



RUSSIA

Gorbachev accuses Putin of conceit

Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev described Russia as an imitation of democracy and accused its current rulers of conceit and contempt for voters.



LIBYA

Protesters, security clash in capital

Libyan protesters celebrated in the streets of Benghazi, claiming control of the country's second largest city after bloody fighting, and anti-government unrest spread to the capital.



RUSSIA

Attackers kill 3 tourists in resort area

A group of camouflage-clad men claiming to be security forces killed three Russian tourists and wounded two others in a Caucasus region afflicted by rising insurgent violence, police said Saturday.

Nursing and Health Sciences dean chosen

ANALIA FIESTAS
Staff Writer

While not formally beginning her position until July 1, Dr. Ora Lea Strickland has been appointed as the new dean for the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

According to Vice President and Provost Douglas Wartzok, Strickland stood out the most among the group of candidates because of her numerous achievements and contributions to the field of health sciences.

"Dr. Strickland has been recognized for her outstanding contributions to nursing through her election to the American Academy of Nursing at age twenty-nine, the youngest person ever inducted into the Academy," said Wartzok in a memorandum to the University community.

Strickland takes on the position

with optimism towards the future in her new role and the path of the University.

"I see FIU as being the University of the future. It is a wonderful place because of its diversity background and the opportunities that are offered to all of the students," said Strickland in an interview with Student Media. "The diverse educational programs address the needs of many different cultures."

Due to her admiration of the University's staff and its vision of leadership, she claims that this job is part of a long time dream to be a part of the community.

Currently, Dr. Strickland is a professor in the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University. She has also held positions at the University of Maryland and the University

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THE WRITING ON THE WALL



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Freshman Kiera Cleveland, a biology major, writes on the free speech board at the Genocide Awareness Project by the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform. Students were allowed to express themselves on the free speech board.

International students seek jobs, opportunities for visa

POLIANA GUIMARÃES
Contributing Writer

While her classmates counted the days until graduation, Lais Silva, 21, a hospitality and management student, worried

about what she will do once school was over.

Silva is one of many of the 2,500 international students at Florida International University who agree that the most difficult part in being an interna-

tional student is finding a job and staying in the country.

"At the moment, I am focusing on school," Silva said. "But starting next semester [spring], I will be looking for a job, and hopefully they will be willing to

be my sponsor in the future."

The F-1 visa, which is the student visa, allows students to work only on campus while enrolled in school. But the salary on campus is low and the price of tuition is almost four times the cost of in-state tuition.

"I think it's absurd to pay four times more than any other student," said Karine Degani, 23, an international student from Brazil. "I take the same classes, with the same professors, and have nothing in my advantage."

Once students graduate, they can register for a program called Optional Practical Training, which gives them permission to work for a full year.

When the OPT period is over, students must find a job in a company that is willing to sponsor their H-1B visa, the work visa. This is a tough mission to accomplish, as many companies do not find it valuable to pay the high cost of sponsoring a visa when they can just hire someone who is already a resident.

Issam Attalah, 21, an industrial and systems engineering student from Lebanon, said he already has two job opportunities but they will only discuss sponsorship with him after the OPT period.

"I plan on staying here to gain more experience in my field and eventually go back home," he said.

Attalah's case is a rare one, as more international students decide they don't want to go back home; instead they want to build a life in the United States and practice their careers here.

"After graduating this spring, I plan on staying in the United States and using my work permit to work here," Silva said. "My goal is to look for a job in my field and learn more about hospitality in Miami."

Degani said she changed her mind after experiencing life in the United States.

"For the first two years that I studied here, I always thought about going back to Brazil, but now I want to stay," she said. "First, because I think I will have more opportunities here, and also because I am already used to my routine in the United States. I don't think I will get used to living in Brazil again."

Some students are fortunate enough to engage in relationships during this process and eventually get married. This was the case with Philip Leake, 27, who met his wife while in college. He got married last year and is now getting his documents through her.

"I am very privileged to have found my wife," he said. "Not only does she make my life happier, but as a bonus,

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RAGING BULL



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

FIU alumna Linda de La Paz rides a mechanical bull as a part of the Super Saturday tailgate hosted by the Athletics department and the Alumni Association.

WEIRD NEWS

Naked sausage stealer caught on tape

What do \$15 worth of sausage, a first-aid kit and a pack of napkins have in common?

Those are the items a naked man who broke into a Florida club house determined were worth stealing. Joshua Ryan Abernathy, 34, faces burglary and petty theft charges for the January sausage heist over in Estero.

Police say Abernathy was caught on surveillance video prancing around in his birthday suit inside the Mariner's Cove Club House in the Jan. 7 incident after getting in through an unlocked sliding glass door.

Though the suspect was wearing shorts when he entered the club, it's believed Abernathy took a shower inside and decided to air-dry.

'Anna Nicole Smith' Opera Divides Critics

Is the tragic, tawdry life story of Anna Nicole Smith opera-worthy material? The critics aren't so sure.

Some reviewers slammed "Anna Nicole"—which opened Thursday night at London's Royal Opera House—as a “perversely unmoving” “failed soufflé.” Others, however, have praised it as a “provocative” and “deeply moving” examination of modern celebrity culture.

The opera, by composer Mark-Anthony Turnage and librettist Richard Thomas, charts the rapid rise to fame and fortune -- acquired by posing for Playboy and marrying an 89-year-old oil tycoon -- and equally speedy downfall of Smith.

The performance is filled with sex, legal battles and several drug overdoses.

