair of the department, I have made it one of my goals to have a guest director every year or every other year because it's important that students work with directors in and out of the department and be able to adapt to different approaches that directors may have," said Skow. "It's all a matter of if they are the right director for the play."

Before coming to the University, Quintero worked with The PlayGround Theatre, a repertory company dedicated to doing children's shows. Quintero was highly recommended to Skow through colleagues and past students.

"He had voiced an interest to other members of the faculty as well as students who had worked with him in the PlayGround Theatre and he's been very committed to the learning process [of students]," recounted Skow. "His method of rehearsal is very different from what the students may be used to but it's going very well."

"In the Next Room (The Vibrator Play)" will run from Jan. 27 to Jan. 29; the Jan. 27 and 28 shows will start at 8 p.m. and the Jan. 29 show will start at 2 p.m. The production will be followed by Theatre of the Mind, which

began with last fall's production of "Swimming in the Shallows." The 30 to 45 minute panel will feature experts from in and out of the University that will speak on the themes or ideas introduced in the play followed by questions from the audience.

The play will take a break the week after because the department has been invited to perform "The House of the Spirits" at the American College Theater Festival sponsored by the Kennedy Center for District Four in Daytona Beach. Over 36 students and four faculty and staff members are competing and have been nominated in design, acting and other categories.

"In the Next Room" resumes on Feb. 8 and will be followed by Inside Scoop, an interactive panel of actors, designers and the director. It will continue on through Feb. 11 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 12 at 2 p.m.

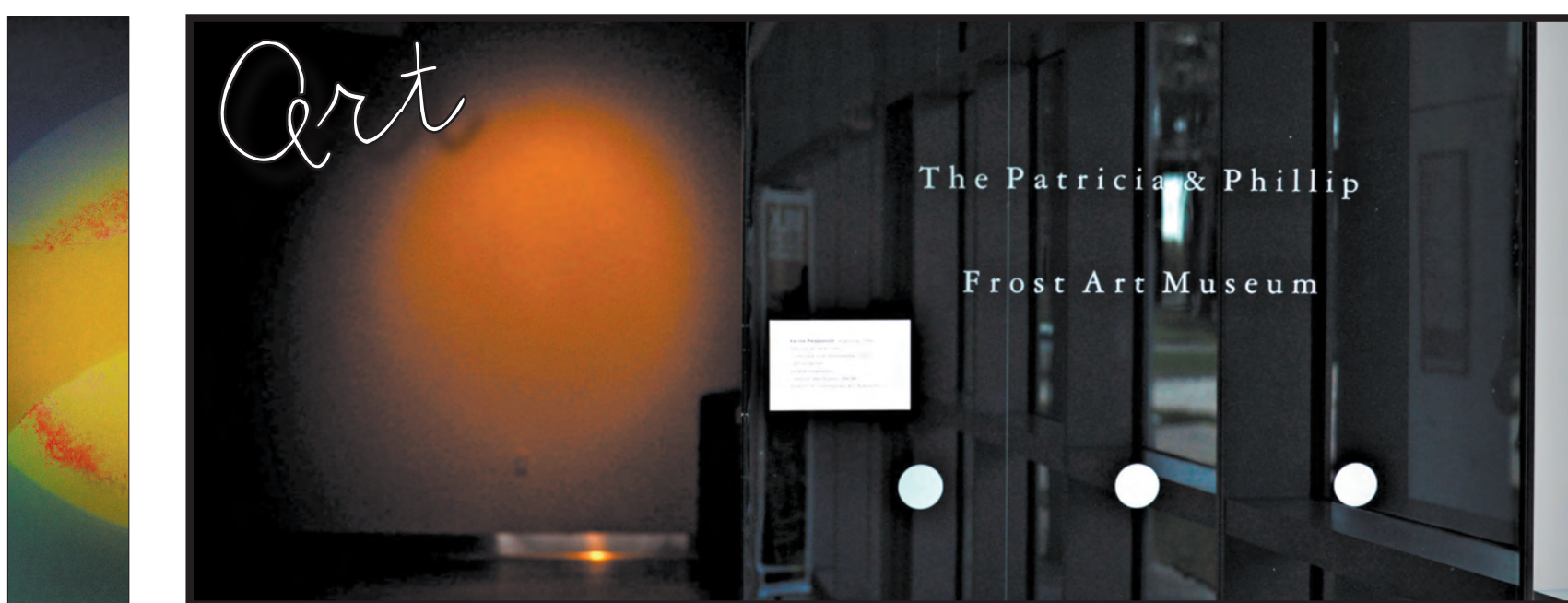
"Each person involved will put together a presentation on how they put the show together from their perspective [as a designer, actor or director]. This lets the audience take a look behind the curtain and see how the magic happens," explained Skow.