– Compiled by Alexandra Camejo

Expo fair to help engineering majors

ANALIA FIESTAS
Staff Writer

For the tenth consecutive year, the University's College of Engineering and Computing will be hosting the Engineering Expo Fair.

The event takes place this year on Feb. 25 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Engineering Center and will give several University departments, student professional societies and research labs an opportunity to get together and provide guests with a memorable experience.

The Engineering Expo Fair's main goal is to promote, inform and explain anything and everything related to the field of engineering in an entertaining and productive manner—starting off with a tour of the Engineering Center.

According to the College of Engineering and Computing Senator and Vice President of the Engineering

Student Committee, Janet Reyes, the Engineering Expo Fair has more than 1,500 students visiting every year.

At the fair, elementary, middle and high school students from both Miami-Dade County and Broward County, such as Robert Morgan and Parkway Middle, are given the opportunity to explore and learn about engineering and relating sciences.

The Expo Fair is also a time when University engineering majors are given the chance to present their senior design projects. Engineering societies also take part in the presentations and many laboratories, such as the Mechanical and Applied Research Center, present useful information.

Also at the fair will be a Recruiting and Retention Office representative, along with associate directors from the Students' Office of Access and Success, who will be responsible for providing all those attending with information regarding scholarships,

financial aid and the University's application process.

Staff at the event will guide visitors on building a career in engineering by demonstrating the different engineering job titles, tasks and obligations.

Educational presentations aside, students will be able to enjoy a variety of motorsports, airplane presentations, rocket launches, LEGO building contests, biomedical body imaging, brain computer interfacing and more.

All financial expenses are being covered by the College of Engineering and Computing, although, event organizers are trying to get funding from the Student Government Association. Free pizza, sodas and t-shirts will be handed out to visitors throughout the day.

Visit <http://www.osas.fiu.edu/outreach/the-engineering-expo-2010/> for more information on the Engineering Expo Fair 2011.

Strickland plans to better Med Center

STRICKLAND, page 1

city of North Carolina after previously working as a nurse at Davidson County Health Department and Harlem Hospital Center in New York City.

"I am excited. Everyone is so wonderful and I have received many congratulations and welcome notes. I feel extremely welcomed. I already feel part of the family," said Strickland. "FIU students and faculty have a lot to be proud of."

Strickland plans to better the University's Medical Cure Center. She also wants to help the community become more engaged with the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Along with her work in the field of science, Strickland is the founding editor and senior editor at the Journal of Nursing Measurement and was a former columnist for the Baltimore Sun.

Her column, titled "Nurse's Station," appeared weekly in the health maga-

I feel extremely welcomed. I already feel part of the family. FIU students and faculty have a lot to be proud of.

Dr. Ora Lea Strickland, Dean,
College of Nursing and Health Sciences

zine section of the morning and evening paper, and won two health journalism in 1988.

Strickland is a nine-time recipient of the "American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year" Award.

In addition to her work in professional journals, Strickland has written or contributed to 21 books.

From her selection as a Kellogg National Fellow, a fellowship program in leadership for the nation's top

professionals, to her honors such as an Endowment for the Humanities Fellow in Bioethics, or receipt of the "Trailblazer Award" from the National Black Nurses Association, Strickland's potential has been esteemed by the University.

"The previous dean has already placed the College of Nursing and Health Science at a wonderful trajectory. I hope to continue moving it forward," said Strickland.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 22, Issue 17 of *The Beacon*, in the At The Bay section, Daniel Bloom's name was misspelled. It is Bloom, not Bloome.

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

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Career Services working to ease job search troubles

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she is helping me get my residency."

There are also many cases of paid marriages, where students pay large amounts of money to American citizens in exchange for a marriage license that leads to legal residency.

And, unfortunately, there are the students who can't keep paying the high tuition costs and decide that they would rather be illegal in the United States than returning to their native country.

FIU has been making a big effort to help international students find the right job after graduation.

Through the Career Services office and job fairs throughout the year,

students are informed about numerous job openings and opportunities.

Rodrigo Menezes, 33, who graduated from FIU in 2000 in mechanical engineering, said that through FIU's job fair, he was able to get a few job interviews.

"Finding a job in the year 2000 was not as hard as it is today," Menezes said. "Although I definitely had a big disadvantage since not all companies were willing to sponsor the H-1B visa, I knew that my future was in God's hands."

Through the FIU Careers Services web site, he found the job opening with the company that not only hired him but also sponsored his H-1B visa.

Last month he had his 10-year anniversary with the company.

As for Lais Silva, she says she is excited to know the opportunities that are coming her way.

"I have grown so much in these three years that I have been in the United States," she said. "I am not only more mature and responsible, but also I feel that now I know what I want for the future. Being an international student is an amazing opportunity and I'm very happy I can live it."

Poliana Guimarães, a December 2010 journalism graduate, produced this story in the JOURNAL OF STUDENT WRITING course taught by Dr. Fred Blevens.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Taylor making an immediate impact at guard

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

Phil Taylor has connections that most point guards in college now can only dream of. He is friends with John Wall, coached by Isiah Thomas and, if that already wasn't enough, he is also the godson of Allen Iverson.

The 5-foot-9 freshman is certainly making the best of his resources, averaging 10 points since arriving at FIU just over four weeks ago.

Taylor gets his connection to Iverson from his father, Robert Taylor, who grew up with Iverson as childhood friends and has stayed close ever since. Phil has taken a lot from Iverson who, not very coincidentally, his favorite player.

"Growing up that's one guy I always patterned my game after," Taylor said. "His heart and desire to win is amazing and I feel like he is the reason why I am the player I am because I never quit that I never give up and I play every game like it's my last."