The spring season continues with "The Arabian Nights" by Mary Zimmerman and directed by Associate Professor Phillip Church.

"The play has that 'middle-eastern' flair and sitting on stage will be available for those who want to. Compared to 'In the Next Room' this play's scenery has the opportunity for more freedom because it doesn't have specific locations like 'a doctor's office'; it allows our faculty designers more interpretation and allows for more splashy scenery," said Skow.

The play will run from March 2 to 3 at 8 p.m. and March 4 at 2 p.m. with Theatre of the Mind after the show and from March 7, with Inside Scoop at 7 p.m., to March 10 at 8 p.m. and March 11 at 2 p.m.

"I want these new events [Theatre of the Mind and Inside Scoop] to make theater matter more," said Skow. "I think it's important to integrate the college experience more. With these panels, theater becomes a more enriching experience and the audience gets a chance to react verbally to their experiences and bring new thoughts and ideas to the table in addition to watching the magic happen on stage."



ALL PHOTOS BY SANA ULAH/THE BEACON

### Get closer than ever to art and artists at The Frost

**MARCY DIAZ**  
Staff Writer  
marcy.diaz@fiusm.com

Experience never before seen African and Italian exhibition selections, hang out with contemporary artists from France and admire Eastern-inspired works from one of China's artistic innovators at the Frost's spring semester events.

The opening reception for the spring semester introduces exhibits from the Wolfsonian Teaching Gallery as well as artists Maria Thereza Negreiros, Annette Turrillo and Qin Feng. The evening includes guided museum tours, a speech from the President of bioplanetusa.org, Jamie Haime

and a presentation by the Landscape Architecture department.

"Meet and Mingle" events are scheduled throughout the semester to give the public a personal and sometimes rare interaction with artists. The current list includes Qin Feng, Annie Wharton, Michael Genovese and Lynne Gelfman.

A one-day educational workshop titled "How to Look at Art!" is also underway for art lovers who want to strengthen their observation skills. The six-hour class, taught by Dr. Arthur Blumenthal, will guide participants through various collections within the Frost Museum. This event has limited space available, so making a reservation is recommended to anyone interested in

participating.

By the end of March through the first three weeks of April, The Frost will hold two must-see events. The Master of Fine Art student exhibition will present accumulative works by fellow alumni while the University's Honors College discloses art's social impact in their Aesthetics and Values seminar.

This April also brings larger-than-life displays with sculptures by Ursula von Rydingsvard and Annie Wharton. A lot of excitement is surrounding Von Rydingsvard's collection for not only her famous reputation but for the powerful "force" and "presence" they are said to radiate. Wharton has achieved a reputation for her

paintings that have been shown from the Kirishima Open Air Museum in Japan to the Museum of Contemporary Art in her hometown of Los Angeles.

A special revealing is giving a special ending to this new semester with Michal Genovese's Public Scribing Project. The Frost will present its first "campus-made" art that has been in the making since 2008.

Students have been asked to etch their thoughts and views onto the black surfaces of slabs that have been located throughout campus grounds. Genovese plans not only to capture attention with his sculpture, but the essence of individuality, community and the University.

## FIT FOR LIFE!

# Makeover your fitness and nutrition habits

Is your New Year resolution to dominate your diet and fit into those skinny jeans you have been dying to buy? If you are in fear of another failed resolution, here are some tips to help you make a nutrition makeover for 2012.

## COLUMNIST



RATASHA  
IRIBARREN

**THE  
KITCHEN**

Just like you clean out your closet to make room for the new clothes that will fit your ideal body, it is important to perform a kitchen cleansing to allow space for healthier food. Let's start with the refrigerator.