They haven't had much of a chance to talk lately with Iverson now overseas playing

basketball in Turkey.

Before Phil Taylor ever knew about FIU, he was lighting it up at his high school, Wheeler High in Marietta, Ga. Even though he grew up in Brooklyn, it was clear that Wheeler was where he was destined to end up.

"A lot of my cousins and uncles went there and it was always a good program that was involved in my family, so as a child I always knew I was going to be a Wheeler Wildcat," Taylor said.

He achieved many awards there, including being named MVP of his high school and being selected to the All-State team. His greatest accomplishment was getting the 1,000 points award, something he claims that he will never forget.

Another huge impact on Taylor's game has been the players he went up against and those he knows from his AAU days on the Worldwide Renegades as well as the camps he went to in high school. JJ Hickson, John Wall, and many Division I college players have played against Taylor. It was also the time when he first became really good friends

with John Wall, someone he still talks today.

Coming out of high school, he was ranked number 48 in the nation for point guards in the 2010 recruiting class according to ESPN. This ultimately led to him being recruited all around the nation from the likes of USF, UCF, Richmond, Northeastern Hofstra, and even Sun Belt Conference foe Western Kentucky. In the end, his decision would be to go to the Golden Panthers.

He admits that before he met Isiah Thomas at an AAU tournament in Ft. Lauderdale, he had no idea that FIU even existed. Even when the Hall of Fame coach approached him, it wasn't so easy to get the highly-regarded point guard to become a Golden Panther.

"He was heavily recruited by some other schools so we had to work hard to get him," Thomas said. "I think him and Dominique are pretty special in doing that."

Unfortunately, there was a slight glitch in the plans and Taylor could not come to Southwest Eighth Street when classes started in August. His ACT scores were not high enough for FIU to let him in

to the school, but this did not deter him from working on his game and staying in shape, however. He quickly enrolled into CJEOTO Academy, a high school postgraduate basketball program in New Jersey.

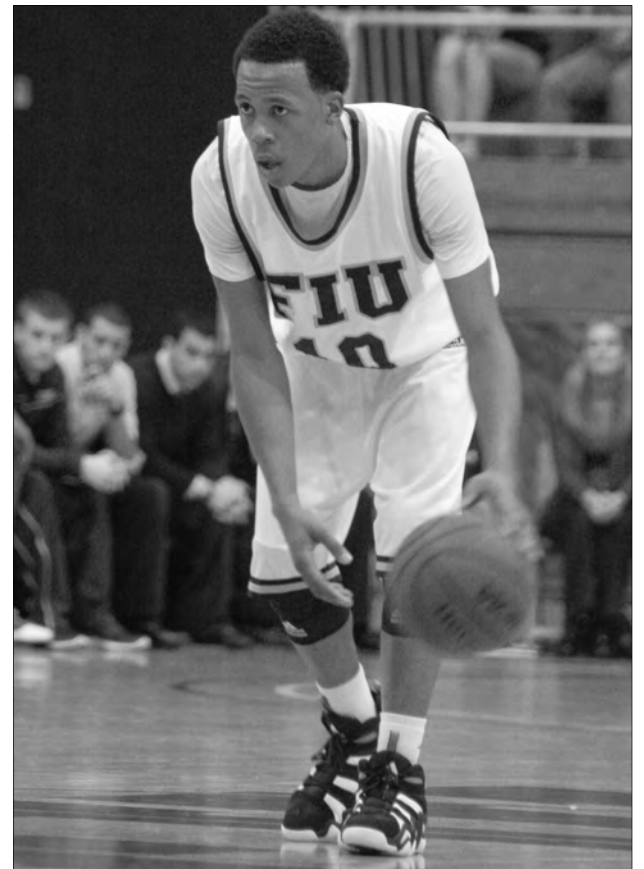
"It was something I've never done before and it was something to definitely keep me in basketball shape and keep me ready for when I did come down and jump right into the season," said Taylor, who missed 18 games in all.

When he finally got his ACT score high enough to bring his talents FIU, it couldn't have come at a better time. The Golden Panthers had been riding a three-game losing streak and needed another guard to back up starting point guard Phil Gary.

So far, Taylor's presence in the lineup has only culminated into a 1-6 record, but his individual play has senior Phil Gary singing his praises.

"I'm very impressed with him because he missed almost half a season and got adjusted to the offense real quick and our defense sets," said Gary, who is preparing Taylor to take the lead for next year's team.

The future is bright for Phil



REBECCA VILLAFANE/THE BEACON

Phil Taylor [above] was one of Isiah Thomas's highly-regarded recruits of the 2010 recruiting class.

Taylor and he has aspirations of one day perhaps donning a NBA jersey. For right now, it is all about making the men's basketball program better and helping the Golden Panthers win games this year, and in the years to come.

SOFTBALL

FIU splits two-game set to close out weekend



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

Infielder Rachel Slowik [above] gets a hit over the weekend against Providence on Feb. 19.

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Staff Writer

After splitting their first four games on the previous two days, the Golden Panthers returned back to the field on Feb. 20 to face off against Pittsburgh and Georgia Tech to conclude the Blue and Gold Felsberg Memorial

PITTSBURGH 4, FIU 0

FIU's defense struggled as the team committed four errors, which led to two unearned runs. With a runner on first, third baseman Jessy Alfonso would commit a throwing error trying to throw out Pittsburgh's Ashley Amistade at first. This allowed Reba Tutt to score from first to give Pittsburgh a 1-0 lead.

The Golden Panthers would mount a scoring threat in the bottom of the fourth inning when Ashley McClain hit a single to right and advanced to second on a throwing error by the right fielder Yvette Bravo. McClain would advance to third base on a groundout by Jenny Welch.

With two outs, Beth Peller came up to the plate with a chance for a game tying RBI,

but Pittsburgh's Karlyn Jones would strike her out to end the inning. Pittsburgh would add another run in the fifth inning. Giving Pittsburgh a 2-0 lead.

Pittsburgh would add on two more runs in the top of the seventh inning on a bases loaded single by Holly Stevens. Junior pitcher Jenn Gniadek pitched seven solid innings, allowing only two earned runs and recording eight strikeouts.

FIU 4, GEORGIA TECH 3

McClain, normally an outfielder, recorded her first start of the season as a pitcher against the Yellow Jackets.

FIU would threaten in the bottom of the first inning with a single by Alfonso. McClain would follow with a walk. Welch got hit by a pitch to load the bases.

As a result, Georgia Tech pitcher Hope Rush walked Peller to stake FIU to an early 1-0 lead.

The Yellow Jackets would threaten in the top of the third. With a runner at second, Kelsi Weseman would single to right field.

Hayley Downs attempted to score from second on the hit but would be thrown out

at home plate by right fielder Alex Casals. Georgia Tech would score in the top of the fourth on a solo homer by Alysha Rudnik to tie the game. The Golden Panthers (5-6) collected three consecutive singles by Rachael Slowik, Arcuri, and Burri to load the bases.

Alfonso would reach base on an error that scored Slowik from third to give FIU a 2-1 lead in the bottom of the fourth. Brie Rojas would collect an RBI with a bases loaded walk to give FIU a 3-1 lead.

Georgia Tech would tie the game at three on a two-run homer by Kristine Priebe in the fifth inning. FIU would win the game in the bottom of the sixth inning.

With two runners on and two outs, Peller would deliver the game-winning single, which scored Rojas from second.

The game would end after six innings due to travel restrictions for Georgia Tech. Mariah Dawson and Gniadek would also pitch in the game.

Gniadek would collect her third win of the season. McClain pitched 3 1-3 innings, recording two strikeouts.

BASEBALL

Poor offense, defense lead to loss in series finale

ANDRES LEON
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers were unable to get their offense going against Southeastern Louisiana starter Tyler Watkins on Feb. 20, losing the final game of a three-game series by a 7-1 score.

Coach Turtle Thomas had a lot to say about the hitting issues after Sunday night's loss, which had a number of similarities to their opening night loss two nights before.

"We got a few hits, not quality hits but hits," Thomas continued "We played good on Saturday but their pitcher did a good job of getting us swinging."

Atwo-run home run shot by Jeff Harkensee helped pushed SLU's offense in the opening inning off a pitch from FIU starter Daniel Desimone and gave the Lions the early lead. The Sunday night starter for the Golden Panthers struggled with control early on.

While SLU's offense struck early on, Garrett Wittels got his first hit of the season in the bottom of the first with a shallow hit over second base.

Three innings gone had gone by and SLU still had

that early lead going into the bottom of the fourth when Jabari Henry came to the plate and fired a fly ball deep into left field, bouncing off the wall for an RBI double to drive in Pablo Bermudez from second base.

Desimone was throwing plenty of pitches early on against the Lions (2-1) offense in the early innings and the Golden Panthers (1-2) were forced to go to their bullpen early, putting in Logan Dodds to pitch in the fifth inning.

Dodds did not last long, surrendering a homerun to Justin Boudreaux on his third pitch and immediately ending his night as redshirt sophomore Mason McVay came on to pitch to try and cool off the Lions.

Despite a strong performance from the bullpen up until the eighth inning after that, FIU could not solve Tyler Watkins, who pitched nine innings and giving the Golden Panthers offense a hard time.

"He was in the strike zone all game," Thomas said. "He had a tough change up and gave us a hard time getting good hits at the plate."

The Golden Panthers

pulled out their fourth pitcher for the night when Aaron Arboleya came out to relieve for FIU in the sixth inning and almost failed to get out of a big jam.

With the bases loaded and one out, a chopper over the pitcher was fielded by second basemen T.J. Shantz, who tagged the bag at second and flung it over to first to get the inning-ending double play, getting FIU out of a sticky situation.

But the problems continued for the Golden Panthers in the eighth as they were unable to hold off the Lions any longer.

Things opened up for the Lions and they continued to take advantage of poor Golden Panther defense and a few miscues. Overall, FIU committed five errors on the night.

One of those errors came in the eighth, an error by third basemen Jeremy Patton that gave SLU a commanding 7-1 lead. Patton bobbled a ground ball down the line by Harkensee. Patton tried throwing home, but struggled to gain control, allowing Jonathan Pace to score the final run of the game.

"Patton is a great player,



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

Pablo Bermudez [above] takes a swing during a three-game opening series against SLU.

he had good season last year, but he'll learn from the clumsy mistakes and have a good season this year." said Thomas after Patton's error.

Desimone (0-1) picked up the loss for the Golden Panthers as they hope to bounce back against St. Thomas University at home on Feb. 23.

BASEBALL

FIU vs. St. Thomas University

- When: 02/23/11, 6:00 p.m.
- Where: FIU Baseball Stadium
- Radio: Radiate FM (88.1, 95.3, 96.9 FM)

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SoBe festival gives students chance to use cooking skills

ALFREDO APARICIO
Staff Writer

Every year, twenty-five events come together with one goal in mind: to fill stomachs.