Although the refrigerator stores a safe haven of muscle building proteins, craving cutter cheeses, and cancer fighting milk, it can also be home to a detrimental diet. Say good-bye to sugary sodas and juices, and toss anything with high fructose corn syrup as the first ingredient on the label.

Even seemingly healthier items like salad dressings and yogurt can contain this empty calorie promoter. As painful as it may be, throw out any cookies, cakes, donuts, or pies that lock eyes

with you every time you open the door.

Proceeding onto the pantry, rid your shelves of any processed and packaged foods. If you read the nutrition label and notice words that you cannot pronounce, chances are it is not good for you. Make sure to say sayonara to glucose friendly cereals and salt hoarding chips as well.

**THE SUPERMARKET**

Now that you have let go of last year's trends, it is time to make a shopping list. Stock up on fruits and vegetables of all shades and colors. Not only will you receive

with lean turkey and chicken cold cuts, and pick up some healthy fat containing eggs for a filling breakfast or daytime snack.

Don't forget calcium rich foods like Greek yogurt and your favorite cheese, which will also keep you full without the extra carbohydrates that you will find in most packaged foods.

When shopping for milk, I like to reach for the two-percent container because it takes out some of the unhealthy fat from regular milk without compromising the taste. Depending on your dietary needs, choose the milk that corresponds with how much fat your

Refined grains in white bread and white rice remove the dietary fiber that keeps us full, as well as iron and numerous B vitamins.

Lastly, remember to pick up plenty of water, which helps quench your thirst without the unnecessary calories. As a general rule of thumb, do not get lost in the labyrinth of the supermarket aisles. Supermarkets tend to keep healthier nutrition basics on the perimeters of their stores.

**TIME TO EAT**

After cleaning out your kitchen, making a list, and shopping for your new healthy lifestyle it is time for a well deserved meal.

Eat the rainbow, and fill half of your plate with fruits or vegetables to satisfy your hunger. Pair that up with a serving of chicken for protein, and add in some whole grains. For more information on how to construct a healthy meal, go to [choosemyplate.gov](http://choosemyplate.gov).

In addition to a balanced meal, it is important to keep fueled in between meals throughout the day. Every Sunday, make it your mission to prepare snacks for the upcoming week. Check food labels to measure your servings. For example, if you buy a bag of pretzels and a serving size is

9 pretzels; divide your bag into serving sizes with 9 pretzels in re-sealable snack bags.

This way, your food is readily accessible throughout the week and you won't feel the need to visit your nearest campus vending machine. In addition, make it a habit to store your veggies and fruits up front in the refrigerator and freeze half the amount for smoothies on the go.

Also, do not drink your calories and guzzle down glass of water with every meal. And as far as cravings go, do not deprive yourself.

I myself need (yes, need) a serving of something sweet every night to satisfy my sweet tooth. Depriving myself of cookies, cakes, and ice cream will just make me eat an oversized portion when I finally do break!

Do not think of this as a new diet, but as a healthier lifestyle. By saying goodbye to your old habits and welcoming a change in your kitchen, you will be saying hello to your new skinny jeans in no time!

*Fit for Life! is a biweekly fitness column. Ratasha Iribarren is a fitness instructor at the Recreation Center.*

*If you read the nutrition label and notice words that you cannot pronounce, chances are it is not good for you.*

the nutrients you need to live a more enjoyable and healthier life, but you will also be consuming low calorie fiber filled foods that will help keep your stomach satisfied longer. In addition, purchase some protein at the deli counter

body calls for. As far as grains go, opt for whole grains if you have not done so already.

You can find whole grains in oatmeal, brown rice and pasta, wheat bread and many other loafs at your supermarket bakery.

## What Would You Do?

STUDENTS, STAFF AND FACULTY:  
YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN AN OPEN DISCUSSION TEACH-IN

### The Trouble at Hamilton State: A Case Study in Leadership, Ethics, and Values (A fictional case based on the incidents at Penn State)

Moderated by:  
Professors Mitch Maidique and Jose Gabilondo

Thursday, January 26, 2012  
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Graham Center Auditorium, Room 140

Registration is required. Please visit: [LEAD.FIU.EDU](http://LEAD.FIU.EDU) to RSVP.

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**FIU** | Law

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CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## HEARTBREAKER

### Coley misses game-winning shot



SERIGO NASER/THE BEACON

Mansare (right) picked up two fouls early and only played 23 minutes in the Panthers 50-49 loss to FAU on Jan 21.

**BRANDON WISE**  
Asst. Sports Director  
brandon.wise@fiusm.com

A campus-wide power surge delayed the start of the FAU-FIU game, but it could not delay the Panthers struggles in the paint or from the three-point line in a gritty 50-49 loss to the Owls at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

With six seconds left in the game, the Panthers were down one with Jerica Coley driving up the court.

She sprinted all the way down the court, but lost control of the ball and it went out of bounds. However, it deflected off of an Owl and the Panther got one more chance with 1.7 seconds to go. Coley described the play call.

"It was a play that we normally run," Coley said. "It worked out well, I just missed the shot. I was trying to attack the

basket to find whatever was open."

Coley, the "do it all Panther," led all scorers with 21 points, four rebounds, four assists and two steals.

She struggled early on to find her shot, going 4-9 and 1-3 from three-point range.

FAU then had a chance to seal the game when Latavia Dempsey put up a three that went begging but Takia Brooks pulled down the rebound.

FAU then was able to take more time off the clock before finally deciding to call a timeout with 17.3 seconds left in the game. Their shot missed, giving Coley and the Panthers their final shot to get the win.

Finda Mansare only saw limited action, as she picked up two fouls in the first three minutes of the game.

When she did re-enter

the game, she picked up another foul in just nine seconds. Head Coach Cindy Russo saw her struggling early and it continued throughout the game.

"[Mansare] never really found her game tonight. She only shot six times," Russo said. "I'm sure she got paralyzed because she knew she was in foul trouble."

The game see-sawed back and forth with 14 different lead changes and the largest lead, seven, coming just three minutes into the game.

Brooks and Kimberly Smith both hit key three-point shots with under five minutes left in the game to keep the Owls ahead. The Owls shot 6-13 on the night from three-point range.

The game was lost in the paint, where the Panthers were dominated on the glass, getting out-

rebounded 34-24. Russo wasn't thrilled.

"We squeaked one out up in South Alabama where we got terribly out rebounded," Russo said. "They are going to have to make a decision because we were not going to win a whole lot more games unless we were on the boards."

Coming out of a timeout, Teri Stamps drilled a three off of the in bounds pass to give the Owls the lead at 50-47. Stamps ended the game with eight of the Owls 50 points.

Despite forcing 18 turnovers, the Panthers could not capitalize and shot only 45.2% for the game, where they also had 13 turnovers themselves.

FANS

## FIU faithful fails to give team support

Students showed up in full force for the huge matchup of Sun Belt teams on Jan. 21 when the Panthers took on Florida Atlantic. Unfortunately, during moments, it had a feel of a tennis match rather than a basketball game.

Although the attendance was listed as 1,557, the highest of the year so far, the problem seems to lie in the fact that the students (particularly the ones in the student section behind the basket) are not sure what exactly to do at a basketball game. No face paint, no funny signs, not even funny, albeit sometimes annoying, chants at the other team. Nothing.

What they do like to do is sit there, enjoy the game, and ohh and ahh every so often when an exciting play occurs. And when it is time to pass out free t-shirts, that's probably the most excited you will see the arena get during the entire game.

There are, however, solutions that can be made.

One is to have a student section move down from the high bleachers that they have been secluded to, and down to the court. That way, it at least allows students to have a chance to participate more in the game.