This year, the Food Network South Beach Food and Wine Festival (SoBeFest) runs from Feb. 24-27.

The School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, which immerses itself in the festivities every year, will bring young, eager students into the fold by exposing them to all the food industry encompasses.

Max Albano, 21, a hospitality major, who currently works at Zuma Restaurant as a line cook as well as the sushi bar, will be attending the event for the second year in a row.

Albano, who is originally from Tampa, didn't know about the event until Chef Instructor Michael Moran mentioned it to him and he happily accepted the offer to join the project.

"I was his teacher's assistant and

most go to the event because they are with the chefs all the time and they know how the chefs work and they know how we work. Culinary-wise they pick the strongest people to help," said Albano.

Being chosen was an experience for Albano, who before the event had been working with some of the top chefs in the nation.

"I worked with Spike [Mendelsohn] from 'Top Chef' in Washington D.C. and Rich Gresh in David Burke's Prime House Restaurant in Chicago. But it's always a nerve wrecking experience because you don't know how each chef is going to be."

This year, Albano will get to experience the management side of the event as Lead Coordinator with four other students (Laura Manon, Rodney Barchi and Eddie Suarez) on Chef Instructor Roger Probst's team.

"Sadly, I'm not allowed to touch a knife this year," jokes Albano.

"Last year I was more involved with the food preparation. My job was to make sure if a student was cooking that they were doing it correctly."

As lead coordinator, Albano and his teammates will be responsible for making sure everything in the whole event runs smoothly.

"My job is to make sure everyone is happy and the students are where they need to be and the chefs have everything they need," said Albano. "One of the events, Best of the Best in the Fontainebleau Hotel, has 42 chefs who have all requested different materials for their booths and are ordering their food from outside, some from as far as France. I have to make sure all the prep work is done beforehand."

"There is more to cooking in a kitchen than actual cooking, many people don't know that," said Albano.

Apart from overseeing the whole event, Albano will also monitor two

booths in the festival.

One of the booths in the Fresh Foods' Grand Tasting Village will feature two of Albano's original sandwich recipes: a chicken sandwich with sun-dried tomato as well as a flank steak sandwich.

Amidst all the food, the festival will also feature prominent Food Network celebrities like Rachel Ray and Paula Dean who will host events over the four day period. The festival will also feature many wine tasting events.

"I'm still nervous but confident," said Albano. "Once I get going I'm focused but before the actual event I always get butterflies and anxiety."

During the festival, Albano hopes to take as much as he can from the experience.

"Last year's festival helped to demonstrate that I could handle myself in a critical and stressful time; this year's festival will help solidify my management style," said

Albano.

Albano also hopes to walk away with some new techniques and learn to make dishes he has never seen done.

"There are twelve basic cooking methods, but the way you apply them is always different. There are still many things to learn," said Albano. "My biggest thing is that the chefs are happy and they remember that students from FIU are a great help and support for them," said Albano. "I like to see the people who attend the event take it all in and see the smiles on their faces."

In the future, Albano hopes to open his own upscale American restaurant possibly in Chicago.

But he'll still enjoy coming back for the festival every year.

"This year we were short staffed because a lot of the students graduated but when I graduate, no matter where I am, I will try to come as much as I can," he said.

ARTS GROOVE



MEGAN KELLEY/THE BEACON

The 48th annual Coconut Grove Arts Festival took place on Feb. 19-20. The festival featured over 300 local artists and others from around the country. Some artists set up tents outside the festival (above).

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Miami newsletters offer restaurant reviews, deals

With all of the restaurant reviews I've done so far, I think it's safe to say I have a varied taste of Miami.

So, how do I come across these eateries in the first place?

In some cases, it's a mixture of spontaneity and dumb luck: I see a place in passing, get interested, walk in and take the leap of faith it is to try something new, mostly with positive (or at least satisfactory) results.

Other times I take a gander at the following newsletters and test their claims.

MIAMI-MIAMI

Leave it to this tourist-centric site to offer suggestions in their weekend newsletter for restaurant openings and dining options.

Sure, this may seem like a cop-out, but I have to admire their brutal honesty when it comes to reviewing restaurants, as not every eatery receives glowing reviews. Their critical eye weeds out the riff-raff and helps Miami foodies enjoy nothing but the best restaurant quality the city has to offer.

Miami-Miami.com

THRILLIST

Thrillist Miami's newsletter comments on a wide variety of subjects including events, fashion and gadgets. However, more often than not, the focus is on the latest restaurant openings in the greater Miami area, especially South Beach.

To boot, they always feature the menu, giving readers a much-appreciated sneak peek. Without their help, the Sea Café review would not have happened so soon.

Also, the people behind the newsletter have a biting wit adding a healthy dose of hilarity to their reviews. They also clue their readers in on little-known foodie events such as brunches and rooftop barbecues that will

add some flavor to your weekend.

Miami-thrillist.com/MIA

URBANDADDY

Another newsletter that covers an array of Miami-focused topics, UrbanDaddy serves up reviews of restaurants on the high-end.

However, as I am always one for a bargain, along with reviews, readers can sometimes score restaurant discounts simply by mentioning the newsletter, allowing them to sample upscale cuisine at a more affordable price.

The focus on nightlife helps readers get clued in on the latest bar openings and happenings with new establishments, such as Treehouse Miami, and old standbys such as Bongo's Cuban Café.

I especially love their Weekender, which could help you plan a fun weekend adventure from low-key cocktails on Friday to mimosas on Sunday.