It should be noted that there is a small student section behind one of the baskets. Usually, if a player from an opposing team is shooting a free



JACKSON WOLEK

COMMENTARY

SEE FANS, PAGE 11

FROM JAN. 21, 2012

### BASKETBALL FAU 50, FIU 49

FIU	Min	FG	FT	R	A	TP
Mansare	23	2-6	1-1	05	00	05
Labady	28	1-2	0-0	03	01	03
Hutlassa	40	5-11	1-3	08	01	11
Coley	40	8-19	4-5	04	04	21
Miloglav	31	0-2	0-0	00	04	00
Melnikova	21	2-3	1-2	02	00	05
Ashmore	17	1-2	2-2	01	00	04
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>19-45</b>	<b>09-13</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>49</b>
FAU	Min	FG	FT	R	A	TP
Byczkowski	10	0-0	0-0	01	00	00
Scott	19	2-4	1-2	02	00	05
Miller	29	2-8	3-3	06	02	07
Goins	32	5-8	0-0	05	01	10
Stamps	28	3-6	0-0	01	02	08
Smith	13	4-4	0-0	01	00	10
Dempsey	31	1-12	0-0	04	01	02
Brooks	25	2-3	1-2	05	02	07
Dennis	13	0-1	1-2	02	01	01
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>19-46</b>	<b>06-09</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>50</b>

Halftime: Tied 25-25. FIU FG shooting (9-21) 42.9%. FAU FG shooting (9-23) 39.1%. Rebounds: FAU 18, FIU 10.

Attendance: 776

BY THE NUMBERS

**34** Rebounds for FAU. The Panthers were out rebounded by 10 in their loss to the Owls on Jan. 21. In their last game, the Panthers were out rebounded by South Alabama 48-35.

**13** Turnovers committed by the Panthers. The Panthers struggled offensively, never getting into a rhythm. Jerica Coley and Finda Mansare both committed four turnovers respectively.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL UPCOMING GAMES



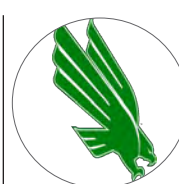
JAN. 28  
WKU  
5:30 p.m.  
SAT



Feb. 2  
Troy  
6:15 p.m.  
THU



Feb. 4  
FAU  
3:00 p.m.  
SAT



FEB. 9  
North Texas  
4:30 p.m.  
SAT



# WOLFSONIANFIU

Currently on view:

LIBERTY, EQUALITY, AND FRATERNITY



Dignation n°7 cushions, 1989/2000  
 Fabrice Roger-Lacan (Paris, 2011)  
 matali crasset, M/M (Paris) photo: Damien Rogano

LIBERTY, EQUALITY, AND FRATERNITY investigates how objects embody the ideas that have defined French public life for more than two centuries.

Organized by The Wolfsonian—Florida International University, Miami Beach, Florida, from the Centre national des arts plastiques, France

Curatorial team:  
 matali crasset  
 Marianne Lamonaca  
 M/M (Paris)  
 Alexandra Midal



## Manifest and Mundane: Scenes of Modern America from The Wolfsonian Collection



Fire in the Firm, c. 1938, Lue Osborne, The Wolfsonian-FIU, The Mitchell Wolfson, Jr. Collection  
 Photo: Peter Herholdt

Manifest and Mundane explores how American artists working in the early twentieth century presented in their work both the manifest and mundane—the remarkable and routine—aspects of American life.



**Hours:**  
 Noon–6pm: Daily,  
 Closed Wednesday  
 Noon–9pm: Friday

**FIU** | The Wolfsonian  
 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
 10th St & Washington Ave/South Beach  
 305.531.1001 | [wolfsonian.org](http://wolfsonian.org)

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Panthers lose to Owls on last second free-throws



LAURA PACCHIONI/THE BEACON

A controversial call in the final moments handed FIU their fourth consecutive loss versus FAU.

**MALCOLM SHIELDS**  
 Staff Writer  
[sports@fiusm.com](mailto:sports@fiusm.com)

The last three of four meetings between the Owls and Panthers have been decided by five points or less. There was no surprise that their match-up on Jan. 21 came down to the final minutes at U.S. Century Bank Arena. A controversial call in the final seconds propelled the Owls to snatch a 66-64 victory.

Jeremy Allen finished with 20 points, DeJuan Wright followed with 14 points and four rebounds and Dominique Ferguson finished with 14 points and five rebounds for FIU.

"It came down to a situation at the end of the game where they went to the line and made free-throws to end the game," Head Coach Isaiah Thomas said. "It was a terrible way to lose the game."

With the game tied at 57 with less than four minutes remaining in the game, the Owls went on a 5-0 run to take a 62-57 lead with 1:58 remaining. After consecutive turnovers by both teams, the Panthers had the ball with 52.3 seconds remaining in the game down five.

After a FAU foul, Taylor converted on two free-throws. The Panthers tried to use the full court press, but the Owls quickly converted to regain its five-point lead. In a mad rush up the court, Allen pulled up from the top of the key and drilled a three-pointer to cut the Owls lead to 64-62 with 27 seconds remaining.

Shavar Richardson traveled which gave the ball to FIU with 20 seconds remaining. Phil Taylor drew a foul with 11.2 seconds in the game and converted on both free-throws to tie the game. With 0.6 seconds remaining Gregg Gantt was fouled on a three-point attempt by Wright. Gantt converted on two of three free-throws to seal the win for Florida Atlantic (8-12, 4-3 SBC).

After the game, there was no conscience on the final play. When asked if he fouled Gantt, Wright

responded, "No." When Gantt was asked if there was a foul, he responded, "Yeah, he fouled me... On my wrist."

Allen continued his scoring spree as he recorded his fifth 20-plus point game on the season. For most of the game, the Panthers (5-14, 2-5 SBC) struggled to contain the inside and outside play of the Owls. Jordan McCoy, Raymond Taylor and Gantt combined accounted for 51 of the Owls 64 points in the game.

"It's a rivalry game. It is not as big as Duke versus [North] Carolina, but to us it is," Raymond said.

The Panthers next game will be at home on Jan. 28 against Western Kentucky.

FROM JAN. 21, 2012						
BASKETBALL						
FAU 66, FIU 64						
FAU	Min	FG	FT	R	A	TP
Penn White	28	2-3	0-1	06	00	04
Richardson	14	0-0	0-0	00	00	00
Tucker	32	2-5	0-0	03	01	04
Gantt	40	0-2	0-0	01	04	00
Taylor	31	6-15	5-7	04	02	19
Mattison	02	4-8	3-4	02	03	14
McCoy	23	0-1	3-4	02	00	03
Bertone	09	8-13	2-2	11	00	18
Grier	11	1-2	2-2	02	00	04
Grier	01	0-0	0-0	00	00	00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>23-49</b>	<b>15-20</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>66</b>
FIU	Min	FG	FT	R	A	TP
Ferguson	37	1-13	0-0	05	01	14
Moore	37	2-2	0-0	06	02	04
Taylor	38	1-8	8-9	01	03	11
Wright	39	4-8	6-9	04	02	14
Allen	35	7-10	2-2	02	02	20
Hill	04	0-2	1-2	00	01	01
Bell	03	0-0	0-0	00	00	00
Dierickx	04	0-0	0-0	00	00	00
Wozniak	01	0-0	0-0	00	00	00
De La Rosa	02	0-1	0-0	01	00	00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>21-44</b>	<b>17-22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>64</b>

Halftime: FAU 33-31. FIU three-point field goal shooting: (5-11) 45.5%. FAU three-point field goal shooting: (5-16) 31.3%. Bench points: FAU 39-1.

## SWIMMING WITH THE FISHES



TOM DIPACE/AP IMAGES

On Mar. 7 at 7:05 p.m., the FIU Panthers will play an exhibition game against the Miami Marlins in their brand new, state-of-the-art stadium. The Marlins will be selling 15,000, each one selling for \$10. For ticket information, go to marlins.com or call 1-877-MARLINS.

# FIU has worst attendance in Sun Belt Conference

## FANS, PAGE 9

throw at that basket, you would see fans waving their arms, making lots of noise and doing whatever they can think of to distract that player from making is free throw. Not this student section though.

If another free entry student section is made opposite of the teams benches near the court, the seats should be changed as well. What most colleges have are bleachers, not for students to sit on per say, since they expect the students to be standing the whole game, cheering on their team.

With new renovations made to the outside of U.S Century Bank Arena, it should be only a matter of time when the inside of the arena jumps into the 21st century too. Another way to get a better atmosphere at the game is to get Greek Life more involved.