Miami-urbandaddy.com/home/mia

EATER

Eater is relatively new to the Miami food blogosphere, but this up and coming newsletter shows promise.

In addition to keeping up with the best of Miami restaurants, Eater hosts South Beach Wine and Food Festival coverage and giveaway contests for those who want to test their luck.

Eater Miami goes beyond reviews into restaurant-related news, from openings and closings—often weeks in advance—to featured chefs and mergers, adding a more journalistic edge. I look forward to seeing future coverage from them.

Miami-miami.eater.com

Food for Thought is a bi-weekly column on food. Look for it every other Wednesday.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2011

BEGINNER'S SUNSET YOGA



WHEN: 5-6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Organic garden

UNITED FOR HAITI DONATION DRIVE



They will be collecting items to take on our 2011 spring medical mission trip to Haiti.
WHEN: All day
WHERE: MMC HLS II-654

STAR PARTY
Star gazing with telescopes in the Astro Pad.
WHEN: 8-10 p.m.
WHERE: MMC Astro Pad

DATE AUCTION



Project Hope and FIU MAPS are hosting a Date Auction!

WHEN: 7-10 p.m.
WHERE: MMC East GC Ballrooms

MOVIE NIGHT "DO THE RIGHT THING"



WHEN: 7-9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GL261

ARTWORKS! THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF MY LIFE

Students are given the opportunity to explore their fears, wishes, and emotions by placing them in a personal box which represents safety.

WHEN: 6-9 p.m.
WHERE: Frost Art Museum

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2011

SPC MOVIE SERIES: HARRY POTTER



WHEN: 3 & 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC WUC Theater

UNITED FOR HAITI DONATION DRIVE



WHEN: All day
WHERE: MMC HLS II-654

PIT EVENT

WHEN: 2-4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC Pit

SOA LECTURE SERIES: NEDEV-CARDONA-CANTON

WHEN: 5-6:15 p.m.
WHERE: MMC PCA 135

INTERMEDIATE MOONLIGHT YOGA



WHEN: 6:30-7:45 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Organic garden

ARTWORKS! THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF MY LIFE

Students are given the opportunity to explore their fears, wishes, and emotions by placing them in a personal box which represents safety.

WHEN: 6-9 p.m.
WHERE: Frost Art Museum

If you are interested in having an event featured in the calendar, contact: calendar@fiusm.com

POINT-COUNTERPOINT

ARTS IN EDUCATION

Essential, but neglected

JASMYN ELLIOTT
Opinion Editor

Across the nation, elementary and secondary schools are cutting the funding for arts programs, citing the move as a necessary sacrifice. The importance of arts in education has dwindled down to a frivolous aspect of education, a perk rather than a necessity. However, in cutting arts programs, the younger generations are missing out on a multitude of benefits that only the arts can offer.

Contrary to popular belief, the arts actually do offer an academic advantage. For example, according to “Learning Through the Arts” by Dee Dickinson, a teacher in Japan credits his students’ superior mathematics abilities to an early music education, saying, “This helps to elevate their powers of understanding, and they register astounding speed in learning math and languages.”

His claim is supported by a series of studies done by Diana Deutsch at the University of California, which found that the brain mechanisms that process music are the same mechanisms that help develop memory, perception and

language.

Also, Dickinson states that in composing music, learning choreography, acting out a play or analyzing a painting, students are taught how to concentrate and are able to develop critical thinking skills in addition to developing the ability to retain information. These skills are often applied in other subjects and can aid in the academic success of students overall.

Furthermore, from my own personal experience I can honestly say that an education in the arts builds self-confidence. There is a certain type of pride from acquiring the ability to draw, play and instrument or showcase choreography that cannot be found elsewhere. Having our children miss out on such an opportunity is a disservice to their morale.

Performing in front of an audience may incite fear or nervousness at first, but upon doing this on a routine basis, students develop a stronger sense of self, which can help them better interact with their peers and express themselves more clearly.

Lianne Brouillette, author of the article “How the Arts Help Children

to Create Healthy Social Scripts,” notes that an education in the arts fosters the ability to “persist in goal-oriented activity, to seek help when needed, and to participate in and benefit from relationships,” all of which requiring a high self-esteem.

Additionally, an arts education helps keep students engaged. While reading, science and mathematics are fundamental subjects all students must master, an education that only focuses on these subjects without offering a creative outlet will leave students cold.

Including arts in education gives students something to look forward to. They know that after their lessons, they will have an opportunity to create, helping them stay motivated to excel in all of their subjects.

Granted, the arts are often present in extracurricular activities, but that is not enough. In order for students to gain the full benefit of an arts education, the arts must continue to be a part of the regular curriculum. By fostering creativity, only then will students build their academic skills, self-confidence and enthusiasm for learning.

Important, but not paramount

NEDA GHOMESHI
Asst. Opinion Editor

The study of the arts provides students an opportunity to actively participate in an imaginative world and can bring every subject to life, turning abstractions into a concrete reality. However, the challenges of this half of the century demand more time in the classrooms and less time with the arts.

I strongly believe that more time needs to be allocated to textbook education. Unfortunately, the continuously disappointing public education system in the United States promotes the arts while losing focus on textbook education. This is proving to be detrimental to our society as countries such as China and India continue to excel in math and science.

One of the most difficult issues that our society struggles with is the moral development of our adolescents. In this secular yet multicultural society, students are lost with no moral direction. Educators need to focus on teaching students about math, science, philosophy, current events and memorable occurrences. Through education, students will learn the concepts of right and wrong, and those concepts will become practices that are later applied to

our nation.