If fraternities and sororities are involved right now, then they should be ashamed of themselves. Football had a great atmosphere to it this year because, yes, the team was winning, but also because of all the Greeks that showed up embracing their school spirit.

This is where most schools get their rowdy



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Exuberant fans yell for t-shirts every time the PA announcer says it's "T-Shirt Time" at U.S. Century Bank Arena.

fans from. An excuse given to South Florida teams and their fans attendance is that it's "Miami." That Miami is not really a sports town, it's an event town. So maybe it's just something to expect out of fans, and that people like me, and others on press row who make jokes about the fans should just deal with.

Heck, senior guard Jeremy Allen doesn't expect much.

"It can be improved, but

this is Miami, I really don't expect it," said Allen on the fans reactions during the Middle Tennessee game on Jan. 12.

Allen also stated that the fans have been great and had been supporting the team since day one, and that he never saw so many fans show up at the game, which gives him a great feeling.

Credit should be given to the students who showed up to watch FIU lose their

12th game of the season out of 16 this year. Hopefully, if the team starts to get it together, more fans will come. That being said, they only have six more home games this season.

Not surprisingly, FIU is dead last in Sun Belt average attendance this year at 1,014. Denver is first with 5,234 and Troy is in second last with 1,352. The conference average is 2,933.

It does not always come

down to whether the team is doing well or not either. For instance, Western Kentucky is just one game better than FIU, but still manages to pull 3,302 fans a night. This isn't just a problem this year, but for the past 2 years Isiah Thomas has been coach.

Last year an average of 1,417 fans came in, and the year before 1,142, which shows very little improvement. Compared to the year before Thomas came,

when an average of 681 fans attended, it has been a great improvement.

It is always in limbo how long the Hall of Fame coach will stay at FIU. What is interesting is that when the Panthers go on the road, they average 4,513 fans this season.

Some of that is because of the other team's home fans that would show up regardless of who their school was playing, but also possibly because of away team fans interested in seeing Thomas.

Whatever the case may be, it is clear that the allure of Thomas the first season he arrived has not grown. An average jump in attendance from 2008-2009 to 2009-2010 could probably be credited to Thomas' celebrity image brought to the FIU sidelines.

But into his third year and with no dramatic change in attendance since his first season, his celebrity image seems to have worn off, and winning is going bring them back.

"They've been great, they still continue to support us and I want them to keep on supporting us and eventually we're going to get it together," Allen said.

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SEAS

## Writing about the environment raises student awareness

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The environment has always served as an important thematic element in literature; its mysticism, inexplicable beauty, and strength have influenced writers for centuries.

It is this strong connection that led the School of Environment, Arts, and Society to offer Professor Darrel Elmore a grant to further explore the relationship between literature and the environment, by creating the class “Writing about the Environment.”

Elmore wants to not only teach literature, but also to develop and raise student awareness of the importance of the environment. He hopes that in taking his class, students will learn how to analyze different environmental issues through the means of writing, reading, and conducting their own research.

His goal is for students to “gain an opportunity to develop their writing and research skills” as well as to form “a sense of community among South Floridians in studying the environment, and a chance to express their views with others on these all-too-important issues.”

His class focuses on local environmental issues, such as those that affect the Everglades,



JONATHAN RAMOS/THE BEACON

Darrel Elmore, professor for Writing About the Environment, takes his class out to the Biscayne Bay on a sunny day for a more hands on feel to his course that combines literature with environmental topics as points of inspiration.

Biscayne Bay, and other natural landmarks and habitats around Florida. He also focuses on environmental issues outside of Florida such as the Southwest area of the United States.

To engage his students further about the various environmental issues, he created websites and YouTube videos. One such video was a skit featuring a former student of his dressed up as a

mermaid speaking about the dangers of mercury pollution in Biscayne Bay.

He also assigns his students readings by important figures in environmental science such as

Henry David Thoreau and Charles Darwin. In addition, Elmore alludes to the works of contemporary thinkers such as Rachel Carson, whose groundbreaking book *Silent Spring* warned of the dangers of pesticides and Al Gore, whose primary focus was the dangers of global warming and climate change.

Elmore credits his time at Arizona State University for allowing him to appreciate the natural world around him.