Economic success is dependent on education standards because the global economy is a knowledge-based one. Today, the global economy is becoming much more competitive with more people earning a higher education. Children in our nation need a quality education in order to become engaged, productive and innovative citizens, allowing students to develop ideas that will improve our economy.

President Barack Obama believes that this nation is lagging behind in education, too. During his State of the Union address, he emphasized the importance of education in this rigorous global competition. He said, “We need to win the race to educate our kids.” I believe that in order for the U.S. to compete globally, proper education needs to be enforced and we need to take drastic measures in educating our students with only the necessary material.

Students are dedicating too much of their valuable time to the arts. In the process, they are losing focus on scientific education. According to the *Time* magazine, the U.S. is ranked 25th in math and 21st in science, putting us behind developing nations. This is a crucial reason why students need to spend more time in

the classroom and less time in the art studio. With more focus on reading, science and other vital subjects, our students can comprehend the same concepts and strategies as students abroad.

Ellen Winner of Project Zero, an arts-education program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, said, “When kids take a lot of art [classes], they don’t improve in their core subject areas.” Although, I do believe the arts are beneficial, it should not dominate a child’s time in school.

Students have become so enamored with the study of arts that they have lost focus on non-art education. Americans are not earning the same education as students abroad because of the added focus on art in classrooms. Art is a great education to complement science, reading and math, but not a substitution.

Unfortunately, the nature of global competition is significantly different than it was half a century ago and the U.S. needs to be more cautious of dominating nations.

In order to excel in this rigorous competition, the U.S. needs to revamp the education system. The U.S. cannot lose focus on the fundamentals of learning and more time needs to be spent on textbook education.

Biscayne Bay Campus changes needed, appreciated

KELLY MALAMBRI
Contributing Writer

Being a student and professor himself, Vice Provost Steven Moll seems to know exactly what the Biscayne Bay Campus community wants, proving it really does take one to know one. Moll should be applauded for his plans to improve BBC student life and education.

The plans include the addition of a new building, which will cause the quality of education on BBC to increase immensely, as well as the allocation of donations for student activities, which will positively transform student life at BBC.

With its focus being placed upon the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, the School of Marine Science and the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, BBC lacks a variety of offered courses, which leaves students limited. Because of this,

BBC desperately needs the new building Moll plans on constructing in order to offer a higher level of quality education to students.

On Feb. 9, 2011, *The Beacon* reported the School of Environment, Arts, and Society that Moll plans on constructing will offer not only more courses on material outside of the campus’ anchor subjects, but also on interdisciplinary studies.

Widening the variety of educational topics at BBC, the SEAS building is a necessary addition to the campus and a brilliant idea. The multi-subject classes held in the SEAS building will increase the quality of education offered at BBC as the classes available will teach students to expand their academic horizons and understand the world thoroughly as they focus on the interconnectedness of several subjects.

Meanwhile, BBC students will be relieved to spend less time commuting to the Modesto

Maidique Campus to take classes that are not currently offered at BBC after the introduction of a variety of classes that will be housed in the new building. With this additional time, students will be able to take an additional class, study, work, participate in campus activities and will attract more prospective students to the campus, positively affecting BBC even further by creating a well-rounded student body.

Moll’s plan proves to be fool-proof. By being environmentally efficient, the SEAS building will keep in mind future finances by being cost-efficient. Overall, the building is a wise investment for the University to make and a wonderful way to increase education at BBC.

Moll’s intentions of finding more members of the University’s Circle of Friends are another part of his plan that will benefit the BBC community as it will increase funds for

the student activities it lacks, leading to more involved, enthusiastic students.

BBC’s quiet environment could use more of these lively additions, as Moll has correctly recognized. Leading to more school spirit and greater community morale, Moll’s plan will contribute to the entire well-being of the University and its students, faculty and staff as they will be interacting and participating co-operatively and more often. In this sense, Moll’s plan again proves itself to be the ideal solution of BBC’s problems, in this case being its lack of activities in comparison to MMC.

The increasing of the quality of education and quality of student life at BBC is a commendable act itself, however Moll’s plan will manage to do all of this while keeping in mind costs for the University, making it seemingly flawless. Because Moll’s plan comes full circle in this sense, the BBC community will be positively impacted for years to come.

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts in (550 words maximum) to opinion@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.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials (550 maximum), send them to opinion@fiusm.com.



CUBA

Church announced freeing of 7 prisoners

Cuba's government has agreed to free seven more prisoners, the Roman Catholic Church announced Saturday. Six convicted of crimes against state security are bound for Spain.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Teachers trek across country in protest

Thousands of teachers in the Dominican Republic have walked more than 120 miles to demand wage increases and other changes in the Caribbean nation's public schools.



MEXICO

Leftist splits with party over alliances

The former presidential candidate of Mexico's leading leftist party, Andres Lopez, is temporarily splitting with the group over a possible alliance with conservatives.

Former journalism major now brewing his own beer

KATIE LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

David Rodriguez wants to bring his passion for craft brewing to the Miami masses.

Rodriguez, a hospitality major, will get to serve his beer at this year's South Beach Wine and Food Festival as the winner of the first-ever Lee Schragger Excellence in Leadership Award for Excellence in Wine and Culinary, which he won last year.

Lee Schragger, the founder of the festival, bestowed three students with his award for their work with the 2010 Wine & Food Festival. Rodriguez earned his award for his help coordinating the logistics of setup, transportation, and consumer education on the many wines and beers served over the weekend fiesta of feasts and drinks.