“Camping in the desert or mountains and waking up to find deer, coyotes, or tarantulas milling about really allow a person to get in touch with nature and the environment,” he said.

Carlos Forero is pleased with the direction of the course.

“My interest in taking this class is because as a literature major, the art of writing can be applied to any topic or interest. Because we live in the environment and such attention is paid to it, writing in order to call attention to a certain environmental cause is important,” said Forero, a senior and English literature major. “I think that it will help me sharpen my focus and make my writing much more effective.”

For Professor Elmore the knowledge he hopes to impart on his students taking this class is invaluable, he firmly believes that “if these student are ‘our future,’ then we are in good hands.”

RESEARCH

## Research project focuses on correlations in AIDS and mental health

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Upon coming to the University in 2001, Professor of Public Health Robert Malow has directed a slew of research projects within the Department of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at the Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work at the University.

Under the umbrella of the FIU AIDS Prevention Program, Malow has focused on doing research to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS in various communities.

The most recent study by the APP was published online on Jan. 1, “Cognitive Behavioral HIV Risk Reduction in Those Receiving Psychiatric Treatment: A Clinical Trial,” which was centered in intervening with severely mentally ill (SMI) people who are at risk.

Participating in the study was Malow, Robert C. McMahon, Jessy Devieux, Rhonda Rosenberg, Anne Frankel, Vaughn Bryant, Brenda Lerner and Maria Jose Miguez. Malow was unavailable for comment at press time due to previous engagements.

Although the study confirms that the SMI community has a higher level of HIV risk, there is also a lack of “meaningful improvement” in HIV-prevention knowledge, according to the study. The study was conducted on mentally ill patients over a six week period that concluded with a six month follow up.

*“But people got a consent form and everything they say is confidential. Generally people don’t have a problem being totally honest about what they’ve done, but it’s always a question people have.”*

Jessy Devieux  
Study Participant

“This confirms that this is still a high risk population that is worth intervening with. There may also be some gender difference,” said Devieux, who is a Research Associate Professor of Public Health at the University. “There may also be strategies that can be issued differently within males and females in that population.”

In the study, the group compared enhanced cognitive behavioral skill building intervention and Health Promotion comparison, which are based on Information Motivation Behavior model that states that risk will be reduced if individuals are informed about the topic. The E-CB model focused on information and motivation enhancement while the HPC route stressed the benefits of overall health through effective activities.

Compared to females, males in the E-CB improved on intention to practice safer sex and in condom use skills and in unprotected

vaginal sex, but did not differ in HIV knowledge, perceived susceptibility and anxiety, among other risk factors. Across intervention groups, there were improvements in all areas except self efficacy and number of partners.

“There was something going on in the way men and women responded to the intervention,” said Rosenberg, a research assistant professor at the University. “I wouldn’t want to say more about it because what that means is we need to examine it to make conclusions about what is working for men vs. women. We can hypothesize that women may have more burdens in negotiating condom use. Usually it’s going to be a different thing is a women demands a condom be used or a man does.”

“This is actually a characteristic of many studies. If a women requests that a condom be used, even in this day and age, leads certain men to question what kind of women

they are morally. You would think it’d be equal now.”

Since the study was based on patient testimony, the accuracy of the study cannot be completely verifiable. However, the promise of confidentiality with patients, along with other methods, increased the probability of validity in the reports.

“We have a number of things to make people comfortable to feel they can be truthful. The bottom line is it’s based on self report. Usually there are a number of questions we ask. We start with the less threatening than we move with the more sensitive issues like sexual behaviors and what they have done as well as drug abuse behavior,” Devieux said. “But people got a consent form and everything they say is strictly confidential. Generally people don’t have a problem being totally honest about what they’ve done, but it’s always a question people have.”

The project, like other APP projects, was funded by the National Institute of Health. The APP has recently submitted a study of adolescents at risk in the juvenile justice system that is awaiting approval.

The study amongst severely mentally ill people is not complete, however.

“I think if we were going to follow up on this study we would want to do something similar to what we just did with juvenile offenders,” Rosenberg said. “Try to distinguish with different subgroups of this population. It’s less clear in that area.”