"It was a great honor," said Rodriguez, who credits his win to the help and encouragement received from Professor Barry Gump. "You have to want it. Essentially, I felt there were hundreds, maybe thousands of students there from the hospitality school and you have to take every opportunity to help out and make sure things run smoothly."

"[Rodriguez] is one of those students professors dream

about," said Gump, a beverage management professor and holder of the Harvey R. Chaplin Eminent Scholar's Chair in Beverage Management at the University. "I have no doubt David will continue to be an outstanding brewer, either as a home brewer, or as a professional brewer."

Under Gump's tutelage, Rodriguez was also awarded the Harvey R. Chaplin Scholarship last year, allowing him to travel to Key West for their inaugural BrewFest to donate and promote one of his original beers. The awards have also led to an internship with Southern Wine and Spirits, one of South Florida's largest beverage distributors.

The 22-year-old beer-brewing student started his career at the University pursuing a journalism degree, but quickly realized his passion laid elsewhere.

"I enjoy eating good and drinking good," said Rodriguez, who has worked at a slew of restaurants across Florida since his first job at a Quiznos sub shop.

"My love of food and beverage made me realize I wanted to do that [on] a management level."

This year, Rodriguez will be assisting Patrick Jong, the event manager for Fontainebleau Miami Beach Presents Wine Spectator's Best of the Best Sponsored by



NED CHANDLER/THE BEACON

David Rodriguez, winner of the Lee Schragger Excellence in Leadership Award for Wine and Culinary (left), practices brewing beer with Barry H. Gump, Chaplen Scholar in Beverage Management, for the South Beach Food and Wine Festival starting on Feb. 24.

Bank of America, a sold-out event that showcases Wine Spectator's 90-point or higher wines paired with the creations of 42 celebrity chefs.

He will also assist Chef Roger Probst at the hospitality tent working in culinary, and has brewed his own imperial

Oktoberfest beer that he will serve at several tents and events throughout the festival.

Miami has a notably small microbrew scene for such a large city, and Rodriguez, who will graduate in Summer 2011, aspires to eventually open a brewpub.

"Leading up to that, I definitely

hope to study with the experts at Southern Wine and get my feet wet studying what these professionals do," Rodriguez said.

And the absence of microbrews is what drives him.

"It's a lacking market and I think people deserve to drink well," Rodriguez said.

Former media coordinator's passion 'lay on student side'

BRITNY VALDES
Contributing Writer

Vanessa Rajnish has a Swiss mother and Colombian father, was born in Italy, raised in Saudi Arabia, and completed high school in the southern state of Georgia. Her homes have danced across the globe and as a result have made her a passionate fan of travelling.

"I love travelling," Rajnish said. "I'm happy when I'm at hotels, I like making people happy and at hotels they give ultimate customer service."

Rajnish realizes her passion every time she enters a hotel, which is why she chose the University and its School of Hospitality upon her freshman year in 2008.

This year, Rajnish's experiences with hospitality around the world have promoted her to lead student associate coordinator for the Student Associate Team of the Food Network's South Beach Wine & Food Festival.

This year marks the festival's tenth year anniversary and it falls right on Rajnish's 21st birthday.

Since her first festival in 2009, Rajnish has spent the last three years attributing her kindness and desire to

see people smile to the festival. She has worked on both the student and media teams of the festival, but found her passion lay on the student side.

Being the coordinator is a very "fast-paced, interactive and personal position," Rajnish said. The personal part is the reason she likes it the most.

Rajnish wants students to feel the same way her peers made her feel when she first volunteered. So matching the 1,100 student volunteers' interests with festival positions is one of Rajnish's top priorities.

"I want [the students] to have the best experience possible," Rajnish said.

Other important duties include signing the students up for orientations, awarding the individual scholarships at the festival's finale, and finding find last minute solutions when opera-

tions do not run as planned.

Rajnish explained organizing an event with such a guest to worker ratio can be quite tedious and difficult - especially when the issue most students have comes into play: not being able to work the multi-day positions.

Rajnish's greatest drawback is when volunteers do not show up, according to Rajnish

"Even though there are 200 more student volunteers, those that didn't show still had a specific job and now we need to rush to find others to fill their role," Rajnish said.

Since her first years with the festival, Rajnish has seen it evolve and improve in various ways.

One of those ways, she explained, is this year's addition of a hired SWAT team to substitute any missing

volunteers.

Other upgrades she revealed include: the festival's new website, www.sobefest.fiu.edu; plans for a Wine & Food Festival on the University's Tiajin, China campus; and the latest event added to the festival's itinerary, "Brunch at Sea with Michael Genuine," a fantastic dining and yachting experience.

The little things of hospitality are what initially sparked Rajnish's interest in the industry.

"It's the things you don't even think about," Rajnish said. "Like when you go to an event and you park valet, if it goes smoothly you don't think twice about it, but if something goes wrong that's what you talk about for the next hour."

It is the "How may I help you?" mentality in which and by which

"I want [the students] to have the best experience possible."

Vanessa Rajnish

School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, lead student associate coordinator

Rajnish believes and lives and she laments it's status in Miami.

"People are more genuine and not out for themselves all the time [in Switzerland]," Rajnish said. "Switzerland has a 'how may I help you mentality' that is practically non-existent in this big city."

It is kindness which gives Rajnish reason to live a life devoted to hospitality.

"No matter how different people are, kindness is the same in every culture," Rajnish said.

She loves seeing people smile and as simple as it may seem, her ultimate reward is in a "thank you."

FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL

- Time: All day
- When: Feb. 24 to 27
- Where: South Beach